



## PROJECT

### “ESTABLISHING OF THE NATIONAL INVENTORY OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF BELARUS”

CONTRACT No. 4500164189  
Between the UNESCO and Institute For Culture of Belarus

### FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

January 1, 2012 – October 30, 2013

#### Background

The main objective of the project was the strengthening capacities for establishing of the national inventory of the intangible cultural heritage (hereinafter – ICH) and promoting a crucial role of cultural diversity and cultural heritage for sustainable development in Belarus. In particular, the implementation of the project was contribute to the following:

- to strengthen ethnic and civil identity of the Belarusian people;
- to build local and national capacities for the inventorying and safeguarding of the ICH;
- to organize and hold a workshop with the participation of international experts from countries which have already had the experience in inventorying of ICH with the aim to familiarize with the methodology of this process;
- to elaborate the own procedure of ICH inventorying and to organize a series of workshops with the participations of experts, representatives of communities and groups -- bearers of ICH with the aim to share the paradigm and procedure of inventorying;
- To involve communities, groups, individuals as the bearers of the ICH, different NGO in the practical process of inventorying of ICH of Belarus;

- To organize the process of inventorying and monitoring of ICH from below to up (from the creation of regional inventories to the national inventory);
- To prepare and publish Practical guide (handbook) on ICH identification and inventorying;
- To create database of the National ICH inventory and relevant Internet site;
- To publish 6 DVD of the Belarusian ICH elements (relevant to 6 regions of Belarus) and the catalogue of the most representative ICH elements of Belarus (print version);

### **Expected results:**

The main expected result is the establishing of the National inventory of ICH of Belarus which will be present as appropriate database and some publications in electronic and printed versions of the most represented elements of ICH.

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### **Implementation of the project**

The project implementation strategy included establishing cooperation and communication with the different cultural and educational institutions, national and local authorities, bearers of ICH, experts, NGO's, other relevant stakeholders with the aim to create the database and website of the National Inventory of ICH, to realise all planned measures, to prepare necessary documents and publish scheduled editions.

*We extend our thanks to our colleagues from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts, to members of the Student Ethnographic Society, the staff of the Regional Scientific-Methodical Centers of Folk Art, crafts houses and museums, to many interested media, first and foremost to R. Hamzovich, journalist, and especially – to activists of local communities, local authorities for understanding and cooperation in the implementation of this initiative.*

*Special thanks to the Intergovernmental Committee and UNESCO's Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO Secretariat of the Convention 2003, the National Commission of the Republic of Belarus for UNESCO, UNESCO Office in Moscow, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus, whose consultative and financial support made the creation of the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Belarus possible.*

During the reporting period the Institute For Culture of Belarus together with partners carried out the following work on the project:

### 2012 - 2013

1. Established working team and prepared detailed work plan. Some agreements between Institute For Culture of Belarus and Institute of Art, Ethnography and Folklore of the National Academy of Science, Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts, Regional Scientific-Methodical Centers of Folk Art were signed to conduct joint research of ICH (*January-February 2012*).
2. With the support of the Ministry of Culture of Belarus and regional administrations the regional commissions (in some regions – committees) on safeguarding of ICH were established. They were actively involved in the process of selecting, identification and inventorying of their ICH. The commissions consist of representatives of local communities (among them are teachers, workers of local cultural centres, craft houses, activists from local residents), experts of regional and national level, specialists of Regional Scientific-Methodical Centers of Folk Art, representatives of youth NGO's (mainly – the regional representatives of the Student Ethnographic Society (hereinafter - SET). These commissions have made the first lists of intangible cultural heritage of their regions (these lists are constantly updated) and have started a great work with local communities and experts on identification of the ICH elements (*before March 2012*).
3. From other side the Institute For Culture of Belarus with partners have began to research currently available archives of ICH, provided monitoring of the archive data. With this purpose a numerous expeditions to different regions of Belarus were organized. Total number of these expeditions was about 20 during two years. Total number of these expeditions was about 20 during two years (*have been started in 2012, this work is still going on for today*).
4. The representatives of local communities, houses of crafts and folklore, regional methodological centres throughout Belarus were also extensively involved in the process of monitoring and researching of ICH elements (*see photos, Annex 1*).
5. Six consultative workshops (in the six ethnic regions of Belarus) with the participation of experts, representatives of communities and groups -- bearers of ICH were organized and held. Their aim was to share the paradigm and procedure of inventorying (*2012*). In 2013 the work on the organizing seminars for all stakeholders in inventorying of ICH was prolonged. We organized 4 trainings and consultative meetings on the

base of the Institute of Culture of Belarus as well as the seminar in Dribin with the Shapaval association and local museums and training in Brest Regional Scientific-Methodical Center of Folk Art. Total number of participants, took place at the seminars and trainings was about 300 persons (*see photos, Annex 2*).

6. As the result of the training activity and the work with regional commissions and representatives of local communities the detailed lists and descriptions of the ICH elements on local and regional levels were prepared. They formed the basis for developing a database of the National ICH inventory.

7. Workers of Institute For Culture of Belarus, liability for ICH inventory, together with other experts have elaborated a special Nomination forms for inscribing ICH elements into the database. During training work one of the key purposes was to study and inform how rightly to fill up this form. We used this study process for discussion and in the result we could improve the Form, make it as convenient and adequate. Later the detailed recommendations on its filling were elaborated (2012, early 2013).

Форма для внесения в Национальный инвентар нематериальной культурной спадчыны Беларусі

ИНВЕНТАР НЕМАТЕРИАЛЬНОЙ КУЛЬТУРНОЙ СПАДЧИНЫ (ИНС) БЕЛАРУСИ

Элемент « \_\_\_\_\_ »

<b>A. Штэфель: Аперацыйны офіс гісторыі-культурна-спадчынавай Рэспублікі Беларусь</b>	
Дата ўключэння ў Нацыянальны інвентар нематэрыяльнай культурнай спадчыны Беларусі: _____	_____
Метадычны радок на пачатку гісторыка-культурнай спадчыны: _____	_____
В. Шэфель у Інвентары ИНС: _____	_____
В. Шэфель аб асаблівасці элемента ИНС: _____	_____
Імя, імя па бацьку, прозвішча асобы, якая прадстаўляе элемент: _____	_____
Пасца і месца прыцы: _____	_____
Адрас (грамадзянскі): _____	_____
Тэлефон / факс / мабільны: _____	_____
Е-пашт: _____	_____
Куратар – арганізацыя: _____	_____
Назва: _____	_____
Адрас: _____	_____
Тэлефон: _____	_____
Экземпляр: _____	_____
Імя, імя па бацьку, прозвішча: _____	_____
Пасца: _____	_____
Адрас (грамадзянскі): _____	_____
Тэлефон / факс / мабільны: _____	_____
Е-пашт: _____	_____
Поліны асобы, якая прадстаўляе элемент: _____	_____
<b>B. Выходныя звесткі ИНС</b>	
1.1. Назва элемента ИНС: _____	_____
1.2. Другая назва элемента ИНС (прысутнасць у літаратурнай спадчынасці, літаратурна-навуковай): _____	_____

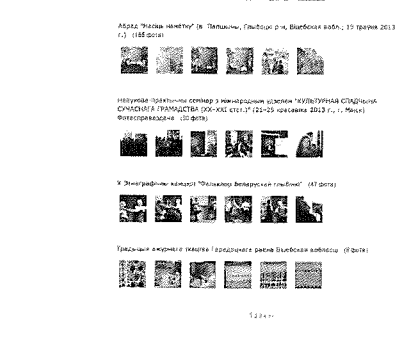
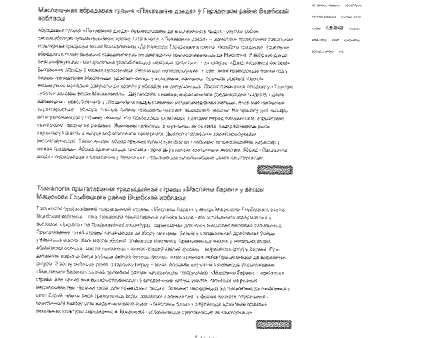
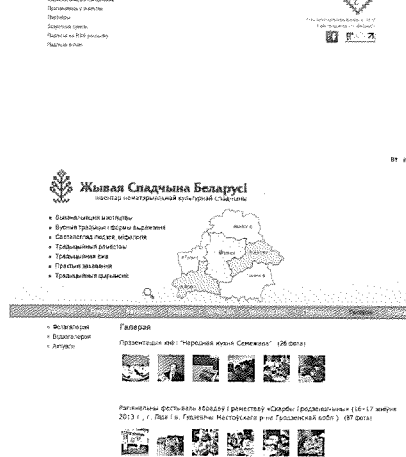
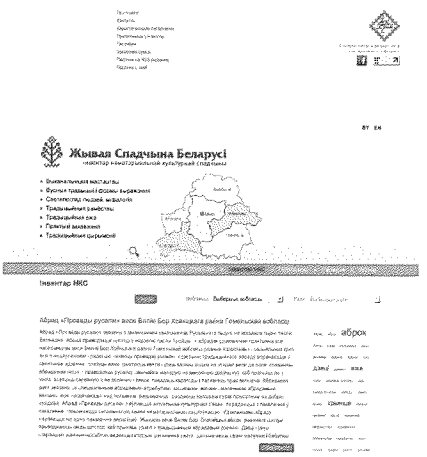
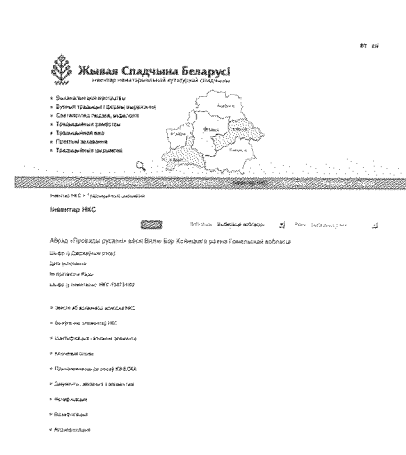
8. In parallel during 2012 the process of the data digitization and transfer them into html format for putting online was launched. This work has been continued in 2013.
9. In 2012 the necessary equipment for creating and future maintenance of database has been purchased. Among them are a server (1), 4 workstations, a notebook, printers (3), a scanner, network equipment, as well as a video projector and a camera.
10. During 2012 the creation of the database software was finished by the Belarusian IT Company “ScienceSoft”. The active filling up of the Inventory has started since December of 2012.
11. The representation of the database of the Inventory became the corresponding website with the name: “Living Heritage of Belarus” ([www.livingheritage.by](http://www.livingheritage.by)). Site has fully active Belarusian version and also the English pages, which still continues to be refined.

The main menu of the site includes current news, events, information about UNESCO, Section of publications and other information resources. On this website one can find the Inventory, which is a base of certain elements of intangible cultural heritage that are included to the State List of Historic and Cultural Heritage of Belarus, also objects that are going to get such status.

Working with the Inventory one can search according to the categories that are located in the upper left corner of the main page of the website, also using key words, geography (with the help of a map), and the name of an element.

The site's navigation is simple and convenient.

The English version of the site has not been fully finalized. The process of its updating and editing will be finished by the end of 2013



12. On March 25-26, 2013 the Capacity-Building Seminar “Identification and Inventorying of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as a Powerful of Its Safeguarding” was held. The main goal of the seminar was sharing the best practices of identification and inventorying of the intangible cultural heritage of neighbouring countries of Belarus and the CIS countries; a discussion of possible challenges and problems associated with these processes, as well as their possible solutions; an assessment of the role of local communities in the inventorying and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.

The program of the seminar included:

- Presentations by experts from Bulgaria, Lithuania, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus of their experiences of the inventorying of the intangible cultural heritage;

- Discussion panels on:

1) Challenges and issues related to the practice of identification and inventorying of the intangible cultural heritage; 2) The role of communities and bearers and the extent of their involvement in the process of inventorying and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.

- Development of recommendations.

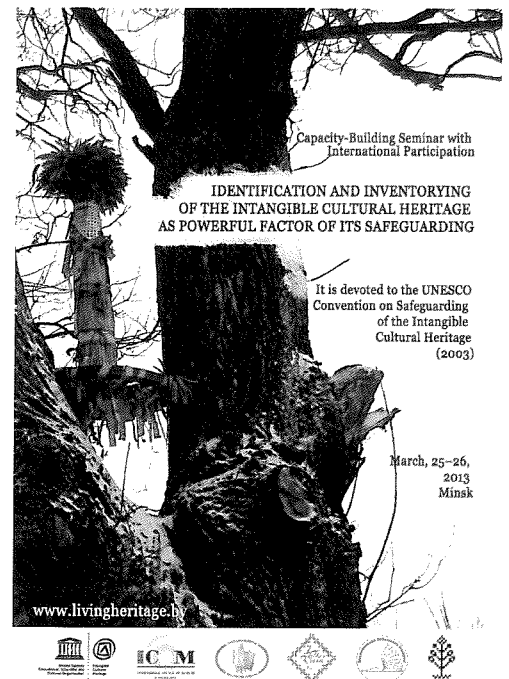
Participants of the seminar were representatives of the regional structures of Belarus responsible for inventorying and safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, as well as invited experts from Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan.

The programme of the seminar, recommendations and materials can find on:

<http://www.livingheritage.by/en/resource/conference/>.

<http://livingheritage.by/gallery/1036/>

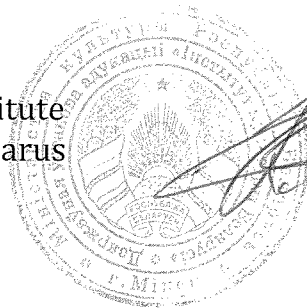
13. In 2013 in the framework of the project some editions were prepared and published or still in print. Among them – The Practical Guide to Identification And Inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage (has published), Catalogue of the most representative elements of the Belarusian ICH; 6 DVD discs which contain the information including photos, video and audio about the Belarusian ICH from different regions. The Catalogue and DVD discs now are currently in print and will be available in late November.




14. The promotion of the project was quite broad and active, especially during celebrating the European Heritage Days in Belarus (September 2013). There was prepared the exhibition from 12 banners, was published the special brochure on Belarusian and English. The event was widely reflected in the national media.

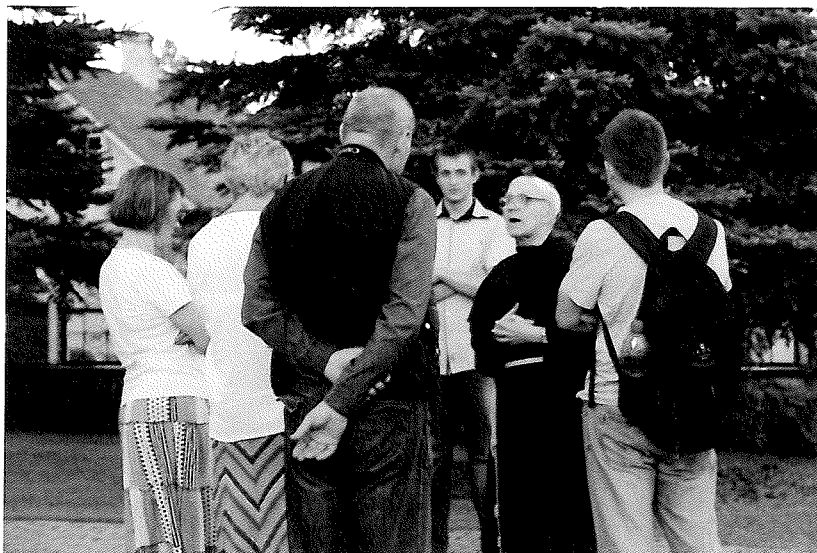
See: <http://www.coe.bsu.by/news54.aspx>,  
<http://afisha.tut.by/exhibition.php?eid=2098&city=15800>,  
<http://www.tio.by/news/23442>, <http://n-europe.eu/euroafisha/2013/09/24/dni-eurapeiskai-spadchyny>,  
<http://livingheritage.by/news/1982/>  
<http://www.kimpress.by/index.phtml?page=2&id=9370>,  
<http://www.kimpress.by/index.phtml?page=2&id=8830>,  
<http://www.kimpress.by/index.phtml?page=2&id=8685>  
  
<http://www.livingheritage.by/en/events/2059/>

Rector of the Institute  
For Culture of Belarus



  
K. Remishevski

## Annex 1. PHOTOES FROM EXPEDITIONS



"Carry basting" ceremony. Papshichi village, Glubokskiy district, Vitebsk region





Christmas Eve in Luban district, Minsk region



«Seeing-off a mermaid» ceremony

Velikiy Bor, Hoyniki district, Gomel region

Annex 1. Regional seminars,  
photos

