

**FIRST CONSULTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2015
RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PRÉSERVATION OF, AND ACCESS TO,
DOCUMENTARY HÉRITAGE INCLUDING IN DIGITAL FORM**

QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Country: **ALBANIA**

Organization(s) or entity (s) responsible for the preparation of the report:
Ministry of Culture

Officially designated contact person/institution:
Ministry of Culture

Name(s) of designated official(s) certifying the report:

Mrs. Mirela Kumbaro Furxhi, Minister of Culture

Brief description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report:

The Ministry of Culture has conducted a consultation process with the institutions responsible for preservation of documentary heritage such as the National Library, Central State Archive, Central State Film Archive and different national and local museums. The consultation process has aimed at gathering information concerning the questionnaire and sharing ideas on strengthening international practices and standards related to UNESCO's recommendations on preserving and accessing documentary heritage. Taking into account the specific role and importance of different actors involved in the preservation the documentary heritage, as part of our national identity, different public and not-public stakeholders were involved in the consultation process.

REPORTING ON THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE RECOMMENATION

General support

- 1. Has the Recommendation been promulgated to appropriate ministries and institutions?**
 - Yes
- 2. Has the Recommendation been translated into the national language(s) (if applicable)?**
 - The Recommendation has been translated into Albanian language (unofficial translation).
- 3. Has your country created a supportive, participatory, enabling and stable environment for all parties?**

The Albanian government has broadly supported the memory institutions in the process of selection, preservation and evaluation of documentary heritage assets in accordance with national and international standards. This supportive environment is also realized through a legal framework on documentary heritage as one of the main pillars in the process of preserving these

values. Approximation of the Law No. 27/2018 "On Cultural Heritage and Museums", the Law no. 9154, dated 6.11.2003 "On archives", the Library Act No 8576, dated 3.2.2000, as amended, etc, are the mechanisms through which the preservation of the documentary heritage values is ensured. At the same time, this is made possible also through involvement of all stakeholders, memory institutions and civil society as part of national councils and boards and initiatives that aimed at creating standards.

The national public institutions and not only, civil society, private holders and any individual who administers heritage documentary values, is legally binded to document and record them at the national specialized institutions.

Through cooperation with national and international organizations operating in the field of cultural heritage conservation, a number of capacity building projects were implemented in the institutions that administered documentary heritage values. Cooperation with UNESCO, IFLA, international archive associations, civil society, and foundations as well as domestic and foreign associations has fostered the empowerment of professional relations with the purpose of exchanging best practices for documentary heritage preservation.

4. How, if at all, has your country applied international standards and curatorial best practice.

The national memory institutions apply state-approved standards in the field of assessment; restoration; storage, documentation and digitization of documentary heritage.

International standards are transmitted and applied through joint collaborations and projects with foreign institutions and organizations as well as through trainings courses aimed at improving and increasing the professional skills of their staff.

5. What consultation mechanisms does the government maintain with stakeholders in the Documentary heritage sector (national and private memory institutions, professional associations, relevant NGOs)?

The consultation mechanisms undertaken by the Albanian Government through central institutions and not only are as follows:

- Periodic consultations with interested groups;
- Bilateral and multilateral meetings with different actors of the field;
- Continuous information of interested groups regarding new initiatives planned to be implemented;
- Public hearing on initiatives aimed at improving the existing legal framework and new legal proposals.

6. What actions has your country taken in order to support memory institutions in establishing policies and standards by research and consultation, guided by internationally established norms?

The Albanian Government through legal mechanisms in the field of preservation, protection and promotion of documentary heritage establishes as a fundamental duty of the memory institutions the study and assessment of documentary heritage in accordance with international standards.

The legal and policy framework in force aimed at conservation and appropriate management of heritage documentary of both digital and non-digital form.

All memory institutions in Albania, such as the national museums, National Library, General Directorate of Archives and any cultural heritage fund being administered by national public institutions implement their activities and exercise their competences based on the legal framework as follows:

- The law no. 27/2018 on cultural heritage and museums, Official Gazette No.86, 12 June 2018).

The law contributes to the preservation of the national memory and to the promotion of the cultural development in the territory of the Republic of Albania. It is an important legal tool for the conservation, protection, evaluation and management of national cultural landscapes in relation to the aspects and characteristics that constitute a tangible and visible representation of the national identity. Referring to the best models in Europe, the new law aims to empower cultural institutions across the country. The new Law is in line with UNESCO conventions in the field of culture and aims to preserve, protect, evaluate and manage the national cultural heritage, including museums.

This law also determines the relationship and rules for the establishment, accreditation, operation and organization of public and private museums in the Republic of Albania. It also constitutes a step forward towards the preservation, protection, administration and exhibition of museum artefacts and collections including heritage documentary.

- Presidential Degree no. 3131 dated 18.07.2016 “On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention. The Hague, 14 May 1954 (Official Gazette no.1 year 1961) and to the first Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 14 May 1954.
- Law no. 8523 dated 09.09.1999 “On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 1970 (Official Gazette no. 26, year 1999).
- Law no. 9490, dated 13/03/2006 “On the ratification of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Official Gazette no. 24, year 2006).
- Law no. 9613 dated 21/09/2006 “On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, (Official Gazette no. 110, year 2006).

7. What major capacity-building measures and policies have taken place within the sector? Is research and training for documentary heritage professionals organized in your country? How often?

Capacity building in the field of preservation of cultural assets is one of the main objectives of the Albanian government. Several departments / sectors / schools of restoration/conservation, Librarianship and Archives Administration courses operate as part of public institutions (e.g. the State University of Tirana). Thanks to the cooperation with various organizations in the country and abroad, these institutions have trained specialists and experts.

The Ministry of Culture and local and national partners as well as international organizations have created opportunities for capacity building programs in this field. Experts and specialists,

part of the memory institutions staff, have benefited also from training courses they have individually applied for.

The national memory institutions operate based on approved technical manuals that are in line with the international standards and requirements for storing, in digital or analogue form.

In the conditions of socio-economic transition and financial constrain, particular attention has been given to the risk management in these institutions.

Thanks of the cooperation and support of “Cultural Heritage without Border” organization and Lubljana Process, Phase II, a number of activities has been implemented focusing on the exchange of best practices in the field of preservation and conservation of documentary heritage. The law no. 27/2018 on cultural heritage and museums provides for the establishment of the National Center of Museology as part of the National Historic Museum (NHM). The research and training for documentary heritage professionals will be one of the main duties and responsibility of the NHM.

Legislation and mandates:

8. What legislation does your country have in place to:

- **Define the authority, mandate, and independence and governance structure of your national memory institutions?**
 - Law No. 27/2018 "On Cultural Heritage and Museums"
 - Law no. 9154, dated 6.11.2003 “On archives”
 - Library Act No 8576, dated 3.2.2000, as amended
- **Guarantee the ability of memory institutions to take unhindered presentation action on documents in their collections?**
 - Decision of Council of Minister No.278, dated 16.05.2018 "On the establishment of Country Data Base, “The National Register of Cultural Property" (NRCA)
- **Promote and facilitate maximum inclusive access by empowering memory institutions?**
 - Law No. 119/2014 “On right to information”
- **Support memory institutions providing access to material whose copyright status cannot be clarified?**
 - Law no. 10325 dated 23/09/2018 "On the basis of state data" and bylaws
- **Ensure statutory deposit of documents.in memory institutions?**
 - Law No. 35/2016 “On copyright and related rights act”
 - Law no. 9154, dated 6.11.2003 “On archives”
 - Library Act No 8576, dated 3.2.2000, as amended

9. Has government net funding of national memory institutions (in recent years) increased or decreased? By how much?

The budget has increased during the last years. Each national memory institution at the beginning of the year has the approved respective budget:

- The General Directorate of Archives budgeted has increased of - 16%
- The National Museums budgeted has increased of - 29%
- The National Library budgeted has increased of - 5%
- The Central State Film Archive budgeted has increased of - 0.5%

Annual budget for museum institutions and those administering cultural heritage values consist of:

- Investment funds
- Maintenance funds
- Project Funding
- Membership Fee for participating in different International Organizations
- VAT payment in case of partnership in international projects where the institution is a project leader or partner.
- Funds for staff salaries and social insurance

10. What long term investment in analogue and digital documentary presentation has been made?

Long-term investments have been made for the preservation and digitization of documentary heritage.

The project “*Strengthening the museums through technology for a broader access to everyone*”, funded by AADF in collaboration with American Heritage Imaging (CHI). The project considers the digitalization of collections and the implementation of interactive technology in national museums in Albania. It aims to preserve and promote the unique value of these museum collections by combining cultural heritage with technology. Training on the development and adoption of digital practice solutions and image preservation for people who are passionate about the treasure of human treasure today and before they lose.

The project is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, National Museum of Iconography “Onufri”, Berat National Museum of Medieval Art, Korça and National History Museum and will be developed in 3 phases.

Throughout these phases the project will help the evaluation of the museum’s collections, digitize them with advanced technology and implement interactive technology inside the museum in order to enrich the visitor experience and widely promote the unique value of these collections.

At its final goal, the project will produce interactive platforms and materials to help the research and education programs as well the museum staff by helping them to design and develop contemporary strategies in audience engagement.

11. What encouragement has been given in the development of open source software and access to proprietary codes by memory institutions?

Through different digitization projects, the memory and cultural heritage institutions have created their webpage accessible to the general public. Memory institutions are equipped with open source software that is easily accessible by the general public, such is the case of National Museums, National Libraries, Central State Archive, State Film Archive, National Center of Inventorying of cultural Property.

"Digital Agenda" is one of the main priorities of the Albanian Government regarding the access and online administration of all information and services related to cultural assets.

The Ministry of Culture has implemented the project "*Creating Public Information Centers for online registration of cultural assets*" where one of the priorities is the access of public and private institutions to the National Cultural Heritage Register. The on-line cultural heritage catalog as a database provides information on cultural assets in all the Albanian territory and the memory institutions where they are stored. (www.qkipk.gov.al).

Identification and preservation status of documentary heritage

12. Do all national memory institutions have published collection development, preservation and access policies? Are there in your country established policies, mechanisms and criteria for selecting, acquiring and de-selecting documentary heritage? What policies have been developed recently?

One of the strategic priorities of the Albanian government is to increase the budget for improving the technical infrastructure and the legal basis in the cultural heritage management system, where the digital heritage is included.

Several dedicated policies have been drafted and approved, in accordance to Law no. 27/2018 on Cultural Heritage and Museums. The legislation in force has made possible the establishment of mechanisms and criteria has been set up for the selection and de- selection of the documentary heritage.

The documentary heritage (documents, funds, collections) and institutions are managed by the national memory institutions in compliance with the standards, aimed at preserving, accessing and registering it in the National Database of Cultural Property.

13. What documentary heritage has been identified as at potential or imminent risk (if any)? What action has been taken? Was it brought to the attention of competent bodies?

Documentary heritage that has been identified as at potential or imminent risk listed as follows:

- 7 (seven) artistic movies ,
- 12 (twelve) documentary Films,

Both are stored at the Central State Film Archive Fund.

Testing and reports have been carried out to acquire the necessary expertise from national and foreign partners and experts. In this context, two project can be mentioned: the Albanian Cinema Project (ACP, 2012) and Archives in Motion (AIM) implement at the Central State Film Archive premises.

There are no reports of other potential risks.

14. What arrangements are in place to protect the documentary heritage from danger?

Referring to the different typologies of risks for Documentary Heritage, the legal basis consists of the Law no. 8756, dated 26.03.2001, "On Civil Emergency Services", and related bylaws, as well as the Law 27/2018" On cultural heritage and museums". The national memory institutions are organized in close cooperation with respective municipalities and headquarters established within the respective prefectures.

Since 1954, Albania is a state party to the “Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict”. As member state to this Convention it has implemented several measures aimed at the protection and conservation of cultural property.

15. What practical support has been given to private, local and individual collections of documentary heritage? Are they visible in national directories?

In accordance with the national legislation in force, the national memory institutions cooperate with private and local collectors for the identification of documentary heritage at risk. In order to avoid further degradation, the competent institutions cooperate with local and private institutions to take appropriate measures that aimed their protection and conservation. With the adoption of the Law No.27 / 2018 "On Cultural Heritage and Museums", the National Institute for the Registration of Cultural Heritage has the competences to evaluate, record, document, conserve and monitor the movement of cultural goods. The Institution provides also on-line service for registration of the cultural properties of public and private ownership.

Private collectors who administer documentary heritage funds, and not only, are provided with the file of the objects in their possession and the license of free movement as foreseen for by the legislation in force.

16. What specific steps have been taken to encourage consistency of best practice, coordination and sharing of tasks among memory institutions?

As part of the national memory institutions there are dedicated sectors their scope of the work is preventive and corrective treatment and capacity-building, with the aim at preserving the documents and the information they bear (transmit). Coordination and sharing of practices and tasks is carry out through continuous communication and participation in training.

17. What training schemes have been developed?

RE-ORG Albania workshop. ICOM Albania ICOM SEE ICCROM - conserving culture, promoting diversity.

The training course "Re Org Albania" took place on 5-13 November 2018 in the premises of the National Historic Museum in Tirana. The training course was implemented thanks to the cooperation of several national institutions and international organizations such as ICOM, ICOM SEE, Ministry of Culture of Albania, National Historic Museum, ICOM Albania and ICCROM. The training was attended by 20 museologists from 12 national museums.

The Interactive training contributed at capacity building of the staff in the field of collection's management, plans and museum storage.

18. What is the level of involvement of national memory institutions in international professional associations and networks?

The National Memory Institutions perform their activity through cooperation not only at the national level but also through participation as member in the most important internationally recognized organizations with the main purpose of exchanging experiences and best practices.

The National Library is member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

The National Historic Museum is member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The Central State Film Archive is member of the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA).

The General Directorate of Archives is member of the International Council on Archives (ICA). Institute of Cultural Monuments is member of International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM).

19. Are there partnerships, including public-private ones, established allowing sharing of costs, facilities and services?

- N/A

Memory of the World Programme

20. Is there in your country a national Memory of the World committee? If not, what plans exist to establish one?

- No. The establishment of a national Memory of the World committee will be subject to further consideration.

21. What recent nominations have been made to Memory of the World registers (international, regional, national)? What actions has your country taken in order to support memory institutions in establishing policies and standards by research and consultation, guided by internationally established norms?

- No recent nomination have been submitted to the Memory of the World registers.

22. Are there any Memory of the World outreach and visibility activities organized in your country enhancing accessibility of documentary heritage? Please give examples.

- N/A