

**Questionnaire for the Preparation of Reports by Members States on the Application of the Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form (2015)**

**General Information:**

Country: Greece

Organization or entity responsible for the preparation of the report: **Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports**

**Reporting on the Specific Provisions of the Recommendation:**

1. Yes

2. No.

3. –

4. –

5. –

6. –

7. The Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports realizes major capacity-building actions through the Directorate for the Administration of the National Archive of Monuments. The Directorate for the Administration of the National Archive of Monuments' head office is located in Theseion (11, Asomaton Street). A restored historic building of the '30s houses the Directorate since 1995, providing safe storage for its invaluable archive. In December 2008, the Historical Archive of the Archaeological Service was relocated to a privately-owned industrial building at 22, Psaromilingou Street, at a short distance from the Kerameikos archaeological site - an old printing office, thoroughly renovated to meet the storage and conservation needs of the Historical Archive. Complying with modern storage and conservation standards, the building includes offices for the specialized staff of the Directorate and study areas for visiting students and scholars. It also features a fully-equipped conservation laboratory and display areas. Furthermore, the Directorate of International Relations and EU is closely cooperating with the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO for the development of policies related to the Memory of the World program as well as the active participation and cooperation with relevant Institutions and entities for the implementation of the referred program. Moreover, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports is closely cooperating with the General Secretariat of the Government for the adoption of Greek cultural policies to the specific identified targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN Agenda 2030, that are related to the cultural sustainable development. Such policies include the development of programs for open access to the cultural heritage through the Information Technologies (IT). Ministry of Culture and Sports makes any effort to increase the ownership of the SDGs not only within between the Ministry's Directorates and Institutions but also to the linked Organizations and Institutions as well as the cultural entities including representatives of the civil society.

**Legislation and mandates:**

8. In general, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports recognizes the referred Recommendation is part of its mandate, especially for issues related to the documentary materials of supervised entities as well as the intellectual rights of different archives. The legal framework, related to Hellenic Ministry of Culture mandate for the Memory Institutions is reported as follows: The Directorate for the Administration of the National Archive of Monuments/ Department for the Administration of the Historical Archive of Antiquities and Restorations is the designated authority for the collection, indexing and study of archival material of Greek Archaeological Service that relates to the historical monuments and

archaeological sites in Greece. The National Archive of Monuments is protected by the law 3028/2002 “ON THE PROTECTION OF ANTIQUITIES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN GENERAL”, article 4 (Official Gazette: A 153 20020628).

The Directorate has undertaken the electronic recording, documentation and management of archives related to the Greek cultural heritage in order to ensure its preservation under optimal conditions and promote its effective and creative utilization. Employing state-of-the-art technology, the Directorate actively promotes the dissemination of knowledge across a broad spectrum of cultural and archaeological realms, supporting scholarly research and facilitating the access to archival content.

In this framework, the Ministry of Culture and Sports, in addition to the reported actions, is planning the official translation of the referred Recommendation in Greek language in order to facilitate the awareness of the interested entities and the guarding of antiquity materials. Additionally, the Ministry of Culture and Sports encourages the empowerment of the Greek Memory of the World Committee as well as the function of the Committee for the implementation of the referred Recommendation with relevant Ministerial representation.

9. Increased (see below).

10. The Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports in the context of National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 offered by the European Union and the Operational Programme for the Information Society (OPIS), reports that the Directorate of the National Archive of Monuments/Historical Archive of the Archaeological Service, developed a series of digital actions aiming at the preservation of the Documentary Heritage in digital form. More specifically:

a) the Directorate of the National Archive of Monuments/Historical Archive of the Archaeological Service, developed, a Program titled “Cultural Heritage Management through the Archives of the Greek Archaeological Service: digitization, promotion and dissemination of historical documents” was successfully executed in the year 2014. The Program focused on the systematic recording, documentation and electronic digitizing of selected archive material of the Archaeological Service. A web portal constructed during this Program gives open access to the broader public and is ready to be uploaded.

b) **Educational Portal Odyssey "Follow Odyssey": The Department of Educational Programmes and Communication of the Directorate of Archaeological Museums of Exhibitions and Educational Programmes**, within the framework of co-financed NSRF 2007-2013 "Education and Vocational Training" implemented the action "Supporting the educational process through the update and Digitization of the cultural educational material" with MIS 339815. The program was completed in 2015. The educational portal Odyssey invites pupils, educators and everyone interested to learn in innovative and fun manner about Greek cultural heritage. It is splinted in different thematic topics with different digital levels, depending on the user, educator or pupil, being a useful tool that assists the educational community and wider public to discover Greek culture's various aspects and familiarize them with the Greek archeological sites, monuments and museums. The digital platform Odyssey is also available in English language in the Ministry of Culture and Sports website ([www.yppo.gr](http://www.yppo.gr)) as well as in the Hellenic *Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs* educational portal (<http://e-yliko.minedu.gov.gr>). The portal is also accessible to people with special needs (people with defective eyesight). The portal is updated regularly as it is used by all the Directorates of the *General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture for uploading their produced educational material*.

11. Indicated by the programs in Q 10.

### Identification and preservation status of documentary heritage.

12. The access to archive material is open. Moreover the personnel of the Department for the Administration of the Historical Archive of Antiquities and Restorations, in the competence of which falls the archive material organizes almost on an annual basis workshops (“*About Antiquities mostly. Archeology in Greece in 19<sup>th</sup> century through the archival material*”/2014, “*In Memorial of Panayiotes Eustratiades*”/2015, “*Workshop dedicated to private archive material of emblematic archaeologists*”/2018) and participates in symposia, colloquia and workshops organized by other Institutions (“*The German Archaeological Institute and the activity of German archeologists in Greece 1871-1933*”/2015, “*Archaeologist and Society*”/2016). In the display area of the building hosting the archival material (at 22, Psaromilingou Street) there had been organized two exhibitions: “*Anefera eggrafos... Treasures of the Historical Archive of the Archaeological Service*”/2008 and “*Histories written on paper*”/2013. The printed catalogues of the above mentioned exhibitions are accessible to the public. Furthermore, **The Department of Educational Programmes and Communication of the Directorate of Archaeological Museums of Exhibitions and Educational Programmes**, within the framework of NSRF 2014-2020, undertook in 2018 the project entitled “Greece and UNESCO: Production of educational material towards the promotion of the world heritage sites and monuments in Greece”. It involves: 5000 educational kits which will be distributed to school units of primary and secondary education in all prefectures which “host” the monuments which will constitute an assistance prior to any school projects or school trips and educational visits to each UNESCO monument, as well as a website with online applications i.e. interactive games regarding UNESCO monuments throughout the world. A major part of the material will be translated in English, whereas users with impaired vision will also have access to online applications. The action aims to ignite interest about world heritage and raise awareness among children between 10-15 years old towards preserving world’s natural and cultural heritage and respecting all cultures.

13. None

14. In the building of Historical Archive of Antiquities and Restorations at 22, Psaromilingou Street the archival material is placed in a specially designed place, in curatorial antacid boxes. Moreover in the building exists a fire extinguishing system of high quality and standards.

15. The Historical Archive of Antiquities and Restorations encourage the gathering of private archival collections of archaeologists. Towards that goal a workshop was organized under the title “*Workshop dedicated to private archive material of emblematic archaeologists*”/2018.

### Capacity-building:

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### Memory of the World Programme

20. The Greek “Memory of the World Committee” was established in 2001. It consists of prominent experts and academicians in the fields of Archive Science, History, Archaeology and

Epigraphy. The President of the Greek Committee is Prof. Panayiotis Nikolopoulos, Director Emeritus of the National Library of Greece.

21. The most recent nominations inscribed on the National Memory of the World Register are the following:

a. *Phaistos Disc*

17<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

Archaeological Museum of Heraklion - Crete

b. *Delphic Hymns (Hymns to Apollo)*

138 B.C.

Archaeological Museum of Delphi

c. *Chrysobull (Edict) of the Emperor Alexios I Comnenos for the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian of Patmos*

1088

Monastery of Saint John the Theologian (on the island) of Patmos

d. *“Prosōrinon Politeuma tes Hellados”, The Epidaurus Constitution*

1822

Hellenic Parliament Library

22. The Greek Memory of the World Committee has organized, in collaboration with the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO, a wide range of activities with a view to increasing public awareness on the Memory of the World elements that are considered as documentary heritage, as well as on their significance as part of the cultural heritage of the world.

In particular, the Greek Memory of the World Committee has organized a number of Conferences and Workshops on topics related to the documentary heritage, with the participation of prominent academicians and experts from the fields of Library Science, Documentation, Archiving, Communication and Information Science.

Furthermore, the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO has organized a series of seminars regarding UNESCO’s International Programs where members of the Greek Memory of the World Committee introduced the UNESCO Memory of the World Program to pupils from ASPNET schools, as well as to students and professors from UNESCO Chairs in Greece.

Additionally, the Greek MoW Committee has organized, on the occasion of the inscription of the *Derveni Papyrus* on the “Memory of the World Register” multiple events in Athens and in Thessaloniki that were broadcasted on national TV channels and were promoted through the Hellenic Commission’s social media accounts.

In 2019 the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO is planning to organize an International Conference on Tourism, Culture and Development where one of the topics that will be discussed is the documentary heritage as a driving force for local tourism development and there will be a special panel on the Memory of the World Program.