

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON BULGARIA / UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** since 17 May 1956
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** member for the term 2017-2021
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.:**
 - 2023: Intergovernmental Committee on Physical Education and Sport
 - 2021: Member of the Executive Board of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
 - 2021: Committee of Conventions and Recommendations (CR) of the Executive Council
4. **Your visits to Bulgaria:** 23-24 May 2019 Official Visit
5. **The former Director-General's visits to Bulgaria:** 14
6. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO**
 - Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Anguel Tcholakov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to France (since 3 June 2016)
 - Alternate Delegate : H. E. Mr Atanas Ignatov Mladenov, Ambassador
 - Previous Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Alexandre Savov, Ambassador (September 2010 – February 2016)
7. **UNESCO Office:** none. Bulgaria is covered by the UNESCO Venice Office.
8. **Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO:**
 - Date of establishment: 25 May 1956
 - Chairperson: Mr Yuri Sterk, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (since May 2017)
 - Vice-Chairperson: Ms Maria Spasova (since May 2017)
 - Secretary-General: Mr Christo Georgiev (since December 2018)
9. **Bulgarian personalities linked to UNESCO's activities:**
 - Mr Hristo Stoïchov (Bulgarian football legend), UNESCO Champion for Sport
 - Mr Theodosii Spassov (Bulgarian jazz musician), UNESCO Artist for Peace
 - Ms Boryana Hristova, Member of the International Advisory Committee of the "Memory of the World" Programme (end of mandate: 2022)
10. **UNESCO Chairs:** 2
 - 2012: UNESCO Chair on Information and Communication Technologies in Library Studies, Education and Cultural Heritage, State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies
 - 1998: UNESCO Chair in Culture of Peace and Human Rights, Bourgas Free University
11. **Associated Schools:** 51 (6 primary, 36 secondary schools, 8 vocational and technical institutions and 1 National High School for Plastic Arts and Design "Academician Dechko Uzunov"). Bulgaria joined the ASP Network in 1965.
12. **Category 2 Institutes and Centres:** 1
 - 2009: Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (Sofia)
13. **UNESCO Clubs:** 4
14. **Biosphere Reserves:** 10
 - Alibotouch (1977)
 - Bistrichko Branichté (1977)
 - Douпки-Djindjiritza (1977)

- Mantaritza (1977)
- Ouzounboudjak (1977, extended in 2017)
- Parangalitza (1977)
- Srébarna (1977, extended in 2017)
- Tchervenata sténa (1977, extended in 2017)
- Tchoupréné (1977)
- Central Balkan (2017)

15. Global Geoparks Network : none

16. World Heritage Sites: 10 (7 cultural, 3 natural)

Cultural: 7

- 1985 : Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari
- 1983 : Ancient City of Nessebar
- 1983 : Rila Monastery
- 1979 : Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo
- 1979 : Boyana Church (1979)
- 1979 : Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak
- 1979 : Madara Rider

Natural: 3

- 2007: Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (extension in 2011 and in 2017) (jointly with Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine)
- 1983: Pirin National Park (1983, extended in 2010)
- 1983: Srebarna Nature Reserve (1983)

17. Tentative List: 16 properties

- 2018: Bishop's Basilica and Late-Antique Mosaics of Philippopolis, roman Province of Thrace
- 2016: The royal necropolis of the Thracian city of Seuthopolis – a serial site, extension of the Kazanlak Thracian tomb
- 2016: Frontiers of the Roman Empire - The Danube Limes in Bulgaria
- 2011: Pobiti Kamani Natural Monument
- 2011:Vratsa Karst Nature Reserve
- 2011:Rocks of Belogradchik
- 2011:Central Balkan National Park
- 2004: The Ancient Plovdiv
- 2004: Thracian Tomb with Wall Paintings beside Alexandrovo village
- 1984: Two neolithic dwellings with their interior and household furnishings and utensils completely preserved
- 1984: The Magoura cave with drawings from the bronze age
- 1984:The ancient town of Nicopolis ad Istrum
- 1984:The late ancient tomb of Silistra
- 1984:The Bachkovo Monastery
- 1984:The town of Melnik and the Rozhen Monastery
- 1984:The Roussensky Lom National Park

18. Intangible Heritage Lists: 7 elements

5 elements on the Representative List:

- 2017: Cultural practices associated to the 1st of March, jointly with Macedonia, Moldova and Romania
- 2015: Surova folk feast in Pernik region
- 2014: The tradition of carpet-making in Chiprovtsi

- 2009: Nestinarstvo, messages from the past: the Panagyr of Saints Constantine and Helena in the village of Bulgari
- 2008: Bistritsa Babi – Archaic Polyphony, Dances and Rituals from the Shoplounk Region

2 elements on the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices:

- 2017: Bulgarian Chitalishte (Community Cultural Centre): practical experience in safeguarding the vitality of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- 2016: Festival of folklore in Koprivshitsa: a system of practices for heritage presentation and transmission

19. Memory of the World Register: 3 inscriptions

- Gospels of Tsar Ivan Alexander (2017), jointly with the United Kingdom
- Boril's Synodicon or Synodicon of King Boril (2017)
- Enina Apostolos, Old Bulgarian Cyrillic manuscript (fragment) of the 11th century (2011)

20. Creative Cities Network: 2 cities

- 2017: Gabrovo, UNESCO City of Crafts and Folk Art
- 2014: Sofia, UNESCO City of Film

21. Legal instruments: 24 ratified, 16 non-ratified

- International Convention against Doping in Sport: ratified (12/01/2007)
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions: ratified (18/12/2006)
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: ratified (10/03/2006)
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: ratified (06/10/2003)

22. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated:

2018-2019:

- 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1869) (with the support of Romania, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

2020-2021 : 2

- 100th anniversary of the death of Ivan Vazov, writer (1850-1921) (Bulgaria with the support of the Russian Federation, Poland and Romania)
- 650th anniversary of the founding of the Tarnovo Literary School (Bulgaria with the support of the Russian Federation, Romania and Slovenia)

23. Participation Programme:

- 2018-2019: 4 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 71,000
- 2016-2017: 3 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 75,000
- 2014-2015: 3 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 63,715
- 2012-2013: 4 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 75,500
- 2010-2011: 4 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 102,800
- 2008-2009: 6 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 114,000

24. Fellowships:

- 2 fellowships awarded since 2010, for a total amount of US\$ 17,434

25. NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO:

Consultative Partnership: 3

- 2016: Liberal Institute for Political Analysis, LIPA
- 2011: Sozopol Foundation
- 1955: International Association of Film and Television Schools, CILECT

Foundations and Similar Institutions: 1

- 2015: National Endowment Fund “13 Centuries Bulgaria”

26. Payment of assessed membership fees for 2016-2017: fully paid

Assessment rate: 0.045%

Contributions assessed for 2016-2017: US\$ 293,850

27. Voluntary contributions (expressed in US\$):

Jun. 2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
2,369	2,344	1,444	1,506	-	3,041	414,267	2,482	2,453

28. Representation within the Secretariat: over-represented, with 7 professional staff in geographical posts (min. 2, max. 4)

- *6 international professional staff at Headquarters in geographical posts:*
- *1 international professional staff in the Field in geographical posts:*