

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.:**
 - Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; Vice-President (term expires in 2018)
 - Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
4. **The Director-General's visits to Bulgaria:** 1 (May 2019 – Official Visit)
5. **The former Director-General's visits to Bulgaria:** 14
 - 24-25 November 2016: meeting with President-elect Rumen Radev and Minister of Culture Vezhdi Rashidov
 - 18-20 May 2016: Global Women Leaders' Forum in Sofia
 - December 2015: an international forum entitled "The contribution of UNESCO Member States of South-Eastern Europe to the dissemination and implementation of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003", held in Sofia on the occasion of UNESCO's 70th anniversary
 - 29 October 2015: to participate in the International Conference "Thoughts about the social inclusion: old issues in a new edition or new issues within the existing format", organized by the Polish Embassy in Bulgaria
 - 16 September 2015: to participate in the conference "Fighting the looting of Syria's cultural heritage.
 - 6-8 August 2015: to participate in the official opening of the international round table entitled "70 years UNESCO peace through education, science and culture"
 - 12-13 January 2015: you were awarded the title of Honorary citizen of Sofia, and was conferred the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of National and World Economy
 - 30 November-2 December 2014: to attend the ceremony of proclaiming Sofia Creative City of Film and member of the Creative Cities Network
 - 31 March 2014: to receive the State Order
 - January 2014: meetings with the Foreign Minister and the Bureau of the Bulgarian National Commission
 - August 2013: meetings with the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs
 - 24-26 October 2012: visit on the occasion of the 8th annual Ministerial Conference on Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe
 - 20 February 2012: official visit and participation in the inauguration of the UNESCO Category II Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South Eastern- Europe
 - 27-29 October 2010: official visit and award of the Honoris Causa degree from the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo.
6. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO**
 - Permanent Delegate: H.E., Mr Nikolay Milkov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France (since 24 Jun. 2021)
 - Deputy Permanent Delegate : H. E. Mr Gancho Ganev, Ambassador (since 15 Sept. 2020)
 - Previous Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Angel Tcholakov, Ambassador (June 2016 – 14 Sept. 2020)
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 Georg Georgiev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (since May 2020)
 - Vice-Chairperson: Ms Maria Spasova (since May 2017)
 - Secretary-General: Mr Christo Georgiev (since May 2018)

9. Bulgarian personalities linked to UNESCO's activities:

- Mr. Atanas Ignatov Mladenov (Bulgaria) has held the Presidency of the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention since 2019
- Ms Boryana Hristova, Member of the International Advisory Committee of the Memory of the World Programme (term expires: 2022)
- Bulgaria does not have a celebrity associated with UNESCO under the Goodwill Ambassadors Programme. The unesco website page dedicated to former Goodwill Ambassadors includes two Bulgarian personalities: Theodosii Spassov, Artist for Peace 2015-2020 and Hristo Stoichov, Champion for Sport 2016-2020. Both inactive since their appointment, a letter from the ADG/PAX was sent to them in June 2020 to end their mandate.

10. UNESCO Chairs: 3

- 2012: UNESCO Chair on Information and Communication Technologies in Library Studies, Education and Cultural Heritage (2012), State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies
- 1998: UNESCO Chair in Culture of Peace and Human Rights (1998), Bourgas Free University

11. Associated Schools: 52

- 6 primary, 37 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:

- 2009: Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (Sofia)

13. UNESCO Clubs: 4

14. Biosphere Reserves: 6

- 2017: Central Balkan (encompasses former: Steneto, Tsaritchina, Djendema and Boitine biosphere reserves)
- 1977: Ouzounboudjak (extended in 2017)
- 1977: Tchervenata sténa (extended in 2017)
- 1977: Srébarna (extended in 2017)
- 1977: Bistrichko Branichté
- 1977: Tchoupréné

15. Global Geoparks Network : none

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

Cultural: 7

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

Natural: 3

- Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (2007, 2011, 2017) (jointly with Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine)
- Pirin National Park (1983, extended in 2010)
- 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 (2017), 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 Shoplouk 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 Koprivshtitsa: a system of practices for heritage presentation and transmission

19. Memory of the World Register: 3 inscriptions

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

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

Date of deposit	Ratified Convention	Type of deposit
12/01/2007	International Convention against Doping in Sport. Paris, 19 October 2005	Ratification
18/12/2006	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Paris, 20 October 2005	Ratification
10/03/2006	Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, 17 October 2003.	Ratification

06/10/2003	Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Paris, 2 November 2001.	Ratification
14/06/2000	Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 26 March 1999.	Ratification
19/05/2000	Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region. Lisbon, 11 April 1997.	Ratification
14/03/1997	Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, with Annexes A to E and Protocol annexed. Florence, 17 June 1950.	Accession
14/03/1997	Protocol to the Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, with Annexes A to H. Nairobi, 26 November 1976.	Accession
31/05/1995	International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations. Rome, 26 October 1961.	Accession
31/05/1995	Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms. Geneva, 29 October 1971.	Accession
01/07/1994	Convention on Technical and Vocational Education. Paris, 10 November 1989.	Approval
21/06/1990	Protocol to amend articles 6 and 7 of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Regina, Canada, 28 May 1987.	Ratification
27/02/1986	Protocol to amend the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Paris, 3 December 1982.	Signature without reservation as to ratification
22/04/1981	Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region. Paris, 21 December 1979.	Ratification
24/09/1975	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Ramsar, 2 February 1971.	Signature without reservation as to ratification
07/03/1975	Universal Copyright Convention, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI. Geneva, 6 September 1952.	Accession
07/03/1975	Universal Copyright Convention as revised on 24 July 1971, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI. Paris, 24 July 1971.	Accession
07/03/1974	Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Paris, 16 November 1972.	Acceptance
15/09/1971	Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Paris, 14 November 1970.	Ratification
04/03/1963	Convention concerning the International Exchange of Publications. Paris, 3 December 1958.	Ratification
04/03/1963	Convention concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States. Paris, 3 December 1958.	Ratification
04/12/1962	Convention against Discrimination in Education. Paris, 14 December 1960.	Acceptance
09/10/1958	Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Hague, 14 May 1954.	Accession
07/08/1956	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.	Accession

22. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2020-2021: 2

- 100th anniversary of the death of Ivan Vazov, writer (1850-1921) (with the support of Poland, Romania and Russian Federation)
- 650th anniversary of the foundation of the Tarnovo Literary School (1371) (with the support of Romania, Russian Federation and Slovenia)

Proposals for 2022-2023, approved by the Executive Board:

- 300th anniversary of the birth of Paisius of Hilendar, historian (1722-1773) (with the support of Romania, Russian Federation and Slovenia)

23. Participation Programme:

- 2020-2021: 5 requests approved for a total amount of US\$ 69,940
- 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:

- 3 fellowships awarded since 2010, for a total amount of US\$ 25,852

25. NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO:

Consultative Partnership: 3

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

Foundations and Similar Institutions: 1

- National Endowment Fund “13 Centuries Bulgaria” (2015)

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