



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

## REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

**DEADLINE 15 FEBRUARY 2021  
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2021**

File may be downloaded at:  
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

Please provide only the information requested below. Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.

### A. Identification of the organization

#### A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.

Forbundet KYSTEN

A.1.b. Name of the organization in English and/or French.

The Norwegian Coastal Federation

A.1.c. Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)

NGO-90349

#### A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: Forbundet KYSTEN

Address: Øvre Slottsgate 2B, NO-0157 Oslo, Norway

Telephone number: 004722424282

Email address: forbundet@kysten.no

Website: www.kysten.no

Other relevant information:

### A.3. Contact person for correspondence

*Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.*

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr,

Family name: Friis-Olsen

Given name: Tore

Institution/position: Senior Adviser

Address: Forbundet KYSTEN, Øvre Slottsgate 2B, NO-0157, Oslo, Norway

Telephone number: 004792204874

Email address: tore@kysten.no

Other relevant information:

## B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)<sup>1</sup>

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.*

**B.1.** *Describe your organization's participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (OD) 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH-related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Norwegian Coastal Federation has actively partnered with other ICH organisations in Norway and government institutions responsible for managing and promoting the safeguarding of cultural heritage to raise awareness of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in general, and in particular to develop safeguarding measures and programmes. Here, we have enjoyed a productive partnership with Arts Council Norway, who have the main responsibility for implementing the ICH convention, and for helping to ensure that preservation measures and programmes are implemented in other government institutions. For our part, at government level, this mainly applies to the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, UiT The Arctic University of Norway and government-funded museums. Participation in this work has

<sup>1</sup>. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E.

primarily involved contributing knowledge and input from our own activities, our established meeting fora – including conferences and seminars – and our active network-building about ICH.

Since 2020, the county authorities in Norway have borne the main responsibility for managing preservation of cultural sites and safeguarding cultural heritage which formerly rested with the government/state parties. Therefore, together with other organisations and communities, essentially the accredited NGOs, we have worked closely with the county authorities to enable them to fulfil their obligations and implement plans and measures to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

We believe this work has been highly successful. The NGOs enjoy a strong position in Norway, and we have formed an extremely productive partnership with government institutions with regard to implementation of the convention in general and development of specific safeguarding measures in particular.

**B.2.** *Describe your organization's cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Norwegian Coastal Federation cooperates with several government institutions to preserve intangible cultural heritage. Together with Arts Council Norway and the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, we have partnered with the following institutions in the areas mentioned below:

The Norwegian Crafts Institute on documentation of and education on traditional crafts such as boatbuilding, rope making and sail making.

UiT The Arctic University of Norway to establish a study programme around traditional boatbuilding at the bachelor's and master's level.

The Norwegian Association for Studies of Culture and Traditions to provide pedagogical and financial support for practical local courses on a number of coastal cultural topics such as boatbuilding, rowing, sailing, building preservation and traditional navigation.

The Norwegian Museums Association on documentation, registration and dissemination of traditional maritime crafts and practical use of boats and vessels of high preservation value.

Some of this work has been completed and some is ongoing.

**B.3.** *Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State's Periodic Report (OD 152).*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Norwegian Coastal Federation has contributed to Norway's Periodic Report to the UNESCO since 2019. Arts Council Norway coordinates the work on this report. The accredited NGOs in Norway convene each year in March for meetings and seminars. We also maintain extensive contact and meet throughout the rest of the year. Arts Council Norway always participates in these meetings. At our meeting in March 2019, Arts Council Norway presented the work on the report together with Form ICH-10 and invited feedback. The same was done at a digital meeting in March 2020. Arts Council Norway has also been in direct contact with our organisation as well as the other accredited organisation to request input and ongoing information for work on the report. This has enabled the Norwegian Coastal Federation and other relevant communities to provide input for Arts Council Norway.

**B.4** *Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Since 2015, the Norwegian Coastal Federation has headed a Nordic cooperation to have the cultural expression of Nordic clinker boat tradition inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The nomination was submitted to UNESCO by the

Nordic state parties in March 2020. This Nordic cooperation has provided us with a unique opportunity to highlight the ICH convention and intangible cultural heritage in general, and knowledge about clinker boat traditions in the Nordic region in particular. We have achieved this through meetings, courses, seminars, annual Nordic coastal culture festivals, social media and press activities in Norway, in the individual Nordic countries and at Nordic level.

Regardless of whether the cultural expression will be inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List, we have gathered useful experiences and knowledge and have found that this Nordic cooperation has helped to raise awareness and knowledge of intangible cultural heritage at local, regional and national levels throughout the Nordic region. Not just around topics such as coastal culture, wooden boatbuilding and other maritime cultural expressions, but also among other organisations and communities working with living traditions and intangible cultural heritage.

**B.5.** *Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Norwegian Coastal Federation has actively cooperated with organisations, communities and tradition bearers within maritime culture on informational activities, and raising awareness and discussions of developments around the ICH aspects of their activities. Examples of such communities and practitioners include: traditional boatbuilders, active communities that sail and row traditional boats, communities and people with knowledge of local waters, sea currents, landmarks, navigation marks and landscape interpretation on the coast, local coastal communities and local NGOs affiliated with the Norwegian Coastal Federation (121 local groups/NGOs and around 10,000 members are currently affiliated) as well as coastal culture and maritime centres and museums. Our approach has been to invite cooperation, where the communities themselves have been able to define their role and highlight their own intangible cultural expressions and practices. Some of these activities have involved inviting people from different communities, both groups and individuals, to local meetings where we have prompted and encouraged participants to identify intangible cultural expressions from their own resource pools or local community. Since Arts Council Norway established their website and system for registering intangible cultural heritage (ICH inventory), we have encouraged such communities and tradition bearers to record their own intangible cultural heritage on this register. We will continue with these activities.

**B.6.** *Describe your organization's participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:*

- a. promoting the function of ICH in society;*
- b. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;*
- c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.*

*Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Norwegian Coastal Federation has actively worked with others (communities, groups and individuals) to raise awareness of and promote the role ICH plays in society, at local, regional and national levels. Since 2019, we have enjoyed a close cooperation with the Directorate for Cultural Heritage on the development of preservation plans in the field of coastal culture, in particular around building preservation on the coast and vessel preservation, but also across the entire maritime preservation spectrum. As the Directorate for Cultural Heritage has traditionally focused on tangible cultural heritage, our role has been to highlight the intangible aspects of cultural heritage work. This partnership has been a success. With the help of multiple resource pools such as Arts Council Norway, we have managed to place intangible cultural heritage on an

equal footing with tangible cultural heritage in several safeguarding plans and in general work on preservation measures. In this context, we have also lobbied to promote ICH in society in general and in safeguarding programmes in particular.

In addition, we have participated in work on research and documentation of intangible cultural heritage. This has primarily involved UiT The Arctic University of Norway and the Norwegian Institute of Local History at the National Library of Norway. We have cooperated with the Norwegian Institute of Local History to develop the traditional boat register which is an open register that anyone can use. In 2019, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage commissioned the Norwegian Coastal Federation to carry out a pilot study for a planned safeguarding plan for small and open boats which is scheduled for publication in 2022. One important measure in forming a safeguarding plan is further developing the traditional boat register together with the Norwegian Institute of Local History to incorporate the museums' registers of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

**B.7.** *Describe your organization's involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:*

- a. *educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;*
- b. *educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;*
- c. *capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;*
- d. *non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;*
- e. *education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.*

*Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

We have worked as a dedicated organisation, targeting our own local groups and communities and partnered with other organisations, primarily the accredited NGOs in Norway. The latter have been most relevant for our work on informational activities and raising awareness of ICH in general terms, targeting the general public. Methods we use include social media, press releases, in particular local media and various specialist media within the field of cultural heritage, and production of short films.

Together with the Norwegian Association for Studies of Culture and Traditions, we organise local training courses within our knowledge domains around ICH. This means that the local groups and communities who have initiated the courses are also responsible for implementing them in practice. Together with the Norwegian Association for Studies of Culture and Traditions, our role has been to disseminate information about ICH and to contribute support, both financially through the government funding that has been earmarked for local courses, and through guidance. The Norwegian Association for Studies of Culture and Traditions' education activities are based on the Nordic adult education tradition, which is characterised by non-formal transfer of knowledge.

Some of these activities are aimed in particular at young people. In 2017, we established our youth organisation, "KYSTEN ung", whose members, with strong support from the parent organisation, arrange courses and events. We have engaged older tradition bearers such as boatbuilders and skilled skippers to devise and provide the training in some areas. Raising awareness of ICH and the convention has been, and will remain, an important part of these activities.

We also implement, both under our own auspices and in partnership with others, courses, workshops and seminars, both practical and theoretical, with a focus on capacity building.

Together with our local groups, we arrange camps, trips, courses, workshops and participation in festivals including outdoor activities with small traditional wooden boats, craft activities, navigation and landscape interpretation. We place considerable emphasis on training and

knowledge transfer from generation to generation.

### **C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation**

*Report on any activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:*

- a. *sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);*
- b. *participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);*
- c. *developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Since the beginning of the 1990s, we have carried out several activities at bilateral, subregional, regional and international level for many years. All the activities have either been entirely about ICH or where ICH has been a sub-aspect of the activities. Our awareness and knowledge of ICH was probably limited in the first years. Even though it was practiced in real. Since we learnt to know about the content and importance of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage from the time after it was adopted by UNESCO in 2003, awareness and safeguarding ICH has to a greater extent been the most important content of these activities.

Some examples: In 2011, together with communities, and NGOs we established the Nordic Coastal Culture network consisting of communities, NGOs, museums and individuals (e.g. boat builders) from all the Nordic countries. It was through this network that our Nordic nomination project for the representative list was initiated (ref. item B.4 in this form). The activities this network has carried out have consisted of, among other things, the following: Sharing knowledge about practice and ICH measures between coastal and maritime cultural centers, NGOs, voluntary organizations, craftsmen and -women, etc., in the Nordic countries. Joint seminars, meetings, Nordic coastal culture festivals, exhibitions, etc. have been held. We also work at European level through our membership in EMH - European Maritime Heritage. We have also carried out bilateral cooperation, e.g. between boat builders and coastal culture communities in Croatia, Zanzibar, Shetland (UK) and Russia. These are ongoing activities.

### **D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

**D.1** *Has your organization participated in the Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Norwegian Coastal Federation participated as an observer at the Committee's meeting in Addis Ababa in 2016. We participated in the Committee's meetings during the entire period. We also participated in the meetings arranged by the ICH NGO Forum. Since then, we have continued to take part in discussions and communication organised by the ICH NGO Forum. We have also followed some of UNESCO's Committee and General meetings by live stream, most recently the digital Committee Meeting held in December last year (2020).

**D.2** *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (OD 26 to 31), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

*Not to exceed 100 words*

No

**D.3** *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (OD 96) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

*Not to exceed 500 words*

The Norwegian Coastal Federation has not yet advised the Committee since being accredited in 2016. However, we would like to provide advisory services in the future. This applies to all the points described in OD 96.

## **E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):**

**E.1.** *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

All members of our staff (six people are employed in our secretariat) have a good (some very good) command of both written and spoken English. Experiences from participation in international festivals, conferences and meetings in which our members from the local level have participated confirm that the English skills are very good. When it comes to French, we know some persons among our members who have such language skills.

**E.2.** *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Our organisation as well as communities, groups and individuals that are either members of Forbundet KYSTEN, affiliated with the organization or with which we collaborate have experience of working across several ICH domains.

Below are some examples of our experiences with working across ICH domains (as ICH domains is categorized in the Convention, article 1.2).

Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage: Linguistic expressions related to the practice of traditional crafts, sailing and navigation. Story telling traditions along the coast.

Social practices, rituals and festive events: Annual festivals, celebrations of midsummer (often with regattas and boat parades), traditional regattas, name giving ceremonies of boats, ceremonies in connection with seasonal fishing, traditional songs during rowing and sailing.

Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe: Knowledge related to traditional navigation, landscape understanding, about weather, wind, currents, fishing grounds, selection of trees, material knowledge, production of tar and linseed oil.

Traditional craftsmanship: Traditional boat building, other maritime crafts such as rope making,

sail making, rigging of sailboats, blacksmith.\*

Performing arts: We have not much experience with this domain.

\* For some of this knowledge and practises, regarding to some elements from all the domains there are restrictions on access to information and practice (ref. item B.6 (c) in this form).

**E.3.** *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Norwegian Coastal Federation has extensive experience of processing applications and consultation documents as well as analysing documents, both in Norwegian and in English. This is a key part of our expertise and experience and an important element of the work performed by the Secretariat of the Norwegian Coastal Federation.

**E.4.** *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

All employees in the secretariat of our organization are experienced (two people are highly experienced) in writing English texts, e.g. theses, papers, conference abstracts, applications, reports and minutes from formal meetings. Some of our ICH experts in our local groups also have such knowledge, and a few of them have experience in writing book summaries as well.

**E.5.** *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Norwegian Coastal Federation has long-standing and solid experience of working internationally. International cooperation is a key element of our activities. We have participated in a number of international projects such as festivals, exhibitions, trips and conferences. We believe that it is natural for the local level to be both promoted and highly involved in these international fora. Our local groups are the very core of our operations. Our practical preservation work, with its diversity of practical activities, is carried out by our local groups. It is possible to that the Norwegian Coastal Federation is the sum of all the local groups.

However, there is no doubt that our work with UNESCO's Convention and, more recently, our accreditation as an NGO in 2016 have really made us aware of the importance of this matter at both the local and international level. This applies above all to our experiences with the nomination to have Nordic clinker tradition inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (ref. item B.4 in this form).

## **F. Cooperation with UNESCO**

*Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as funding from the Participation Program).*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Members of our staff in the Coastal Federation has participated in UNESCO training about ICH



and the Convention. Based on this training, we are now part of a Nordic network of instructors where we are allowed to use materials prepared by UNESCO when organizing training and workshops.

## G. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

## H. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.

Name: Per Hillesund

Title: Secretary General

Date: 12.02.2021

Signature:

