



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. <i>Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.</i>	
ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΟΜΟΛΟΓΗΤΩΝ	
A.1.b. <i>Name of the organization in English and/or French.</i>	
POLITISTIKO ERGASTIRI AYION OMOLOYITON	
A.1.c. <i>Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)</i>	
NGO-90265	
A.2. Address of the organization	
<i>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.</i>	
Organization:	Organization: Politistiko Ergastiri Ayion Omoloyiton

Address:	Anchialou, 1080 Lefkosia Cyprus
Telephone number:	+35722256782
Email address:	info@politistiko-ergastiri.org
Website:	politistiko-ergastiri.org
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:	Theodorou
Given name:	Panayiotis
Institution/position:	Director
Address:	Ayion Omoloyiton 56, 1080, Lefkosia, Cyprus
Telephone number:	+35799454881
Email address:	info@politistiko-ergastiri.org
Other relevant information:	

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)¹

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

Our organisation the Organisation facilitates the state efforts to document and safeguard ICH as well as to enhance and transmit ICH through education. More precisely, the Organisation's work focuses on traditional dance, music, costume and film. In this capacity, our recent activities include:

- **National Inventory of ICH:** Provision of information for the element Cyprus traditional Dancing, inscribed on the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Further to the description of the element, we have also provided detailed report of all the activities implemented for the promotion and safeguarding of this element since our establishment. (collection of relevant material, exhibitions, workshops, conferences and other initiatives aimed at the safeguarding and transmission of the traditional dance and music of Cyprus).
- **ICH and Education:** members of our Organisation collaborate closely with the Ministry of EducationCSY to raise awareness on ICH through education (i. facilitators in Museum Education Programmes of the Ministry ii. Coordinators of educational interactive workshops, such as "[Visiting Evthalias Mansion](#)", approved by the Ministry which introduces elements of Traditional dance, Music, Costume and story-telling of Cyprus iii. Creators of content, such as a mobile exhibition on the topic of traditional dance and music, to be hosted at schools).
- **Capacity-building activities on ICH:** Contribution to the implementation of the programme "Global Citizenhsip and Heritage Education" (Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO and ASPnet Cyprus network) as well as to the preparation of a publication on the same topic. Members of the Organisation participated as trainers in a capacity-building seminar for heritage education, targeting ASPnet teachers, organised by the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO and the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (Ministry of EducationCSY).

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 action plan of our Organisation is supported by government stakeholders (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO) and implemented in collaboration with local authorities (municipalities or community councils) and the private sector (A.G.Leventis Foundation, Leventis Municipal Museum of Nicosia, Nicosia Tourism Board). The Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth have launched a funding programme aimed at the safeguarding of ICH and traditional cultural expressions, through which our Organisation receives subsidies for the implementation of its annual activities that contribute to the objectives of the programme (documentation and

¹. 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.

transmission of ICH, networking and exchange of best practices at national and international level, organisation of conferences and workshops, training opportunities, actions for youth).

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 next Periodic Report is due by the end of 2021 and the organisation is willing to contribute in any possible way to the collection of information, under the guidance of the focal point for the drafting of the Report.

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

We have not yet participated in the preparation of a nomination for any of the Lists. Although Politistiko Ergastiri contributes, through its activities, to the implementation of safeguarding measures of elements already inscribed on the Representative List and the National Inventory of ICH (such as: Tsiattista poetic duelling, Cyprus Traditional Dances, [Cyprus Traditional Wedding Customs](#), Shadow Theatre - Karagiozis, Maxilles Lysou, [Folk Stories and Myths](#)),

The documentation regarding the measures implemented by our Organisation for the above is available to interested parties and could be used for reporting on the status of viability of the elements inscribed on the Lists.

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

Politistiko Ergastiri has been documenting [traditional dance](#), music and other related customs since 1990, collecting relevant data. The information collected is examined carefully and used to transfer knowledge to younger members of our organisation. Dance is taught using the recorded material and then performed. The process of documentation is based on on-site visits, interviews and recording of individuals. To achieve this we cooperate with members of the families of the bearers of intangible heritage (e.g. dancer) and their community, to put these into context. The cooperation does not end with the recording, and where possible, the bearer is hosted in workshops, performances, speeches, seminars, trainings, in order to promote intergenerational dialogue and maintain the direct contact between experienced practitioners and new apprentices.

Politistiko Ergastiri has created a small inventory of gathered information in the form of video and documents which is available to its members, mostly for the purpose of knowledge transmission regarding Cyprus dance and music.

In addition we have recently created a publication referring to the material gathered and its transmission.

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

Focused on our main topic, dance, music and song, we are actively developing structures that could host and promote activities aimed at the safeguarding but mostly to the implementation of activities and methodologies that have an impact on groups and individuals and focus on transmission of Intangible cultural heritage as a living heritage, not in a frozen form or as a museum item. Our latest large performances "[Terpsihori](#)" 2018 and "[Anadromi](#)" 2020 have been serving our vision of linking the past and the present, through traditional music and dance, considering the current needs of people. The performance was perceived as a journey through time with music showing the links and the continuity. Our performances are not simply an exhibition of ability but a process of exchange with the audience, raising questions, discussions, awareness on ICH, which is very much alive in everyday life. Further to the above:

a. Promoting the function of ICH in society

As a priority, our organisation offers the premises and the facilities of our cultural centre (a traditional renovated house) to activities that promote cultural heritage elements. We are open in collaborating and supporting either individuals or groups supporting thus members of society in the promotion of ICH awareness. Its philosophy is characterized by open participation, acceptance and coexistence of people of all ages, abilities and roles, through dance, song and music which are the elements that connect participants. The idea is that dancing and its integral elements of music, song, costume (horostasi), is seen as an entity, palpating the links between the past, present and future, leaving traces in an attempt to discover, interpret and promote our cultural heritage.

- Politistiko was invited to [TEDxNicosia](#) to present its approach to traditional dance and music and therefore emphasising the traces of ICH to our days.

b. Fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding

- cooperation with dance teachers, who have developed their knowledge on experience within our organisation, thus promoting networking and capacity building.

- establishment of a group song workshop, which meets every week and works on the transmission and interpretation of traditional songs under the guidance of a distinguished musician (Elena Xyda).

- support to the traditional orchestra "Tropos" (Τρόπος), led by [Michalis Kouloumis](#), a distinguished musician in his field (researcher, teacher, composer, performer). This group focuses on researching, performing and transmitting traditional music of Cyprus.

-we host, researchers/musicians/dancers from Cyprus and Greece who share their findings and knowledge in set seminars and workshops directly with the public related particularly to traditional dancing

Point c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while

respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.

Research data and collections of information related to Dance, Music and Costumes is accessible to our member for study and use to a certain extent.

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

Our main objective is transmission of knowledge, attitudes and skills for the safeguarding of ICH through non-formal and informal education, activities in communities and performances for a broad public. In this respect, we organise on a regular basis open discussions to exchange of knowledge and ideas, we offer expertise to individuals interested and contribute in education and capacity building. are oftenly organised .

Points a. and b.

ICH and Education - (schools/families)

Implementation of an **educational interactive workshop** called "[Visiting Evthalias Mansion](#)" which introduces elements of Traditional dance, Music, Costume and story telling of Cyprus. The educational program is approved by the Ministry of Education and is visited by school classrooms and families.

Implementation of an **educational program** called "**Let me tell you as story**" which introduces the structure of story telling and provides the opportunity to children of young age to identify the elements of a traditional tale, story and create their own.

-Creation of an exhibition with the topic: traditional dance and music and how it can be transmitted, the content, its topics. The exhibition is movable and can be exhibited in schools.

-performances with a topic which transmit a particular topic related with ICH elements

-publications regarding the safeguarding of cultural heritage

-weekly meetings not excluding but including presentations 2 -3 time a year following annual custom calendar. eg. local celebrations, christmas, easter

Point c & d

ICH and International activities

An example of our international activities is a project called [“Echoes of the City” \(Living history in Museums\)](#) The project had both a local and international implementation. The methodology allows museums, municipalities, local authorities, informal groups or even neighbourhood to be able to investigate their local heritage and share it with the public in an interactive and educational way. There has been an effort of creating a Good Practice guide that will be transferable to various groups and locations.

Our activities are based on non-formal process, personal pace, development, program adjusted to needs of participants,

Point e

ICH and places

Our organisation is situated in a renovated building which is declared as Cultural Heritage Building. This allows us to promoting the use of history. The building has been incorporated within the educational workshop for students called **“Visiting Evthalias Mansion”**

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

- Politistiko Ergastiri has been involved in several European mobility projects, either by hosting or participating. The topics are related to youth and their personal development. In all projects, Cultural heritage elements such as music, dance, theatre were incorporated in the programmes, either as a means to achieve other objectives or as elements in the core of the activities planned. All projects contribute in networking with partners at european level and in improving our methods through exchange of knowledge and capacities. Our recent projects include, funded by the EU include: [“Vibes of Life”](#), as implemented between [2013-2015] hosted more than 200 young persons with a focus to dance and music.

- “Echoes of the City” was dedicated to the discovering of local heritage through interactive walks and involved participants from 6 different European countries. Both projects created a network of cultural and youth organisations supporting each other in the implementation of such projects.

Lately (January 2021) with the cooperation o CIFEJ (<https://www.cifej.com/#>) we have organised an online seminar with the title Cinema in Schools, promoting Media literacy with the cooperation with EKOME UNESCO MIL Alliance co-Secretary General.

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

We have attended the **Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention to held online, from 14 to 19 December 2020**. In this case we were participating as audience with no particular role.

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

N/A

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

We intend to be active in participating in the meetings that will be organised. We are ready to present activities, good practices, and methodology implemented and proven to have results after our 21 years of active involvement in ICH. We believe we have the experience and capacity to be able to share particular insights. As an organisation we are also ready to participate in organising events of discussions under the Committee.

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

English - 6

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Our organisation has created a capacity in working with Traditional Music, Dance, Costume, Song, Storytelling and Cinema.

Our activities formulated under the above topics, contribute in the enhancement and interconnectedness of these elements. At the core of our work lies the philosophy of sharing knowledge, attitudes, skills as well as encouraging participatory approaches in an inclusive way.

We are always open to ideas, and persons willing to interact, create, implement projects under the mentioned topics are linked with each other.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

One of our Members of our organisation has been serving as an evaluator of Erasmus + projects of the EU. The Organisation was also actively involved in the writing of applications for projects linked with non formal education trainings and topics related to cultural heritage, youth and personal development.

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

In English language - 3 members of our members have been actively involved in the writing of applications in the level of European projects concerning Youth Trainings and activities, as well as proposing international cooperation in the direction of Cultural cooperation.

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

Our organisation has been involved in international educational projects since 2007. Under the Youth program Youth in Action, later Erasmus plus and European solidarity corps. It has also implemented a project under The Culture Program in collaboration with other European countries. Our activities range from youth exchanges and trainings to long term cultural programs, coordinating-hosting-sending volunteers from and to Cyprus. It has been actively supporting the Cyprus National Agency in implementing training seminars targeting Youth, Personal Development, active Citizenship and Culture. Members of our organisation have been trained and implementing successfully both the organisational aspects and the content aspects with an emphasis on learning objectives. As an organisation we have created an international network of organisations and persons (trainers/educators/managers) which support each other in the implementation of such projects.

Specifically, linked to cultural heritage we have created and implemented a project called "[Echoes of the City](#)" ([Living history in Museums](#)) The project had both a local and international implementation. As a good practice it has been proposed as a KA2 Educational project to be implemented in 4 European cities. Its transferability as a good practice will allow museums, municipalities, local authorities, informal groups or even neighbourhood to be able to investigate their local heritage and share it with the public in an interactive and educational way. The whole implementation was a concept developed by our organisation and shared with partners.

We would be willing and able to undertake any international task under Unesco if asked.

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

Contribution to the implementation of the programme “Global Citizenship and Heritage Education” (Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO and ASPnet Cyprus network) as well as to the preparation of a publication on the same topic. A member of our Organisation (Christiana Papadopoulou) participated as a facilitator on teacher training seminar on this topic as well as an invited keynote speaker during the annual Student Forum of ASPnet Cyprus (41st Pancyprian Symposium of ASPnet), on the topic: “Museum and School, past present and future”.

She has also published a paper on this topic, “The school as an institution of safeguarding of Cultural heritage, in the publication of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, titled: [“Cultural Heritage and Citizenship: the past in the present tense”](#) .

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:	Panayiotis Theodorou
Title:	Mr.
Date:	13/02/2021
Signature:	