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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 2023
for examination in 2023**

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.*

Česká národopisná společnost

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

Czech Ethnological Society

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

NGO-90140

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: Česká národopisná společnost

Address: Národní třída 3, 117 20 Praha 1, Czechia

Telephone number: +420 724 172 858

Email address: info@narodopisnaspolecnost.cz

Website: <https://www.narodopisnaspolecnost.cz/>

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.): Ms

Family name: Kuminková

Given name: Eva

Institution/position: Vice-chairperson

Address: 1. Máje 844, 756 61 Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czechia

Telephone number: +420 724 172 858

Email address: eva.kuminkova@gmail.com

Other relevant information:

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework², as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. 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 contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

The Czech Ethnological Society (CES) associates 189 professionals in the fields of ethnology, social and cultural anthropology and folkloristics. It further has 22 collective members (museums, academic institutes, university departments etc.) and 18 honorary members.

CES has no permanent paid staff, management of the NGO is organized on voluntary basis. The only paid jobs are related to grants and other projects implemented for external organizations

1. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.
2. For further information on the Overall Results Framework, please refer to the Chapter 8 of the Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503>

based on know-how accumulated by individual and collective members.

The aim of CES is to provide a platform for professional discussion, cultivation of the field and networking of scholars, academic staff and museum workers on national, regional and local levels. These functions allow general capacity-building and experience sharing. Thanks to the accreditation, ICH is the main focus of many of CES's activities. CES has two specialized committees – the *Committee for Vernacular Building* and the *Committee for Folk Customs*. They both organize regular meetings and international conferences.

CES invites students and young professionals to become members and have a chance to get in touch with experienced ICH safeguarding professionals. It runs the *Fund of Alena Plessingerová and Josef Vařeka* whose aim is to financially support students' ethnological research of intangible and material cultural heritage.

Since 1934, it keeps developing a group of non-professional correspondents (CES currently has 91 correspondent) who carry out research in local communities and villages. A training session on safeguarding cultural heritage and ICH documentation is currently being planned for them.

B.2. *Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the **transmission of and education** for intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Many individual as well as some collective members have academic background (university departments) and provide tertiary formal education. For example, the Department of European Ethnology, Masaryk University, provides a specialized course on safeguarding ICH and the 2003 Convention based on practical safeguarding experiences. Most lecturers are CES members with experience from the UNESCO's statutory meetings as well as from the field and state administration.

Most collective members are national, local and regional museums and large part of individual members work in all kinds of museums. Here they are responsible for organizing programmes, projects, events and activities for children within the framework of non-formal education. CES interconnects all these professionals, provides a meeting space through conferences, seminars and a newsletter.

It supports students through the funding of their research activities (see the Fund in B.1.). Every year, CES awards prizes for the best BA and MA thesis in ethnology or related fields. The winners are awarded publicly, at the International Folklore Festival Strážnice.

B.3. *Describe your organization's participation in the **inventorying and research** of intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

CES members participate in inventorying ICH on the national level (National Institute of Folk Culture – entity managing the national inventory and a collective CES member) and on the regional level. Several collective members are responsible for maintaining regional inventories and CES individual members participate or are responsible for inventorying ICH in all regions of the country.

Virtually all CES members are involved in research of cultural heritage, a large part of them specializes in ICH – either as academic researchers or as field researchers working in local or regional museums. These members are in close contact with local communities and build mutually beneficial cooperation with them. While local communities provide information, museums and researchers provide access to documentary and other resources, assist communities with revitalization of their ICH, provide space for community activities and help them organize and manage documentary resources.

Since 1950, CES has been creating a bibliography of ethnographic journals, including regional prints, which is available online on the website of the society and contains more than 16500 entries. Since 1906, CES has been publishing a peer-reviewed Ethnographic Journal. ICH topics

are permanent part of its content. Through the network of correspondents, CES collects documentary field information in the form of surveys. Survey results from the whole country on 40 different topics related to ICH are published online on the Society's website.

B.4. Describe your organization's participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

Several CES members, especially those who have experience with the work for the 2003 Convention in the role of members of the Evaluation Body, Intergovernmental Committee or General Assembly, are regularly invited by the Ministry of Culture to participate in drafting conceptual and strategic materials concerning safeguarding of ICH. In particular, they collaborate with the Department of Regional and National Culture, which is responsible for implementation of the 2003 Convention in Czechia. All these CES members also work in the field and have direct contact with local communities, groups and individual ICH bearers.

CES provides comments and consultations regarding all important legislative and strategic documents concerning ICH on national level.

CES members are regularly appointed as members of the National Council for Traditional Folk Culture – an advisory body of the Minister of Culture for ICH safeguarding. Currently, 7 out of 17 members of the council are CES members, including the chairperson and the vice-chairperson of CES. CES members hold the positions of the chairperson and two vice-chairpersons in the national council, which proves the trust of state administration in the know-how and experience of CES in ICH safeguarding.

B.5. Describe your organization's participation in promoting the **role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

The impact on the public and general society is stronger through the work of individual and collective members than through the activities of CES itself. Society's own activities primarily aim at professionals and state authorities. The impact on the society is thus secondary.

Most individual and collective members are in direct contact with communities, groups and individuals in different ways described in other sections of the form. They promote the role of ICH through museum exhibitions, events, activities for children, meetings of ICH practitioners, seminars, conferences, folklore festivals and in many other ways.

B.6. Describe your organization's participation in **raising awareness** about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

CES promotes good examples of safeguarding ICH by awarding the best ethnological book, exhibition and event (conference, seminar) of the year. It also bestows the honorary Five Red Roses Award to the best project or action in the field. In all categories, awarded projects are very often related to ICH. The award winners are publicly introduced at the International Folklore Festival Strážnice during the main evening programme, which is attended by thousands of people and broadcasted by a national television.

CES promotes new books, exhibitions and conferences related to ICH on its website. It promotes different ICH topics through the work of its *Committee for Folk Customs*. Individual and collective members promote ICH in many different ways through their work and the work of their institutions, including public events, programmes for children and the youth, exhibitions, articles, books, festivals etc.

Those members who work in the field, particularly in regional museums appointed by the Ministry of Culture to implement the 2003 Convention on the regional level, are very close to local communities and communicate with them about the state system of intangible heritage care and protection. They also run all kinds of projects, including exhibitions and public events, which contribute to awareness raising and promotion of ICH.

B.7. *Describe your organization's participation in facilitating the engagement of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.*

Not to exceed 250 words

CES reaches local communities through the network of correspondents. The Society serves as a negotiator in problematic cases, when cultural heritage is endangered and local authorities are not willing to work for its safeguarding. It protects interests of its members and the community of ethnologists working in different types of institutions from local museums to the Academy of Sciences.

Individual and collective members engage communities, groups and individuals particularly as respondents during field research of ICH and as tradition bearers through awareness raising activities such as public events, exhibitions, programmes for children, formal and non-formal education. Member open-air museums engage tradition bearers in long-term projects, provide space for practicing their crafts and involve practitioners in experimental research of craft technologies etc.

B.8. *Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation 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.*

Not to exceed 250 words

CES is a member of the ICH NGO forum. It closely collaborates with the Ethnographic Society of Slovakia and keeps contacts with other central-European ethnological associations. It is a member of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) and ICCN (Inter-City Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network). CES members participate at meetings, conferences and other activities of these international partners.

B.9. *Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.*

Not to exceed 250 words

CES has been consulted by the National Institute of Folk Culture in the process of drafting the national Periodic Report and provided its comments.

B.10. *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

Members of CES participated in preparation of almost all nominations to the Representative List and the Register (Czechia has not submitted any nomination to the Urgent Safeguarding List). Most files were directly drafted by CES members. National Institute of Folk Culture, which has been responsible for preparation of most files so far, is also a CES member. Other collective members, such as the National Open Air Museum have drafted several files.

C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

- Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)
- Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention
- Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators
- Cooperation with Category 2 Centres
- Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO
- Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs
- Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
- Financial support from the Participation Programme

x Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

Participation of CES experts on the work of the national delegation at different statutory meetings and category VI expert meetings. One of the CES members joined the Global Network of Facilitators in 2022.

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 sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

Not to exceed 250 words

Members of CES have participated at all Intergovernmental Committee and General Assembly meetings since the ratification of the Convention. During Czechia's mandate as a Committee member, CES members have been part of the Czech delegation (Jan Blahůšek, Vlasta Ondrušová, Jan Blažek, Martin Šimša, Eva Kuminková).

Other members of CES, including its chairperson, have followed the online sessions (Daniel Drápala, Jiří Woitsch, Martina Pavlicová, Ilona Vojancová, Petr Janeček and others).

In 2018, Eva Kuminková served as a Rapporteur of the Evaluation Body on behalf of CES.

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

Not to exceed 100 words

CES served as a Consultative Body member in 2011 and as an Evaluation Body member in 2016–2019.

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

Not to exceed 500 words

As a Consultative and Evaluation Body member, as a rapporteur in 2018 and during exchange sessions with the Intergovernmental Committee on the dialogue process; as a member of Czech delegation at all sessions of the Committee, open-ended working groups and General Assembly, since accreditation.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives):

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

In the past, files were evaluated by 12–15 CES members who were carefully selected according to their areas of knowledge, field experience and language skills. Large part of its 189 members commands English and several members have a good knowledge of French. Especially young members, who have joined the Society in recent years, speak good English.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

There are many different specializations in all ICH domains across our membership, depending on the type of institution and personal specialization of each member. The safeguarding experience also varies from field research, work with communities on local and regional levels, promotion and awareness raising activities, formal and non-formal education, including tertiary education, to academic research and documentation. Some member institutions and individual members are also involved in the transmission of endangered crafts and other ICH elements.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Many CES members are experienced officers working on academic as well as practical levels. They work on large grants and evaluate projects in different commissions at the Ministry of Culture, local, regional and academic grant committees, as well as on the European level (e.g. Horizon Europe programmes). They are members of editorial boards of several journals and often editors themselves. They are members of ICH boards concerning elements inscribed on the Representative List or in the national inventory. They evaluate nominations to the Czech version of living human treasures programme – the Bearer of Folk Craft Tradition, and proposals for the regional and national inventories.

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

A significant number of CES members publish in international journals in other languages than Czech, mostly in English and German. A couple of members have a BA or MA degree in English

and are able to draft any kinds of synthetic texts in this language. Many others have good command of written English or French.

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

Members of CES participate in activities of ICOM and its international committees, they collaborate with foreign academic institutions on research projects and with foreign museums and other cultural institutions on cultural projects, often within large grant programmes such as EEA and Norway grants. CES members regularly participate at international conferences and are members of boards of international organizations, such as the Association of European Open Air Museums, International Society for Ethnology and Folklore, International Council for Traditional Music, Association for Critical Heritage Studies, etc.

F. 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

G. Signature

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

Name: PhDr. Jiří Woitsch, Ph.D.

Title: Chairperson

Date: 13 February 2023

Signature:

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