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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.*

Norsk institutt for bunad og folkedrakt

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

Norwegian Institute of Bunad and Folk Costume

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

NGO-90384

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: Norwegian Institute of Bunad and Folk Costume

Address: Tyinvegen 27, 2900 Fagernes, Norway

Telephone number: 004761366250

Email address: post@bunadogfolkedrakt.no

Website: www.bunadogfolkedrakt.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.): Ms

Family name: Rossing

Given name: Camilla

Institution/position: Norwegian Institute of Bunad and Folk Costume, Director.

Address: Tyinvegen 27, 2900 Fagernes, Norway

Telephone number: 004792023916

Email address: camilla.rossing@bunadogfolkedrakt.no

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 Norwegian Institute of Bunad and Folk Costume (NBF) works to strengthen ICH capacities in several ways, both internally and externally. Internally, the institute has encouraged its employees to further educate themselves, and to develop more knowledge about ICH. Three employees, out of six, have taken classes, followed online courses, as well as a part-time master's degree course, within the field.

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>

NBF is the head of a national museum network, with a focus on dress and textile. Many museums in Norway only have one or very few professionals working with textiles and the sartorial, cultural history. As such, the network is an important meeting place and source of information and training. In 2021, the network arranged a national seminar about research and safeguarding of our living tradition of bunads/traditional costumes.

Also see B.2.

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

Twice a year, most years, the institute have a week-long training course with pupils from the so called "Costume Classes", run as a total of six classes in a cooperation between several NGOs in Norway. At the institute, the pupils (young adults) learn to perform several, traditional textile craft techniques, as well as learning about materials, weaving and the history of dress. They also learn about the history of the revitalized Norwegian bunad tradition and discuss the living ICH of today.

The NBF provides training and guidance to crafts people, crafts stores and workshops. This is a very important part of our work, where we meet directly with bearers and practitioners and assist them in their work and training. We also have regular meetings with individuals and groups who are working on a traditional costume for their local community. Such meetings are important to plan the work, provide information and training, and to plan further examination of the historical sources, through fieldwork.

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

Since the 1970s, NBF have travelled all over Norway to do week-long fieldwork, where privately owned clothes are registered. Many families and farms in rural parts of Norway keep small collections of old textiles and clothes, preserved and handed down through many generations. If local communities or groups are interested in researching and documenting the local dress traditions, they might reach out to the institute for help. In close dialogue and cooperation with the local community, NBF will plan for a week of fieldwork, where local owners of dress collections might come to have their clothes photographed and registered. This is a voluntary registration, made upon agreement with the private owners. Any information the owners might provide, is essential, especially when connected to local practise and cultural heritage. Interviews with bearers and practitioners about their living memory are especially rewarding. The registration archive at the NBF counts 82.000 registrations of single pieces of clothing, spanning from the early 1700s till today. In addition, the institute has a large archive of interviews, travel descriptions, notes and documentation from bearers, practitioners and researchers, dating from the 1960s till today. The archive is public and often used by communities and groups involved in work with traditional costumes from their area. Whenever we encounter groups or individuals who show a special interest in or knowledge of a certain craft, we always try to encourage them and provide them with any information or knowledge they might need.

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

In recent years, NBF has participated in safeguarding ICH on many levels. For example, the close cooperation between the accredited NGOs in Norway, has been very rewarding, and is bringing pressure to regional and national government to adapt more protective laws in the area of ICH. Also, we are influencing each other, which is important, since the NGOs are closely

connected with other NGOs, museums and universities and schools. NBF has participated actively in several public hearings from the government for the last 20 years, especially on the subject of secondary vocational school programs and ICH.

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

In recent years (2021 and 2023) NBF have worked especially with two projects within this field, in addition to promoting the importance of ICH in articles, the media and on different conferences and seminars.

Number one is a research project in cooperation with the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. The project "Dressing with purpose" resulted in a book and an exhibition, and was in a large extent based on interviews and dialogue with a wide variety of individuals and communities in Norway, Sweden and the indigenous Sami communities in both countries. The book and exhibition focused on how Scandinavians use and wear their traditional costumes in a modern society, and the article written by NBF focused especially on how traditional costumes may be both including and excluding in a multi-cultural society. The book especially show how intangible cultural heritage may serve as a door opener and a middle ground in the meeting between different ethnic and religious groups.

Number two is an exhibition at the institute, which consists of ten portraits of women working to promote the knowledge and use of traditional costumes through the 20th century. Their work to document and research older folk dress traditions is priceless today. Some of them made an important effort to make fabrics, materials and patterns available for people, or arranging classes and practical sewing courses. The exhibition opened in May 2021, and a book on the subject is published in March 2023.

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

NBF work to promote the convention and ICH in general in many different ways, with research and through exhibitions as mentioned in B.5, through social media and by participating in meetings among the communities and on seminars. Most importantly, when meeting with practitioners and bearers, NBF tries to make them aware of the importance of their crafts and their abilities, and support them in their work to safeguard and promote it.

The NBF has since 2008 led the national network of textile museums in Norway. The network is a formal network of about fifteen museums, who meet once or twice every year, to hold meetings and seminars. NBF has arranged two seminars where the topic was the 2003 convention of intangible cultural heritage. Other meetings and seminars have focused on traditional crafts or different fields of research.

Since 2017, NBF and four other NGOs have worked to raise awareness of traditional costumes as ICH, by nominating this ICH to UNESCO. The nomination work has primarily consisted of awareness raising among communities and groups all over Norway, enabled by the local members of the five NGOs involved. Meetings, seminars and webinars have been held since 2017, as well as questionnaires. In addition, the five NGOs worked together to implement three school projects to raise awareness of ICH and traditional crafts among schoolchildren in primary, secondary and college school levels.

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

The institute has from the beginning worked to establish public archives of registered clothing,

photos and many other sources in addition to a collection of modern day bunads. That is why NBF travels around the country, to do fieldwork, to interview bearers and to visit places of traditional, small-scale production. The institute is therefore an important source for bearers, researchers and others to find materials and information concerning folk costumes. In other words; NBF has since the beginning been entirely depended on a good and respectful dialog and cooperation with knowledgeable individuals and communities. This relationship has been, and still is, inter-dependable.

In addition to documentation work, research and training, NBF also hosts or participates in several seminars, courses or conferences every year. The services that NBF offers, big or small, may be open for anyone, or made especially suited for certain groups. For example, NBF has developed courses specifically aimed at bunad-craftsmen and -women, at museum-workers, at fashion-students or university-students.

In recent years, the institute has functioned as advisors to communities in Norway wanting to know more about the 2003 UNESCO convention on ICH and the different lists, as well as assisting in writing nominations to the lists.

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

NBF has since 1977 been a partner in a Nordic cooperation about a textile research seminar, arranged every third year. This seminar has since the beginning focused especially on traditional, textile crafts and how to safeguard them. Since 2008, information about the 2003 convention of ICH has also been important and relevant.

Since 2013, NBF and other museums and NGOs in Norway, including some from other Nordic countries (Sweden, Greenland, Denmark and Finland), have joined in an informal network to learn more about the 2003 convention of ICH. The network meets once or twice each year, and joins forces to explore, learn and promote the convention. Members of the network share experiences with nomination work, research projects or other relevant information, and promote cooperation between the NGOs and different communities.

In October 2019, the institute cooperated with a Norwegian-Swiss hand-weaver and a German hand-weaver master, on a documentation and transmission of know-how and knowledge of weaving the Jacquard loom.

In November 2019, the institute was involved in a safeguarding project in Hanoi, Vietnam, to protect and promote wood block printing. A representative from NBF gave a talk about safeguarding ICH in Norway, as well as participating in round table discussions.

Since 2020, the institute has been acting as an advisor, together with the Norwegian Crafts institute, to the Ministry of Culture in Palestine. We have advised the Palestinians on two different nominations to the Representative list of ICH.

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

NBF participated in meetings with the Norwegians authorities, together with other NGOs, to discuss the drafting of the national Periodic Report in 2021. NBF also commented on the draft of the report, before it was sent to UNESCO.

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

Since 2017, NBF and four other NGOs have worked together to raise awareness of traditional costumes as ICH, by preparing a nomination to UNESCO's Representative list of ICH. The work has been organized

by a steering committee, and carried out by a working group. NBF has contributed actively in both groups, and has worked with awareness raising, research and administration. The nomination file is still under preparation in February 2023. In addition, the institute has acted as an advisor on other Norwegian and Swedish nominations.

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
- Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

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

NBF participated in the sessions of the Committee in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2022, as an NGO.

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

The Norwegian Craft institute served as a member of the Evaluation Body from 2016 to 2019, and an employee from NBF was invited to join their committee during that period, as a fellow member.

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

NBF participated in the 2019 consultation meeting on the role of accredited non-governmental organizations within the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, on 18 April 2019.

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

Our NGO has three employees with a very good command of English, and one of them also has a very good command of French.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Four of our employees have education and / or work experience from several ICH domains, such as traditional crafts, folk music, and traditional knowledge about nature. Our employees have work experience from workshops within the arts, textile crafts, cultural history museums and other NGOs.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Through our work with research and documentation, the institute has a wide experience in analysing and evaluating documents, as well as drafting such documents. The institute has through many years worked with a university class called "Dress and Society", in close cooperation with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. This work has involved evaluating a wide variety of such documents.

NBF has through the years also both drafted and evaluated documents such as these when applying for funds, in cooperations with other NGOs and museums, and when studying research reports and so on.

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

Three members of our staff has experience with writing and drafting academic and synthetic texts in English. These relate to applications for funding, academic articles, lectures, different reports, as well as having been involved in drafting several nomination to UNESCOs Representative list of ICH.

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

NBF have since 2008 worked with both individuals and groups in English speaking countries, especially the USA. In the research project named "Dressing with purpose" from 2021, the institute wrote a chapter in English and later gave a speech in the US about the subject. Another staff member has attended several conferences in England, where she has also given talks in English. Furthermore, the institute has contact with crafts communities in different European and Asian countries, especially concerning expertise within textile crafts and weaving. We have attended seminars, courses and exchanges of knowledge in France, Germany, Vietnam, Lithuania as well as the Nordic countries.

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: Camilla Rossing

Title: Director

Date: February 15, 2023

Signature:

