

**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.*

Norges Bygdekvinnelag

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

The Norwegian Society of Rural Women

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

NGO-90395

#### **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: The Norwegian Society of Rural Women

Address: Postbox 9358 Grønland, 0135 OSLO

Telephone number: (47) 220 54 815

Email address: [post@bygdekvinnelaget.no](mailto:post@bygdekvinnelaget.no)

Website: [www.bygdekvinnelaget.no](http://www.bygdekvinnelaget.no) and [www.norsktradisjonsmat.no](http://www.norsktradisjonsmat.no)

Other relevant information: Facebook: Norges Bygdekvinnelag  
Instagram: @norgesbygdekvinnelag

### 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: Seime

Given name: Astrid

Institution/position: Organization advisor

Address: Tangen terrasse 15b, 1450 Nesoddtangen, Norway

Telephone number: 908 72 411

Email address: [astrid.seime@bygdekvinnelaget.no](mailto:astrid.seime@bygdekvinnelaget.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)<sup>1</sup>

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework<sup>2</sup>, 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 Society of Rural Women`s (NSRW) main contribution in strengthening institutional and human capacities has been systematically working to further strengthen our local food courses, both by giving the local practitioners methods and tools to teach their knowledge and by increasing the number of courses.

The accreditation is an important recognition of the organisation's expertise and knowledge, and the

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>

practitioners and local branches have realized what a crucial role they play in safeguarding, and how important the transmission is for safeguarding. During the last four years our branches have conducted multiple courses, the organisation has produced films, tutorial books and brochures, arranged conferences and developed a [webpage](#) with local recipes, -and articles about traditional food courses and techniques.

The support and guiding for the practitioners has strengthened their formal competence, their belief in themselves, and therefore increased the amount of transmission among our tradition bearers.

The organization has extensive collaboration with other organisations working within the field of tacit knowledge and intangible cultural heritage. We cooperate with, museums, state actors, - and municipalities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage (ICH). By sharing our knowledge, - and cooperating on common projects and making our reports and documents accessible we also get feedback to improve our own expertise in this area. An important part of our work with intangible cultural heritage lately has been to raise awareness around how our knowledge of food culture is part of the solution to reach the UNs sustainable goals.

**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*

The organisation has during recent years had three large projects functioning as an umbrella for activities on both local, regional, and national levels.

In 2018 and 2019, the NSRW ran the project "The school of food traditions". 163 of our local branches participated in the project, arranging more than 400 courses reaching more than 5500 participants. In 2020 until the end of 2022, we had the project "knowledge of food and sustainability" with more than 50 branches arranging more than 200 activities.

The projects have had project managers dedicated to the task of conducting training for practitioners and branches and giving advice on methods and implementation of the project. The activities have been locally based and run by the local, - and regional branches, cooperating with organisations, schools, and individuals such as farmers and fishermen. Activities have ranged from growing potatoes to going fishing then making fish cakes afterwards. An important perspective is how food gets from "soil to table".

In addition to activities connected to national projects all our branches have had multiple food courses and meetings for members and non-members where practical food making has been a social event.

NSRW also:

- Administrates the webpage [www.norsktradisjonsmat.no](http://www.norsktradisjonsmat.no) for freely accessible material, including instruction videos, tutorial articles and recipes.
- Cooperates with actors in the ICH field including museums.
- Participates in fairs, local and regional arrangements, seminars, and digital seminars during the pandemic and afterwards.
- Invites school classes to food courses.
- Uses social media, writes articles for the press and in the organisation's magazine.

**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

National projects have given us the opportunity to try different ways of transmission of intangible cultural heritage. After each project we have had evaluation reports, which has been essential to improving our approach and methodology on safeguarding. One of the conclusions has been the benefits of cooperating with other actors within safeguarding as well as communities, groups, and individuals.

In October 2019 NSRW hosted the national seminar "Living tradition! Intangible culture in the voluntary sector" together with The Norwegian Folk Art and Craft Association and The Coastal Federation. The seminar shared methods for safeguarding and frame conditions for actors working within the field. The seminar was relevant to practitioners, national politicians, and actors in the field.

In 2021 NSRW hosted a five-day study trip to the northern part of Norway. The objective was to visit the Sami area to gain better knowledge about the Sami peoples food traditions and ICH. We visited NSRW-branches and interacted with local practitioners.

NSRW takes part in the project "Food Lessons". This is a group of researchers trying to find out how to build Norway as a food nation. Us contributing with knowledge of local food culture, - and heritage.

NSRW created a food-webpage in 2018. The aim was to gather local traditional recipes from our members to take care of and make these available for the public. Today there are more than 1000 recipes, 19 tutorial videos and 36 articles on the site. The last year we have had 1.2 million page views.

**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 connection with the new notification to the White paper on the Cultural Heritage policy in 2021, we participated in the consultation processes to ensure legal regulation and that sufficient economic resources are set aside to safeguard intangible cultural heritage. NSRW believe that the governments' recognition of ICH to a greater extent must be reflected in the follow-up to the White paper with a, among other things, strengthened economic framework for the non-governmental organisations working on the ICH-field.

NSRW has also in 2020 given our input to the White paper about the future of the museums in Norway.

The organisation works to promote traditional Norwegian food as part of the training in food and health in primary and lower secondary schools. We have worked actively to influence politicians locally and nationally. During the national election in 2021, we had a national campaign to create awareness about the school meal and why it is important to implement traditional Norwegian food and ICH in the school meal.

In our political platform we state that we will work to strengthen the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Norwegian legislation. In the political platform, we have among other demands stipulated that:

- With the introduction of school meals in Norway the food should be produced on local resources and in line with our food culture
- Dietary advice must be based on Norwegian resources and traditional food knowledge.
- Norway needs to increase the status of intangible cultural heritage.
- Voluntary cultural heritage work should have strengthened framework conditions.

**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

Our experience is that with increased focus on tangible culture it is strengthening the cohesion between people living in the same place. Intangible culture provides a shared meaning and a common identity in the local society. By passing on knowledge of traditional food, the Norwegian Rural Women's Association helps to take care of important parts of the Norwegian Culture.

For NSRW inviting to cross-generational activities are a fundamental dimension when it comes to safeguarding. This in connection with cross- thematic cooperations with other local actors makes it easier for people to see the importance of safeguarding.

We have a good amount of experience of including intangible cultural heritage in our work with inclusion and integration of people from a minority background. Many of our local branches have been using exchange of food cultures between the minority and the majority population as an important part of this work. Cooking together brings joy, inspiration, and increased understanding. Gaining knowledge of food traditions gives people a sense of community and a stronger connection to a place.

Safeguarding food culture from Norway is also about taking care of biodiversity in agriculture, readiness in case of food shortages, the impact of the local community when it comes to local produced food and the understanding and connection between intangible cultural heritage and the UNs sustainable development goals, like goal 12.3. The basis of food traditions is found in agriculture, fishing, and food from nature. Therefore, cooperation with farmers, farmers markets, - and local producers is important.

**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

Our members and local branches are bearers of the traditional knowledge about traditional food culture and food heritage in Norway, and we work with raising awareness and status of this knowledge, both among the tradition bearers themselves and in the general society. Our local branches work with conveying this traditional knowledge in many different forms - e.g., classes and courses for adults, informally teaching for groups of children, participation in local events, fairs, festivals etc., writing and sharing recipes in local newspapers and so on.

One example of how we cooperate to raise awareness is our participation in marketing the UNs World Food Day. The NSRW invites all the local branches to a national action. This is mostly done in cooperation with stakeholders funding the activities. We highlight the connection between safeguarding traditional food knowledge and our own food production and emphasize the importance of in solidarity with others (UNs sustainable goal 2). To engage and inspire local activity we have common themes like "why it is smart to grow barley in Norway" and use the whole animal "from nose to tail".

We experience that when local branches showcase the differences in food culture and highlights what is unique in their place it makes people identify, and therefore it increases the willingness to contribute to learn and pass on ICH, both local municipalities and the local population.

Cooperating with schools has been important to raise awareness among teachers and transfer practical knowledge to children and young people.

**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

As a non-governmental organisation, we facilitate local involvement in our local branches by offering methods, courses, seminars, and funding for activities.

The organisation has developed a tutorial book to spread knowledge about food traditions and cultural heritage. The tutorial book describes tips for practical teaching and advice for different teaching programmes. It is freely accessible and can be implemented and altered to local settings by all interested agents.

The organisation supports the local branches in their work by creating brochures, writing proposals for reader posts, design posters, giving them the opportunity to host their own subpage on our website and offering them courses in everything from how to spread online stories to influencing politicians.

The organisation also:

- Invites to digital meetings where the objective is to teach about intangible culture, share methods and create meeting places for our practitioners.
- NRSW invite our members to national seminars about intangible culture, have courses in how to run a voluntary organization (local branches).
- Facilitates regional cooperation between our local branches and others.
- Visits and offers lectures about safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.
- Writes articles about traditional food culture and food heritage in Norway.

**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*

The Norwegian Society of Rural Women has been part of the Nordplus Adult project "Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage through Learning" with organizations from Finland and Latvia. The theme of the project was influenced by the UNESCO convention for safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. Our main goal was to investigate different methods for safeguarding through practical learning. During the project, each partner hosted a study visit that allowed practitioners to interact and see how other people worked to safeguard ICH and learn from their skills and expertise.

The homepage of the project is our main platform for collecting and spreading the results of the project and of our development work. Through the homepage freely accessible material is available, including different media such as inspirational photos and videos from the study visits, manuals, descriptions, instructions, and questionnaires that can be used working with ICH: [www.nordplus.kulturosterbotten.fi](http://www.nordplus.kulturosterbotten.fi)

Prior to the commencement of this project there was a preparatory visit in Tallin. The contacts behind the preparatory visit in Tallinn were, in turn, a result of the NordPlus contact seminar on cultural heritage and learning in Östersund in October 2018.

The Norwegian Society of Rural Women collaborates with the Development Fund in Norway on a development project in Guatemala. The aim is to strengthening women's role and rights in the local community and taking care of the traditional food and craft culture. Over the past few years, rural women in Norway and rural women in Guatemala have exchanged experience and knowledge through digital meetings.

**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*

We have participated in general meetings with representatives from the Arts Council Norway who are responsible for this area. As well as contributing written input to the Periodic report on the implementation of the Convention.

**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*

The Norwegian Society of Rural Women has helped to facilitate meetings and discussions about our national costume as an intangible cultural heritage in connection with an application to have folk costumes on UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage.

## **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*

The organisations leader Ellen Krageberg attended 14COM in 2019.

**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*

**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*

The Norwegian Society of Rural Women are happy to make ourselves available and provide advisory services to the Committee in the future.

## **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*

We have two employees who are relatively good in English. If desired, they can contribute.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Since the basis of food traditions is found in agriculture, fishing, and food from nature knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe is an important part of safeguarding food traditions.

As described in B.2. an important perspective collaborating with children is to make understanding of how the food gets from "soil to table". Safeguarding traditional food culture knowledge starts long before the food is in the kitchen. Therefor a lot of the knowledge is also about knowing where to find plants in nature and how to use them in cooking- and how to cultivate them in local settings. This is also why different regions have their own food culture.

Food traditions is closely connected to social practices, rituals, and festive events. An example is that many of our branches invites to festive events where traditional food – different types depending on the festive – is served.

We see that working across several domains also makes a greater understanding of why safeguarding is important, - and how the domains depend on and complements 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*

In connection with our own national projects, we apply for national funding, receive applications from our local branches, and carry out evaluations of our own projects.

**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*

Our organization does not have much experience in drafting synthetic texts in English og 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

The Norwegian Society of Rural Women has been part of the Nordplus Adult project **“Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage through Learning”** with organisations from Finland and Latvia. The theme of the project was influenced by the UNESCO convention for safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. Our main goal was to investigate different methods for safeguarding through practical learning. See more at B.8.

The results of this project clearly shows that the methods and practical solutions used are value to other cultures and countries wishing to safeguard intangible culture.

## 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: Cesilie Aurbakken

Title: Secretary general

Date: 10. 02. 2023

Signature:

