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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.*

Somut Olmayan Kültürel Miras Enstitüsü Derneği

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

Institute for Intangible Cultural Heritage

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

90400

#### **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: Institute for Intangible Cultural Heritage

Address: Gazi Mah. Şenol Cad. 29/1 Yenimahalle/Ankara/TÜRKİYE

Telephone number: (+90)5052336852  
Email address: sokumenstitusu@gmail.com  
Website: <http://www.sokumenstitusu.org.tr/>  
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: Ölçer Özünel  
Given name: Evrim  
Institution/position: Institute for Intangible Cultural Heritage/Chair  
Address: Gazi Mah. Şenol Cad. 29/1 Yenimahalle/Ankara/TÜRKİYE  
Telephone number: (+90)5052336852  
Email address: sokumenstitusu@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)<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*

Our organization encouraged two NGOs in the field of ICH to prepare and submit their applications to be a UNESCO-accredited NGO. We worked with these NGOs to help them see what they need to improve or change in order to be part of the accreditation mechanism. This process, shaped by the contribution of and consultation to our organization, has served to increase their institutional capacities. On the other hand, majority of our members and administration are academics, teaching and studying in the field of ICH

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>

for years now. So taking advantage of this profile, we teach, train and graduate students on bachelors, masters and PhD level, thus contributing to develop human capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. In addition, we are one of the stakeholders of the Winter Schools on ICH since 2017. As these series of trainings focus on capacity building of experts, teachers, NGOs and local administrations, our organization, being an active part of the Winters Schools, directly help to build human capacities.

**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*

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Formal and Informal Education, local administrations and development agencies (the last two as hosts) organize "Winter Schools" on ICH since 2017. These meetings are dedicated to empower transmission and education of intangible cultural heritage. So, our organization, within its network of NGOs, works to increase the participation of other relevant NGOs to the training and help increase the reach of the Winter School among civil society. In addition, Ankara Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum which was established in 2013, is a close partner to our organization and welcomes thousands of guests, most of whom are school groups. Through the museum's channel, we conducted many workshops, storytelling events and hands-on activities aimed at not only people living in the museum's neighbourhood but also relevant tradition bearers, masters and practitioners.

**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*

Two administrative-level members of our NGO are also the members of the ICH Provincial Identification Boards of Ankara, within the body the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, which is the competent body of the 2003 Convention in Türkiye. The board is the first body that processes the applications on ICH elements to be included in provincial inventory. So, being one of the partners of the board, members of our organization have a voice in the examination of files submitted to the provincial inventory. In addition, the board regularly conducts field research to identify ICH elements in Ankara and proposes relevant elements to be included in the inventory. The members of the board, two of which are from our organization, attend to the field research aimed at inventorying.

The Municipality of Gölbaşı (one of the districts of Ankara) plans to establish an ICH Museum in 2023. In this respect, the Municipality invited us to coordinate field research that aims to collect and then classify materials to start an inventory. The members of our organization organized the field visits in collaboration with the municipality and cooperated with people on the ground, visiting 43 villages and promoting ICH and the museum initiative among people living in the villages.

**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*

Turkish National Commission for UNESCO formed ad-hoc working group on "Intangible Cultural Heritage and Legislation." As it is the first initiative of its kind, it was an important experience to be included in the group. The group was in operation in 2019-2022, examining existing policy texts to identify aspects that are related to ICH safeguarding. One of the three members of the working group is a member of our organization. The group prepared a draft legislation text on ICH that later was sent to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism for future consultation to form a legislation. So, our approach and experience as an NGO in the field of ICH were reflected on the draft legislation.

**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 NGO, in collaboration with the Ankara Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum, organizes joint activities such as workshops and seminars. These events are arranged and scheduled with reference to special occasions and UNESCO's commemorations and anniversaries. In this context, our organization takes the advantage of such occasions to reach out and cooperate with communities, groups and individuals to promote the visibility, function and role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society. In addition, our NGO also pays attention to address the inclusion of disadvantaged groups in promotion and awareness-raising activities. For example, in cooperation with the Museum, we organized two workshops on Mangala (traditional intelligence and strategy game-inscribed on the Representative List) for visually-impaired pupils on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3 in 2021 and 2022. Similarly, we visited the School for Physically Impaired Children and played traditional children's games in the event "Let's Remove the Barriers for our Stamented Children." Last but not least, we also organized a visit to the Nursing Home in Ankara (2018) and made a storytelling event, in addition to the performance of Karagöz (traditional shadow theatre) for the people living there. The event, conducted by the undergraduate students who study Turkish folklore, served as a good opportunity to strengthen intergenerational dialogue as well.

**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 NGO is one of the leading partners of the "Spring Festival Hıdırellez" (inscribed element on the Representative List) on every May 5-6, since 2012 in cooperation with the Municipality of Altındağ (central district of Ankara) and Ankara Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum. As the event attracts thousands of people from various backgrounds, it is a remarkable organization to raise awareness about intangible cultural heritage. Another activity that is relevant to the purpose is the "online museum visits to Ankara Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum" (April 2021) that was conducted jointly with the Metropolitan Municipality of Ankara, Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and Ankara Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum. One member of our NGO was a guest speaker and moderator in the biennial event "Grand Gathering of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO" where our colleague had the opportunity to deliver a speech on the significance of the UNESCO's accreditation mechanism and the ways how NGOs can contribute to the implementation to the 2003 Convention. During COVID-19 pandemic, in cooperation with the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, our NGO organized an online meeting where three minstrels shared their latest folk poems and performances on COVID-19, linking folk poetry and living heritage to the current challenges that millions of people experience around the world.

**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*

In August 2021, the representative of our NGO made a presentation in an online meeting organized by the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, aimed at UNESCO-accredited NGOs to guide them through the new periodic reporting mechanism. The purpose was to help them understand the new reporting structure in the first place and then facilitate and strengthen their contribution to the new reporting system, thus helping the creation of ICH policies by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

**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*

Seven members of our NGO currently take part as researchers in the international project "Traditional Cuisine Culture in Türkiye and Moldova" that receives support from Moldovan and Turkish National

Commission for UNESCO. As part of the project, two research groups from both sides conducted field research in Türkiye and Moldova. We also provided academic advisory and expertise services to the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO in the implementation of the project. In addition, we were one of the partners in the online exchange “Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Emergencies: The Case of Ukraine” (April 18, 2022) and the panel “The Current Problems in the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage: The Case of Ukraine”, in cooperation with the Ukrainian National Institute of Science and Turkish National Commission for UNESCO (November 15, 2022).

**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*

On the request of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, we contributed to Türkiye's latest periodic report (especially the sections titled “Extent to which civil society contributes to monitoring of ICH safeguarding”, “Extent to which programs support the strengthening of human capacities to promote safeguarding and management of ICH “ and “Status of elements inscribed on the Representative List” by providing information on our activities in recent years.

**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 Ministry of Culture and Tourism organizes meetings to facilitate the preparation process of nomination files with the participation of various stakeholders. Upon the invitation of the Ministry, some of our members, including the head of our NGO, attended the preparation processes of nomination files (including multinational files) to the Urgent Safeguarding List and Representative List in recent years. We provided academic consultancy and expert support during these meetings.

## 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*

The Winter School on ICH received the patronage of the 2003 Convention in previous years and we are one of the stakeholders of the event.

Two members of our NGO, one of whom is the head of NGO, are members of the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators. Taking advantage of this presence in the network, we aspire to build up good relations with other members of the network and extend the reach of our activities and partnerships in the region and beyond.

We closely work with the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, as four members of the NGO are currently members of the ICH Experts Committee established by the Commission.

The UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Formal and Informal Education (host institution: Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, The Application and Research Center for Turkish Folklore), being the first and only UNESCO Chair on ICH in Türkiye, is a close partner since 2017. Up till now, we joined

forces with the UNESCO Chair on many occasions, the Ankara Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum mostly being intersection of our collaboration.

## **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 head of NGO and some members regularly attend the Committee meetings (including side events) and follow latest developments and discussions since the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee. We have not taken up any specific role so far.

**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*

No, we have not served as a member of the Evaluation Body acting in the capacity of our organization. However, the current Chair of the NGO has just been elected as the expert representative from Electoral Group 1 in the Evaluation Body.

**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 an accredited NGO, we have not provided advisory services directly to the Committee. However, our members provided expert services when Türkiye was previously one of the Committee members. We aspire to take part in the Steering Committee of the ICH NGO Forum in future and support the participation of civil society in a proactive manner.

## **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*

The founder of the NGO (previous head of the organization) is fluent in French and he was one of the members of the Subsidiary Body in the first years of the 2003 Convention. In addition, majority of our members have a very good command of English, already taking part in the international meetings organized by UNESCO.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

As an NGO trying to be sensitive to all domains, our members (being academics and

researchers) have PhD degrees in various domains of ICH. We have accumulated a wealth of experience working with communities, groups and individuals through our strong collaboration with the Ankara Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum which eventually helped us to work across several ICH domains.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The previous Chair of our association served as a member of the Subsidiary Body in the first years of the 2003 Convention. And current head of the NGO has just been elected to the Evaluation Body as the expert from the Electoral Group I. In addition, the head of our organization also serves as a jury member in the Living Human Treasures Selection Committee at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and some of our members are also the member of the ICH Experts Committee at the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO.

**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*

No.

**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*

Upon the invitation of the UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Formal and Informal Education, we had the opportunity to share our experience during COVID-19 pandemic with other UNESCO Chairs on ICH in an online Chairs meeting in September 2021.

## **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: Evrim Ölçer Özünel

Title: Chair

Date: 11.02.2023

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive letter 'S' followed by a smaller, less distinct mark.