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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.*

Stowarzyszenie Twórców Ludowych

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

Association of Folk Artists

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

90372

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: Stowarzyszenie Twórców Ludowych - Association of Folk Artists

Address: ul. Grodzka 14
20-112 Lublin
Poland

Telephone number: +48(81) 532 49 74

Email address: zgstl@op.pl

Website: <https://zgstl.pl/>

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.): Prof.

Family name: Schreiber

Given name: Hanna

Institution/position: AFA Scientific Council Member/Assistant Professor at the University of Warsaw

Address: University of Warsaw, ul. Nowy Świat 67 (p. 108, 109), 00-927
Warsaw, Poland

Telephone number: +48511024192

Email address: hanna.s@uw.edu.pl

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 most important role in the system of safeguarding of intangible heritage should be attributed to ICH bearers - folk artists themselves, members of the Association of Folk Artists familiar with the traditions of their ethnographic region, who mastered their skills through direct intergenerational transmission. They are the ones who cultivate and pass on their skills within the local community, cooperate with cultural institutions and are the beneficiaries of scholarship programs, which should be greatly expanded, becoming an effective and necessary element in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. They are local leaders, catalysts of regional cultural activity, participate in various ventures, occasional events, initiate many projects, and their activities will greatly contribute to the preservation of folk culture in Poland.

The Association of Folk Artists strengthened its institutional capacity for the preservation of intangible heritage by implementing an elaborate program of workshop, consultation, publishing, documentation and popularisation activities focused on all manifestations of traditional culture, which is the result of both the creative activities of individuals and entire communities.

Currently, the biggest challenge is to maintain the continued operation of the Association of Folk Artists. The situation related to the COVID - 19 coronavirus pandemic was a difficult time, and the organisation faced numerous organisational and financial repercussions as a result, and there was also an apparent loosening of intra-organizational ties.

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

An extremely important and lasting element of the work of the Association of Folk Artists in this regard is the Folk Art Academy project, which is carried out annually. This is an educational undertaking in the form of a series of workshops, which are conducted by folk artists from all over Poland, representing their regions, knowledge of skills on native traditions. Participants in the project learn about the richness and diversity of intangible cultural heritage and have the opportunity to acquire practical skills. More than 1,000 people participate annually. These meetings are an excellent way to popularise practices and customs that are still alive, which is extremely important in the process of

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>

implementing the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In addition, they impart concrete knowledge and skills about how a work of folk art is created. Each series of workshops is also preceded by a lecture on the regional heritage of folk culture and the various creative disciplines presented in the project.

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

The Association of Folk Artists is the only organisation in Poland that identifies and inspires folk artists from all fields to cultivate arts and handicrafts as the basis of cultural identity of local communities living in all regions of Poland. Every year, 50 to 60 people are identified in this way. In addition, the inventory of folk artists is updated and verified. Updating of the base is carried out through correspondence with the creators and acquisition of materials confirming their activities in the form of photos, folders, publications, etc. materials. Verification also involves direct contact with the artist, e.g. during competitions, events, reviews, fairs, fairs, and is an opportunity to get acquainted with artistic achievements and skills first-hand. At present, the database contains 3,000 active artists. It includes such arts, crafts and handicrafts as weaving, lace-making, embroidery, pottery, painting, sculpting, braiding, blacksmithing, toy-making, tissue and paper ornamentation, ritual art, construction of folk musical instruments, and represented by individual artists representing such disciplines as: woodcarving, amberworking, sieve-making, tile-making, gingerbread-making, saddlery, folksmithing, cooperage. The data from the database shows the contemporary cultivated creative disciplines in each region, presents specific cultural phenomena and the extent of their occurrence. The manifestations of contemporary folk creativity of depositories cultivating regional traditions are also collected and documented annually through registration, recording and survey interview. The following materials were acquired annually in this way: surveys - 50, folders, publications - 40, photos - 1000, ephemeral prints, press clippings, source materials - 50 items). All materials are archived.

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

AFA is a member of the National ICH Board of Poland and thus on a regular basis takes part in discussions on all safeguarding measures happening on the country level, namely inventorying through inscriptions to the National ICH List and to the National Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.

Moreover, together with the National Institute of Culture and Rural Heritage, the Association of Folk Artists organised in 2022 6 training workshops and consultations for folk artists and employees of cultural institutions in the field of copyright and related rights, as a compendium of current legal regulations in practice. Prepared by our experts, the legal training courses addressing the topic of copyright and related rights will present up-to-date and reliable knowledge of the legal regulations applicable to, among other things, the protection of intellectual property. The presented workshop (training) enabled participants to develop useful competencies related to: - copyright protection; - solving problems related to copyright infringement; - interpretation of legal regulations and general rules on sales contracts and contracts for work.

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

AFA promotes the role of ICH on the web portal KulturaLudowa.pl, established in 2009. It is an online centre for updated information on ICH and folk culture in the broadest sense. The portal is a multimedia tool and information base for ICH bearers themselves as well as for regionalists,

researchers, ethnologists, cultural animators, pupils, students and all those interested in traditional culture. The main purpose of the portal's functioning is to popularise and educate about traditional folk culture, to strengthen the sense of regional identity and its values, to expand and consolidate the knowledge about ICH and to show its importance. A tab for Intangible Cultural Heritage is created on the portal, where events, articles, publications and documents on this subject are presented. The prestige of the portal is also evidenced by the numerous media patronages granted to many events and publications throughout the country.

Quarterly "Folk Creativity" has been published for 36 years. It is the only magazine of national scope entirely devoted to ICH, to contemporary folk creativity, its achievements and problems. Addressed to folk artists, animators of cultural life, instructors, employees of cultural institutions and all interested parties. Authors of issues in the field of folk creativity are eminent scientists from academic circles from all over the country - ethnographers, sociologists, cultural scientists, Polish language experts, musicologists, folklorists, regionalists. The authors of the publication are also the creators themselves and people interested in this issue, who address the problems troubling in the environment, show the complexity and challenges of Polish cultural heritage safeguarding and popularise it in all its manifestations.

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

The Association of Folk Artists has in its structures 22 field branches operating in various regions of the country. They constitute an active and dynamic field structure, based on the social activity of local leaders. A large part of the branches have a partner in the implementation of their intentions in the form of umbrella institutions such as museums or community centres, as well as an expert supervisor. It is in these regional environments that work is carried out to raise knowledge and awareness of intangible cultural heritage by encouraging the implementation of the provisions of the 2003 UNESCO Convention, which allows the transmission of traditional culture and its use in the process of social integration at the local level. Up-to-date knowledge was also provided on the procedure for inscription on the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

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

Throughout all its activities, meeting, fairs, events, concerts, publications under the auspices of AFA ICH bearers and folk artists are crucial, key subjects that are involved on equal terms as they are considered to be best experts on their own ICH.

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

At the national level, the Association of Folk Artists is a party to a partnership agreement with the National Association of Braiders and Wicker Makers, which provides, among other things, for the protection of braiding and braiding traditions as an intangible heritage of cultural property.

At the international bilateral level, the Association of Folk Artists cooperates with the Association of Folk Artists of Lithuania, and as part of these contacts, an international symposium - Folk Art in Modern Society - was held in Vilnius in 2001, where the issue of introducing the ideas of the UNESCO Convention in society and building systems for the protection of traditional culture on the basis of the Convention was also discussed.

At the international multilateral level AFA is involved in organising events via cooperation with the ICH NGO Forum. Via its representative, professor Hanna Schreiber, AFA took part in all ICH

meetings since it was accredited in 2018: in all General Assemblies and all Intergovernmental Committee 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

The Association of Folk Artists participates in the creation of the report by completing relevant questionnaires sent by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the National Heritage Institute.

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

In order to ensure the safeguarding of ICH and the implementation of the provisions of the 2003 UNESCO Convention, by the Order of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of September 18, 2013 the President of ZG STL Waldemar Majcher, as well as several other AFA members including Hanna Schreiber were appointed to the National ICH Council, as a subsidiary body of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage Protection. The mandate by Waldemar Majcher still continues. These appointments had a measurable impact on the preparation and evaluation of the candidatures to inscriptions from Poland to the UNESCO ICH Lists, until 2018, when the competencies of the National ICH Council got strictly limited to the national inventorying. Despite AFA as such cannot express its recommendation regarding the choice of nominations, its members are actively engaged as ICH bearers into nominations prepared after 2018.

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 representative of AFA, Hanna Schreiber served in double role of AFA Scientific Council member and an expert member of Polish official delegations to UNESCO 2003 Convention General Assemblies (GA) and Intergovernmental Committee (COM) meetings in France (GA 2016, GA 2018), Ethiopia (COM 2016), Korea (COM 2017), Mauritius (COM 2018) and Sri Lanka (on-line COM 2021).

She represented the Association of Folk Artists solely in Colombia (COM 2019), Jamaica (on-line COM 2020), Morocco (COM 2022) as well as at GA in 2020 and 2022 in France.

During these meetings AFA took an active part also in the meetings organised by ICH NGO Forum as well as in diverse side events.

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.

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 representative of AFA, prof. Hanna Schreiber has been invited as an independent expert to discussing and drafting Principles and Modalities for the Safeguarding of ICH in Emergencies (adopted in 2019), Reform of the listing mechanism of the 2003 Convention (adopted in the form of amendments to Operational Directives to the 2003 Convention during GA in 2022). AFA contributed to the process of the reflection on the reform of the listing mechanism by organising a workshop during COM in Colombia fully devoted to this topic, which included members of all present accredited NGOs, and by presenting the results of the workshop during this meeting to the Committee Members in the form of the address to the COM. The report on the workshop has also been published on the website of the ICH NGO Forum.

Regarding the expertise around the 2003 Convention AFA believes it may contribute to the process of reflection on the reform of Article 18, as well as a future member in the Evaluation Body.

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

One member, prof. Hanna Schreiber, very good command of English and communicative 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

Yes. At the national level AFA works across all ICH domains thanks to the profile of its members, ICH bearers and its Scientific Council (see point B.3.). Due to its engagement at the international level and constant cooperation with other NGOs, bearers and researchers from all around the world it is able to understand the cultural complexity of ICh domains in other countries.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Via AFA member, prof. Hanna Schreiber, who was the main coordinator of the first inscription from Poland to the Representative List: Nativity Scene, *szopka*, tradition in Kraków (2018).

- 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

Yes, AFA has this experience thanks to constant academic work as well as cooperation with different NGOs at the international level. AFA was e.g. engaged in discussing and drafting some parts of the NGO Forum Code of Conduct and ByLaws addressing the issues of the conflict of interests and imbalanced geographical representation. One member, prof. Hanna Schreiber, ability to drafting synthetic texts in English.

- 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

Yes, we have this experience via constant cooperation with the ICH NGO Forum as well as through the experience gained by the membership of Poland in the Intergovernmental Committee (2018-2022).

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: Waldemar Majcher

Title: President of the Association of Folk Artists

Date: 15.02.2023

Signature:

