



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

International Assistance

ICH-04-Report – Form

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State(s) Party(ies): Ministry of Culture of Albania

Project title:	"Community Based Inventory of ICH in Albania with a view to safeguarding and transmitting to future generations"
Reporting period:	From: 12/03/2022 to: 28/10/2022
Budget:	<p>Total: US\$ 248.785,00</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <p>Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$ 213,260</p> <p>State Party contribution: US\$ 35.525,00</p> <p>Other contributions: US\$</p>
Implementing agency (contracting partner or UNESCO Field Office):	Ministry of Culture of Albania
Contact person:	<p>Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Dr.</p> <p>Family name: Kumbe</p> <p>Given name: Meri</p> <p>Institution/position: National Coordinator</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Telephone number:</p> <p>E-mail address:</p>

Partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project):	
Implementing partners:	

Background

Provide a brief description of the situation existing at the time of the request and the need that the assistance aimed to address. For safeguarding of a particular element, provide a description of the element, its viability and why safeguarding measures were required. For preparation of inventories, strengthening of capacities, awareness-raising, visibility or other safeguarding not focused on a particular element, identify gaps that were to be addressed. For emergency assistance requests, describe the nature and severity of the emergency at the time of the request.

Not fewer than 750 or more than 1000 words

Since Albania ratified the 2003 UNESCO Convention in 2005, the Ministry of Culture of Albania as the responsible authority has undertaken a series of institutional, promotional and safeguarding activities on ICH. In this respect, an important initiative related to inventorying is to register ICH elements in the territory of the Republic of Albania, with the active participation of the community.

Responding to this, in 2014, an interactive platform “Show your Culture” was launched aiming at encouraging all interested parties to upload audio-visual materials documenting the ICH elements that belong to their own families or communities, including minority groups. Throughout 2015 the interactive ICH map has been enriched with new elements. At the same time, specialized institutions such as the National Center of Tradition Activities and the Institute of Anthropology and Art Studies introduced a package of targeted measures and activities regarding identification, documentation and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage.

However, as a signatory part of the 2003 Convention, since 2005 Albania has registered only one ICH element on the UNESCO List of ICH Masterpieces, notably that of the inventory of Iso-poliphony and its constituent elements. And this, despite the large wealth and of high cultural and historical value the ICH elements that exist in country's territory.

In response to challenging problems faced at institutional level regarding registering ICH element, a legislative initiative was introduced with an aim to strengthen both the ICH institutions (public and private) and ICH bearers' communities. Additionally, a National List of seven (7) ICH Representative List was created by a special Order of the Ministry of Culture issued in 2010. In practice, however, the planned targeted activities for a thorough inventory of those 7 elements had not been sufficiently implemented. Under such circumstances, there was an urgent need to draft a complete and more inclusive National ICH List which would bring into the light the rich diversity of the ICH in the territory of the Republic of Albania along with the most precious cultural values of each individual ICH element for the community practicing. Indeed, it has been institutionally acknowledged that each and every single ICH element represents the community's geniality that has created it and passed it down through generations.

Adding to that, in 2014, in a piloted analysis report on the situation of ICH in Albania, the UNESCO's expert Prof. Nikolai Vukov identified the needs of the ICH while making recommendations on how to best address them for the benefit of the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage and its practitioners, including the following:

- To develop a strategy for inventorying ICH with practical guidelines and concrete involvement of communities and the relevant institutions in the inventorying process;
- To reinforce the knowledge and capacity of the decision makers, the government officials, the NGOs, and that of the relevant institutions and communities for adopting community-based approaches to inventorying the intangible cultural heritage with a view to develop an analytic framework and a methodology specially tailored to the context of Albania;

As an immediate response to those recommendations, in September 2015, forty experts, specialists and community representatives attended a five-day training course on the Implementation of 2003 Convention organized by UNESCO experts with the support of the ICH Centre in Sofia.

Taking into consideration the above and given the lack of a thorough national inventorying plan of ICH elements with the participation of respective communities, it was deemed of utmost importance the drafting of an overall national inventory. This would definitely serve as a key to draw tailored Action Plans for ICH safeguarding and its transmission to future generations with the active participation of communities.

In addressing these issues, this project has implemented a set of activities that include the drafting of the inventory methodology as well as setting out the process of inventory in three selected regions of

Albania, notably Shkodra, Korca, and Gjirokaster. The project has adopted an innovative approach. Since the process of inventory involves both the communities and the bearers themselves, the project has given them a central role throughout the lifetime of project's activities, while ensuring their contribution's long-term viability.

More specifically, this project is structured around the following main objectives:

1. To build a tailored methodology for inventorying ICH elements of Albanians and minorities in the territory of Albania,
2. To draft a national inventory in the selected regions of Albania by means of:
 - ✓ creating a permanent mechanism for communities' involvement in the safeguarding process;
 - ✓ improving and expanding the existed limited inventory;
 - ✓ strengthening the processes of transmission of ICH knowledge;
 - ✓ improving the capacities of professionals to safeguard ICH in Albania;
 - ✓ improving the visibility of ICH;
 - ✓ raising awareness of policy makers and communities about the importance of ICH and its potential to contribute to sustainable development and social cohesion of Albanian society.

Objectives and results attained

Overall, to what extent did the project attain its objectives? Describe the main results attained, focusing in particular on the perspective of the direct beneficiaries and communities. For each expected result identified in the request, explain whether it was fully or partially attained. Also describe any unexpected results, direct or indirect, whether positive or negative.

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

In its final phase, the project has achieved its all main and specific objectives in delivering the respective products in compliance with contractual tasks and actions.

By focusing on the project's beneficiaries and respective communities of reference, in the period 12 March – 28 October 2022, a special attention was paid in the follow-up of seminars and workshops that took place in three pilot cities, namely Shkodra, Korca, and Gjirokaster. At the end of the above process, the community members and their respective local working groups handed over the original materials collected during the empirical field work of about 90 elements.

In the same period, the *Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage's* guide was printed and then distributed to all cultural institutions, municipalities, cultural associations and interested individuals.

By the end of May 2022, the respective final reports drafted by the Scientific Leaders of the groups in pilot cities were delivered. These included all actions of the expert groups and the volume of work with regards to the evaluation, collection of materials and creation of the data base with cards, photos and video materials.

IT training seminars on the project's website management were organized in the three pilot cities for the participants, experts and culture specialists in the last phase of the project (August - October 2022).

The project was finalized with the publication of the Register for Intangible Cultural Heritage, both in Albanian and English language, which was created pursuant to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris 2003, as well as domestic legislation in the realm of cultural heritage. This Register encompasses more than 90 elements from three regions of the country, namely, Shkodra, Gjirokastra, Korça.

The Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage was introduced in an online web-page format, on the dedicated website, www.regjistritkjal.al, where all registered elements are accessible as well.

Apart from the positive outcome of the project, there were some shortcomings. For instance, some quality flaws that were encountered in the video editing process of the video materials from the fieldwork (likely caused by the inability of some experts to handle digital technology tools) posed an additional delay in making those cards available for the project's website. These developments required the extension of few project's deliverables by October 2022. Furthermore, the changes in the budget of the contract with UNESCO were deemed necessary in order to cover the additional costs of the editing of video materials.

Description of project implementation

Provide a description of the activities undertaken and the outputs they generated (e.g. trainings, consultation process, technical assistance, awareness raising, publications, toolkits, etc.). Also describe any problems encountered in project delivery and corrective actions taken. Describe the role of the implementing agency and of the partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project) and the role of other implementing partners in carrying out activities and generating outputs.

Not fewer than 1000 or more than 1500 words

During the reference period (12.03.2021 - 28.10.2022) the project's actions were concentrated in producing the final outputs and deliverables generated by the project. By focusing in particular on the project's beneficiaries and respective local communities, a special attention was paid to the follow-up of seminars and workshops that took place in three pilot cities: Shkodra, Korca, and Gjirokaster.

Following the completion of the above actions the members of community and the local working groups delivered the original materials collected during the empirical field work for about 90 elements under research. The bulk of original materials that contained the cards, the photos, the videos, and the consent forms of the interviewees, were delivered to the group leaders for evaluation and fine-tuning adjustments in order to achieve the best of the expected outcome. Similarly, the logo and the digital materials for the branding of the project's web page were also finalized.

In the same period, the Inventory of ICH's guide was printed and then distributed to all cultural institutions, municipalities, cultural associations and interested individuals.

The respective final reports drafted by the Scientific Leaders of the groups in pilot cities were delivered by the end of May 2022. These included all the actions of the expert groups and the volume of work with regards to the evaluation, collection of materials and creation of the data base with cards, photos and video materials.

In the last phase of the project (August - October 2022), IT training seminars on the project's website management were organized in the three pilot cities for the participants, experts and culture specialists along with the awareness campaign. Furthermore, certificates of appreciation were awarded to artisans for their contribution to this project.

The project was finalized with the publication of the Register for Intangible Cultural Heritage, both in Albanian and in English language, which was created pursuant to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris 2003, as well as domestic legislation in the realm of cultural heritage. This Register encompasses more than 90 elements from three regions of the country, namely, Shkodra, Gjirokastra, Korça. The register is organized into six main categories: traditional crafts, language, customs and oral tradition, performance arts - music and dance, traditional cuisine, social practices, rituals and festivities, nature-related knowledge, and practices. The complete files of the occurrences will be preserved with the National Institute of the Cultural Heritage Register.

The Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage is introduced in an online web-page format. On the dedicated website, www.regjistritkj.al, all registered elements are accessible as well. Also, the website allows people to upload audio or video information about the elements..

On the management field, the contracts monitoring processes were finalized, while the logo and the digital feeding materials for the branding of the project's web page were also made available.

In the meantime, some quality flaws encountered in video editing process of the video materials created backlog in making those cards available in the project's website, which in turn, imposed the need to extend the project's final deliverables till October 2022. Lastly, the changes in the budget of the contract with UNESCO were deemed necessary in order to cover the additional costs of the editing of video materials.

WP1: Coordination & Management

During the reference period, the actions were focused on project's coordination and day-to-day management which is culminated with the finalization of the project on 28th of October 2022.

The emphasis was put on (pro) active management by monitoring the outcome of legal, financial and logistic proceedings along with the finalization of project's actions in compliance with the Ministry of Culture's (MoC) internal rules and regulations. In this direction, among others, the following steps were undertaken:

- Meeting's minutes of the "National Coordination Group" on the subject of evaluating the work of the groups of experts in Shkoder, Korce and Gjirokaster, the peculiarities, shortcomings that have been noticed and measures taken for improvement.¹
- Meeting's minutes of the "National Coordination Group" on the subject of changes in the budget of contract no. 4500414878 with UNESCO for the purpose of covering the expenses for the editing of video materials.²
- Meeting's minutes of the "National Coordination Group" on the subject of allocation of a budget for the National Center of Traditional Activities for the purpose of carrying out seminars with the bearers (2.2.5).³
- Meeting's minutes of the "National Coordination Group" on the subject of naming the website domain.⁴
- Meeting's minutes of the "National Coordination Group" on the subject of IT training for the website and publication with project findings.⁵
- Meeting's minutes of the "National Coordination Group" on the subject of the necessity of postponing the deadline for the implementation of contract no. 4500414878 from July 15 to October 30, 2022 and the reasons why this postponement is requested.⁶
- Meeting's minutes of the "National Coordination Group" on the subject of implementation of Actions 3.3, 4.1 and 4.2.⁷
- Meeting's minutes of the "National Coordination Group" on the subject of realization of project objectives, the problems encountered and improvements that should be made in the future. In this closing meeting, the implementation of all phases of the project and the Group's activity was summarized.⁸

WP2: Enhancing safeguarding mechanisms by involving communities

2.1: Creation of the methodological inventorying guidelines of ICH inventory;

Following the consultation process with the community members (Action 2.1.1), the corresponding organizations and other related ICH experts and institutions (Action 2.2) the inventorying methodological guidelines were finalized and then adopted it in the format of the National Inventorying Methodological Guidelines of the MoC (Action 2.1.2). The Guide for the Inventory of Intangible Cultural heritage was printed in 1000 copies and distributed to all cultural institutions, municipalities, cultural associations and interested individuals.

¹ Nr. 18, 15.03.2022

² Nr. 19, 27.04.2022

³ Nr. 20, 12.05.2022

⁴ Nr. 21, 18.05.2022

⁵ Nr. 22, 03.06.2022

⁶ Nr. 23, 17.06.2022

⁷ Nr. 24, 19.08.2022

⁸ Nr. 25, 27.10.2022

Furthermore, during the reference period the following tasks were finalized:

- Signing the contract with the legal entity “Gent Graphic” for the publication of the guide for the inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Paris Convention of 2003 (Actions 2.1.2 and 2.1.3).⁹
- Monitoring process’s minutes for the services delivered by “Gent Graphic” for the publication of the guide for the inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Paris Convention of 2003 (Action 2.1.3).¹⁰

2.2 Organization of 6 workshops of seven days each

Further to three rounds of the 7-days local workshops titled "*Inventory and Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage based on the community*" along with follow-up seminars/workshops in three pilot cities finalized by 10 March 2022, in this reference period, a special attention was paid to delivering of the final empirical results. More specifically, the members of community and the local working groups handed over the original materials collected during the empirical field work for about 90 elements under research. The bulk of original materials that contained the cards, the photos, the videos, and the consent forms of the interviewees, was delivered to the group leaders for evaluation and fine-tuning adjustments in order to achieve the best of the desired outcome

WP3: Expand the national inventory;

By the end of May 2022, the respective final reports drafted by the Scientific Leaders of the groups in pilot cities were delivered. These included all the actions of the expert groups and the volume of work with regards to the evaluation, collection of materials and creation of the data base with cards, photos and video materials. More specifically the following steps were followed:

- Submission of the final report by the Scientific Leader of the Groups in Shkoder, Prof. Shpend Bengu for the period 01.01.2021-27.05.2022 (Action 3.1).¹¹
- Submission of the final report by the Scientific Leader of the Groups in Gjirokaster, Assoc. Prof. Roland Cene for the period 01.01.2021-27.05.2022 (Action 3.1).¹²
- Submission of the final report by the Scientific Leader of the Groups in Korce, Prof. Thoma Gaqi for the period 01.01.2021-27.05.2022 (Action 3.1).¹³
- Monitoring process’s minutes of contracts’ obligations and the work performed by the Scientific Leaders in Shkoder, Gjirokaster and Korce (Action 3.1).¹⁴

For the ‘Creation of the website’ (3.2) and following the legal procedures of the previous period, the logo and the digital feeding materials for the branding of the project’s web page were finalized. However, due to some quality flaws that were encountered in video editing process of the video materials from the fieldwork, there was a delay in making those cards available for the project’s website, which in turn, imposed the need to extend some project’s deliverables for June 2022. To guarantee the quality of this process, the Ministry of Culture made the necessary preparations to hold several informative meetings in period May-June 2022.

In the last phase of the project (August - October 2022), IT training seminars on project’s website

⁹ Prot. Nr. 6345/11

¹⁰ Prot. Nr. 1618/1, 22.04.2022

¹¹ Prot. Nr. 2943-27/05/2022

¹² Prot. Nr. 2943/1-27/05/2022

¹³ Prot. Nr. 2943/2-27/05/2022

¹⁴ Prot. Nr. 2943/3/4/5-27.05.2022

managements were organized in the three pilot cities for the participants, experts and culture specialists along with the awareness campaign. Furthermore, certificates of appreciation were awarded to artisans and bearers for their contribution to this project. More specifically the following action took place:

- Issuance of a special Order of the Minister of Culture on the subject of conducting 3 seminars for staff training in Gjirokaster, Korce and Shkoder, for the website user manual and approving the technical specifications of the project findings brochure (Action 3.3).¹⁵
- Issuance of a special Order of the Minister of Culture on the subject of the travel costs for the implementation of Action 3.3.¹⁶
- Implementation of IT training seminars and the awareness campaign in Gjirokaster (Action 3.3).¹⁷
- Implementation of IT training seminars and the awareness campaign in Korce (Action 3.3).¹⁸
- Implementation of IT training seminars and the awareness campaign in Shkoder (Action 3.3).¹⁹

In order to complete the video editing process the following steps were taken:

- Issuance of a special Order of the Minister of Culture on the subject of signing the contracts with 3 experts for the editing of video materials produced by the groups of experts in Gjirokaster, Shkoder and Korce (Action 3.5).²⁰
- Signing the contracts with 3 experts for editing video materials until 27.05.2022.²¹ (Action 3.5)
- Monitoring process's minutes of contracts' obligations and the work performed by the 3 experts for editing video materials within the contract's deadline (Action 3.5).²²

WP4: Awareness raising and dissemination of project results;

Regarding the implementation of the Actions under this work package, a series of dissemination activities took place during the period of reference.

In the facebook post of 3rd June 2022,²³ the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage in Korça uploaded pictures taken during the collection of inventory elements of the craft of samarxhi and nallban, as elements of Intangible Cultural Heritage. It is further expanded to other numerous elements of the regions such as the blacksmith's craft, the method of extracting mulberry brandy, rituals including the ritual of Korça weddings, the rite of childbirth, songs and dances characteristic of the area, and the way of making traditional clothes.

In the Facebook post of 17 June 2022,²⁴ the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage in Korça uploaded pictures illustrating the activities on ICH materials collected by local experts and artisans. The post makes a reference to reed processing used to produce traditional bags, and decorative

¹⁵ Prot. No. 346/06.06.2022

¹⁶ Prot. No. 566/25.08.2022

¹⁷ Prot. No. 4696/31.08.2022-02.09.2022

¹⁸ Prot. No. 5262/27.09.2022

¹⁹ Prot. No. 5753/19.10.2022

²⁰ Prot. No. 229/04.05.2022

²¹ Prot. Nr. 1162/4/5/6-05.05.2022

²² Prot. Nr. 1162/7/8/9-27.05.2022

²³ <https://www.facebook.com/DRTKorcefaqjazyrtare/photos/pcb.3104806933118158/3104806706451514>

²⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/DRTKorcefaqjazyrtare/photos/pcb.3107718502827001/3107717722827079>

accessories.

The Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage in Shkodra, Facebook post of 1st July 2022,²⁵ entailed content and pictures illustrating the art of loom or as it is known in the popular language "vege", one of the earliest tools of Albanian handicrafts. It highlights the fact that this element of intangible inheritance is practiced almost in the entire northern region, but the areas that have inherited it the most are: Shkodra with silk and linen fabrics, as far as Fishte and Lezhë Island.

Similarly, in another Facebook post of 21 October 2022,²⁶ the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage Shkodra added content and uploaded pictures illustrating the Intangible Cultural Heritage digitization program. It makes a special reference to the process of cartelization, and presentation of the website dedicated to Intangible Cultural Heritage, stressing that the digital register was realized in collaboration with the UNESCO International Support Fund and will enable the research of heritage treasures.

In the Facebook post of 26 October 2022,²⁷ the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage in Shkodra introduced the program 'Education through culture' realized in a workshop format for the students of the 9-year-old school 'Migjeni', Pukë, on the inventory of the traditional intangible cultural heritage of the community. Through the projection of short videos documenting elements of this heritage, the students had the opportunity to share family values and stories as evidence of the oral transmission of the culture and cultural identity of their area. The students participating in the meeting were trained on the basic rules of the process of describing the characteristics for the inventory of intangible heritage elements, part of the community of Puka.

The National Center of Folklore Activities in its Facebook post of 22 June 2022²⁸ published pictures taken during the inventory project of the handloom craft, as an element of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In the same post was given further information about the Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory project supported by UNESCO which aimed to draw up an inventory of intangible cultural heritage for the districts of Gjirokastrë, Korçë and Shkodër.

The National Center of Folklore Activities in a post of 28th June 2022²⁹ shared pictures of another element studied during the Intangible Heritage Inventory project, that of the "craft of the baker" which is mainly found in the area of Korça, Devolli, Kolonje, Maliq, and Pogradec. In the same post was further explained that the project implemented with the support of UNESCO aimed firstly at the design of an adapted methodology for inventorying through a scheme of trainings and workshops and secondly at the inventory of the elements of ICH present in selected regions in the territory of the Republic of Albania, including respective elements representing the 5 national and ethno-linguistic minorities present in the territory of the Republic of Albania.

In the online version of media platform SOT, on 5 July 2022, was published the article entitled "Intangible Cultural Heritage inventory project, a complete national register by the end of 2025".³⁰ According to the article, the complete national register for Intangible Cultural Heritage should be finalized by the end of 2025. Yet it is stressed out that the Intangible Cultural Heritage inventory project

²⁵

<https://www.facebook.com/100068650896999/posts/pfbid0DtWxSK1xht6zaBjkwKWwNHHVYy1kkiUCq4RfdMDHv8B49h7TozW9qtqo2X9HTrM3l/?d=n%20https%3A%2F%2Fsot.com.al%2Fkultura%2Fprojekti-i-inventarizimit-te-trashegimise-kulturore-jomateriale-nje-regj-i524060>

²⁶

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid04rwaepQvYawjcuwopEWneCQaoXageTrY3H3x1LRofYcX8y7V94EFuRCAV7bhXTo3l&id=100068650896999&mibextid=XbepK0

²⁷

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0sWWiFDXyH3zdhsuEj9V9mnnqwk83maW6opYtmtNU9hGNBQ22LonaE46UXR2xEI&id=100068650896999&mibextid=XbepK0

²⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/qkvf.gov.al/photos/pcb.5230996210353989/5230995083687435>

²⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/qkvf.gov.al/photos/a.576104472509876/5248187968634813/>

³⁰ <https://sot.com.al/kultura/projekti-i-inventarizimit-te-trashegimise-kulturore-jomateriale-nje-regj-i524060>

in Albania has aimed first at designing an adapted methodology for inventory through a training scheme and workshops, and secondly, the inventory of the elements of this heritage present in selected regions in the Albanian territory, including here the elements of the ICH of the 5 national and ethno-linguistic minorities.

Finally, in the SIEF Journal of International Society for Ethnology and Folklore published in Autumn 2022 (Vol. 20, No. 2) a special dedication was made to the very first registration of Albanian Intangible Cultural Heritage.³¹ More specifically, the article focused on the process of registration of Intangible Cultural Heritage initiated by the Ministry of Culture of Albania with the support of UNESCO. Regarding the project's implementation it is highlighted that 30 experts trained to register Intangible Cultural Heritage according to UNESCO standards, were engaged using audio and video registration. Through their work a considerable amount of heritage elements is now registered, like oral traditions, expressions and languages, traditional craftsmanship, traditional dishes, performing arts, social practices, ritual, festive events, knowledge and practices related to nature – almost 90 items in total. Descriptions and photos of these elements will get published in print and can be also found online on the website.

The publication of the Register for Intangible Cultural Heritage was created pursuant to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris 2003, as well as domestic legislation in the realm of cultural heritage. This Register entails more than 90 elements from three regions of the country, namely, Shkodra, Gjirokastra, Korça. The register is organized into six main categories: traditional crafts, language, customs and oral tradition, performance arts - music and dance, traditional cuisine, social practices, rituals and festivities, nature-related knowledge, and practices. The complete files of the occurrences will be preserved with the National Institute of the Cultural Heritage Register. In this direction, the following steps were taken:

- Issuance of a special Order of the Minister of Culture on the subject of the travel costs for the implementation of Actions 4.1 and 4.2.³²
- Carrying out the competition procedure for the printing of the brochure of the project's findings and the issuance of the Minister's Order for this purpose (Action 4.2.2).³³
- Signing the contract with the legal entity "Gent Graphic" for the publication of the Register for Intangible Cultural Heritage, both in Albanian and in English (Action 4.2.2).³⁴
- Monitoring process's minutes of contracts' obligations and the quality of the work performed by the legal entity "Gent Graphic" for the publication of the Register for Intangible Cultural Heritage (Action 4.2.2).³⁵

WP5: Monitoring and evaluation

With regards to WP5, certain steps had been taken in order to consolidate the monitoring mechanism and the respective staff in charge of evaluating the project's progress and drafting the final technical report. To this end the external experts have been meeting regularly with all actors involved in order to collect the proper documents and evaluate the quality system in place, while finalizing both the technical and financial report for the final report (Actions: 5.2, and 5.2.1).

³¹ <https://www.siefhome.org/downloads/newsletters/SIEF-autumn-2022.pdf>

³² Prot. No. 566/25.08.2022

³³ Prot. No. 3060/5-3060/11, 06.06.2022-09.06.2022

³⁴ Prot. No. 3060/12-09.08.2022

³⁵ Prot. Nr. 3060/15-28.10.2022

Community involvement

Provide a description of the mechanisms used for fully involving the community(ies) concerned. Describe not only the participation of the communities as beneficiaries of the project, but also their active participation in the planning and implementation of all activities.

Not fewer than 300 or more than 500 words

During the reference period of project's implementation, the community was fully involved in both the organization and implementation of the seminars/workshops, empirical fieldwork and delivering the final products. The added value of empowering the local community members is for them to remain active after the end of the project end while enhancing the safeguarding process both in regional and local level.

The external experts have been meeting regularly with all actors involved in order to collect the proper documents and evaluate the quality system in place.

The members of community and the local working groups delivered the original materials collected during the empirical field work for about 90 elements under research. The bulk of original materials that contained the cards, the photos, the videos, and the consent forms of the interviewees, were delivered to the group leaders for evaluation and fine-tuning adjustments in order to achieve the best of the expected outcome. Similarly, the logo and the digital feeding materials for the branding of the project's web page were also finalized.

The Scientific Leaders of the groups in pilot cities have delivered respective final reports. These included all the actions of the expert groups and the volume of work with regards to the evaluation, collection of materials and creation of the data base with cards, photos and video materials.

Sustainability and exit/transition strategy

Describe how the benefits of the project will continue after the project has been completed. Where appropriate, describe the steps undertaken to ensure the following:

- Sustainability of activities, outputs and results, including with reference to how capacity has been built under the project. Also describe any planned follow-up measures to ensure sustainability.*
- Additional funding secured as a result of this project, if any. Indicate by whom, how much and for what purpose the contributions are granted.*

Describe how the ownership (of activities, outputs, results) by stakeholders and the community (ies) in particular has been promoted.

Describe, if relevant, how tools, processes, outputs, etc. have been adopted, adapted, replicated and/or extended for future use (e.g. in other regions, communities, elements, or fields of intangible cultural heritage).

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

In terms of sustainability, after the implementation of the project, the Ministry of Culture is committed to continue the inventory process to all the remaining regions of Albania by applying the methodology employed in this project. The ultimate goal is that by the end of 2025, a complete National Inventory will be fully registered and active.

In long-term, by establishing sustainable and viable communication channels and partnerships with all actors involved in both private and public sector, this project would contribute to foster intercultural dialogue and social cohesion. This includes strengthening of the processes of transmission of ICH knowledge; improving the capacities of professionals to safeguard ICH in Albania and increasing the visibility of ICH through raising awareness of policy makers and communities about the importance of ICH and its potential to contribute to sustainable development and social cohesion of Albanian society.

Lessons learnt

Describe what are the key lessons learnt regarding the following:

- Attainment of expected results
- Ownership of key stakeholders and community involvement
- Delivery of project outputs
- Project management and implementation
- Sustainability of the project after the assistance

Not fewer than 300 or more than 750 words

The key lessons learnt is how to anticipate the mitigation of risks (such as Covid-19 pandemic) in planning and implementing of project's activities. Furthermore, the quality of the delivered project's outputs shows the scale of the digital illiteracy among from the beneficiaries and the community which need to be addressed in the near future.

Annexes

List the annexes and documentation included in the report:

- publications, evaluation reports and other outputs, when applicable
- progress reports prepared during the contract period
- list of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination of contract period
- other (please specify)

Annex 1: Ministerial orders and other MoC documents

Annex 2: Signed contracts

Annex 3: Spending orders (financial report)

Annex 4: Others (Seminars and workshop letters, illustration material: photos)

Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Eda Gemi

Title: Assoc. Prof. PhD

Date: 28/10/2022

Signature:



Lessons learnt

Describe what are the key lessons learnt regarding the following:

- Attainment of expected results*
- Ownership of key stakeholders and community involvement*
- Delivery of project outputs*
- Project management and implementation*
- Sustainability of the project after the assistance*

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