



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



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 2021
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2021**

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.*

vzw het Domein Bokrijk

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

The Domain Bokrijk

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

NGO-90203

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: vzw The Domain Bokrijk

Address: Bokrijklaan 1, 3600 Genk, België

Telephone number: 0032-(0)11-265 300

Email address: infobokrijk@limburg.be

Website: www.bokrijk.be

Other relevant information: Fax: 0032-(0)11-265 310

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: Schoefs

Given name: Hilde

Institution/position: conservator Open Air Museum Bokrijk

Address: Bokrijklaan 1, 3600 Genk, België

Telephone number: 0032-(0)11-265 331

Email address: hilde.schoefs@limburg.be

Other relevant information: -

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. 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 participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (OD) 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH-related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Bokrijk is officially recognized and subsidized by the Flemish Government. Bokrijk is both an acknowledged museum of 'national' importance (since: 1999) as well as a Flemish Heritage Expert and Support Center on the ICH of craftsmanship and heritage (since: 2019).

As a Heritage Expert and Support Center Bokrijk takes up a double role for the ICH of craftsmanship. First, it functions as a platform for heritage organisations involved in craftsmanship as well as craftspeople to strengthen the heritage of craftsmanship in general in Flanders. Second, the Center offers in depth, demand-oriented support for heritage organisations involved in craftsmanship and craftspeople working with 'wood' and 'historical

¹. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E.

restauration techniques rural architecture’.

On top of that Bokrijk launched in 2017 an Expert and Support Center on craftsmanship and entrepreneurship in order to strengthen and develop contemporary craftsmanship as an added value for the economy and other sectors.

The umbrella name for all three components mentioned above, is Bokrijk.

The Flemish Government has invested through its ongoing and evolving ICH policy in a strong network of professional and thematic heritage organizations in the ‘ICH-domains-network’ in Flanders. Bokrijk is an active partner and participant in this network since 2017.

Hilde Schoefs, conservator of the Open Air Museum in Bokrijk, took part in the Flemish Expert Committee ICH since 2008. Since 2009 she takes up a role as expert on a.o. ICH for the Department of Culture that advises the Flemish Minister of Culture.

NOTE: Regarding the limit of 250 words of the fields below, we will mainly focus on a selection of examples.

B.2. *Describe your organization’s cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).*

Not to exceed 250 words

Bokrijk cooperated/s on a regular basis with the competent bodies of the Flemish Government, i.e. the Department of Culture for several initiatives aimed at the safeguarding of ICH.

We do so first by taking up a role as expert on a.o. ICH.

Next to that we work closely together with FARO. Interface Center for Cultural Heritage, a UNESCO-accredited NGO. FARO acts as an active and dynamic interface for discussing and developing policies for safeguarding ICH, a.o. between the actors in the cultural heritage sector, in Flanders but also internationally.

Since 2017 Bokrijk is a partner in the ‘ICH-domains-network’. The network structure loosely corresponds with the domains ICH manifests itself in. The network partners invest in strengthening the participation, cooperation and networks in the ICH field and report on their progress to the Department of Culture. In practice the network, coordinated by WIE, focuses on the exchange of knowledge and safeguarding practices in order to support, strengthen and ‘promote’ ICH in Flanders, both on a theoretical level (conferences, meetings, expertise exchange, ...) as well as on an applied and practical level (capacity building, education, transmission, ...).

In 2018-19 the Minister of Culture launched a grant for the safeguarding and transmission of craftsmanship between masters and apprentices in Flanders. This grant is a result of the ongoing efforts by several NGO’s in Flanders, inspired by the concept of Living Human Treasures. 62 master-apprentice grants were funded, a success. Bokrijk has advised and supported 3 grants and follows up on them. Regarding the 2021 Grants Bokrijk will advise and support craftspeople with an expertise in ‘wood’ and ‘historical restauration techniques rural architecture’.

B.3. *Describe your organization’s involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State’s Periodic Report (OD 152).*

Not to exceed 250 words

Bokrijk has recently not been directly involved in drafting and editing the State’s Periodic Report. As a member of the ‘ICH-domains-network’ Bokrijk is indirectly involved in future Period Reports of Belgium.

B.4 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 2016 UNESCO inscribed 'Beer culture in Belgium' on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Bokrijk was one of the supporting NGOs in drawing up the application.

In view of the implementation of the safeguarding measures foreseen in the nomination file of 'Beer Culture in Belgium', the German Community took the initiative to set up an 'Observatory of the diversity of the art of brewing and its appreciation in Belgium'. The Observatory serves as an advisory body and should act as a liaison between the various heritage communities involved in beer culture in Belgium, UNESCO, the brewers, zythologists and other stakeholders (a.o. the Department of Culture and accredited NGOs as CAG, FARO, ...). Bokrijk is an active member of this Observatory, at the same time using the network to exchange expertise concerning beer culture, more specifically regarding the safeguarding and transmission of historic beer brewing and present-day beer culture and the heritage communities involved.

In 2019 Bokrijk was consulted by the Open Air Museum Ballenberg (Switzerland) on the procedure for accreditation as an NGO involved in the UNESCO ICH Convention. Hilde Schoefs, conservator Bokrijk, advised them.

In 2020 Bokrijk was consulted together with the other heritage organizations in the 'ICH-domains-network' to advise the Department of Culture regarding the Belgian UNESCO nomination procedure for the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices in 2022.

B.5. Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

Being both a cultural history museum as well as a Flemish Heritage Expert and Support Center on the ICH of craftsmanship and heritage Bokrijk actively engages in the identification of and cooperation with ICH-communities, -groups and -practitioners.

Bokrijk engages in identifying ICH-practices and -practitioners to raise awareness, to engage in capacity building, to educate, to create a neutral space for transmission and to 'put ICH in the spotlights'. We do so by giving ICH a 'stage' in our museum, with special regards for the crossover with the built, tangible, living and natural heritage but just as well with cultural entrepreneurship, creative industries, education, ... We strive to realise this for a broad range of visitors (2019: 350.000).

To do so we cooperate a.o. with the 'ICH-domains-network' on the Flemish Inventory ICH and immaterieelerfgoed.be.

Complementary has Bokrijk since 2018 been vice-chair of the Craftsman Committee in Belgium, an initiative of the Federal Public Service Economy. The committee gives crafts(wo)men the opportunity to apply for legal recognition. This recognition confirms their expertise, the 'authentic' character of their craftsmanship and the manual aspect of their work. The accompanying logo serves as a quality label. ICH is an inherent component of these applications.

Since 2017 Bokrijk has started the restoration of its built heritage. As part of each restoration project Bokrijk reaches out to the heritage community of the municipality the historical building originally belonged to. The museum strives to sustainably engage these communities around 'their' built and ICH in a participative way. So far we have engaged with 11 of the 44 communities.

B.6. *Describe your organization's participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:*

- a. promoting the function of ICH in society;*
- b. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;*
- c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.*

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

Bokrijk takes up an active and dynamic role in 'promoting' ICH as well as in facilitating access to ICH. This from the viewpoint that 'unknown is unloved'.

In our Vision Text we explicitly state that ICH is an inherent part of what we do, running as a leitmotiv through the museum and expert and support center practice. It also states why we think it is and how we will act upon it. This Vision is disseminated as a booklet as well as published on our website.

In 2019 Bokrijk started a pioneering project with a group of experts (academia, ICH, built heritage) on the concept of 'Statement of Significance' (SoS). SoS is a written record of why a place is important. It starts from a historical building, links to the tangible and ICH connected to the building, and identifies the values that the heritage community attributes to it. As we invest in a sustainable bond with the heritage communities linked to our historical buildings-we invite them to actively participate in the SoS as a valuation and assessment tool of 'their' heritage.

Staff members of Bokrijk give presentations and lectures on a regular basis, incorporating self-evidently how we envision the UNESCO ICH-Convention and how we put this vision into practice. These lectures raise awareness, act towards capacity building and promote ICH in general, by making it visible and comprehensible. Since 2004 Bokrijk engages in annual guest lectures for master students in Architecture introducing them to cultural heritage including ICH.

B.7. *Describe your organization's involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:*

- a. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;*
- b. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;*
- c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;*
- d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;*
- e. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.*

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

Bokrijk takes up an active and dynamic role in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH by the general public, targeted at a wide range of audiences as well as intergenerational.

Bokrijk has organised four local community projects 'Young saves Old' between 2019-21 introducing schoolchildren ages 6-12y to the historical heritage and the ICH of their communities. This intergenerational participation project contributes to heritage awareness-raising and transmits knowledge regarding craftsmanship to young people in a non-formal way. The children share the outcome of their project with their communities during community meetings organized by Bokrijk.

Bokrijk started in 2020 the project 'Focus Craftsmanship'. This project will be carried out in a close cooperation with the partners in the 'ICH-domains-network' and is targeted at the

safeguarding, the transmission and the promotion of the ICH regarding 10 practices of craftsmanship in Flanders.

By way of try-out for this project served the urgent safeguarding of the craftsmanship of two master coopers. We did so by coupling the master coopers to a young apprentice during four days and documenting the process of transmission on film. The rough footage will be sustainably stored while a comprehensive documentary targeted at the general public is produced, bringing to the spotlight the craftsmanship of the cooper.

'Focus Craftsmanship' will moreover result in a toolbox in Dutch and English on the safeguarding and the transmission of craftsmanship by documenting it - to be shared freely with heritage brokers, practitioners and communities.

C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation

Report on any activities carried out by your organization 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, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:

- a. *sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);*
- b. *participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);*
- c. *developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).*

Not to exceed 250 words

On the information level Bokrijk answers questions on ICH and refers to brokers and facilitators in the ICH-network in Flanders and internationally. The library and documentation centre of Bokrijk are a.o. specialised in crafts(manship), rites, rituals and practices concerning (the culture of) daily life, vernacular architecture, fauna and flora, traditional games and play, ICH in general... with a strong focus on Flanders, but also internationally. We collect both publications and documentation on traditional as well as on contemporary knowledge and practices.

Bokrijk is partner in the 'ICH-Domains-network' in Flanders and is co-responsible for Domain 5 (traditional craftsmanship) together with ETWIE. Bokrijk and ETWIE bring together heritage organisations active on the intersection between craftsmanship and heritage in the 'Domain 5-Meetings'. These meetings take place annually and are a platform for knowledge and expertise exchange regarding ICH in the 5th Domain.

Bokrijk regularly works together with accredited NGOs in Flanders and the Netherlands. Hilde Schoefs participated in 2018 for eg in a focus group on drafting a statement of significance on the tangible and intangible qualities of the collection puppet theater of CEMPER.

Bokrijk is an active partner in the Association of European Open Air Museums. During the biannual conferences ICH is a constant factor.

Hilde Schoefs gave presentations regarding ICH in conferences in Flanders, the Netherlands, Germany, a.o.:

- 'Tangible vs Intangible Heritage' – Heritage Classes (2018, NL)
- 'The ICH of craftsmanship in Bokrijk' - Expert Meeting on ICH, Museums and Cultural Policies (2019, BE)
- 'Die Evolution des Freilichtmuseums Bokrijk' - 11. Jahrestagung Deutschen Museumsbund (2019, DE)

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 Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Bokrijk has attended the online General Assembly of the ICH NGO Forum December 2020.

- D.2** *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (OD 26 to 31), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

Not to exceed 100 words

Bokrijk has not yet served as a member of the Consultative Body or Evaluation Body.

- D.3** *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (OD 96) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

Bokrijk has not yet provided advisory services to the Committee.

As stated in our initial application, when asked Bokrijk can and will provide advisory services in the field of crafts(manship), of mores, rituals and practices concerning (the culture of) daily life, on vernacular architecture, typical fauna and flora. Seen our general metaview on ICH, the advisory services may as well transcend these topics.

We fully agree with FARO that ICH-accredited "NGOs can play a role in selecting, testing, monitoring, and providing feedback in order to identify and share interesting safeguarding practices and to translate them to other settings and contexts".

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):

- 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

Bokrijk staff members have in general a fluent understanding and command of English. Certainly eleven staff members are fluent in English. At least one staff member is fluent in French. Seven of these staff members hold a Master.

- E.2.** *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Bokrijk operates in and across ICH-domains, together with a variety of partners.

One of the key projects the museum invested in between 2013-19 is called BKRK. BKRK focusses on heritage in/and craftsmanship, traditional and contemporary. The project moreover raises awareness, stimulates and offers transmission, educational hands-on and puts crafts and crafts(women) in the spotlights. Have been realised resulting a.o. in a permanent museum presentation: BKRK Smithy (2015), BKRK Wood (2016), BKRK Bread (2017), BKRK Textile

(2018), BKRK Beer (2019).

BKRK Beer by way of example safeguards, transmits, promotes and actualizes the present, past and future of the ICH of historical beer brewing:

- The historic beer brewing installation has been restored using traditional techniques.
- The brewery has been enhanced with a cooling, yeast and storage installation to preserve the beer according to the hygienic prescriptions of today.
- Through a contemporary scenography, a cahier, a podcast and the heritage app the visitor is informed on historic beer brewing.
- The master brewer of Bokrijk receives a grant to transmit the craftsmanship of historic beer brewing to an apprentice.
- Several times/year the master and the apprentice recreate a historic beer using the historic installation. The brewing process is open for visitors, the beer is stored and can be tasted in small tasting amounts.
- Master brewer Frank Boon created an experimental beer 'Wildeman' which is sold in the museum.

In addition to the examples mentioned above:

- domain 2: traditional music performances;
- domain 3: Living History, celebration of rituals, ...;
- domain 4: historic vegetable gardening.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Several staff members of Bokrijk have experience in drafting applications and reports on a national and international level, in Dutch and English, as well as in evaluating and analysing reports, applications, ...

- Since 2009 Hilde Schoefs takes up a role as expert on a.o. ICH for the Department of Culture that advises the Minister of Culture. In this capacity she regularly analyses and evaluates project and subsidy applications.
- Hilde Schoefs, Stéphanie Mergeay and Kristien Ceyskens have advised and supported in 2018-19 three master-apprentice grants and follow up on them.
- Regarding the 2021 Grants Phaedra Vanoppen will advise and support craftspeople with expertise in 'wood' and 'historical restoration techniques rural architecture'. In practice this means advising them, proofreading, analysing and giving feedback on their draft applications until the final application.
- Katja Craeghs and Jolien Knuts evaluate with a professional jury the applications for the annual Bokrijk Craftsmanship Award.
- Bokrijk is since 2018 member and vice chair of the Craftsman Committee in Belgium. The committee gives crafts(wo)men the opportunity to apply for legal recognition. Stéphanie Mergeay and Katrien Eckelmans evaluate ca. 90 applications/year.

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

The staff of Bokrijk is experienced in drafting synthetic texts in English, less in French. It concerns the eleven staff members mentioned under E.1. These synthetic texts comprise project proposals as well as academic and other contributions in international publications.

Project proposals and reports:

- Hilde Schoefs and Stéphanie Mergeay delivered extensive writing in the project proposal, the reports and the final report of the Grundtvig project 'Re-Active' (in cooperation with the open air museums of Beamish (GB), Den Gamle By (DK), Jamtli (SWE), Maihaugen (NK), Skansen Szentendre (HU). The project was rated a 'success story' by the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission.
- In 2015-16 Hilde Schoefs, Liesbeth Kees and Tamara Otten wrote an initial project application 'The World of Bruegel', in Dutch and English. In 2016 the museum was granted a subsidy by Tourism Flanders in order to finetune the project application and to realize it by 2019. Between 2016 and 2019 the project application was revised several times.

International publications:

- Abdelkader Benali e.a., *Conversation pieces. The World Of Bruegel*. Hannibal Publishing/Kunsthistorisches Museum/Bokrijk, 2018.
- Hilde Schoefs, *AEOM Report. The reopening and managing of open air museums in Europe post COVID 19 lockdown*. 2020.
- Hilde Schoefs, *AEOM-Bericht. Die Wiedereröffnung und Verwaltung von Freilichtmuseen in Europa nach der Schließung wegen COVID 19*. 2020.
- Hilde Schoefs, 'The Pig from Bokrijk. Multiple perspectives in view', in: *AEOM Biannual Conference Report Poland 2019*. 2021
- Hilde Schoefs, Beiträge zu: *Musealisierung von Zeitgeschichte. Festgabe dr. Josef Mangold*. 2021

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, Bokrijk has extensive experience in working at the international level as well in applying local experience to an international context.

Bokrijk is an active partner in and chair of the Association of European Open Air Museums (AEOM), an international network of open air museums in Europe and an affiliated organization of ICOM. The Association's objectives are the exchange of scholarly, technical, practical and organisational experience in relation to open air museums across Europe. For this purpose, AEOM organises biannual conferences during which members give presentations and/or participate in working sessions. Bokrijk staff always delivers one or more presentations or workshops including a focus on ICH. In 2016 Bokrijk moreover organised the association's 50th anniversary with a series of lectures on the history and future of AEOM. Since 2019 Hilde Schoefs, conservator Bokrijk, is elected president of AEOM.

Educational staff members Bea Vaes and Ann Van Gele from Bokrijk take an active part in LLOAM, LifeLong Learning in Open Air Museums, the biannual meetings on education organised by AEOM. Bokrijk staff presents cases from Bokrijk and discuss international best practices on public brokerage in museums including a focus on ICH.

Between 2015 and 2019 Bokrijk worked together closely with the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (AU), The Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp (BE), Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (NL) and Queen's University Ontario (CA) on an overview exhibition on Pieter Bruegel the Elder (ca. 1525-1569), including ICH and objects of daily life in the 16th century in both the KHM Vienna and in Bokrijk.

F. Cooperation with UNESCO

Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as funding from the Participation Program).

Not to exceed 250 words

Bokrijk has not yet carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO or under the auspices of UNESCO.

G. 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

H. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.

Name: Igor Philtjens

Title: Chair vzw The Domain Bokrijk

Date: 12/02/2021

Signature:

