

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.*

Národopisná spoločnosť Slovenska

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

Ethnographic Society of Slovakia

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

NGO-90369

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: Ethnographic Society of Slovakia / Národopisná spoločnosť Slovenska

Address: Klemensova 19, 813 64 Bratislava, Slovakia

Telephone number: +421 2 5296 4707

Email address: narodopisnaspolocnostslovenska@gmail.com

Website: nss.sav.sk

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: Ambrózová

Given name: Jana

Institution/position: Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra / Assistant professor

Address: Hodžova 1, 949 01 Nitra, Slovakia

Telephone number: +421 90859359

Email address: jambrozova@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)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

ICH NGO Forum: In 2022 we have joined the Working Group on Research in order to broaden our capacities and experience in this matter and to invest our expertise and knowledge in the current projects of the WG.

A few members of the NGO are also members of the Council for the Protection of Intangible

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>

Cultural Heritage, which is an advisory body of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

Periodic reports: Although the Ethnographic Society of Slovakia does not participate in the preparation of periodic reports institutionally, a few of its members do so on behalf of institutions they represent as employees or hired external experts (Ministry of Culture of the Slovak republic, Slovak Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre). On behalf of the Council for the Protection of ICH, one of our members provides direct suggestions regarding the Periodic report's content to the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak republic.

Nominations, proposals: On the national level, the members of our NGO serve as voluntary expert consultants during the application completion or as the co-authors of proposals in close cooperation with local communities, groups, or individuals. Some of them regularly serve as members of the Slovak ICH Centre expert commission for the proposal assessment and as expert opponents in application evaluation (both on the national level).

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

Our organization supports transmission and education for ICH through institutional activities and activities of its members through:

- Ethnographic research of ICH among communities and individuals, sharing and promoting local knowledge on ICH among original bearers of ICH traditions and following generations,
- Spreading the knowledge and experience through own scientific journal *Etnologické rozpravy/Ethnological Debates* issued twice a year, and ethnographic publications, by creating texts for online *Electronic Encyclopaedia* on traditional culture (<https://www.ludovakultura.sk/encyklopedia/>),
- Direct participation on the Primary Education reform introduced by the Ministry of Education – chairing the working team focused on the incorporation of knowledge on ICH into the State Education Curricula (2022-2023),
- Through formal education at universities (departments of ethnology, museology, cultural anthropology), scientific work at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and museums of the Slovak National Museum network,
- Guesting on radio and television, giving regular interviews in Slovak mainstream media,
- Lecturing (traditional music, dance, rituals and festivities, crafts, etc.) at folklore festivals and regional culture centres all over Slovakia.

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 Ethnographic Society of Slovakia was established in 1958 at the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Our members are graduates of or lecturers/researchers at all Slovak university departments devoted to ethnology, social anthropology, and museology. Our collective members are primarily museums and other cultural and educational facilities. Our organization's primary importance lies in the extensive ethnographic research on ICH and dissemination of knowledge and data on ICH not only in the academic and university environment, but also communities and groups which provided the ethnographic data. Our society supports research on ICH through institutional activities and activities of its members through:

- Own ethnographic research of ICH among communities and individuals; through sharing and promoting gathered knowledge on ICH among bearers of ICH traditions and following generations,

- Spreading the knowledge and experience through our own scientific journal *Etnologické rozpravy/Ethnological Debates*, issued twice a year, and ethnographic publications (studies, catalogues, monographs), by creating texts for online Electronic Encyclopaedia on traditional culture (<https://www.ludovakultura.sk/encyklopedia/>),
- Organizing and participating in conferences, scientific seminars, and workshops focused on ICH,
- Becoming a member of the ICH NGO Forum Working group "Research",
- Consulting and expert activities for various types of institutions and organizations.

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

Our society does not participate directly on developing policies institutionally, but its individual members have a particular impact in this respect. They:

- Are members of the Council for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which is an advisory body of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic,
- Are members of the Advisory body for Folklore and Folklorism working under the National Edification Centre (Národné osvetové centrum),
- Are members of the evaluation committees of the Slovak Arts Council for assessment of projects focused on folklore and ICH. In this regard the committee members are supposed to give periodical feedback on assessment measures and by that influence the financial distribution among communities and individuals working on ICH.

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

The very purpose of the existence of our NGO is to examine and promote the ICH of Slovakia in its diverse forms and social implications. We do that primarily through our research and publications activities. As a group of scientists and lecturers, we not only examine ICH in its living representations, but we try in our scientific work to understand and investigate relevant social processes affecting ICH development, transformation, and modification. We try to identify and understand positive and negative cultural or economic forces that impact the ICH or local communities as its original bearers. All our promotion outputs focused on the ICH, and the mission of the 2003 Convention aim at spreading information on ICH and strengthening the common knowledge on intangible cultural heritage and related social processes.

In addition, many members of our society are themselves active bearers of various forms of intangible cultural heritage. We are members of folklore groups, we actively participate in festivals as artists, we study and perform ICH.

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 very purpose of the existence of our NGO is to examine and promote the ICH of Slovakia in its diverse forms and social implications. We do that primarily through our research and publication activities. Our members are very active in their endeavours in ICH popularisation (expertise, consultation, lecturing, performing). Thanks to our latest cooperation with other ICH NGO Forum members, we have had the opportunity to observe and get to know many effective

ways of ICH awareness raising among the general public. We plan to work more diligently and intentionally in this matter.

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

Our members are in constant contact with communities, groups, and individuals thanks to the ICH research, projects engaging the original bearers of ICH, and through advertising and disseminating various types of publication outputs on their culture and traditions among original bearers. Regarding the ICH element inscription (at the national level), some of our members serve as experts and consultants for communities during the nomination and proposal preparation. Thanks to the membership in various types of juries, they may have a particular impact on the artistic forms of ICH and the quality of their scenic presentation at folklore competitions. Although some of our members are in frequent contact and cooperation with communities and local experts on ICH, our activities could be more systematic and coordinated at the institutional level.

B.8. *Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels** for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives.*

Not to exceed 250 words

The Ethnographic Society of Slovakia represents a network of researchers and educators, and through them also the culture, memory, and research institutions dedicated at least partly to the research and safeguarding of the ICH. Our society sees room for improvement in terms of strengthening the focus and future activities toward the regional or international network building for the implementation of the Convention.

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

Our organization has not participated in this process.

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

Our organization has no such experience, yet. However, our individual members (although not under the auspices of NSS) participated in several nomination preparations – on the national as well as on the UNESCO level.

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

Other types of cooperation: ICH NGO Forum.

In 2023 our deputy for the relations with UNESCO, dr. Jana Ambrózová, became a member of the Working Group "Research" of the ICH NGO Forum and got involved in the project of *Web Dossier on Intangible Cultural Heritage and sustainable Tourism*.

Besides all our daily activities, we are in close contact with the Slovak Commission for UNESCO. We consider strengthening our mutual relationship, participating in the Commission's official events, and cooperating with its representatives (and with the Permanent Delegation of the Slovak Republic to UNESCO) during the sessions of the Intergovernmental committee as crucial and very important.

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

Our Organization participated in the following Committees as a regular participant with no specific role. However, our representative took vital part in the parallel program activities of the ICH NGO Forum:

- 17th session of the Intergovernmental Committee,
- 16th session of the Intergovernmental Committee,
- 15th session of the Intergovernmental Committee.

- 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, it has not.

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

Our organization has not provided any advisory services to the Committee in this regard yet. However, thanks to its expert human capacities, it is prepared to offer assistance concerning the examinations listed in paragraph 96 (a, b, d) of the Operational Directives anytime in the future.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives):

E.1. *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

ESS has around 90 members. Approximately two thirds of them operate on the English level B1-C1. Only a few of them speak 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, it does. All of our members are specialists in oral traditions in rural and urban communities. As the university, academy, and museum employees, and ethnology and social anthropology M.A. and Ph.D. students, they conduct research in all main ICH domains listed in Article 2. They publish various types of publications and dissemination materials that show a domain crossover both on the level of the research object and cultural context taken into account during the research data gathering and analysis. Since the ICH phenomena are often multi-layered cultural and social entities, they frequently represent a complex system or involve more elements outlined by the ICH domain typology (e.g. traditional costumes, customary culture, festivities, regional music tradition, and particular types of crafts). Some of our members are also lecturers in traditional music and dance at summer festivals and folklore revival movement events. At least ten members of our organization are part of program and dramaturgy committees of important folklore festivals in Slovakia (IFF Myjava, CIOFF festival in Východná, IFF Koliesko in Kokava, and IFF in Heľpa). Six members of our organization deal with various ICH domains safeguarding as members of the Council for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage (advisory body of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic), one of them is the chair of the Council. The most active ones are regular members of the evaluation commissions of the Slovak Arts Council. Their primary role is to assess project applications aimed at safeguarding, performing, or scientific inquiry in traditional folk culture or ICH in Slovakia.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Our members have been closely cooperating with the Slovak Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre established by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic since its beginning in 2008. The Slovak ICH Centre is responsible for the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention in the Slovak Republic. The cooperation takes place on different levels. The national level concerns the listing processes of the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia and the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices in Slovakia. Our members:

- Serve as voluntary expert consultants during the application completion or as co-authors

- of proposals in close cooperation with local communities, groups, or individuals;
- Serve as members (one of them even as a Chair) of the Slovak ICH Centre expert commission for the assessment of proposals;
- Serve as expert opponents in the process of application evaluation.

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

A few of our most active members have extensive experience with English in the given regard, mainly thanks to the preparation of drafts of various project applications and to the extensive experience with publishing research results in scientific papers and conference outputs.

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 do. Not as a whole, but our members have personal experience with international project cooperation in the fields of ethnology, social and cultural anthropology, visual anthropology, and ethnomusicology. They are members or represent a certain institution in international associations (ICTM /UNESCO/, SIEF, CIOFF, ICOM). All our active members present and promote their ICH-concerning activities on various platforms (e.g. conferences and symposiums, workshops, classrooms, invited lectures, media, and internships). In 2023 we became a member of the Research Working group of the ICG NGO Forum to broaden our capacities and experience in this matter and to invest our expertise and knowledge in the current projects of the WG.

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: Katarína Popelková

Title: Director of Ethnographic Society of Slovakia

Date: 15. 2. 2023

Signature: