

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.*

Norges Husflidslag

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

Norwegian Folk Art and Craft Association

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

NGO-90308

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: Norges Husflidslag

Address: Oevre Slottsgate 2b, 0157 Oslo, Norway

Telephone number: +47 22 00 87 00

Email address: post@husflid.no

Website: www.husflid.no

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: Sjaastad

Given name: Tone

Institution/position: Norges Husflidslag, Communications Advisor

Address: Oevre Slottsgate 2 b, 0157 Oslo, Norway

Telephone number: +47 93 06 12 65

Email address: tone@husflid.no

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.

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>

B.1. Describe your organization's contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

Norges Husflidslag (NH) is a national democratic members association. Our objects are to promote, safeguard and secure transmission of folk art and craft in Norway. With 30 employees, over 20.000 members in 355 local community groups, 35 handicraft shops and 150 professional handicrafters, we are conscious of our role and ability to raise awareness of ICH. In the two northernmost regions of Norway our advisers have ongoing collaborations and dialogue with Sami craft communities. Nationwide we actively use assemblies, meetings, etc. to transmit knowledge about, and reflect on safeguarding ICH in traditional crafts. We also survey development of policies regarding ICH in the National budget.

Our work has been greatly affected by the consequences from covid-19. We saw the challenges of social distancing as an opportunity to work in different ways. The shift from physical to digital represented obstacles and possibilities: Increased digital competence among our older, mostly-female members has given them new self-confidence. It strengthened our national and international networks, and made it easier for people in rural areas to participate; resulting equal conditions for people independent from economic resources and geography.

In 2019-22 we assisted and guided two NGOs (Norwegian and Finnish) in their work in applying for accreditation, participated and commented on the State periodic report during by sending written submissions and supplying detailed information from our domain. We have answered 3 questionnaires from UNESCO in 2020-21-22 and must admit that short deadlines and meeting announcements is challenging. Physical meetings, COM/GA requires significant resources to participate.

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

NH's 17 craft-advisers work as facilitators for safeguarding activities, awareness raising and capacity building regarding ICH in our local and regional groups and other communities like museums, schools, and other accredited NGOs.

NH is the largest provider of adult learning courses in traditional crafts in Norway, providing courses in more than 90 % of Norway's municipalities. On average we have 60.000 lessons annually (15.000 participants). During the pandemic we saw a drop of 30%. In 2022 we returned to a higher number of participants and courses than before covid-19.

NH works purposefully to ensure children/youth to get to know their own cultural heritage. We facilitate intergenerational transmission of knowledge and offer instructor training for adults working with children/youth. Our local and regional groups provide a high number of workshops, camps, etc. Twice in the report period we have collaborated on a Nordic Craft summer-camp. A more descriptive article on our work can be read here: safeguardingpractices.com/good-practice/folk-art-and-craft-groups-for-youth/

An important part of our work with our nomination file for UNESCO representative list has been to develop pedagogic resources and materials for schools. We have offered the National centre for Arts and Culture in education a resource on traditional costumes for free; kunstkultursenteret.no/ressursbase/bunad-eit-formidlingsopplegg/

NH's two main projects 2019-2024 work specifically with UN's Sustainability Goal 12, traditional crafts and ICH. One focusses on mending and sustainable textiles, the other on smart harvesting from nature, using manual tools, and outdoor cooking traditions. Project materials has become a part of the curriculum in secondary education.

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

NH's "Red List of endangered craft knowledge" is a nationwide community-driven effort to document and register as much knowledge and techniques as possible. NH organises biannual workshops for local communities on why and how to safeguard and inventory ICH. Around 100 craft skills are already documented, with more in the works. We are encouraging regional and local groups of NH to constantly

investigate their ICH resulting in articles, books, videos or exhibitions, and invite them to join our national campaigns.

In 2022 “Traditional Knitted Sweaters” was the theme for Nordic Craft Week (see E5). NH/Norway chose to highlight Bynestrøya, a 160-year-old knitted sweater that one of our local groups had examined, documented, and reconstructed. The result was a pattern, article and webinar, all in English, making it accessible to a wide, international audience.

Read about the Red List, published on Safeguarding Practices: <https://safeguardingpractices.com/good-practice/the-red-list>

Here we have also co-written an article on Sámi weaving traditions: <https://safeguardingpractices.com/good-practice/keeping-sami-weaving-tradition-alive/>

NH has contributed with six articles to Arts Council Norway’s knowledge bank / national ICH inventory website, they are all already or in the process of being translated to English.

- Traditional costumes in Norway: <https://www.immaterieilkulturav.no/en/bidrag/local-costumes-in-norway/> and <https://www.immaterieilkulturav.no/bidrag/bunadbruk-i-norge/>
- Frivillighetens betydning for en levende kulturav: www.immaterieilkulturav.no/bidrag/frivillighetens-betydning-for-en-levende-kulturav
- Et skaut som kvelver seg som Folgefonna www.immaterieilkulturav.no/et-skaut-som-kvelver-seg-som-folgefonna
- Montering av Vest-Telemarkbunad til kvinne: www.immaterieilkulturav.no/bidrag/montering-av-vest-telemarkbunad-til-kvinne
- Skautfelling: www.immaterieilkulturav.no/bidrag/skautfelling/
- Drakttradisjonen i Tinn: www.immaterieilkulturav.no/bidrag/drakttradisjonen-i-tinn/

We plan to contribute with more Norwegian and English articles on the inventory lists in the following period.

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

NH is constantly monitoring ICH in political hearings, and lobbying on the National budget, on political programs/White papers regarding both Lifelong learning/Adult learning, Public Education and the role of NGOs in Civil Society and Voluntary Work. We are in frequent contact with Arts and Culture Norway.

It the report period we have submitted comments to various hearings on national strategies, school curriculum reforms and law developing work such as: National strategy—The power of Culture (2018-19), Cultural Heritage Act (2022), National Strategy for Voluntary Work (2022) and strategy development for Adult Learning. We have also submitted a large number of comments on new educational program for both primary-, and secondary vocational school curriculums.

Since 2014, and to this day we have a deputy on the National Advisory Board for Secondary Vocational Education for Traditional Crafts in the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training. We also have a seat in the national commission for the state grant for folk art professionals.

We have a seat on the advisory council for a mayor supportive program for traditional craftsmanship “Håndverksløftet” launched by The Savings Bank Foundation DNB. We are on the board of The Association for Studies of Culture and Traditions on national and regional levels, and on the national board of the Norwegian Association for Adult Learning. We use these positions actively to emphasise at the importance of safeguarding ICH in society.

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

Since 1910 NH's mission has been to safeguard and promote folk art and traditional crafts culturally, socially, and economically. The spirit of ICH is inevitably linked to our main objects. Articles in our magazine "Norsk Husflid", published in 20.000 copies five times a year, promotes, and reflects on the role of ICH in a wide perspective and context. Our website and social media are active mediums for members and followers to learn and share their own experience regarding ICH in traditional crafts.

We have taken an active part in developing national and Nordic ICHNGO-networks where the methodology for implementation and awareness-raising are constantly questioned. There is also established a Nordic-Baltic network. We participate when possible:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/505811713306226/>

We take part in the ICHNGO-Forum's events when participating COMs.

During the annual Cultural Heritage Days we encourage local groups to organize public events, in collaboration with other NGOs representing other domain of ICH, especially on activities for children and youth.

Since 2018 we have worked on a nomination file for Representative List, submitting in 2023. This process has been open and inclusive, and an important measure to promote the value and role of ICH nationwide. Through regional meetings we have met many engaged people eager to share their experiences on safeguarding local traditions and ICH.

Through two ongoing project of four years duration, our association emphasize the connection between the SDG 2030 and traditional crafts. Project activities are designed to reach people regardless their age, gender og geographic belonging (see B2).

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

NH attend as speakers, debate holders, workshop teachers at national and regional conferences, festivals, and events. In 2021 and 2022 we facilitated debates at Arendalsuka, the largest political gathering in Norway.

We use these opportunities to contextualise traditional craft techniques and products by talking about ICH, safeguarding practices, and stress the importance of intergenerational knowledge transfer.

During and after Covid-19 we have seen an increase in digital events, where the content is more likely to be free and accessible to all.

We regularly write articles and opinion pieces for mainstream media and the trade press to raise awareness on today's opportunities, challenges and ethical principles regarding traditional crafts, sustainability, and local production. Often this is done in collaboration with other NGOs, ensuring a broader perspective on ICH.

The past years we have worked to raise awareness and reflections regarding ICH, cross-cultural identity, vs. the use of traditional costumes on 17th of May (Norway's constitution day). In 2022-2024 we collaborate with the Nature Conservation Association on a sustainable textiles project, sharing a common media visibility strategy for Nordic Swap Day. The past Novembers around Black Friday we have had a social media campaign raising awareness on over-consumption, recycling and mending.

We have also had workshops with our own members (both professional handicrafters and local groups) on how to contextualise ICH and use local and social media actively to get their messages across.

For internal events we have invited other expert groups or individuals to speak about topics linked to ICH.

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

We have initiated, arranged, and participated at several events nationally, regionally and locally, where the main objective was to engage communities and individuals on the topics of ICH and safeguarding.

We have guided three NGOs, Norwegian Ship Preservation Association, Norwegian Youth Association and The Norwegian Society of Rural Women, in their process of becoming accredited.

Together with four NGOs we organise Fagdager i bunad og folkedrakt, an annual seminar for professional traditional costume makers or those interested in the field. The event invites expert speakers, has political debates and hands-on workshops, with 120 participants annually.

We collaborate in the planning and attend as speakers at Løfte Håndverket, a biannual craft seminar by Norwegian Crafts Institute. Together with Hjerleid school- and craftcenter we initiated TREseminaret in 2005, an annual, week-long woodworking event. Every year since, (except during the pandemic) we have helped organise beginners and advanced woodworking workshops for adults and kids.

In 2020 we started a network for Young Adults (25-40 years) within our organisation, with the aim of encourage learning, recruit future practitioners, and enable them to learn from skilled handicrafters. The objective is to explore how NH can facilitate and connect youth with traditional crafts.

NH organise network meetings for members on national, regional and local levels throughout the year, with the purpose of building a stronger volunteer organisation and local craft communities.

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

In 2019 NH organised a weaving symposium in Tromsø with speakers and workshop holders from Russia and Sápmi. The topic was Diversity Across Borders. We are planning the next event in 2024, where the topic will be endangered crafts and ICH.

NH participated in a debate and facilitated a workshop on education during a Nordic-Baltic conference organised by Finnish Heritage Agency in 2019. The topic was Best Safeguarding Practices in Traditional Crafts.

In 2020 we spoke about ICH and traditional textiles at a national conference in Békéscsaba, Hungary.

As part of Nordic Craft Week in 2021 we had a joint webinar on Folk Dress Practices in Finland and Norway.

We facilitated a visit from FAIE-Poland, an exchange adult learning association, and had workshops with Norwegian craft groups, encouraging mutual respect and knowledge on each other's textile traditions.

In 2022 we co-organised and held a workshop at Young Craft, a summer camp for youth focusing on creative crafts and sustainability. The event was hosted by FORA Denmark.

ECO (see E5) celebrated 50 years in 2022 and arranged a conference in Budapest, Hungary in collaboration with NEZS/Hungarian Heritage House. The topic was Traditional crafts and ICH today, with speakers from all over Europe. NH co-organised the event, and spoke about traditional folk costumes, professional handicrafters, future challenges and opportunities.

At the Nordic Handicraft Conference in Stockholm, Sweden in 2022 we participated with a talk about safeguarding handicraft traditions through dialogue and participatory democracy, and shared our experiences with UNESCOs nomination process.

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

NH was invited to contribute to Norway's Periodic Report submitted in 2021. We have had an advisory role and delivered written input to indicators, such as those regarding formal and informal education. Together with the other accredited NGOs in Norway, we have also participated in several workshops and meetings organized by Arts and Culture Norway.

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

We submitted an application for inscription of Traditional Costumes in Norway, craftsmanship and social practice to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in January 2023, together with four other national NGOs in the field. Two of which have accreditation from UNESCO. We have worked on the inscription since 2018, and the last two years worked actively to involve and document community participation nation-wide. The submitting NGOs represent 35.000 individual members and about 730 local groups, 160 professional craftspeople and 35 handicraft shops own by regional NGO groups. As a part of the nomination process, we have provided general info material about safeguarding both craftsmanship and the use of traditional costumes as local ICH and educational materials for schools. Facilitating 15 regional and several local, open meeting where the living tradition of traditional costumes in Norway have been broadly debated, we have a large quantity of written material documenting and supporting the nomination of the element. During our process we have also sought qualified advice and support among other accredited NGOs in Norway, as well as Arts and Culture Norway.

The group of five submitting NGOs have established a project group which will continue working to promote the living traditions in Norway and develop a common safeguarding strategy regardless the result of the treatment of the nomination file by the National authorities and /or UNESCO.

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

N/A.

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

In 2019-2022 we participated at 14.com, 15.com, 16.com and 17.com, and 8.GA and 9.GA as observers. Previously we have attended 9.com, 10.com, 11.com, 13.com and 5.GA. We see our participation as useful and will continue to do so in the future.

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

So far, we have not provided advisory services directly to the Committee. Through our recent work with our nomination for the Representative List, we have gained experience that we hope can be valuable to UNESCO and other NGOs that wish to submit their own nominations: e.g., contributing to a further developing of the forms and instructions relating to the listing mechanisms.

We believe the resources and capacities of NGOs in general has a potential to be better utilized in view of the Convention. To our knowledge there are many NGOs who are strongly competent. As an example, NGOs would have the capacity to interpret the concept, spirit and goals of the Convention into a language that can be easier understood in the communities concerned.

By referring to their own experiences, NGOs could assist in developing more accessible ways of sharing Best Safeguarding Practices. They can provide advisory services by facilitating reflections and working groups in the context of the implementation of the Convention in the civil society, such as connecting actors with the purpose of building national and international ICH-networks.

Our Association would be honoured and more than willing to supply one or more of the experts needed on the Norwegian delegation if Norway would be elected as member of the Committee. Our organisation is prepared to assist and help the IGC in the fulfilment of our common objectives.

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

Most of our staff of 30 people have a good command of spoken and written English. Around one third

demonstrate full professional proficiency. One person has English as their first language, and one has Dutch. All employees fully comprehend spoken and written Danish and Swedish, and some are also fluent in Italian, Icelandic, German and Sami.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

The expertise of our organisation is mainly regarding traditional craftsmanship, but other domains are also highly relevant. Oral traditions and expressions are closely tied to transferring knowledge. The Norwegian language is diverse and has plenty of local dialects, and have many specialised words for handicraft processes, materials, and tools. Knowledge and practice concerning nature and the universe is also relevant in the phase of gathering and preparing natural materials to use e.g., wool, wood, plant dyeing. We have an ongoing project focusing on sustainable and conscious use of nature, green woodworking and preparing traditional food around the bonfire. Acquiring, making, and also wearing traditional costumes (bunad) are community and family rituals often connected to festive events and celebrations.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

We are quite familiar with evaluations and application processes and have been active members on juries for decades.

We evaluate applications and portfolios for memberships for professional handicrafters within our own organisation, evaluate submissions to a biennial craft exhibition Holdbart Håndverk (Sustainable Crafts), annual, national craft competition Dyrsku'n. We are also on the jury for an application-based, government-funded scholarship for folk art, music and performance; Folkekunststipendet (Folk Art Scholarship).

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

Through our work with the nomination for the Representative List, we have gained experience with synthetic texts. See E.1.

Our regular work with political hearings requires us to be able to efficiently abstract and analyse synthetic texts. Around one third of our staff demonstrate professional proficiency 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

NH has extensive experience with working internationally through leading and being active participants of European and Nordic Craft networks. We see great benefits in cross-cultural collaborations, sharing perspectives and experiences, and learn from each other. This fuels growth and understanding and develop new ways of working.

NH has the leading administrative role of Nordic Folk Art and Craft Federation (est.1927) in 2020-2023. We cooperate on a variety of projects, including the annual campaign Nordic Craft Week, a new Nordic project 1 sqm of flax, and the craft camp for youth Young Craft.

We work together on ICH and how to safeguard knowledge chains. Our projects use English as the main language for communication, ensuring reach beyond the Nordic borders, with local translations when needed. It is a predominant criterion that the NGOs collaborate with local handicraft groups, craftspeople, and stores in their own countries. NGOs work as facilitators, with a common goal to strengthen and promote the diversity of communities and practitioners.

NH also administrate the network European Craft Organisation, ECO (est.1972) and have the General Secretary 2017-2023. Like the Nordic network this provides mutual knowledge and inspiration on good

practices for safeguarding ICH.

Since being accredited we have participated in ICHNGO-forums activities and see this as highly valuable. We wish to take a more active role in the future.

In 2022 NH initiated a partnership with Michelangelo Foundation about Homo Faber, to promote highly skilled handicraft professionals in an international context, and will develop this partnership in coming years.

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: Tone Sjaastad

Title: Communications Advisor

Date: 15 February 2023

Signature: 