**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND ON THE STATUS OF ELEMENTS INSCRIBED ON THE REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY**

A. COVER SHEET

A.1. State submitting this report

Czech Republic

A.2. Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession

18-02-2009

A.3. Elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, if any

To date, none of the elements from the Czech Republic have been inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List or exposed to an immediate threat of extinction.

A.4. Elements inscribed on the Representative List, if any

1. Slovácko Verbuňk, recruit dances (2008)

2. Shrovetide door-to-door processions and masks in the villages of the Hlinecko area (2010)

3. Ride of the Kings in the south-east of the Czech Republic (2011)

4. Falconry, a living human heritage, United Arab Emirates, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic (2012)

A.5. Programmes, projects or activities selected as best reflecting the principles and objectives of the Convention, if any

To date, the Czech Republic has not submitted any Best Safeguarding Practices.

A.6. Executive summary of the report

The Czech Republic (CZE) acceded to the 2003 Convention (the Convention) on 18/02/2009. This act significantly strengthened legal protection of intangible cultural heritage as, in the Czech legal system, international conventions are considered as binding legislation.

In accordance with the Convention, the CZE considers the intangible component of traditional folk culture as intangible cultural heritage (ICH). In particular, its individual elements include practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their ICH. In the CZE, the intangible component of the traditional folk culture is often referred to just as traditional folk culture.

The national government´s Strategy of More Efficient Conservation of Traditional Folk Culture is the implementation tool for the fulfilment of the tasks of the Convention. Adopted in 2003, it is reviewed and updated every 5 years. The Ministry of Culture (MC) is accountable for its fulfilment, involving also the other public authorities, specialised and scientific institutions, NGOs and local communities. The measures of this strategy address areas of identification and documentation of the elements of traditional folk culture, their preservation, propagation and presentation, transmission of values to younger generations, and international cooperation.

Pursuant to Art. 13 (b) of the Convention, MC designated the National Institute of Folk Culture (NIFC), its agency co-funded by the state budget, to manage and coordinate activities aimed at the safeguarding of the ICH. Besides, specialized units for the conservation of traditional folk culture have been established in every region. Thus, an integrated network of specialized institutions was created that, in cooperation and with the support of MC, works on the safeguarding of the ICH. The Identification and Documentation of Traditional Folk Culture in the CZE (2006–2010) was the first joint project of these institutions whose main purpose was, in cooperation with local governments, to draw up an inventory of the living elements of traditional folk culture.

In 2008, a deed of establishment was adopted for the List of Intangible Heritage of Traditional Folk Culture of the Czech Republic (the National List); in 2009, guidance for inscriptions on this list was approved and the first nominations were submitted and discussed. Until 2014, a total of 12 elements have been inscribed on the National List, four of them are inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and one has been nominated this year.

The “Bearer of Folk Crafts Tradition” (the Tradition Bearer) project launched already in 2001 and based on the UNESCO´s ”Living Human Treasures“ programme is one of the longest running measures. Under this project, recognitions are conferred to prominent folk craftsmen using traditional manufacturing technologies, keeping the proportion of hand-work, observing traditional patterns and designs, transmitting their experience and knowledge of technological processes to future generations.

Folk festivals are an important platform for the transmission of values of traditional folk culture. In the CZE, many festivals are organised at the local, regional and international levels, of which 14 festivals are members of CIOFF. The Strážnice International Folklore Festival is the most important festival with NIFC as its main organiser. The festival is held annually in the last week of June and it gives an opportunity to present music and dance arts, as well as traditional crafts. In the programmes of foreign ensembles, elements inscribed on the Representative List are often presented.

The activities of specialised institutions and the implementation of various projects generated information websites covering the conservation of the ICH accessible to the public, the most important being www.lidovakultura.cz , www.lidovaremesla.cz , www.gistralik.muni.cz.

A.7. Contact person for correspondence

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B. MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

B.1. Institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

B.1a Competent bodies for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

The MC has designated NIFC to manage and coordinate activities associated with the protection and safeguarding of ICH; it provides scientific research, information, educational and guidance services in the area of the conservation of traditional folk culture at the national level.

• National Institute of Folk Culture, Zámek 672, 69672 Strážnice; www.nulk.cz, Phone/Fax: +420518306-611/615, info@nulk.cz

Besides NIFC, in each region, a particular regional museum has been designated to look after traditional folk culture. These museums created regional specialised departments in charge of the conservation of the traditional folk culture (the regional departments). The regional departments serve as information, training and guidance centres for the documentation and conservation of traditional folk culture and, because of their knowledge of the region, they form a link between NIFC and the communities.

• Capital City of Prague: Museum of the Capital City of Prague, Kožná 1, 11001 Praha 1, www.muzeumprahy.cz, Phone: +420224816772-3, muzeum@muzeumprahy.cz

• Central Bohemia Region: Regional Museum in Kolín, Brandlova ul. 35, 28002 Kolín, www.muzeumkolin.cz, Phone: +420321722988, info@muzeumkolin.cz

• South Bohemian Region: Museum of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Dukelská 242/1, 37051 České Budějovice, www.muzeumcb.cz, Phone: +420391001531, muzeumcb@muzeumcb.cz

• Plzeň Region: National History and Geography Museum of Dr. Hostaš at Klatovy, Hostašova ul. 1, 33901 Klatovy, www.muzeum.klatovy.net.cz, Phone: +420376326362, muzeum.klatovy@tiscali.cz

• Karlovy Vary Region: Regional Museum at Cheb, nám. Krále Jiřího z Poděbrad 493/4, 35011 Cheb, www.muzeumcheb.cz, Phone: +420739322499, sekretariat@muzeumcheb.cz

• Ústí Region: Regional Museum in Teplice, Zámecké náměstí 14, 41501 Teplice, www.muzeum-teplice.cz, Phone: +420412539000, info@muzeum-teplice.cz

• Liberec region: Museum of the Bohemian Paradise in Turnov, Skálova ul. 71, 51101 Turnov, www.muzeum-turnov.cz, Phone: +420481322106, mail@muzeum-turnov.cz

• Hradec Králové Region: Museum of Eastern Bohemia in Hradec Králové, Eliščino nábřeží 465, 50001 Hradec Králové, www.muzeumhk.cz, Phone: +420495512391, info@muzeumhk.cz

• Pardubice region: National Heritage Institute, Territorial Heritage Administration at Sychrov, detached office of the Administration of the Vysočina Ensemble of Folk Architecture, Příčná 350, 53901 Hlinsko v Čechách, www.vesely-kopec.eu, Phone: +420469326415, vysocina@npu.cz

• Vysočina Region: Vysočina Museum in Třebíč, Zámek 1, 67401 Třebíč, www.muzeumtr.cz, Phone: +420568408891, muzeum@zamek-trebic.cz

• South Moravian Region: Masaryk Museum in Hodonin, detached office of the Museum Kyjov, Palackého ul. 70, 69701 Kyjov, www.masaryk.info, Phone: +420518612338, muzeum.kyjov@masaryk.info

• Zlín Region: Museum of Moravian Slovakia, Smetanovy sady 179, 68601 Uherské Hradiště, www.slovackemuzeum.cz, Phone: +420572556556, info@slovackemuzeum.cz

• Olomouc Region: Regional Museum in Olomouc, náměstí Republiky 5, 77173 Olomouc, www.vmo.cz, Phone: +420585515111, vmo@vmo.cz

• Moravian-Silesian region (two regional departments): 1. Museum of the Těšín Region, Hlavní třída 115/15, 73701 Český Těšín, www.muzeumct.cz, Phone: +420558761211, muzeum@muzeumct.cz; 2. Museum of the Nový Jičín Region, ul. 28. října 12/51, 74111 Nový Jičín, www.muzeumnj.cz, Phone: +420556701156, sekretariat@muzeumnj.cz

B.1b Institutions for training in intangible cultural heritage management

New institutions of this kind have not been created. Training in traditional folk culture is provided by university departments and NIFC.

Universities with targeted ethnology courses offer bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes. They focus both on the traditions of the Czech and Moravian regions, and on cultural differences of the European and non-European areas. The emphasis is also placed on practical experience (field research, museum work experience, study abroad). In addition to topics of traditional folk culture (architecture, livelihood, folk costumes, spiritual culture, dance, music and narrative folklore), they also include modern foklore and the development and transformation of traditions at present.

• Department of European Ethnology of the Faculty of Arts at Masaryk University; http://www.phil.muni.cz/wuee/, Arna Nováka 1, 60200 Brno, Phone: +420549495761; Head of the Department: Miroslav Válka, valka@phil.muni.cz

• Institute of Ethnology, Faculty of Arts, Charles University; http://etnologie.ff.cuni.cz/, nám. Jana Palacha 2, 11638 Praha, Phone: +420221619622; Head of the Department: Marek Jakoubek, jakoubek@ksa.zcu.cz

Elective courses on traditional folk culture are also offered by other universities within the scope of bachelor's, master's or PhD (Department of Anthropology) programmes.

• Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of West Bohemia in Plzeň; http://www.antropologie.org/, Sedláčkova 15, 30614 Plzeň, Phone: +420377635301; Head of Department: Petr Lozoviuk, lozoviuk@ksa.zcu.cz

• Institute of Historical Sciences, Faculty of Philosophy and Science, Silesian University in Opava; http://www.slu.cz/fpf/cz/ustav-historickych-ved, Bezručovo náměstí 1150/13, 74601 Opava, Phone: +420553684200; Head of Department: Jiří Knapík, jiri.knapik@fpf.slu.cz

To those interested in traditional folk culture, NIFC offers a two-year course in the School of Folklore Traditions (see B.4a).

• National Institute of Folk Culture, Zámek 672, 69672 Strážnice; www.nulk.cz, Phone/Fax: +420518306-611/615; Director: Jan Krist, jan.krist@nulk.cz

B.1c Documentation institutions for intangible cultural heritage

In addition to institutions under B.1a and B.1b, documentation of ICH is also provided by state agencies co-funded from the state budget. They set up ethnology departments, process ethnographic collections or systematically document some of the elements of ICH.

• National Institute of Folk Culture: Zámek 672, 69662 Strážnice, www.nulk.cz, Phone: +420518306610, info@nulk.cz

• National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture: Fügnerovo náměstí 1866/5, 12021 Praha 2, www.nipos-mk.cz, Phone: +420221507900, nipos@nipos-mk.cz

• National Heritage Institute: Valdštejnské náměstí 3, 11801 Praha 1, www.npu.cz, Phone: +420257010111, npu@up.npu.cz

• National Museum: Václavské náměstí 68, 11579 Praha 1, www.nm.cz, Phone: +420224497111, nm@nm.cz

• Moravian Museum: Zelný trh 6, 65937 Brno, www.mzm.cz, Phone: +420533435220, mzm@mzm.cz

• Silesian Museum: Nádražní okruh 31, 74601 Opava, www.szm.cz, Phone: +420553622999, szm@szm.cz

• Museum of Romani Culture in Brno: Bratislavská 67, 60200 Brno, www.rommuz.cz, Phone: +420545581206, sekretariat@rommuz.cz

• Wallachian Open Air Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm: Palackého 147, 75661 Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, www.vmp.cz, Phone: +420571757111, muzeum@vmp.cz

• Jan Amos Comenius Museum at Uherský Brod: Přemysla Otakara II. 37, 68812 Uherský Brod, www.mjakub.cz, Phone: +420572632288, muzeum@mjakub.cz

• Museum of Glass and Jewellery in Jablonec nad Nisou: U muzea 398/4, 46601 Jablonec nad Nisou, www.msb-jablonec.cz, Phone: +420483369013, info@msb-jablonec.cz

• Chrudim Puppetry Museum: Břetislavova 74, 53760 Chrudim, www.puppets.cz, Phone: +420469620310, puppets@puppets.cz

• Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague: 17. listopadu 2, 11001 Praha 1, www.upm.cz, Phone: +420778543901, director@upm.cz

Measures aimed at facilitating public access to these organisations include in particular:

• Presentation of results in exhibitions, workshops and on websites

• Running and extending publicly accessible libraries, reading rooms and digital libraries

• Digitization of collections and documents for their publishing (e.g. "eSbírky" project, Europeana).

B.2. Inventories

a) At the national level, two important lists:

The List of the Intangible Heritage of Traditional Folk Art of the Czech Republic (the National List) was drawn up by the MC in 2008 and is managed by NIFC. Regional departments contribute to the inventory of the elements of the traditional folk culture by drawing up lists of elements of traditional folk culture at the regional level. They serve as indicative lists of elements planned for the inscription on the National List in the future, because, since 2014, there exists a requirement of prior inscription of the element on a regional list.

The second is the list of the Bearers of Folk Crafts Tradition managed by NIFC. It is a title conferred by the MC since 2001 which can be awarded to a maximum of five persons annually. The purpose of the title awards is to promote manufacturers and traditionally manufactured products. The manufacturers must also prove their efforts to ensure the continuity of the production in the future by a transmission of know-how to their successors.

b) The National List defines the domains of the intangible element of the traditional folk culture (folk oral traditions and expressions; folk performing arts, folk community customs, rituals and festive events; folk knowledge about nature and the universe; traditional craft skills and knowledge). The list is a prestigious inventory that also keeps record of elements requiring immediate protection.

The Tradition Bearer title is limited by materials from which products can be made (clay, glass, stone, metal, plant tissues, wood, and textiles).

c) MC issued Guidelines for both lists. The element proposed for the National List must be still living, authentic, transmitted from generation to generation and representative; all with informed consent and involvement of the community in the preparation of the proposal. Members of the National Council for Traditional Folk Culture (the National Council) evaluate proposals for inscription (status and viability of the element, safeguarding measures), suggest reviewers for preparing independent reports and make recommendations to MC on the approval of the inscription.

The craft of the proposed tradition bearer must provide unique evidence of traditional folk art threatened with extinction. The candidates must transmit their know-how, present their work to the public and keep traditional manufacturing processes; all of that with consented documentation of the used procedures for the NIFC archives.

d) The above lists reflect the viability of the inscribed elements. As for the National List, periodic redocumentation of elements (once in 7 years) is performed, along with recommendations for better conservation. Based thereon, the element may be declared endangered or extinct if it fails to meet the requirements that allowed its inscription in the past. In case of threat, the National Council recommends remedial measures, the MC takes account thereof in grant selection procedures and the element is subject to more frequent redocumentation (once every 3 years).

Tradition bearers are in close personal contact with NIFC. Their recognition is permanently reviewed in connection with publishing information brochures and organising exhibitions; the viability of the bearer is thus checked continuously.

e) The National List is published and regularly updated on the websites of the MC and NIFC where nomination documentation of elements is available for inspection.

Moreover, tradition bearers are presented at www.lidovaremesla.cz managed by NIFC, publishing annually a brochure “The Bearer of Folk Crafts Tradition” introducing awarded manufacturers of the year. An DVD was prepared in 2009 with footage of the work of the award-winning craftsmen. In 2011, NIFC published a two-part publication in Czech and English with a list of manufacturers awarded from 2008 to 2011. In 2015, a documentary was made that introduced the Tradition Bearer title and the award-winning manufacturers (www.ceskatelevize.cz).

f) An element may be proposed for inscription on the National List by a legal person related to the site of the said element. Written proposals are sent by the proponent to the MC which evaluates themand forwards them to the National Council which commissions two expert evaluation reports, based on which it submits recommendations for the inscription of the element to the MC. At the end of each calendar year, MC decides on the inscription of a new element.

Suggestions of Tradition Bearer title awards may be submitted by legal and natural persons associated with the territorial scope of the bearer. Written proposals are sent by the proponent to NIFC which evaluates themand forwards them to the Council. The suggestions are considered by an expert advisory committee established by the MC which reviews the CV of the nominee, the unique nature and threat to traditional folk technique. The award ceremony is held on the occasion of the opening of the European Heritage Days.

g) The bearers often initiate element nominations for the National List. Most often, it is the regional departments with the closest touch with the area that suggest nominations and prepare their own regional lists of element nominations. From the outset, nomination documents are drawn up in collaboration with communities / bearers, including safeguarding measures. It is essential to inform the community about the project and about the overall significance of the element nomination and to obtain free and informed consent of the bearers to the nomination of the element. If the institution suggests an element on its own initiative and consults it with bearers who do not wish the inscription, their decision is respected.

h) The Czech Ethnological Society which is an accredited NGO of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the ICH plays an important role in the identification and definition of the elements of traditional folk culture. It acts as a platform bringing together ethnologists and anthropologists involved in the safeguarding of traditional folk culture as part of their job description, as well as activities both in the National Council or the grant committee of the MC.

Representatives of folklore associations and ensembles who seek to preserve and develop folk traditions in each region also contribute to the safeguarding of the elements of the traditional folk culture.

B.3. Other safeguarding measures

a) In the period under review, general policies aimed at promoting the function of ICH included the National Cultural Policy of the Czech Republic from 2009 to 2014 adopted by the Resolution no. 1452/2008 of the Czech Government and the National Cultural Policy for the years 2015 to 2020 (with a view to 2025) adopted by Government Decree no. 266/2015. Both of these documents contain separate chapters on the conservation of the ICH; a more recent document already contains a separate section on the implementation of the Convention.

The Strategy of More Efficient Conservation of Traditional Folk Culture is a specialized government document on ICH conservation. First, this Strategy was adopted by the government in 2003 for the years 2004 to 2010 (Government Decree no. 571/2003). The version currently in force has been approved for the years 2011 to 2015 (Government Resolution no. 11/2011) and it already constitutes a full implementation instrument for the Convention. The government strategy elaborates on the tasks of the Convention in identification, documentation, presentation and international cooperation at all levels of public administration, in specialised and scientific institutions and in professional and non-profit organisations. Similar strategic documents for ICH conservation have been adopted also by the regional governments for their territories, although with a different content because, even if the CZE is a relatively small country, manifestations of traditional folk culture and the required care vary considerably from one region to the other.

b) The propagation and presentation of elements of the traditional folk culture is greatly fostered by grant schemes of local, regional and central state administration and self-administration bodies. Scientific, research and publishing activities are focused on the implementation of projects. Support is given to the publication of specialised studies in ethnography, the conservation of traditional folk culture (identification, inventory, documentation and archiving), research related to the preparation of nominations for the National List, publication of monographs and papers on cultural, historical and social topographies of the regions, towns and municipalities.

Local and regional publishing projects focusing on song collections, monographs on significant elements of traditional folk culture are an important contribution to efficient safeguarding.

The preparation of nominations for the title of the ”Master of Traditional Handicraft Production“ (in the regions) and the “Bearer of the Tradition,” as well as the nominations for the inscription of elements on the regional or National List have a direct impact on the protection of traditional manifestations.

University and research institutes pay great attention to the publishing of specialised publications. In 2007, the Institute of European Ethnology published a three-volume publication “Folk Culture: Ethnographic Encyclopaedia of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.” Between 2013 and 2014, within the scope of the project “Development of Cooperation and Enhancement of Research Competencies in the Network of Ethnology Institutions,” a number of guidance manuals have been issued; they were prepared by the staff from the Institute of European Ethnology, the Czech Ethnographic Society, the Institute of Ethnology of the Academy of Sciences and the Moravian Museum. The manuals serve as resource books to ethnology students; their subjects thus address theoretical and methodological issues (see www.phil.muni.cz).

Since 2007, NIFC has been publishing an editorial series entitled ”Folk Crafts and Folk Artistic Production in the Czech Republic;“ each thematic publication addresses a different area of traditional folk culture.

Many private book publishing companies focus on history and folk culture. The recent most important book series include “The Great History of Czech Lands - a Thematic Series of Folk Culture” (Paseka, s.r.o. publishing house), prepared by a team of researchers of the Institute of Ethnology of the Academy of Sciences. The series of encyclopaedic publications “Czech History Guidebook” (Vyšehrad, s.r.o. publishing house) can also be mentioned; in various thematic areas, it describes life in the Czech lands since the formation of the state till the early modern era.

Specialised and scientific institutions are beneficiaries and managers of estates of prominent scientists and scholars in the field of traditional culture. Processing and sharing these collections is invaluable for the exploration of the sources of folk culture, its recording and contemporary interpretations. At the national level, the Museum of Czech Literature (see www.pamatniknarodnihopisemnictvi.cz) looks after these collections but, currently, also regional museums engage in their processing.

Many studies and rescue research projects of folk architecture funded by MC grants have a direct impact on the safeguarding of craft and construction techniques, the rescue of structures in situ or their transfer to open-air museums.

Special projects raising awareness of traditional folk culture and having an indirect but nonetheless a considerable influence on its safeguarding include the publication of Atlases of the Club of Czech Tourists themed every year on a cultural heritage area. These atlases have a broad user base; they are primarily focused on tourism but, by their focus, they influence the choice of tourist destinations and popularize folk culture elements.

Institutions most involved in specialised studies include universities with ethnology or anthropology departments (Masaryk University, Charles University, University of West Bohemia) and specialised institutions (the Czech Academy of Sciences, National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture, NIFC, regional museums and open-air museums). A scientific platform for methodologically and thematically diverse currents of ethnology studies is offered in specialised periodicals (e.g. Folia ethnographica, Český lid, Národopisná revue). The issues of ICH and the safeguarding and presentation of the inscribed elements are also addressed in partial theses of different universities.

Within NIFC between 2011 and 2015, two major projects financed by the programme of applied research and development of national and cultural identity (NAKI) have been implemented. The project “The Technique of Traditional Clay Architecture in Moravia and the Relational Context of the Middle Danube Region“ focused on research and usability of traditional building techniques. The project generated publications and workshops, such as:

• Všianský, Dalibor – Novotný, Martin: NAKI Project – The Technique of Traditional Clay Architecture in Moravia and the Relational Context of the Middle Danube Region. Brno: Research Institute of Building Materials, 2012.

• Novotný, Martin: Use of Clay in Rural Architecture, workshop, Strážnice, 2 to 3 July 2014.

The aim of the project ”Traditional Folk Clothing in Moravia - Identification, Analysis, Conservation and Sustainable Condition of the Collection from 1850 to 1950“ was to provide access to information on www.lidovyodev.cz. The website maps garment components of Moravia and, in particular, it offers sewing patterns and techniques. From the publications, the following can be mentioned for example:

• Příhoda, Jiří – Kuželová, Zdenka – Šimša, Martin – Nasadil, Petr: Traditional Folk Clothing in Moravia - Identification, Analysis, Conservation and Sustainable Condition of the Collection from 1850 to 1950 (Information on the implementation of the NAKI project of MC). In Mgr. Pavla Stöhrová. Forum for conservators - restorers, 2013 Conference of conservators - restorers in Hodonín, p. 133 (abstract). Brno: Technical Museum in Brno, Guidance Centre of Conservation, 2013. pp. 144 –145.

• Křížová, Alena – Šimša, Martin: Folk Clothing in Moravia and Silesia. 1st ed. Strážnice: National Institute of Folk Culture, 2012.

Between 2012 and 2015, at the Masaryk University, a joint project of the Institute of European Ethnology and the Institute of Computer Science was conducted entitled Geographic Information System of Traditional Folk Culture funded under the NAKI programme. The project aimed at creating a freely accessible information platform offering information on traditional folk culture to the expert and the lay public (see B.3c). The project generated e.g. the following publications:

• Drápala, Daniel: Pentecostal Customs of the Moravian Záhoří Region – on the Transformation of Functions and of the Socio-cultural Context. Folia ethnographica: Supplementum ad Acta Musei Moraviae, 48, 2014, No. 1, pp. 35–50.

• Pavlicová, Martina – Uhlíková, Lucie: Folklore Traditions in Contemporary Everyday Life: Between Continuity and (Re)construction (based on two examples from the Czech Republic). Slovak Ethnology, 62, 2014, No. 2., pp. 163–181.

c) Within the community, elements of traditional folk culture are generally maintained and survived under the patronage of associations (social events, annual customs) which present themselves in the local media as they seem appropriate. By associating communities into micro regions, an information platform of their own is created that is independent of the official media. Access to most of the elements is not restricted in any way and information provided by element bearers is publicly available. For better public access to information about the ICH, several websites have been created that are managed by state institutions. These websites are linked to communities – information concerning elements are posted with the consent of the bearers who can restrict public access to their cultural heritage, if they so wish.

In addition to its own website (www.nulk.cz) which contains general information about the functioning and focuses of the institute and its folklore activities, NIFC manages several other themed sites dedicated to traditional folk culture. These include www.lidovakultura.cz providing comprehensive information on folklore events (dates of local and regional festive events, folk festivals, exhibitions, lectures, conferences, etc.), informing on specialised journals and also presenting the issue of traditional folk culture safeguarding within UNESCO. The website www.lidovaremesla.cz introduces traditional handicraft production techniques, presents the Tradition Bearer title holders and also addresses legal protection of craft production within UNESCO. NIFC also informs on accompanying events for schools and the public at the Museum of the Villages of South-east Moravia (www.skanzen.nulk.cz) and also on the preparations and the programme of the International Folklore Festival in Strážnice (www.festivalstraznice.cz). NIFC addresses topics related to traditional folk culture in publications published through the year whose list is updated on the website. These topics are also tackled in a specialised journal “Národopisná revue;” the papers are available in online archives (www.revue.nulk.cz). Information on safeguarding the ICH are digitized and stored in the archives of NIFC which is in charge of its management and of the management of materials gathered during the documentation and redocumentation of elements of the traditional folk culture (photographs, audio, video, correspondence archives).

From 2006 to 2010, extensive research took place in the CZE entitled “Identification and Documentation of Elements of Traditional Folk Culture” aimed at nationwide mapping of the traditional folk culture elements. It was thus conducted in close collaboration with regional departments responsible for the conservation of traditional folk culture in the regions. All municipalities in the state received questionnaires with questions on topics covering the entire area of traditional folk culture. This project coordinated by the NIFC generated a specialised publication summarizing the results of research and a web access to the inquiry questionnaire (www.lidovakultura.cz).

In terms of public access to information on traditional folk culture, the creation of an online system called the Geographic Information System of Traditional Folk Culture (Gistralik), available to experts and the public, is an important achievement. This system offers a unique information platform that collects data on tangible and intangible folk culture from a variety of host documents (specialised literature, documentary and visual sources) in a single database including maps. The Gistralik application has been fully running on a free and publicly accessible website (www.gistralik.muni.cz) since the beginning of 2015; in October 2015, a workshop was organised for potential Gistralik users from among museum staff and correspondents of the Czech Ethnographic Society. Gistralik thus greatly contributes to the research and presentation of traditional culture, as well as to the protection and strengthening of national, regional and local identities.

The Czech National Section of the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Art (CIOFF) serves as an important source of information on traditional folk culture; through folklore festivals, it contributes to national and international cooperation and raises awareness of the importance of safeguarding the ICH. The Czech National Section of CIOFF informs about traditional folk culture in the CZE, on foreign folklore ensembles and dates of international folklore festivals, conferences, exhibitions etc. (see www.cioff.cz). Also NIPOS informs on activities associated with traditional folk culture (see www.nipos-mk.cz). Besides these websites, there exist several other specialized websites run by different folklore groups and enthusiasts (e.g. www.folklorweb.cz, www.folklornet.cz, www.folklornisdruzeni.cz etc.).

B.4. Measures to ensure recognition of, respect for and enhancement of intangible cultural heritage

a) In the CZE, no higher education dedicated to traditional folk culture is available. The School of Folklore Traditions organised since 1998 by NIFC in collaboration with the National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture (NIPOS) and accredited by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports offers an adequate form of specialised training. The course is intended for leaders and organisers of folklore ensembles, teachers and traditional folk culture lovers.

Elementary and secondary schools use their curricula to introduce traditional culture of the region but also elements of national heritage. Education of the young generation is also provided by the system of Elementary Art Schools that focus on folklore. In 2015, the NIFC issued a manual “This is our Home – Regional Folklore to Schools” providing guidance to teachers on integrating traditional folk culture into the curricula.

Universities offer courses on traditional folk culture in their ethnology departments. Moreover, since 2013, the Department of European Ethnology in Brno offers a specialised course “UNESCO and the Safeguarding of ICH” which introduces the principles of safeguarding ICH at the national and international levels.

An important educational role in the field of traditional folk culture is played by the NIPOS as a research agency aimed at developing amateur artistic activities of children, youth and adults. It holds specialised seminars and training programmes using both a modern and folkloric approach(see www.nipos-mk.cz).

Traditional folk culture is currently promoted by several brand names. "Manufaktura" operates nationwide and includes 250 craftsmen and small businesses; through regular sales in their retail network, it helps preserving unique craft techniques. LUTA, a folk art products shop, offers products made by traditional methods from natural materials. Czech Tourism undertook a project entitled “Traditional Bohemia by All Senses” which generated a freely available “Manual of ICH and Folk Architecture” (www.issuu.com). The aim of the project is to use attractive elements of ICH to promote the regions.

For the general public, mass media play a crucial role in the perception of the importance and respect for traditional folk culture. News in the official media is generally limited to elements inscribed on the Representative List; regional media pay more attention to elements of local importance. There exists a number of specialized radio and television programmes on topics related to the traditional folk culture.

b) The NIFC organises lectures in primary schools of concerned municipalities; in Skoronice, a system of lectures for children had already existed without prior intervention of NIFC as a result of cooperation of community members with the regional museum in Hodonin. This nurtures the pride of the students in their local cultural heritage and awareness is raised of the importance of safeguarding the element in the future.

A project called “Our Daily Bread” undertaken since 2003 by the Wallachian Foundation in Francova Lhota is an example of efforts how to arouse interest in children in their cultural environment. It is a year-long educational programme that introduces children to the process of bread making.

A number of extracurricular activities for youth help in the education of the young generation in the area of the ICH, for example courses in folk dances combined with folk songs teaching. During folklore festivals, dance schools teach regional dances to young dancers. By the existence of large number of folklore ensembles and folk bands with offshoots for children, a generation of young people is brought up, for whom folklore activities are a common part of life and identity.

c) Capacity-building occurs through a number of activities aimed at enhancing the skills of scientists and researchers in the field of traditional folk culture. In 2012 and 2015, the Czech Ethnological Society held seminars on the documentation of traditional folk culture and the UNESCO for its correspondents. In October 2015, the Department of European Ethnology organised a workshop on the use of electronic resources in ethnology. The workshop introduced two important map databases that serve as an information platform for traditional folk culture elements – Gistralik (see B.3c) and a map application of garment components (see B.3b). A workshop for museum staff and students of ethnology held by NIFC in the scope of a folk architecture project (see B.3b) focused on applied ethnology. Since 1973, the NIFC has organised regular symposia on specific topics which serve as a meeting place for museum professionals and researchers and for the exchange of information obtained through their field research in the various regions. The results of scientific research are presented in the proceedings of the symposia (see www.nulk.cz).

d) Numerous folk festivals throughout the year are classical venues for traditional folk culture lovers (see e.g. www.folklornisdruzeni.cz).They thus continue to maintain close contact between the performers and the spectators.

Based on the annual cycle of customs, many regional and open-air museums hold special events to acquaint visitors with the traditional festive events, customs and crafts. These programmes, often including workshops, are popular highlights of museum exhibitions with informal get-togethers of participants after the official programme.

“Meadows Mowing in Horňácko” is a transregional event with participants from a wide surrounding area. Its objective is to keep up the tradition of our ancestors and to familiarize young people with hard manual work involved in mowing. Informal encounters of several generations also take place in communities during the preparations of annual customs. Informal transmission of the living folk song repertoire takes place nationally during numerous cimbalom dance parties; contemporary choirs, (see www.kuhnata.cz) also draw on traditions and folk song themes.

e) In the field of education, non-formal education programmes are well-established that also include topics of the protection of places of historical memory.This education is provided by the National Heritage Institute and specialised museum-type institutions. Moreover, training for professionals in the field of heritage conservation, museology and ICH management takes place as accredited degree programmes taught by specialists from the MC.

The Czech Union for Nature Conservation (see www.kosenka.cz) is dedicated to the protection of natural and cultural heritage in the region of Wallachia, providing environmental education to children based on tradition preservation through the Kosenka eco-centre.

B.5. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation

a) The CZE joined the nomination of Falconry coordinated by the United Arab Emirates. With Slovakia, it participated in the preparation of the Slovak and Czech puppetry nomination dossiers (submitted in March 2015)). In 2014, a conference on blueprint was held in Slovakia where experience was shared and possibilities of cooperation between the CZE, Austria and Hungary were discussed. In early 2015, the CZE was officially invited to participate in drawing up the international blueprint nomination together with Austria, Germany, Slovakia and Hungary. For now, the preparation of the nomination is hindered by the inscription of the element on national lists of all countries involved. At present, the element is inscribed in the CZE and Austria; in other countries, the inscription is planned in 2015 and 2016.

The Ministry of Agriculture as the guarantor of Falconry shares the documentation on the element with other falconers organisations through the Falconers Club, in particular to help other countries to inscribe the element on the National List and then on the Representative List. It closely cooperates namely with Slovakia and other member states of the International Association for Falconry (IAF). In 2015, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture attended a meeting in Abu Dhabi where the inscription on the Representative List of the falconry of other states, supported by the CZE, was discussed.

b) So far, the CZE has not collaborated with the centre of regional cooperation for the protection of ICH under the auspices UNESCO (category 2).

c) In 2013, the CZE participated in international negotiations on traditional folk culture in Central Europe. In June 2013, a meeting of representatives of Central European countries was held in Vienna. The aim was an exchange experience and a discussion, the management of the national lists, impact of the UNESCO inscription on the development of intangible elements, preparation of periodic reports for UNESCO, etc. Planning potential transnational nominations for the Representative List (see B.5.a) was an important point. At the follow-up meeting in Ljubljana in September 2013, the discussion of issues tabled in Vienna continued.

In June 2015, the delegate from the Institute of European Ethnology attended the 12th Congress of the Société internationale d´ethnologie et de folklore (SIEF) in Zagreb, Croatia.

In 2008, the MC developed a programme to promote creative residencies and fellowships at home and abroad also in the area of traditional folk culture. Between 2009 and 2010, Filip Kubák (son of Zdeněk Kubák, Tradition Bearer in the field of weaving) stayed in Mr. Hermann Ebner´s textile workshop Obezmühle in Austria. Filip Kubák learnt about the operation of the workshop (materials processing, techniques, creative design). He could then use the acquired knowledge in the Kubák family weaving workshop.

The international project called ETNOFOLK involving scientific and technical departments of the CZE, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary and Slovenia has been an interesting enterprise. The project was prepared with the support of the Central Europe Programme of the European Regional Development Fund and it was coordinated by the Institute of Ethnology of the Academy of Sciences. The aim of the project was to develop a multilingual website (www.etnofolk.eu) linking databases of cooperating ethnological institutions and presenting digitized documents on cultural heritage of the respective country. The website, available since 2012, provides information on traditional architecture, folk art, music and dance, clothing, traditional crafts, customs, spiritual culture, trade and transport to professionals and the public. The website also presents best practice examples of partner countries in safeguarding, promotion and utilization of folk cultural heritage.

NIFC facilitates communication with foreign institutions and organisations involved in traditional folk culture, works with their experts and participates in the preparation of transnational nominations for the Representative List. NIFC cooperates with many foreign institutions; with their experts, it examines more effective safeguarding of the ICH and the possibilities of its presentation in open-air museums (Austria, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Germany). As for specific projects, we can mention cooperation with Slovakia in the Month of Czech and Slovak Cultural Friendly Relations, during which joint educational events for children and youth and the „Muzičky“ International Performing Workshop are held. With Austria, cooperation was established through Weinviertel Niedersulz Village Museum, resulting in 2014 in an international symposium on traditional clay architecture which was attended by experts from six central European countries. Cooperation with Poland on the Visegrad Fund project took place through the Museum of Folk Culture in Węgorzewo which included the participation of Czech folklore ensembles and folk craftsmen at the International Fair of Folklore Ensembles and Folk Bands at Angrapa.

NIFC is involved in various international traditional folk culture activities and is a member of several international NGOs under the auspices of UNESCO. NIFC ensures the functioning of the CIOFF Czech National Section which collaborates with CIOFF national sections around the world. Members of the CIOFF Czech National Section participate in international conferences and seminars on ICH, they are on festival advisory panels and collaborate in the preparation of the festival programmes.

The Czech Ethnological Society monitors the activities of the ICH NGO Forum where contacts are established and experience exchanged with foreign NGOs.

Between 2007 and 2011 under the Norway Grants, the Wallachian Open Air Museum undertook a bilateral project with Norsk h?ndverksinstitutt and the Maihaugen Museum in Lillehammer involving an exchange of 80 employees. The project implemented in both countries focused on practical transmission of techniques and experience in carpentry and traditional wood working. In ten workshops, organisations also addressed preventive conservation and restoration of museum collections, exchange of traditional craftsmen and development of educational programmes in traditional folk culture. A four language dictionary of carpentry terminology was written.

International cooperation is also established by regions, namely on a cross-border basis, e.g. The Digital Map of Traditional Culture on www.folklornamapa.sk provides information about folk music, dances and clothing from the Moravian-Slovak border area. The project was developed by the Centre of Traditional Culture in Myjava and the Museum of Moravian Slovakia in Uherské Hradiště within the scope of the 2007-2013 CBC SK-CZE programme.

C. STATUS OF ELEMENTS INSCRIBED ON THE REPRESENTATIVE LIST

Name of element:Slovácko Verbuňk, recruit dances

Inscribed in: 2008

C.1. Social and cultural functions

Slovácko verbuňk is an improvised male lively folk dance. It consists of an introductory song to a dance song, a slow (or moderately fast) dance and a fast dance. Element bearers mostly include boys from about 15 years old (in specific cases, younger) and men of all ages. The dance exists in two forms of presentation. The first is a natural dance expression as part of annual customs (feast days, balls, dance parties) and the second is performed on stage (contests for children and adult dancers, programmes of folklore ensembles, special presentation shows). This involves its social and cultural functions.

Verbuňk is characterised by high emotivity and improvisation of the dance expression (emotional feature). Verbuňk dancers often hold a specific position within the local community (village, folk ensemble, etc.) - a social function. The dancers deliberately parade in front of the female audience (erotic function). They strive for a precise performance of the dance (representative feature). Based on its geographic distribution, there exist seven regional types (dance styles) of verbuňk (identification feature). During the annual customs celebrations, verbuňk is an important component of the dance repertoire (communication and ceremonial feature). In spontaneous performance, comparison by the dancers themselves but also during contests organised for that purpose (regional rounds of the Contest for the Best Slovácko Verbuňk Dancer, Contest for the Best Slovácko Verbuňk Dancer at the International Folklore Festival at Strážnice (hereinafter just the Contest), a competitive feature may be observed.

C.2. Assessment of its viability and current risks

Verbuňk continues to develop. It is revitalised in areas where it was previously threatened with extinction. It also spreads beyond its original territoryto neighbouring regions.

The Contest and its regional qualifying rounds play an important role in the development of verbuňk. An expert jury assesses correct execution of the dance including regional particularities.The Contest increases knowledge of verbuňk among the general public. Within the scope of the Contest, the spectators get an opportunity to dance verbuňk on stage and to participate in the assessment of the entrants through an opinion poll. The children's Contest held annually in Kunovice has an important impact. Boys from the age of 6 years become element bearers.

In some subregions, girls and women also participate in verbuňk with specific modern-day dance manifestations.

An important factor in maintaining verbuňk is the transmission to future generation of dancers by teaching the dance: 1. naturally (older members of the rural community teach younger members during dance occasions throughout the year), 2. in a targeted form of theoretical and practical training (regional seminars, educational presentations by high quality dancers serving as models).

Threats to verbuňk safeguarding:

- Cultural globalization and urbanization of rural areas: the disappearance of some elements of traditional folk culture (rituals, dance opportunities),

- Increased mobility of the rural population: risk of wiping out the differences between regional verbuňk styles which can be prevented by education and teaching,

- Costs of artifacts and services necessary for the presentation of verbuňk (costumes, music).

C.3. Contribution to the goals of the List

The inscription of verbuňk on the Representative List brought about increased attention of the media (radio, television, press, Internet portals, social networks). At present, it is often included in cultural programmes and programmes organised by cultural institutions and folk ensembles or, alternatively, broadcasted by mass media nationwide. Public presentation of verbuňk leads to its popularization and promotion. The public perceives the unique character of Slovácko verbuňk and considers it to be a still living attribute of traditional folk culture and a permanent part of its cultural identity. At the same time, general awareness increases also about the ICH as a comprehensive system of cultural values.

Activities associated with the inscription of verbuňk on the Representative List have become a source of inspiration for the community of the bearers of the “odzemek” male folk dance who began to seek inscription on the National List and then on the Representative List. With this impetus, odzemek bearers spontaneously developed a number of safeguarding measures (e.g. The School of Young Odzemek Dancers where new young dancers are trained) and they establish contacts with other countries where odzemek existed in the past or where it still exists.

C.4. Efforts to promote or reinforce the element

The measures to promote the elements detailed below were taken by the MC, NIFC, municipal and local authorities, folk ensembles, local communities and concerned individuals.

Activities:

1. Research: systematic documentation of seven regional types of verbuňk in traditional and stage forms and development of a resource collection; holding specialised symposia at five-year intervals aimed at summarizing research and documentation activities.

2. Coordination to preserve viability: organising the Contest, its regional rounds, evaluation workshops for dancers, training for young dancers and workshops for representatives of state administration and self-administration agencies.

3. Education: teaching and jury activities of the Panel of Instructors and Masters of the Slovácko Verbuňk (the Panel).

4. Publishing: technical publications and multimedia carriers on verbuňk. In 2006, NIFC issued a Czech-English publication “Slovácko Verbuňk: Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity” and, in 2010, “Slovácko Verbuňk – Current Status and Perspectives.”

5. Popularization and promotion: website administration and updating, presentations in social networks, cooperation with mass media, distribution of promotional materials, popularizing lectures and practical presentations of the dance.

In areas of natural incidence of verbuňk, emphasis is placed on its safeguarding through tuition and training of young dancers. Members of the Panel are involved not only in the practical courses and theoretical teaching of dancers but also in efforts to revive dance opportunities that have disappeared: Panel members collaborate with local councillors, which leads to raising the awareness of the population of municipalities and to the organisational and financial support to events including verbuňk dancing.

C.5. Community participation

Individuals, groups and the entire communities of stakeholders are involved in safeguarding verbuňk. Individuals include active (current and former) excellent verbuňk bearers who exercise their influence during the above described activities resulting in the safeguarding of verbuňk. These individuals work in all sub-regions of Moravian Slovakia, thus a widespread activity to further develop verbuňk is ensured.

Rural communities of youth play an irreplaceable role in the activities to safeguard verbuňk; they allow natural generational transmission and preservation of verbuňk by customs, ceremonies and social events. They express their will and interest to safeguard verbuňk because they view it as a sign of their local identity.

The role of folk ensembles (voluntary local associations) that have verbuňk on their repertoire is also important. Inclusion of verbuňk in the dance repertoire promotes active learning of the dance by new dancers among children, youth and adults. Public presentations of folkloric shows and programmes of ensembles significantly popularise verbuňk not only in its natural environments but also outside it.

Local and regional folklore festivals also co-organised by verbuňk bearers contribute to verbuňk safeguarding, too (e.g. “Kunovice Summer” in Kunovice, “The Region without a Shadow” in Krumvíř, “The Moravian-Slovak Year” in Kyjov).

C.6. Institutional context

a) The MC and the regions are involved in the safeguarding of the element by financial support and promotional activities. NIFC is in charge of the administrative work associated with the inscription of the element on the Representative List.

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Municipal and local authorities participate in the organisation of dance opportunities and provide financial support to the element.

b) The Panel which consists of 37 members serves as an advisory body to the NIFC Director.

C.7. Participation of communities in preparing this report

Conceptually and on a long-term basis, the preparation of this report has involved relevant institutions, individuals, communities and groups. NIFC guaranteed the fulfilment of this task.

During a systematic collection of materials, intensive cooperation with the Panel has taken place; it provides both a scientific potential and practical contacts in territories with natural verbuňk incidence. Members of the Panel were invited to supply, systematically and regularly, information and printed materials (for archiving) on any educational events related to verbuňk (workshops, seminars, lectures, courses, teaching), major customs-related activities involving verbuňk (feast days, balls, dance parties, dance parties with cimbalom), stage presentations of verbuňk (children's and adults contests, performances by folk groups, special presentation programmes, etc.). On the basis of the communication of the Panel members with other individuals and groups in the territory, sites and events suitable for audiovisual documentation have been recommended. The records obtained in this way form an important part of the continuously supplemented resource collection on verbuňk as a cultural asset.

Municipal and local councillors of towns and villages in Moravian Slovakia have been informed in advance about the preparation of this periodic report at meetings with NIFC representatives to guarantee the involvement of the largest possible number of concerned individuals and groups in the collection of data for this report.

Name of element: Shrovetide door-to-door processions and masks in the villages of the Hlinecko area

Inscribed in: 2010

C.1. Social and cultural functions

The element forms a natural part of the customs of villagers. It is held at the end of the winter period called Shrovetide. Men and boys in masks go from door to door around the village, accompanied by a brass band. Each mask has its form and function handed down from generation to generation. The procession ends with a ritual called “The slaughter of the Mare,” followed by a dance party to bid farewell to the Shrovetide season. The element is an important integrating element of the inhabitants of each village as well as of the region; it brings together all the generations. It is perceived as common cultural heritage. Element bearers and villagers are proud of the fact that the element has been safeguarded for generations. Volunteer fire departments and municipal governments help with the organisation and funding of the procession. After the inscription on the Representative List, the element has not undergone any changes. Villagers safeguard and maintain the element mainly because it is part of their lives. It strengthens the sense of belonging to the community and enhances the identification of the villagers with their region and their specific location. After the inscription on the Representative List, the processions in the Museum of Vysočina at Veselý Kopec attract larger crowds from the Czech Republic and from abroad. A change that could be observed after 2013 is an attempt in Hlinsko to restore the Shrovetide procession in the town on Shrove Tuesday.

C.2. Assessment of its viability and current risks

The element takes place annually in all locations mentioned in the nomination: Hamry, Studnice, Vortová and in the Blatno district of Hlinsko. Moreover, since the inscription of the Shrovetide door-to-door processions on the Representative List, the number of surrounding villages which restored annual processions increased: e.g. Vítanov, Včelákov and Stan. Continuous and natural transmission between generations has been preserved. The annual preparation of masks and Shrovetide processions is an opportunity to involve the new generation of young people. Since the nineteen twenties, in some locations (Blatno, Studnice) fathers in masks parade with their young sons wearing exact copies of the adult masks. Mainly men are bearers of the element, depending on its meaning. Local villagers of all generations are active onlookers and partners of masks who fulfil all the functions of the door-to-door procession. During the processions themselves, most onlookers are local; since the inscription on the Representative List, the number of visitors arriving at various villages has increased, but not dramatically. Visitors come primarily from the Czech Republic.

The Museum of Vysočina prepares educational programmes for schools of all types that, in an entertaining way, explain the significance and function of Shrovetide masks and processions, as well as about the necessity of safeguarding the element. At present, the transmission of the element is not threatened. On the contrary, the inscription of the element on the Representative List increased community interest in each location in safeguarding Shrovetide masks and processions in a traditional form for future generations.

C.3. Contribution to the goals of the List

The inscription of the element on the Representative List brought about increased media and public interest. It influenced the decision of residents of some areas where the custom disappeared previously to restore Shrovetide processions (e.g. Holetín, Jeníkov, Kameničky, Raná, Včelákov), as well as the decision by representatives of the municipal government of Hlinsko to organise and support a programme called “Farewell to Shrovetide” intended for schools and the public. Increased public interest involves the visibility of the element as well as efforts of its better understanding. Local authorities try to gather photographs of processions in the past (Hamry, Studnice, Vítanov, Stan, Vortová ) and they present the element on their website. The activity of the Museum of Vysočina in the field of education is important. By building a permanent exhibition of Shrovetide masks and processions at No. 362 in the Betlém conservation area of Hlinsko, a venue was provided for holding such programmes. A suitable form is used to explain to the children and youth the importance of Shrovetide processions and of their safeguarding. The programmes use exhibits (masks, mask artifacts, photographs and documents), film documentaries, worksheets and art workshops. In cooperation with the K.V. Rais Grammar School in Hlinsko, in 2013 and 2014, international workshops for students were held there. The existence of an element and its better understanding foster community cohesion and reinforce local identity. It is also an important element of popular culture and its safeguarding contributes to cultural diversity.

C.4. Efforts to promote or reinforce the element

Local governments help to fund and organise Shrovetide processions. The municipal government of Hlinsko helps to organise and gives financial support to a programme called Farewell to Shrovetide on Shrove Tuesday which involves local schools and residents of the Blatno town district who arrange the traditional procession. This programme aims partly at education and partly at increasing the visibility of Hlinsko as a town promoting traditional folk culture. The Regional Authority and the MC support the element by grant schemes. Every year, the Museum of Vysočinaorganises processions at the site of the exhibition at Veselý Kopec. The attention of tourists is thus focused on these processions and the processions in the villages themselves are spared from major tourist inflows. They thus retain their authentic appearance. The Museum of Vysočina continues to document and redocument the element; in its archives, it collects documents about the history and the present of the element.In 2012, a permanent exhibition of Shrovetide masks and processions at Hlinecko was opened. It is complemented by an art workshop for children and youth programmes (see www.vesely-kopec.eu).

A programme called Farewell to Shrovetide has taken place from 2013 to 2015 with active involvement of local schools of all types. Students make Shrovetide masks and parade across the town.

The MC gives financial support for the documentation of the element. It also funded a guidance manual “Village Shrovetide Door-to-door Processions and Masks at Hlinecko” in 2011 and a popular science publication “Shrovetide at Hlinecko” in 2014.

C.5. Community participation

Local residents, volunteer fire departments and local governments are actively involved in safeguarding the element. They keep the masks, organise the procession and contribute to its implementation financially. Local governments collect photographs and other materials documenting the element in the past. For the most part, it is the bearers with their families who take charge of the preparation of the masks before the procession; some of them are looked after by the village community. Most of the local residents actively participate in the procession itself. Children watch the preparations and are active onlookers or even get involved in the procession itself. In a natural way, they learn about the progress and the context of the element. The transmission of the element takes place both naturally and by education. The Museum of Vysočina offers year-round educational programmes devoted to Shrovetide processions and masks at Hlinecko. Local governments of Hamry, Studnice, Vortová and the volunteer fire department at Blatno each donated one mask to a permanent exhibition of Shrovetide masks and processions opened at Hlinsko. The Hlinsko Municipality, the Regional Authority of the Pardubice Region and the MC co-funded this exhibition. The exhibition was designed, created and it is run by the Museum of Vysočina which also uses these premises for the youth educational programmes mentioned above. The programmes use exhibitions of the Shrovetide processions and masks, film documentaries, worksheets and art workshops (programme called “Celebrating Shrovetide” see www.vesely-kopec.eu).

C.6. Institutional context

The MC, Regional Authority of the Pardubice region, Municipal Authority of Hlinsko, local authorities and the volunteer fire department participate in safeguarding the element with financial support and promotional activities. The NIFC is in charge of the administrative work associated with the inscription of the element on the Representative List. The Administration of the Vysočina Ensemble of Folk Architecture helps NIFC Strážnice in the administrative work associated with the inscription of the element on the Representative List, is responsible for the promotion of the property and for educational activities.

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C.7. Participation of communities in preparing this report

The Museum of Vysočina regularly meets with representatives of local governments of Hamry, Studnice, Vortová, representatives of volunteer fire departments from the said villages and from the Blatna district of Hlinsko, as well as with element bearers themselves from each village. It receives the necessary information through on-going communication, as well as during element redocumentation and when tutoring student papers on this issue. Information for the preparation of the report has been gathered continuously during discussions with representatives of governments, element bearers, spectators (villagers and the audience) but also by direct observation and documentation during the event. The present report is based on facts gathered in this way which were complemented by interviewing representatives of the element bearers in the villages of Hamry, Studnice, Vortová and Blatna district of Hlinsko and representatives of volunteer fire departments. Local governments, volunteer fire departments and individual element bearers collaborate readily. This readiness is based on the efforts to safeguard the element for future generations. The report was discussed with representatives of local governments, volunteer fire departments and specialised institutions. All participating entities have an active interest in safeguarding the element for future generations and they welcome the inscription on the Representative List.

Name of element: Ride of the Kings in the south-east of the Czech Republic

Inscribed in: 2011

C.1. Social and cultural functions

The Ride of the Kings is an ancient ritual, during which young men ride across the village on decorated horses. In the past, the purpose of the ritual was to bring prosperity of farming through magical practices. In the present, the social function of the custom prevails. Participants in the ride are aware of its uniqueness and their ties to the community, and thereby their cultural identity is strengthened. It is considered as a special event which the villagers perceive as a characteristic feature of their village and themselves. To them, it has a self-identifying function. The participants in the element often have a specific position in the local community.

To the young people, the king, families of the horsemen, the ceremony means a powerful emotional experience. The transmission of the element from father to son fulfils an important social and cultural function. An initiation character of the ritual when young boys turn adult men is still apparent.

The sense of unity of the whole community when organising the ride is important; it manifests itself by integrating villagers of all ages. According to their abilities, women participate in making clothes and ornate outfits for the horses. Rhymed calls of the horsemen serve as moral suasion and express local public opinion. A communal way of life leads to better communication in the community and reinforces relations between the villagers. The communication function is evident not only among the element organisers and participants but also among the performers and the onlookers.

C.2. Assessment of its viability and current risks

All Rides of the Kings are held at fixed intervals indicated in the nomination. However, organisers and participants in the ride prepare the ceremony throughout the year because it is also associated with other cultural events in the village. Each village and the participants themselves take great pride in safeguarding and preserving this custom and therefore they transmit it to future generations.

The entire community of the village or town and possibly also distant family members of the persons taking part in ride participate in the preparation of the element. The spectators mostly include local villagers, former residents and friends of families helping with the ride preparations. The second large group are spectators from the surrounding villages. Due to better visibility of the element after its inscription on the Representative List, there was an increase of visitors from across the country; for now, foreign visitors constitute the smallest group.

Currently, there are no threats to the transmission of this tradition. On the contrary, the whole community and cultural and administrative institutions (MC, NIFC, Zlín and South Moravia regional authorities, municipalities and non-profit organisations) do their best to promote and look after the element. With a better visibility of the element, requests come more and more often to show the ride outside the natural environment but it lacks its authenticity. In the future, the element could be threatened by a decreasing birth rate, lack of horses or greater financial demands on organisers associated with the increasing numbers of visitors.

C.3. Contribution to the goals of the List

The inscription of the element increased the interest namely of the media that shape the opinions of the general public. To villagers, where the ride takes place, the inscription means great prestige but also greater obligation to look after the element.

The Ride of the Kings now also involves families that previously rather stayed apart from the cultural life of the village. The inscription also increased the interest in the role of the King. Previously, some families refused this position for their sons, mainly for financial reasons. Due to the inscription, the element receives funding both through grant schemes and considerable donations from municipalities. Funding is also received from volunteer sponsors and civic associations. At present, greater interest of horsemen can also be observed.

This element also serves as great inspiration to artists; more exhibitions, discussions and lectures take place. A deeper understanding of the element is achieved (interest in archival materials, popular science publications, topics of student papers). There is growing interest in larger cities to show the Ride of the Kings of Southeast Moravia on festive events. There is a revitalization of the element in the Haná regions and the Brno region where the Ride of the Kings had already disappeared.

The inscription of the element helped to cement and deepen the relations between the municipalities which organise it. Former rivals jointly organise meetings and lectures on the subject or prepare joint gatherings.

The inscription of the element increases awareness of this element which continues to grow.

C.4. Efforts to promote or reinforce the element

Measures to safeguard the element have been taken in three levels:

1. Local communities support the safeguarding of the element financially and organisationally. The smooth transmission of the element is enhanced inter alia by workshops for the villagers. In documenting the element, communities cooperate with specialised institutions. They greatly contribute to the transmission of the heritage and underline the importance of the element.

2. Specialised institutions are in charge of regular redocumentation and look after the element via the Society for the Protection and Preservation of the Ride of the Kings in Southern Moravia (the Society). The Society addresses problems in organising the Ride of the Kings and potential threats, and creates a space for discussion of organisers from all villages. In 2013 NIFC held a symposium which generated an e-publication (www.nulk.cz) and in 2014, it created a travelling exhibition “For the king, mother, for the king.” Between 2013 and 2015, NIFC participated in the preparation of educational programmes for elementary and secondary schools.The NIFC and regional departments carry out scientific research and contribute to the education of the general public.

3. Regional Authorities of the Zlín Region and the South Moravian Region regularly announce grant schemes for the promotion of local cultural events, they contribute to the promotion of the element and the importance of its safeguarding through educational activities. In the grant systems, the MC takes into account projects of municipalities that are bearers of the element and financially supports the activities of NIFC.

C.5. Community participation

The organisation and preparation of the element involves the entire local community; most of the inhabitants of all ages participate. Active participation of young people who are interested in maintaining the element is already very important and its growing tendency may even be observed. Local folklore, music and singing ensembles are an integral part of the element: they help with the preparations and are included in the accompanying programme. Maintenance and sewing of ceremonial costumes is provided by experts in traditional handicraft. Acquisition of horses, riding skills, the selection of horsemen, teaching and preparation of rhymed calls, route planning and song teaching are a responsibility of volunteers and, above all, accomplished experts in this tradition. Seniors are not left out (making decorations for horses, costume adjustment, organisation); they are actively involved in passing their skills on to younger generations. Experience of witnesses of Rides of the Kings of the past help to process historical data of this element. Families of the horsemen and of the king who engage in the demanding preparations very seriously and readily are an important help. Former horsemen wish to continue to be part of this important day, too. Growing numbers of viewers in each location require more collaborators during the festivities. In some villages, civic associations were formed which greatly contribute to the preparations of the element. The above enumeration of persons involved shows great interest in this element which will continue to grow.

C.6. Institutional context

a) MC and regional authorities give financial support and publicity:

Ministry of Culture

Regional and Minority Culture Department

Head: Zuzana Malcová

Maltézské náměstí 1

11811 Praha 1

Phone: +420257085111

info@mkcr.cz

www.mkcr.cz

South-Moravian Region

Governor: Michal Hašek

Žerotínovo nám. 449/3

60182 Brno

Phone: +420541651111

hejtman@kr-jihomoravsky.cz

www.kr-jihomoravsky.cz

Zlín Region

Governor: Stanislav Mišák

třída Tomáše Bati 21

76190 Zlín

Phone: +420577043111

podatelna@kr-zlinsky.cz

www.kr-zlinsky.cz

NIFC supervises compliance with the obligations resulting from the inscription of the element; it convenes the sessions of the Society (see C.4).

National Institute of Folk Culture

Director: Jan Krist

Zámek 672

69662 Strážnice

Phone: +420518306611

info@nulk.cz

www.nulk.cz

Museums also engage in the documentation, data collection and educational activities (see C.4.):

Museum of Moravian Slovakia in Uherské Hradiště

Director: Ivo Frolec

Smetanovy sady 179

68601 Uherské Hradiště

Phone: +420572 556 556

info@slovackemuzeum.cz

www.slovackemuzeum.cz

Masaryk Museum in Hodonin

Head: Irena Chovančíková

Zámecké náměstí 9

69501 Hodonín

Phone: +420518351834

masarykovomuzeum@masaryk.info

www.masaryk.info

Funding and organisation of the ceremonies are provided by municipalities and their local and municipal councils:

City of Hluk

Mayor: Martin Křižan

Hřbitovní No. 140

68725 Hluk

Phone: +420572111300

mesto@mestohluk.cz

www.mestohluk.cz

City of Kunovice

Mayor: Ivana Majíčková

Nám. Svobody 361

68604 Kunovice

Phone:+420572432720

kunovice@mesto-kunovice.cz

www.mesto-kunovice.cz

Municipality of Skoronice

Mayor: Marie Půčková

Skoronice 102

69641 Vlkoš

Phone: +420518625822

podatelna@skoronice.cz

www.skoronice.cz

Municipality of Vlčnov

Mayor: Jan Pijáček

Vlčnov 124

68761 Vlčnov

Phone: +420572675112

obec@vlcnov.cz

www.vlcnov.cz

b) The element is part of the entire local community. In some municipalities, various civic associations are formed that help to organise the element.

Sports and Culture Club

Head: Olga Floriánová

Hlucká 186

687 61 Vlčnov

Phone/Fax : +420572675130

ksk@vlcnov.cz

Society for the Ride of the Kings at Vlčnov

Chairman: Antonín Pavelčík

Vlčnov 186

68761 Vlčnov

Phone: +420607959622

antonin.pavelcik@seznam.cz

http://www.spolecnostjizdykralu.cz

Kunovjan Civic Association

Chairman: Antonín Polášek

Záchalupčí 952

68604 Kunovice

Phone: +420604752044

mpolaskova.os@seznam.cz

www.oskunovjan.cz

Skoronice Culture and National History Association

Chairperson: Marie Holcmanová

Skoronice 102

69641 Skoronice

Phone: +420776649579

dagmar.lungova@centrum.cz

All of these organisations and communities actively communicate and participate in the safeguarding of the element.

C.7. Participation of communities in preparing this report

The compilation and the preparation of the periodic report are a responsibility of NIFC. One of the NIFC´s tasks is the documentation of all Rides of the Kings inscribed on the Representative List which involves regular communication between the organisers, participants and spectators of the ceremony. This participant and repeated observation and discussions with individuals generates a wealth of comparative materials and a view of the current status of the element. NIFC established the Society for the Protection and Preservation of the Ride of the Kings in Southern Moravia which meets regularly 1 to 2 times a year. The Society includes representatives of experts and organisers of the Ride of the Kings of all municipalities and assigned units (a total of 14 persons); all were invited to participate in the preparation of this report in order to create the widest possible platform of information for the redocumentation of the element. Besides the Society, municipal and local councils also got involved; moreover, they send information to the MC and NIFC about safeguarding measures that they implement with respect to the element. As for this report, current and former horsemen were invited to participate. Active involvement of all stakeholders in the preparation of this report expresses the great interest in the conservation of this element.

Name of element:Falconry, a living human heritage

Inscribed in: 2012

C.1. Social and cultural functions

Falconry is a traditional way of hunting with birds of prey. Amateurs of this type of hunting are members of the Falconers´ Club of the Czech-Moravian Hunting Union (the FC, see www.sokolnictvi.cz), an association of qualified owners of hunting birds of prey from among the hunters. Members of the FC that operate nationwide are the bearers of the element. They participate in many regional hunts and share knowledge of the hunting with birds of prey with visitors of such events. The website of the FC www.sokolnictvi.net and internal magazine called “The Falconry Newsletter” serve for information purposes and further training of members.

The element is usually passed down in families of falconers and the art of hunting with birds of prey becomes a natural part of young people's identities. Moreover, new falconers are also recruited from among the general public. At present, the main function of falconry is to bring together wildlife lovers. The importance of the element is based on the transmission of values which are based on traditional forms of livelihood of our ancestors and on the protection of natural environment. Events organised by the FC serve to learn about the basic principles of natural processes.

Since the inscription of the element on the Representative List, the legal protection of falconry has changed in particular, which resulted in the adoption of measures facilitating its future functioning and development. At the same time, public interest in the element increased which can be seen during the educational events.

C.2. Assessment of its viability and current risks

Due to the work of the Falconers´ Club, Czech falconry is currently at a high professional level and good legal environment is available for its functioning. The FC operates nationwide through a network of 22 regional centres that organise gatherings of falconers during the hunting season. These gatherings include hunting with birds of prey and accompanying educational events, during which knowledge is transmitted to the public naturally. The international gathering of falconers at Opočno (see krecan.cz) is the most important and the most popular one. These events are visited by individuals interest in hunting with birds of prey, families with children and senior citizens. At present, the FC has 470 members aged 18 years and above (the age limit required for membership and a hunting license) mostly consisting of men (90% of men, 10% of women). With a broad membership base and the transmission of the element from generation to generation in families of falconers, the existence of the element is not currently directly threatened. The viability of the element is boosted in particular by numerous hunting events, public education and attracting new falconers from among the younger generations through educational events at schools, exhibitions, in castles and palaces. The functioning of the element, however, may be negatively affected in the future by farming or by changes in the natural habitat and its diminishing caused by construction which affects populations of different species of animals and can thus indirectly endanger falconry not only in the CZE but also throughout Europe.

C.3. Contribution to the goals of the List

The inscription of the element on the Representative List had a positive effect in several respects. First, we can mention an increased public awareness of falconry. To the falconers themselves, the inscription represents a promise of safeguarding the element and the associated skills also in the future. After the inscription of the element, a commemorative medal was minted which is conferred as recognition to outstanding falconers at falconry gatherings.

More visitors of promotion events increased public awareness of the element, which contributed to the positive perception of falconry principles as hunting with birds of prey; an increased number of individuals interested in practising falconry can be observed. The inscription increased the attention of the media leading to increased public awareness of the need to preserve the element in the future. Communication of the Falconers´ Club with foreign falconers´ organisations active in the field of nature conservation has improved. The cooperation of these organisations allows to draw upon the experience of falconers in the rescue of injured and handicapped birds of prey or in ornithology activities.

Members of the FC regularly participate in numerous educational and presentation events throughout the country. Awareness is raised at many regional and national exhibitions associated with falconry and hunting, and in public discussions. Attracting new falconers from among the general public is the aim of nationwide presentation programmes with the participation of members of the FC. The young generation is targeted by lectures in kindergartens, primary schools and universities and falconry demonstrations on children's days.

C.4. Efforts to promote or reinforce the element

The legislative framework was set already before the inscription by Acts No. 449/2001 Coll., No. 114/1992 Coll. No. 100/2004 Coll. and No. 246/1992 Coll.

The support of the Ministry of Agriculture by a grant scheme for breeding and training the birds of prey is of key importance for safeguarding the element and for eliminating the risks of its extinction. Catching birds of prey in the wild is only possible in exceptional cases, therefore, artificial breeding is currently the main way how to obtain birds of prey. Support to breading guarantees the safeguarding of the element in the future.

Activities of the FC related with organising falconers´ events significantly contributing to the awareness-raising of the element also receive financial support. A permanent exhibition on the development of falconry in the CZE was prepared at the National Agricultural Museum in the Ohrada Chateau (see www.nzm.cz).

In addition to non-formal education through presentations,falconry is part of the secondary and higher education curricula. In secondary forestry schools in Písek, Trutnov and Hranice na Moravě, falconry clubs are active, too. The Mendel University in Brno offers elective course called ”The basics of falconry;“ the Czech Agricultural University in Prague includes falconry in the course on Hunting. To provide education to future falconers, the FC introduced an annual preparatory training course for falconry exam candidates. For education about the element, publications are available, which introduces the principles of falconry and a practice that includes wildlife conservation and the specific language and equipment of falconers.

C.5. Community participation

Falconers participate in safeguarding the element not only by hunting with birds of prey but also through many educational activities during events held by the Falconers´ Club. In addition to the official promotion, professional groups contribute to education about the element through falconry demonstrations and lectures with trained birds of prey - e.g. Zayferus (see www.zayferus.cz). Throughout the year, the falconers participate in numerous falconry events organised by the Falconers´ Club (membership meetings, educational events, hunters´ gatherings). The essential role is played by gatherings of falconers including practical experience of hunting with birds of prey. They include the exchange of experience and knowledge at national and international levels. Falconers operate under the umbrella of the Falconers´ Club which documents the element on an on-going basis.

Hunting associations and unions from across the country help to preserve falconry; in each region, they allow falconers to hunt with birds of prey in their hunting grounds. For safeguarding the element, the collaboration of these entities is of fundamental importance, as evidenced by their participation in a number of falconry gatherings. Many cultural institutions include educational events and discussions combined with practical demonstrations of falconry into their programmes. These programmes are implemented by members of the Falconers´ Club in many museum institutions, e.g. the Museum of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (www.borovansko.cz). The safeguarding of falconry also depends on cooperation with nature conservation and ornithological organisations which is better supported and implemented due to the inscription on the Representative List.

C.6. Institutional context

a) The element bearer is the Czech-Moravian Hunting Union – Falconers´ Club, registered association which gathers falconers, promotes hunting with birds of prey and education of the youth and the general public.

Czech-Moravian Hunting Union – Falconers´ Club, registered association

Chairman: Jiří Veselý

Jungmannova 25

11525, Praha 1

Mailing address

Lešanská 1176/2a

14100, Praha 4

www.sokolnictvi.net

cmmj@cmmj.cz

phone: +420221592961

The Ministry of Agriculture which provides financial and legal protection of the element is its guarantor and proponent.

Ministry of Agriculture

Minister: Marian Jurečka

Těšnov 65/17

11000, Praha

eagri.cz

Phone: +420221811111

info@mze.cz, posta@mze.cz

C.7. Participation of communities in preparing this report

Upon the request of the Ministry of Agriculture as the guarantor and the proponent of the element, the Falconers´ Club was designated to prepare supporting documents for this report via the Czech-Moravian Hunting Union and under its organisational auspices; the Falconers´ Club used information from its archives and, to assess the current status of the element, it cooperated with all regional falconry centres across the country, thanks to which information was included from individual members of the Club, i.e. falconers who were contacted to provide supporting documents. The text was further supplemented and revised by the Czech-Moravian Hunting Union and the Ministry of Agriculture, and reviewed by designated officials of Ministry of Culture and NIFC. In a continuous e-mail communication of all involved stakeholders, each item of the report was reviewed or discussed by all of them and thus the text is a result of the consensus of all stakeholders.

D. SIGNATURE ON BEHALF OF THE STATE

Name: Kateřina Kalistová

Title: Deputy Minister of Culture

Date: 30. 11. 2015

Signature: