



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

Periodic Report

ICH-10 – Form

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

**DEADLINE 15 DECEMBER 2015
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2016**

Instructions for completing the periodic report are available at:

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/forms>

A. COVER SHEET
<p>A.1. State submitting this report</p> <p><i>States non party to the Convention reporting on an element incorporated on the Representative List should indicate the name of the State and mention 'State non party to the Convention'.</i></p>
Austria
<p>A.2. Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession</p> <p><i>This information is available online at www.unesco.org/culture/ich.</i></p>
09-04-2009
<p>A.3. Elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, if any</p> <p><i>Please list all the elements from your country inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List, together with the year of inscription; for multinational elements, please indicate the other States concerned.</i></p>
Not applicable
<p>A.4. Elements inscribed on the Representative List, if any</p> <p><i>Please list all the elements from your country inscribed on the Representative List, together with the year of inscription; for multinational elements, please indicate the other States concerned.</i></p>
<p>1. Falconry, a living human heritage (2012, together with United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic)</p> <p>2. Schemenlaufen, the Carnival of Imst (2012)</p> <p>[3. Classical horsemanship and the High School of the Spanish Riding School Vienna (2015)]</p>

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

Please list all the programmes, projects or activities from your country selected by the Committee on the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices, together with the year of selection; for multinational programmes, please indicate the other States concerned.

Not applicable

A.6. Executive summary of the report

Please provide an executive summary of the report that will allow general readers to understand the overall status of legislative, regulatory and other measures taken at the national level to implement the Convention.

Between 400 and 600 words

Based on the general clause of *Article 15 of the Constitutional Law of Austria*, it is mostly the legal competences of the nine provincial governments (*Länder*) and their cultural promotion acts that are concerned with legal safeguarding measures for intangible cultural heritage¹.

Safeguarding measures have been adopted both on the regional as well as on the federal level since the Austrian ratification of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009. The Federal Chancellery/Arts and Culture Division adopts a coordinating function for the implementation of the Convention. Moreover, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Federal Ministry of Health have also been involved in interdisciplinary safeguarding activities of intangible cultural heritage since the ratification of the Convention.

The Federal Chancellery has entrusted the Austrian Commission for UNESCO (ÖUK) with the implementation of the Convention, including establishing networks with communities, experts and NGOs, carrying out safeguarding measures and awareness-raising activities as well as collecting data about projects, institutions, research and documentation concerning ICH in Austria.

The ÖUK has organised informative meetings and events for specific target groups such as the *Länder*, tourism organisations, minority groups and federal ministries. Moreover, several intersectorial committees and working groups have been set up in order to bring together different stakeholders and to initiate awareness-raising projects related to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. At intergovernmental committee sessions, international meetings and networking initiatives, participants exchanged information and know-how on the different national measures in implementing the Convention. The distribution of information by publications and handbooks has substantially contributed to raise awareness about ICH in Austria.

The implementation process has already contributed to broaden the understanding of intangible cultural heritage on a national level. While ICH was mainly related to domain three, the implementation process (including projects, awareness-raising events, etc.) in general and the National Inventory in particular have raised awareness of the importance of the intangible cultural heritage, particularly with regard to the safeguarding of traditional knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe as well as traditional craftsmanship, which has further promoted mutual respect among communities.

The broad interest is underlined by an unexpectedly huge press and media coverage on the Convention and the National Inventory. However, there is still potential for capacity-building measures in order to raise the number of facilitators, specialists and research in the field of ICH. Thus, capacity-building activities are and will be a priority of Austria over the next years.

¹ Henceforth referred to as ICH.

A.7. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning the report.

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B. MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION

Throughout part B below, 'measures' refers to the appropriate legislative, regulatory, technical, administrative and financial measures undertaken by the State, or fostered by the State and undertaken by civil society, including communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals. The State should describe, wherever relevant, its efforts to ensure the widest possible participation of communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage, and to involve them actively in its management (Article 15 of the Convention). The State is encouraged to seek the participation of relevant non-governmental organizations in the preparation of the report and to include their contribution and data provided in the appropriate sections.

B.1. Institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

Report on the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, as described in Article 13 of the Convention and paragraph 154 of the Operational Directives.

B.1a Competent bodies for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

Each State shall 'designate or establish one or more competent bodies for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory' (Article 13). Please identify such a body or bodies and provide complete contact information.

In Austria, the Federal Chancellery/Arts and Culture Division adopts a coordinating function for the implementation of the Convention since the Austrian ratification in 2009 (approved by the Austrian Parliament as well as by the Federal Council).

The ÖUK has been entrusted with the national implementation of the Convention. An Advisory Panel for the ICH was formed in 2009 that comprises altogether 23 representatives from five Federal Ministries, the Departments for Culture of the nine federal provinces and ten scientific experts from the fields of cultural, social and natural sciences. All members participate on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, a Programme Specialist for ICH has been appointed to ensure the implementation of the Convention and to assist the panel.

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

Identify any such institutions created, fostered or strengthened by the State and provide complete contact information.

The Federal Republic of Austria represents a federal-centralised political system where the Federal State (*Bund*) is in charge of key tasks such as federal legislation, external and defence policies as well as ordinary jurisdiction. The Republic is divided into nine federal provinces (*Länder*), which are also vested with legislative and executive powers. This means that while the 2003 Convention was ratified by the Federal State, the *Länder* are also in charge of the implementation of the Convention. Thus, effective coordination among different institutions/bodies is essential. By now, no specific institution has exclusively been created for training in ICH management. However, federal ministries as well as provincial governments have (financially) supported institutions which foster training in ICH management. A special focus has been put on domain four and five, i.e. the safeguarding of traditional craftsmanship and knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, for example:

- The element “Local healing knowledge in the Pinzgau region” has been inscribed in the National Inventory in 2010. The practitioners are now offering adult education in the field of Traditional European Medicine at the largest further education partner for Austrian businesses, the Austrian Institute for Economic Promotion (WIFI): http://www.noef.wifi.at/kursinfo/13013/TEH-Praktiker_Folder_2015_WEB.pdf.
- Provincial governments of the nine *Länder* of Austria have provided financial support to specific projects, such as regional centres of craftsmanship which provide training for stakeholders and promote their ICH on national and international levels. For example, the provincial government of Upper Austria supported the renovation of a centre for craftsmanship in the Salzkammergut (*Handwerkhaus Bad Goisern*) and financially supports the *Textile Centre in Haslach* which cooperates with universities and international specialists from the field of textiles; the provincial government of Vorarlberg is a donor of a platform for craftsmanship in the Western part of Austria, the *Werkraum Bregenzerwald*.

Another institution focusing on ICH management is IKES (an association for the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the area of Salzkammergut), which aims at safeguarding ICH through informing the public (including tourists) about local traditions. IKES also provides advisory services regarding the inscription procedure for the National Inventory: <http://www.ikes.eu/>

ICH has also entered tertiary education. The Departments of Ethnography and Anthropology at the University of Vienna are offering courses on intangible cultural heritage. In 2015, the ÖUK offered a series lecture about ICH in Austria in cooperation with the University of Vienna. The lecture was held at the [Austrian museum of folk life and folk art](#). Since the venue displays collections of traditional folk culture of Austria and its neighboring countries, the students gained additional insights and hand-on learning. Moreover, the Alpen-Adria-University has initiated a transdisciplinary project on cultural sustainability of agricultural and artisanal practices for the cultivation and processing of crops with the aim to document and safeguard local knowledge and practices; besides schools, local communities and association, the ÖUK is one of the project partners (project description: <http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/iff/ogi/inhalt/2192.htm>)

Austria has further adopted tourism strategies which emphasise the advantage of intangible

cultural heritage as a driver of sustainable development, for example for the strengthening of local economies. Apart from cooperation with the Austrian National Tourist Office, a UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage and Tourism has been established at the University of Salzburg with the aim to provide support and feedback from scientific monitoring and research to stakeholders and to internationally oriented work on heritage, tourism and cultural studies. The researchers assess the impacts of tourism on the intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development with regard to benefits and drawbacks, chances and threats.

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B.1c Documentation institutions for intangible cultural heritage

Identify any such institutions established by the State and provide complete contact information; describe any measures taken by the State to facilitate access to them.

In Austria, documentation of ICH is an ongoing process. The Austrian Commission has launched a website for the ICH in Austria which is maintained by the ÖUK. The website gains access to the National Inventory of ICH and is updated on a regular basis. It is available in German and English with the aim to identify, make accessible and foster public awareness of ICH as well as to promote and popularise these practices: <http://immaterielleskulturerbe.unesco.at/en/>

A new website is currently developed which will be launched in 2016. Apart from the website, the National Inventory is also released in a hardcopy publication format.

In 2011, a *Documentation Centre for traditional and complementary healing methods in Austria* (focal area “Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe”) has been established headed by Michaela Noseck-Licul. The Federal Ministry of Health as well as the UNIQA insurance company funded the preceding survey as well as the establishment of the centre: <http://www.cam-tm.com/de/index.htm>

The *Austrian Volksliedwerk* collects, documents and mediates the musical cultural heritage of Austria from the past and present. The institute is supported by Federal Ministries as well as provincial governments and cooperates with archives and numerous partners from the field of cultural policies. <http://www.volksliedwerk.at/>;

Phone: 0043 1 512 63 35 or E-Mail: office@volksliedwerk.at

Moreover, museums and archives document different aspects of ICH as well, e.g. the [Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk art](#), the [Phonogrammarchiv](#) (Audiovisual Research and Documentation) as well as numerous open-air museums (“Freilichtmuseum”) throughout Austria. Museums are financially supported by the federal as well as provincial government.

B.2. Inventories

Please report on the inventory or inventories of the intangible cultural heritage present in your State's territory, as referred to in Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention and paragraph 153 of the Operational Directives. You may include information on:

- a. the name of each inventory and the entity responsible for it;
- b. the ordering principles used for structuring your inventory(ies). For example: according to communities/groups of tradition bearers; domains of intangible cultural heritage; territorial principles (national, regional, local), etc.;
- c. the criteria used for inclusion of intangible cultural heritage elements in your inventory(ies);
- d. whether your inventory(ies) take(s) into account the viability of intangible cultural heritage (for example, intangible cultural heritage threatened by disappearance, in need of urgent safeguarding, etc.);
- e. the format/approach of your inventory(ies);
- f. the method and frequency for updating inventory(ies);
- g. the ways in which communities are involved in identifying and defining intangible cultural heritage to be included in the inventory(ies), and in their preparation and updating;
- h. the participation of relevant non-governmental organizations in identifying and defining intangible cultural heritage.

Between 500 and 1000 words

In 2010, the ÖUK launched the *Verzeichnis des immateriellen Kulturerbes in Österreich* (**National Inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Austria**) which is considered one of the main safeguarding activities.

- a. The National Inventory is compiled "bottom up" and maintained by the ÖUK. An Advisory Panel for the Safeguarding of ICH in Austria meets twice a year to evaluate nominations against the criteria and to inscribe new elements.
- b. The general structure of the Austrian Inventory relates to the five domains of intangible cultural heritage as defined by the 2003 Convention. When searching for elements in the online database, visitors can further select "province" i.e. the nine *Länder* as well as "year of admission" if they wish to restrict their search results.
- c. Criteria for inclusion were established in the course of the ratification process (2006-9) and are based on the definitions of ICH in Article 2. Over the last years, the advisory panel added some clarifications:
 - the element is recognised as ICH as part of the cultural heritage of communities, groups or individuals who are clearly identifiable, who are informed about and support the nomination, e.g. local communities (including communities from other local areas who also recognise the element as part of their cultural heritage), minorities, professional or interest groups, etc. Thus, events and cultural happenings which are not recognised as ICH of an identifiable community, group or an individual are not inscribed.
 - the element has been transmitted across (at least) three generations and is still practiced (revived traditions are not inscribed)
 - the element is not misused for political and economic purposes
 - the element is not merely practised for touristic or economic purposes
 - the element is not revived

Applicants must also provide evidence for the widest possible participation, involvement and prior informed consent of concerned communities, groups or individuals if applicable. The

Advisory Panel for ICH is entrusted with the assessment of the eligibility of applications. Although the number of research papers examining the National Inventory is on the rise, monitoring of listed elements is still challenging. Recurring topics of discussion include gender equality, religious practices, involvement of animals (i.e. animal welfare) and sustainable development (i.e. fishing, hunting). Since the implementation process is ongoing, criteria may be revised, added or even deleted.

- d. Austria has not created a list comparable with the UNESCO List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. Nonetheless, the application form contains questions regarding the status and viability of the element including risk factors. Applicants are further encouraged to mention safeguarding measures that have already been undertaken.
The Austrian nomination form is based on the UNESCO form (Representative List) adjusted to national level. Application material (including examples of good practice nominations, guidelines and criteria for inscription) is available to download from <http://immaterielleskulturerbe.unesco.at/>. The applicants are asked for two letters of recommendation describing the practice and its current status. The status of the elements was also examined in a broad survey conducted among all tradition bearers (see B.2.g). Results show that the inscription had mainly positive effects in terms of strengthening the viability and visibility of the elements.
- e. The process of drawing up the National Inventory is ongoing. Communities, groups as well as individuals are invited and encouraged to propose cultural practices and expressions for inscription. Applicants are further asked to submit a duly completed application form, two letters of recommendation from scientific experts confirming that the element fulfils the criteria (see B.2.c), audio/video documentation as well as an evidence of free, prior and informed consent signed by the involved communities, groups or individuals, if applicable.
- f. Nominations are accepted throughout the year. The panel meets twice a year to assess the forms and to decide whether to inscribe the submitted element, to refer the nomination to applicants and to invite them to resubmit the file with additional information or not to inscribe the submitted element. The panel further decides whether or not to propose national elements for inscription on the Convention's Lists.
Currently, the Austrian Inventory contains 86 elements from all domains and is made available to the public via an online database launched in 2010 which provides information about the elements including descriptions and pictures; the online database is updated on a regular basis and also offers information about current activities regarding ICH related activities in Austria. The inventory is also released in a publication format containing all elements, description and pictures. Depending on the number of new entries, the brochure is updated and published either annually or biennially by the ÖUK.
- g. As mentioned above, communities, groups and/or individuals are invited to apply for inscription which shall guarantee an active involvement of practitioners/tradition bearers in the implementation process. Since the nomination is initiated by the communities themselves, members are not only aware of their role as practitioners but also consider the importance of the documentation and safeguarding of ICH. The new entries are officially presented at ceremonies which take place once or twice a year (depending on the number of new entries).
In order to understand the effects of inscription and maintain the contact with the tradition bearers, the ÖUK conducted a broad survey between 2013 and 2015. The main objectives were to learn if the element is still practised and what safeguarding measures have been adopted (if any). It becomes evident from the results that the inscription has led to an increased visibility of and greater respect towards ICH in Austria. Elements have received heightened attention, which has not become a threat to the practices (yet) but rather increased the tradition bearers' sense of identity.
As a next step, Austria intends to deliver training and capacity building measures for the *Länder* in order to increase the number of facilitators on scientific, community as well as governmental level.
- h. Compiling the proposal requires knowhow, expertise and time. The applicants are therefore

often supported by associations and organisations (e.g. *Austrian Volksliedwerk*, *Austrian Music Council*, etc.) Furthermore, several NGOs (on national as well as local levels) have nominated elements for inscription (e.g. *Arche Noah*: “Knowledge of traditional seed cultivation and production” or *Leader Region Innviertel and Pramtal*: “Innviertler Landler”).

B.3. Other safeguarding measures

Describe legislative, regulatory and other measures, including those referred to in Article 13 of the Convention and paragraph 153 of the Operational Directives, aimed at:

- a. adopting a general policy aimed at promoting the function of intangible cultural heritage in society and integrating its safeguarding into planning programmes;*
- b. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;*
- c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to intangible cultural heritage while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.*

Between 500 and 2000 words

a. It is mostly the legal competences of the nine *Länder* and their cultural promotion acts that are concerned with legislative safeguarding measures and policies for the intangible cultural heritage. Each province retains the capacity to implement them within their own territory. Such a fragmented distribution of competences requires a coherent and inclusive institutional approach to safeguarding ICH (besides inventory-making which is complementary). Numerous safeguarding initiatives have been adopted both on the regional as well as on the national level since the Austrian ratification of the Convention in 2009. Austria continues to develop the legislative context required for safeguarding ICH in various ways in order to respond to the requirements of the 2003 Convention.

In 2006 - three years before ratification - the Austrian Federal Chancellery/Arts and Culture Division (former Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture) has established a focal point for ICH within the ÖUK to accompany the ratification process. Since the ratification in 2009, the ÖUK has been entrusted with the administrative coordination of the implementation involving inventory making, awareness-raising for the safeguarding, transmitting and promoting ICH in Austria. The ÖUK has appointed a programme specialist for ICH who informs the public about ICH, seeks to promote the potentials of ICH as a tool to increase mutual respect, to enhance self-responsibility and personal competences as well as to strengthen local economy. Apart from the regular updating of the Austrian Inventory of ICH, the priority areas of the national implementation have been domains 4 and 5.

Apart from the Federal Chancellery, ICH is also represented in and (financially) supported by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Federal Ministry of Health which underlines the highly interdisciplinary approach towards ICH in Austria. Furthermore, intergovernmental committees and working groups have been established to initiate awareness-raising projects related to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (predominantly with regard to domain 4, e.g. ICH and natural hazards, ICH and forestry, etc.).

The establishment of a “Documentation Centre for Traditional and Complementary Healing Methods” in 2011 - with a view to ensuring the documentation of and an ongoing scientific exchange - was the result of joint forces of the ÖUK and relevant federal ministries (the Federal Chancellery/ Arts and Culture Division, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management) as well as practitioners of traditional healing methods, pharmacists and other groups concerned. The establishment of the centre was financially supported by the UNIQUA insurance company.

In 2012, the ÖUK presented the importance and potentials of ICH with regard to national tourism at the conference on tourism in Schladming (Salzburg), which was initiated by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy.

Since the adoption of the Convention, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and

Water Management has founded three different working groups that are related to ICH (Forestry & Culture, Forest & Health, Forest Dialogue); the ÖUK is regularly appointed to hold lectures and provide training for course participants; workshops on ICH and forestry draw attention to the interrelations between forest and culture, forest and health, forest and religion, etc.

The provincial government of Vorarlberg has employed a new commission in 2014 entitled “Commission for Cultural Heritage and Regional Studies” which fosters exchange about the status and conditions of the province’s cultural heritage, funding opportunities and individual traditions from Vorarlberg.

The provincial government of Styria offers support regarding Styrian nominations for inscription on the National Inventory. The information is made available to the public online through the governmental website: <http://www.volkskultur.steiermark.at/cms/beitrag/11541520/68662898>

The provincial government of Upper Austria has drawn particular attention to ICH in 2015 through a series of events and exhibitions entitled *Distinguished Treasures: Cultural Heritage of Upper Austria* which has contributed to greater recognition of the Convention and specific traditions. The ÖUK supported the provincial government by establishing contacts between government and communities, by providing information about the elements and promoting the events.

The provincial government of Burgenland has promoted ICH through a TV series in 2012 entitled *Schatzkiste Burgenland* (the treasure chest of Burgenland). 44 episodes introduced regional practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills as well as the aims and backgrounds of the 2003 Convention and the meaning of cultural heritage for society.

The National Inventory of ICH in Austria contains elements from minority groups (e.g. “Roman-the language of the Romani people of Burgenland”, “Songs of the Lovara”, “Slovene field and house names in Carinthia” or the “Austrian Sign Language”). The inscription of these elements have led to greater recognition and respect towards linguistic minorities in Austria (illustrated, for instance, by the exhibition “Romane Thana: places of Roma and Sinti in Vienna” at Wien Museum.) With regard to cultural and linguistic minorities, Austria emphasises the important role of ICH to provide communities as well as individuals with a strong sense of identity as well as to promote the principles of cultural diversity and inclusivity in Austria. This linkage between language and culture is well-appreciated by both, communities and state bodies.

b. Research on ICH and its safeguarding takes different forms and addresses the topic from various angles in Austria. Federal ministries have encouraged scientific research in the area of intangible cultural heritage, e.g. by financially supporting research projects in the fields of traditional healing methods, ICH and tourism or cultural sustainability.

A research survey on traditional craftsmanship as ICH and economic factor in Austria, initiated in 2014 by the ÖUK in cooperation with the Austrian Economic Chamber and funded by the Federal Chancellery/Arts and Culture Division and the Ministry of Science, Research and Economy provides information on the status of traditional crafts (including training possibilities) in Austria and it also highlights the cultural and economic potentials of traditional craftsmanship and its innovative capacities. The study aims at contributing to the safeguarding of ICH with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Convention as articulated in Article 13.c. Austrian craftsmen and –women have been strongly involved in the research study regarding the situation and status of traditional craftsmanship in Austria and appreciated the efforts of official institutions to safeguard their practical knowledge. Results will be published and presented in 2016.

An interdisciplinary and intergenerational project is conducted at the Alpen Adria University. The project is entitled “BrotZeit/BreadTime” and focuses on the cultural sustainability and the manifold agricultural and manual practices of the cultivation and processing of grains and the production of bread. The goal of the project is the analysis, protection and documentation of local knowledge and practice related to the ICH of “Bread from the Lesach Valley”. The inscription of the element “bread-making in the Lesach valley” in 2010 laid the ground for the project. Suitable means of communication and performance are being developed and realised in collaboration with the community, local activists as well as experts from the fields of sociology, education, history and landscape planning. The project itself is trans-disciplinary through collaboration with schools, communities and local associations.

Furthermore, the number of student papers (on undergraduate as well as postgraduate level) engaging with ICH is rising. Research studies tend to focus either on the impact of the ratification of the Convention on a national level or on the impact of inscription on individual traditions (entries as well as unsuccessful nominations). The ÖUK supports (national and international)

researchers and provide them with general and specific information. Since most papers are based on field research (thereby including interviews with the involved tradition bearer), they have become a highly relevant means of information. Members of the Advisory Panel for ICH also promote and support research studies about ICH among their students. The ÖUK collects these studies and informs the Advisory Panel about the (influential) results.

In cooperation with the Department of Anthropology/University of Vienna, the ÖUK organised a lecture series about ICH in 2015 which was open to the public. The series with international guest lecturers examined the interactions between culture, politics and economy as well as the role of ICH in tourism and regional development in Austria. The lectures were met with great interest from students, lecturers but also the general public. Contents and results will be published in 2016, a sequel is already in the process of planning.

Moreover, Austria has organised a number of research conferences with a focus on domain 4, e.g. traditional healing methods and traditions together with the Association of Natural Medicine in Europe (ANME) and the Federal Ministry of Health (in 2010), on the interrelations between forestry and culture in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (since 2008) and also on the impact of traditional knowledge regarding natural hazards and natural disasters in the Alpine Space.

c. Information about ICH is distributed through the online platform but also through leaflets, brochures, handbooks and other publications which are also funded by the Federal Government. The implementation in general and the launch of the National Inventory in particular has evoked an unexpectedly strong press and media response in Austria. The ÖUK collects these reports (print and online) and has analysed, evaluated and published them annually. Before the ratification and implementation of the Convention, ICH has been predominantly linked to folk culture, i.e. the third domain as defined by the Convention. Within the last six years, however, and by putting great emphasis on domain four and five, awareness has been raised about local knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship. It is clear from the media reports, that the public is highly interested in these fields. Thus, the implementation of the Convention has certainly ensured greater recognition of and respect for ICH and the communities involved therein.

Moreover, the Austrian National Public Service Broadcast Media (*ORF*) reports about ICH on a regular basis. For example, the radio channel Ö1, for instance, has launched a series on the role of ICH for identity-building including interviews with the practitioners, experts and scholars. Moreover, several regional studios of the *ORF* television channel have focused on ICH in the provinces. Burgenland broadcasted a whole series entitled *Treasure Chest Burgenland* ("Schatzkiste Burgenland") in 2011.

Apart from media releases, ICH and tourism is another focal area of the ÖUK and has received great interest from public authorities as well. In 2010, for instance, the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy financially supported a study entitled "Touristic Realisation of the National List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Austria" which sought to prepare a calendar of ICH events, occasions and programmes organised by communities, clubs and bodies and led grounds for a cooperation between the ÖUK and the Austrian National Tourist Office in 2011, i.e. "Passion for Tradition". The aim of this project was to create a platform for networking between tourism experts and local players in order to develop a joint strategy for sustainable tourism. Subsequently, 38 traditions were selected from the Austrian Inventory to be promoted online (<http://www.austria.info/uk/passion-for-tradition>) and in print, including information on ICH, videos and a calendar of events. The ÖUK informed the concerned communities and tradition bearers about the project and obtained their consent. The ÖUK further ensured that the activities demonstrate all due respect to safeguarding the ICH and to the rights and wishes of the tradition bearers. Overall, the project ensured better visibility of ICH and thus contributed to the objectives of the Convention. Moreover, the impact and risks of tourism on the safeguarding of ICH are recurring topics of discussion of the Advisory Panel as well. Consequently, the UNESCO Chair "Cultural heritage and Tourism" was established at the University of Salzburg in 2011. Amongst others, the objectives of the Chair are to provide support and feedback from scientific monitoring and research to stakeholders and to internationally-oriented work on heritage, tourism and cultural studies, in line with UNESCO's Conventions on cultural heritage and to develop greater awareness of the public on the linkages between cultural heritage and tourism, as well as identify examples of good practices. Finally, the survey amongst tradition-bearers (conducted by the ÖUK in 2015) shows that communities are aware about potential risks related to tourism. Most of them

(almost 80 per cent), however, do not expect negative consequences but rather appreciate the increased visibility which has attracted the interest of young people in many cases.

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

Describe legislative, regulatory and other measures taken to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those referred to in Article 14 of the Convention and paragraph 155 of the Operational Directives:

- a. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular to young people (you may for example specify whether intangible cultural heritage is integrated, and how, in school curricula);*
- b. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;*
- c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;*
- d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge (you may address, for example, how non-formal ways of transmission are perceived and recognized by the general public and at national level);*
- e. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.*

Between 500 and 1000 words

a. In Austria, ICH as a subject area has not been included in the national school curriculum although the topic is integrated into classroom teaching, e.g. subjects like local history, music education or school arts and crafts activities. Some elements from the National Inventory are included in different education programmes, e.g. the *Gunsmith's craft* in Ferlach is trained at the local vocational school and college, the *Schemenlaufen, the carnival of Imst* is a mandatory topic in the local elementary, a project in Vorarlberg engaged with local *field names* after inscription in 2010, the interdisciplinary project "BreadTime" focuses on the safeguarding of local knowledge and practice related to bread making (see B.3). Additionally, the ÖUK (together with tradition bearers) presented the objectives and possibilities of UNESCO in general and the aims of the 2003 Convention at the Austrian universities' summer event entitled "Children's University". On a regular basis, ICH is also a focal point of the annual conferences and meetings of the "UNESCO Associated Schools in Austria". In a nation-wide school project entitled "Cultural Heritage: Tradition with a future", organised by the Federal Chancellery, the Federal Monuments Office and the ÖUK, more than 2100 pupils from 59 schools worked with and learned about monuments, World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage (these projects were documented and collected by the ÖUK).

Regarding adult education, informative events have raised awareness about ICH in general, the main objectives of the Convention, the implementation process in Austria and national focal areas (i.e. domain 4 and 5). These events have also drawn attention to the interrelations between ICH and other areas, such as World Heritage, forestry, natural hazards, etc. As far as possible, representatives of the ÖUK participate in festivals, press conferences, public awarding ceremonies for the inclusion of new elements or local community meetings. Numerous festivals and events were conducted under the auspices of UNESCO in order to enhance visibility of the event and to underline the importance of ICH for society including, amongst others, *Mensch.Kultur.Pflanze* ("mankind.culture.plant.") organised by [Arche Noah](#), "Managing Alpine Future: Inspire and drive sustainable mountain regions" organised by [alpS](#), the 1st European Herb Gathering, the theatre project "Slobodija Odysseia, Mon Amour!" based on the experiences of Roma communities, or "VOLKS.KULTUR.LANDSCHAFT - Cultural landscapes and sound landscapes at the UNESCO World Heritage Sites".

b. Austria supported several focal subjects focusing on education and training programmes regarding the safeguarding of ICH, e.g.

The ÖUK organised an international conference for midwives in 2009 together with the hospital

Göttlicher Heiland, the Ethnographical Museum and the Austrian Ethnomedical Society which brought together experts from the fields of obstetrics, medicine and culture. Participants discussed the importance of traditional knowledge concerning pregnancy, birthing and parenting and how to improve its visibility. The nomination for inscription is in progress. In 2010, an international conference on the practice and transmission of traditional medicine was organised by the ÖUK together with the Association of Natural Medicine in Europe in order to establish a network of European experts and practitioners in the field of traditional healing methods.

The lecture series on ICH, which was held in 2015 in Vienna, was attended not only by students but also by tradition bearers who willingly exchanged and shared their experience (after inscription) with the students.

In 2009, the ÖUK, the University of Salzburg and the Institute of Interdisciplinary Tourism Research held the 11th Tourism Forum, supported by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy entitled “ICH and tourism: rituals, traditions, staging”. Professionals from the field of culture and tourism as well as researchers discussed the impact of tourism on the safeguarding of ICH.

Although Austria’s dual education system puts great emphasis on quality vocational training, numbers of apprentices are steadily declining. Thus, Austria puts strong efforts on ensuring the viability of traditional craftsmanship. The research study conducted in 2015 contains a number of safeguarding measures which are to be implemented in the following years. Moreover, regional centres for craftsmanship ([Hand.Werk.Haus](#), [Textiles Zentrum Haslach](#), [WerkRaum](#)) are also putting great emphasis on educational programmes and training and offer courses on all education levels, i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary.

Furthermore, the Austrian Falconry Association (ÖFB) has established a Falconry Academy which offers theoretical and practical courses 2-3 times a year. The Academy also plays an important role in preparing aspiring falconers for the falconry exam, which is a legal requirement for practising falconry in some provinces in Austria.

c. There have been a number of informative events aimed at special target groups (such as representatives from the *Länder*, tourism organisations, minority groups or students) to enhance the number of facilitators on local levels, to raise awareness about ICH and to promote the benefits of ICH for society based on cultural diversity and mutual respect, e.g.:

In 2010, the ÖUK, the former Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and the Departments for Culture of the nine *Länder* organised a workshop about ICH for state culture officers in Upper Austria to exchange information and experience about safeguarding ICH. The important role of Romani culture in Austria was emphasised at the *European Forum Wachau* in 2010, which discussed cultural measures within the scope of a planned EU strategy for the Danube region.

Capacity-building measures will be a priority area over the next years since more expertise is needed, in particular with regard to monitoring and ICH management. The idea is to encourage scientific research in the field of ICH as well as to increase the number of facilitators on provincial levels who are familiar with local ICH.

d. Non-formal means of knowledge transfer are still popular which can be seen, for instance, by the unbroken popularity of folk culture events (including folk music and folk dance performances). Moreover, the number of centres for craftsmanship - which put great emphasis on educational programmes and training - is rising. In cooperation with schools and universities, many centres (involving the communities of craftsmen and –women) offer lectures, courses, weekend and summer schools as well as postgraduate training for adults. They seek to foster public debates, awareness and greater enhancement of traditional craftsmanship.

e. There are several open-air museums in Austria which aim at the documentation and preservation of material related to ICH, e.g. from the field of traditional craftsmanship, from the way-of-life of communities, folk architecture, etc. Moreover, the interrelations between World Heritage and ICH have been recurring topics at national and international workshops. For example, in a meeting of the German-speaking NatComs in 2014, participants were introduced to the Hallstatt World Heritage Site and the cultural landscape of the Salzkammergut region. In the course of the meeting, attendants also visited the *Hand.Werk.Haus* in Bad Bad Goisern (as a

means to safeguard traditional craftsmanship).

Moreover, the ÖUK receives funding from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management to highlight the interrelations between nature and culture as well as the importance of traditional knowledge about natural hazards. Austria seeks to foster interdisciplinary collaborations in this area in order to find new approaches towards sustainable resource management. Several elements on the National Inventory are linked to natural spaces (e.g. knowledge concerning hazel spruce as tonewood, charcoal burning, pitch extraction, knowledge of traditional seed cultivation, etc.). The ÖUK has thus held lectures and provided training to increase awareness about these interrelations, for example at a conference on “Endangered crops and their varieties as a tangible and intangible cultural heritage” in 2010.

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

Report on measures taken at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including measures of international cooperation such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 of the Convention and paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives. You may, for example, consider the following issues:

- a. sharing documentation concerning an element of intangible cultural heritage present on the territory of another State Party (paragraph 87 of the Operational Directives);*
- b. participating in activities pertaining to regional cooperation including for example those of Category II centres for intangible cultural heritage that are or will be established under the auspices of UNESCO (paragraph 88 of the Operational Directives);*
- c. development of networks of communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at sub-regional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning the elements of intangible cultural heritage they have in common (paragraph 86 of the Operational Directives).*

Not to exceed 1000 words

Austria enjoys good relations with other State Parties. There is a particular high level of exchange between the ÖUK and NatComs from neighbouring countries. Since the establishment of the online NatCom-platform, ICH programme specialists from all over Europe exchange experience, good practices but also (recurring) challenges.

At regular statutory meetings of the State Parties, Austria has closely followed the activities and decisions of the Intergovernmental Committee and has acted correspondingly on the national level. Other State Parties have showed great interest in the Austrian approach towards inventory making which was thus presented at various workshops, informative events or expert meetings. Austria supported and advised Germany in its ratification proceedings from 2011-2013 with an intense exchange of experience and good practice (e.g. presentations about the Austrian implementation process at an expert meeting in Berlin 2011, an in-depth workshop for representatives of the *Länder* and experts in 2013, invitation and participation of the German Commission for UNESCO to meetings of the Austrian Advisory Panel). Moreover, the Austrian inventorying approach was further discussed at the 5th meeting of the expert South-East European Experts on ICH network in Serbia where the Austrian inscription of the language of the Roma minority was highlighted as a good practice example.

Representatives of Austria further attended several international expert workshops and conferences for informative and advisory purposes as well as to exchange good practices, e.g.

2009: During the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Bonn (Germany), the ÖUK laid foundation to the organisation of a special event entitled “Synergies between ICH and ESD” in order to highlight the close link between sustainability and ICH.

2009: The ÖUK organised an interregional workshop in Vienna together with the Section on ICH at UNESCO Paris to discuss national strategies on how to strengthen awareness of ICH at national and international levels entitled: “UNESCO Public Information Plan at international and national levels: Planning, implementation and evaluation of a joint HQ-Field Office-NatCom

strategy”

2010: The ÖUK presented the Austrian implementation strategies at a workshop in Bratislava organised by the Slovak Traditional Dance Theatre and the Slovak Intangible Heritage Centre entitled “Protection of Cultural Heritage”

Jan 2010: The ÖUK participated in an international expert workshop in Viet Tri regarding the question whether YOAN singing should be proposed for inscription on ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding

2011: Austria shared its experiences regarding national implementation approaches and activities with representatives of UNESCO and some member states in Québec City (Canada) regarding copyright issues and traditional knowledge, touristic use of ICH and the denial of communities to be included in a list;

2011: The ÖUK shared experience regarding the implementation of the 2003 Convention at the international conference on “Tradition and Cultural Heritage: Challenges for Creativity and Performance” in Ljubljana (Slovenia)

2013: stock-taking exercises in Chengdu (China) organised by the Ministry of Culture of the PR of China and the provincial government of Sichuan;

2013: The ÖUK presented the Austrian method of inventorying at an international meeting in Ljubljana and discussed national strategies of inventory making organised by the Slovenian Ethnographic Museum

2013: Austria presented good practices regarding implementation at Matej-Bel University in Slovakia with a special focus on domain 4 of ICH

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Convention, Austria organised an international workshop on implementation processes in June 2013. Experts from Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland met for an exchange of experience in Vienna. Points of discussion included national approaches to implementation and thematic priorities with a view to further cooperative ventures (particularly with regard to multilateral, cross-border nominations and projects). For a practical view, participants were introduced to Indigo hand block printing in Burgenland (inscribed in 2010) by the practitioners in their shop.

Over the last years, a number of regional centres for craftsmanship have been established in Austria. All of them are members of international networks and maintain international collaborations and cooperation. These centres are developing networks of communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes which shall restore a positive image of traditional craftsmanship in Austria.

In the course of preparing the multinational nomination *Falconry, a living human heritage*, the National Commissions for UNESCO as well as tradition bearers were put in contact with each other, which enabled international cooperation, and further contributed to the international visibility of a common living heritage. The survey among tradition bearers conducted between 2013 and 2015 has shown that inscription on the National Inventory has evoked ideas regarding multinational nominations for the Representative List. The exchange with practitioners from other countries has further encouraged respect for cultural diversity as well as it contributed to strengthening intercultural dialogue. This means that practitioners - including communities, NGO associations as well as experts – cultivate contacts with their counterparts in other countries on an individual basis and maintain transnational networks, e.g. between the Austrian Folk Dance Movement and the French Festivity Noz. In some cases, the inscription has led to the establishment of transborder networks, e.g. between European timber raftsmen and -women or between jew’s harp players worldwide. Concrete plans for multinational nominations have lead grounds for exchange and contributed to an increased visibility of ICH.

C. STATUS OF ELEMENTS INSCRIBED ON THE REPRESENTATIVE LIST

Please complete all points below for each element of intangible cultural heritage present in the State's territory that has been inscribed on the Representative List. Refer to the nomination file as the basis for reporting on the **current** status of the element and report only on relevant changes since the date of inscription on the List or since the last report. Nomination files and earlier reports are available at www.unesco.org/culture/ich or on request at the Secretariat.

The State Party shall pay special attention to the role of gender and shall endeavour to ensure the widest possible participation of the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned as well as relevant non-governmental organizations during the process of preparation of each report, and is asked in point C.7 below to describe how it has done so.

Name of element: Falconry

Inscribed in : 2012

C.1. Social and cultural functions

Explain the social and cultural functions and meanings of the element today, within and for its community, the characteristics of the bearers and practitioners, and any specific roles or categories of persons with special responsibilities towards the element, among others. Attention should be given to any relevant changes related to inscription criterion R.1 ('the element constitutes intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention').

Between 150 and 250 words

Falconry is the traditional activity of keeping and training birds of prey to take quarry in its natural state, and has been practised for more than 4000 years. Falconry has been an integral part of Austrian culture for centuries and is expressed in multiple cultural domains, in particular social practices, rituals and festive events, as well as transferring knowledge. Modes of transmission include education of falconers and the general public about traditional skills, knowledge about the biology and behaviour of birds of prey and the environment, traditional craftsmanship related to the production of traditional falconry equipment, as well as linguistic and artistic expressions.

The Austrian falconry community seeks to reinforce and strengthen the cultural values, traditions and ethics of falconry via strong mutual support. Everyone can join the community regardless of age, gender, race, religion, of social or linguistic backgrounds. The community bond between falconers (on a national as well as international level) has become stronger since the inscription of falconry. The inscription has further contributed to the safeguarding of the element by strengthening the falconers' sense of identity. Since the inscription of the element, communities are more aware of their role as tradition bearers and the cultural element of the tradition is foregrounded. In addition, recognition of falconry as ICH has increased acceptance in society.

Due to the multinational nomination, there is a regular exchange between the different communities involved. Thus, the inscription has also strengthened international cooperation and dialogue.

C.2. Assessment of its viability and current risks

Describe the current level of viability of the element, particularly the frequency and extent of its practice, the strength of traditional modes of transmission, the demographics of practitioners and audiences and its sustainability. Please also identify and describe the threats, if any, to the element's continued transmission and enactment and describe the severity and immediacy of such threats.

Between 150 and 250 words

The current state of Austrian falconry is viable and sustainable. There are no apparent threats to the element's continued transmission. Falconers are trained at the Falconry Academy of the Austrian Falconers Association and via traditional handing down of knowledge within the falconer families. Each year, a healthy number of young apprentice falconers pass the falconry exams. The continued transmission of the element to new generations is further secured through several other safeguarding measures, such as the opening of the Austrian Archives of Falconry or the development of an Austrian Falconers Codex.

In Austria, the increased media coverage of the element has had largely positive effects for the public recognition of Falconry. Inscription has given falconry recognition, prestige, and extensive media coverage. Since inscription, the number of members has increased by 12%. The annual Falconers meetings in Austria (traditionally coordinated with other scheduled meetings in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary) attract a large number (150+) of falconers from numerous neighbouring countries. These meetings usually also feature workshops (ethics, conservation, practical education, etc.), which have enjoyed a sharp increase in popularity. For many centuries, the falconry community has benefited from an extensive inter-cultural exchange of knowledge. This exchange has been intensifying since the inscription on the RL. Austria's Falconry community also showed a very strong presence at the International Falconry Festivals (Abu Dhabi & UK) with an average of 45 members actively participating.

Because Austrian falconry heavily depends on a fully intact ecological balance, healthy populations of quarry species and of falconry grounds, any changes in the ecological balance in the environment e.g. through intensive industrial scale agriculture or loss of habitat, pose a threat to the element. The Falconry community is quick to notice problems in the environment and is trying its very best to counteract any negative developments.

C.3. Contribution to the goals of the List

Describe how the inscription of the element has contributed to ensuring visibility of the intangible cultural heritage and raising awareness at the local, national and international levels of its importance. Explain how its inscription has contributed to promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity, and mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals.

Between 150 and 250 words

The inscription of Falconry significantly raised the visibility of ICH in Austria. Falconry is a multi-faceted heritage element. It embodies knowledge, practice, handicrafts, art - and is also a way of life.

Despite the already exemplary community bond between Austrian falconers across all genders, societies, cultures, linguistic and religious backgrounds, the recognition of the element has managed to further strengthen that bond. The inscription and the subsequent media coverage has contributed hugely to raising awareness about the cultural value of the element. It has reached new heights within the community and also in the general public. Internationally it has been promoted through international falconry festivals and by falconry-related associations such as the IAF, FACE, and CIC. Conferences, symposia and workshops on falconry have also contributed significantly in engaging both local and international falconry groups and specialists.

The communities of falconers from the various States Parties collaborate extensively on the multi-national submission through a series of meetings and internet forums. Experiences gained in

working on previous submissions in 2010 and 2012 have been shared with the falconry communities in the States Parties joining this submission. There were meetings in 2009 in Abu Dhabi to prepare the initial nomination file, which were followed by workshops in 2010 and 2011 to prepare the second nomination, and March 2015 for the current file under process. Inscription of the element has motivated Austrian falconers to meet fellow falconers from around the world. Therefore, inscription contributed to ensure mutual respect among communities. Furthermore, falconry involves numerous elements of ICH, which are represented, for instance, in the costumes and songs. These elements were shared amongst each other and have thereby also promoted respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

C.4. Efforts to promote or reinforce the element

Describe the measures that have been implemented to promote and reinforce the element, particularly detailing any measures that might have been necessary as a consequence of its inscription.

Between 150 and 250 words

The Austrian Falconry Association (ÖFB) has established a Falconry Academy (founded 2010 after inscription on the National Inventory) where people can learn about Falconry in a professional and historically accurate environment. The theoretical and practical courses take place 2-3 times a year for aspiring falconry beginners and also for people outside the falconry community.

In an attempt to consolidate the knowledge of Austrian falconry and to make it accessible for falconers in order to study, research and learn about falconry, the ÖFB has founded and opened the Austrian Archives of Falconry. The archives are located in the historical setting of Castle Waldreichs in Lower Austria.

The Austrian Falconers Association is currently developing a new codex for falconers detailing the expected code of conduct of falconers with regards to ethics, animal welfare, cultural tradition and heritage. This codex is being developed in collaboration with the IAF (International Association of Falconers) and renowned international specialists.

Furthermore, the element is continuously communicated and presented to the general public via an annual magazine, PR brochures, public events and a very proactive website (falknerbund.com).

C.5. Community participation

Describe the participation of communities, groups and individuals as well as relevant non-governmental organizations in safeguarding the element and their commitment to its further safeguarding.

Between 150 and 250 words

Falconry remains a popular heritage element, with an estimated 450 Austrian falconers. The ÖFB is one of the world's oldest Falconry Associations and a founding member of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, IAF (accredited NGO since 2010). Several NGOs are directly supporting Austrian falconry, for example: CIC, IAF, FACE.

In Austria, the ÖFB and the Zentralverband Österreichischer Falkner have initiated, planned and promoted numerous safeguarding measures, including several breeding, scientific research and bird release programmes. The practical implementation is carried out by the members of the falconry communities themselves. Two main achievements regarding safeguarding measures are the establishment of the Falconry Academy and of the Austrian Archive of Falconry.

On an ongoing basis the Austrian Falconry community presents falconry as a cultural heritage (in non-commercial) campaigns and events. The community has created sophisticated and well laid out brochures and information material, as well as a very lively website informing the community

members and the general public about the element. Due to its very nature the community publications go beyond the local domain and contribute to the intercultural worldwide dialogue, thus further enhancing visibility and awareness of this cultural heritage and its importance. Through joint efforts, the community members are currently developing a new codex for falconers (Code of Honour and Conduct for Falconers) with regards to ethics, animal welfare, cultural tradition and heritage.

C.6. Institutional context

Report on the institutional context for the element inscribed on the Representative List, including:

- a. the competent body(ies) involved in its management and/or safeguarding;*
- b. the organization(s) of the community or group concerned with the element and its safeguarding.*

Not to exceed 150 words

The two organisations mainly responsible for the management and safeguarding of Falconry are:

- the Austrian Falconry Association (Österreichischer Falknerbund, ÖFB) and
- the Zentralverband Österreichischer Falkner, ZÖF

These organisations represent the community of around 450 falconers in Austria.

The Federal State of Austria and the *Länder* provide the legal framework for falconry (animal welfare act, game laws). The community of Austrian falconers believes that the safeguarding of the element demands a strengthening of the legal framework. Whereas falconry is already deeply embedded in the national Animal Welfare Act, it is not completely embedded in all provincial game laws in Austria, e.g. passing the falconry exam is mandatory only in certain *Länder*. The Austrian community has therefore initiated a project to unify legislation across Austria. Regarding legal issues, the ÖFB is supported and advised by the University of Graz.

C.7. Participation of communities in preparing this report

Describe the measures taken to ensure the widest possible participation of the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned as well as relevant non-governmental organizations during the process of preparation of this report.

Between 150 and 250 words

The Austrian falconers are a highly active community. In close collaboration, they have initiated and completed several safeguarding measures and projects and informed the ÖUK about them on a regular basis. The falconry historians of the CIC provide scientific expert opinions and historical facts. The umbrella organisations ÖFB and ZÖF, which represent the entire community of Austrian falconers, have been informing and consulting their members about the nomination via meetings and newsletters since 2006.

The ÖFB informs the community members about the implementation processes of adopted safeguarding measures and other developments in the course of formal correspondence and informal meetings on a regular basis.

Generally speaking, the Austrian Falconry Association and the ÖUK maintain close contact. Further to that, representatives of the ÖUK have participated in community meetings and festive events of the Austrian falconers ever since the inscription of the element on the National Inventory in 2010. The ÖUK obtains a coordinating function for the submissions of the multinational nomination form and has therefore been exchanging information with community representatives on an ongoing basis. Christian Habich, representative of the ÖFB and principal point of contact for the State Party regarding the status of the element, informs the ÖUK about activities and developments regularly and has been strongly involved in the preparation of this report.

C. STATUS OF ELEMENTS INSCRIBED ON THE REPRESENTATIVE LIST

Please complete all points below for each element of intangible cultural heritage present in the State's territory that has been inscribed on the Representative List. Refer to the nomination file as the basis for reporting on the **current** status of the element and report only on relevant changes since the date of inscription on the List or since the last report. Nomination files and earlier reports are available at www.unesco.org/culture/ich or on request at the Secretariat.

The State Party shall pay special attention to the role of gender and shall endeavour to ensure the widest possible participation of the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned as well as relevant non-governmental organizations during the process of preparation of each report, and is asked in point C.7 below to describe how it has done so.

Name of element: Schemenlaufen, the carnival of Imst

Inscribed in : 2012

C.1. Social and cultural functions

Explain the social and cultural functions and meanings of the element today, within and for its community, the characteristics of the bearers and practitioners, and any specific roles or categories of persons with special responsibilities towards the element, among others. Attention should be given to any relevant changes related to inscription criterion R.1 ('the element constitutes intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention').

Between 150 and 250 words

Every four years the city of Imst in Austria celebrates its Fasnacht carnival on the Sunday before the Christian season of Lent. The central festivity is *Schemenlaufen*, a procession of masked, costumed dancers. The next *Schemenlaufen, carnival of Imst* takes place on January 31st, 2016 which is to be the first time after inscription on the Representative List in 2012. The tradition bearers describe *Schemenlaufen, the carnival of Imst* as the city's "cultural engine". More than 900 participants are expected to be actively participating in 2016 (around 10 per cent of the total population of the city of Imst).

The carnival procession is socially as well as culturally significant for the community. On the one hand, it is a social practice which unites and connects the local population; on the other hand, the element also includes practices, expression, representations, knowledge and skills that are related to other domains as defined by the Convention including traditional craftsmanship (building of carnival floats, creating costumes and set designs, carving of masks), oral traditions (storytelling) and performing arts (studying and performing traditional behaviour, dances and movements of the characters).

C.2. Assessment of its viability and current risks

Describe the current level of viability of the element, particularly the frequency and extent of its practice, the strength of traditional modes of transmission, the demographics of practitioners and audiences and its sustainability. Please also identify and describe the threats, if any, to the element's continued transmission and enactment and describe the severity and immediacy of such threats.

Between 150 and 250 words

There are currently no severe threats to the element's continued transmission and enactment. The element is supposed to be handed down from one generation to the next in the same way as it has been handed down to the present by their forefathers.

As mentioned above, 2016 is going to be the first year after the inscription of the element on the RL in 2012. Apparently, the number of participants in the carnival has been on the increase without taking any particular measures. Especially the interest of the young people from the city of Imst is still on the growth which keeps the element vital and alive. Due to safety reasons, however, the carnival committee had to set a limit for the total number of participants in 2016.

Some minor concerns of the community regard:

- the replacement of live music performances on the waggon through the use of technical equipment
- the community is aware of the potentials (as well as risks) related to tourism and wants to remain the main beneficiaries of tourism associated with their ICH. Those involved in the tourism industry in the City of Imst have supported the tradition bearers in continuing the social functions and cultural meanings of their ICH.

C.3. Contribution to the goals of the List

Describe how the inscription of the element has contributed to ensuring visibility of the intangible cultural heritage and raising awareness at the local, national and international levels of its importance. Explain how its inscription has contributed to promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity, and mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals.

Between 150 and 250 words

Although there has been a period of increased public attention after *Schemenlaufen- Carnival of Imst* was inscribed on the Representative List in 2012, which initially caused enthusiasm among the practitioners, there is an unchanged intrinsic passion and commitment of the participants evident. Thus, the element has remained a culturally and socially meaningful event for its practitioners and the audience.

Whereas there is no relevant impact on a national level, the inscription has attracted the interest of the international community. The carnival committee has received numerous invitations to participate in exhibitions e.g. in Binche/Belgium (the Carnival of Binche was inscribed on the RL in 2008), in Gengbach/Germany, in Kitzingen (German National Carnival Museum)/Germany as well as in the MUCEM (Museum for Europe and the Mediterranean) in Marseilles/France. In other words, the inscription on the RL has contributed to ensuring visibility of the ICH and has raised awareness of its importance particularly on an international level.

In order to foster gender equality, the committee hired a female artist from the city of Imst for the design of the new poster 2016. The participation in the event has also become a means of integration for newcomers (new residents) in Imst.

C.4. Efforts to promote or reinforce the element

Describe the measures that have been implemented to promote and reinforce the element, particularly detailing any measures that might have been necessary as a consequence of its inscription.

Between 150 and 250 words

As outlined above, there is no necessity at the moment to promote or reinforce the element since the interest of participants as well as the public is on the rise. The element is based on oral traditions which are passed on and cultivated within the families and the various mask groups. This means that traditional knowledge and skills are handed down orally from one generation to the next. Practical knowledge, such as the building of floats or learning special dances is acquired through practical instructions and via "learning by doing". Furthermore, the committee organises special seminars and workshops to ensure that traditional skills are preserved and transmitted.

The cultural centre of the *Schemenlaufen* is the so-called "House of Fasnacht", a museum and archive dedicated to the safeguarding of the element. It is a meeting venue for the members of the carnival committee as well as centre for cultural events, such as (international) theatre performances. Moreover, knowledge about the history of the element is passed down in local schools which includes a visit to the "House of Fasnacht" where the pupils learn about the different masks and historical developments of the(ir) tradition. The museum „Haus der Fastnacht“ organised a special exhibition about the float makers in 2015 which is now part of the permanent exhibition. Moreover, eight inhabitants of the city of Imst were trained over the past two years to be museum guides. The training includes individual education, instructions and the theoretical background. Additionally, three inhabitants of the city of Imst have started to collect letters and other means of documentation regarding the element, such as photographs, movies, posters, media reports and the correspondence concerning the event.

The element is still promoted via the media (e.g. announcement in local newspapers). The committee ensures that the element is not misused for commercial purposes. Additional measures have not been necessary as a consequence of the inscription.

C.5. Community participation

Describe the participation of communities, groups and individuals as well as relevant non-governmental organizations in safeguarding the element and their commitment to its further safeguarding.

Between 150 and 250 words

Communities, groups and individuals from the city of Imst participate in the preparation, conduction and processing of the *Schemenlaufen*, the carnival of Imst. Preparations of the event include the construction of the floats, the inspection and repairing of the equipment and costumes but also fasting and fitness activities in order to prepare for the physically demanding parade. Due to the great physical efforts necessary for wearing the costumes and bells, which weigh up to 35kg, it is mostly the male part of the population of Imst actively participating in the procession. Active participation includes practical training (rehearsals of dances, movements, shouting and songs), meetings of the participants. Women obtain an important role as well since their individual traditional skilled crafts in making and preserving traditional costumes and wooden masks as well as the preparation of the handmade decorations for the procession have been passed on informally for decades. Moreover, tales of past carnivals and the exchange with former participants are also an essential part of the element. The oral traditions related to the carnival are still accompanied by three "Fasnacht papers". The puns and word play in these papers serve as examples of local storytelling.

Besides active involvement in the carnival and the procession, the *Schemenlaufen* has also attracted the interest of historians, folklorist and students. The number of research papers and articles about the element is increasing. Tradition bearers willingly support the researchers. While

some papers focus on the tradition itself, others examine the interrelations, commonalities and differences between the carnival of Imst and similar traditions which contributes to ensuring the visibility and raising awareness about the ICH.

C.6. Institutional context

Report on the institutional context for the element inscribed on the Representative List, including:

- c. the competent body(ies) involved in its management and/or safeguarding;*
- d. the organization(s) of the community or group concerned with the element and its safeguarding.*

Not to exceed 150 words

The committee for the *Schemenlaufen*, the carnival of Imst (Fasnachtskomitee), which is elected on January 6th by the involved communities, is in charge of the management, safeguarding and organisation of the element.

While the chairman of the committee is responsible for the coordination of the preparations, his deputies deal with international relations, general questions as well as the organisation and duties of the committee. Further functions within the committee are treasurers, secretaries, the chronicler, media spokespersons and the archivist, who is responsible for the safe-keeping and distribution of costumes and masks. Apart from the committee, every permanent resident of Imst is free to join one of the different mask groups. Up until now, there were 900 participants (almost 10% of the total population of Imst) and some 150 additional helpers actively involved. Whenever the *Schemenlaufen* takes place, the committee examines the current status of the element as well as it discusses required measures to transmit the element to young people.

Furthermore, the city of Imst supports the committee in all necessary organisational matters in order to ensure a smooth running of the event, such as special traffic. The element is further supported by the Cultural Department of the provincial government of Tyrol.

C.7. Participation of communities in preparing this report

Describe the measures taken to ensure the widest possible participation of the communities, groups and, where applicable, individuals concerned as well as relevant non-governmental organizations during the process of preparation of this report.

Between 150 and 250 words

The tradition bearers were contacted by the ÖUK in 2013 in the course of a survey among the inscribed elements. Three members of the community (Manfred Waltner: Vice Chairman of the carnival committee, Nikolaus Larcher: Secretary of the committee and Seelos Jürgen: President/Master of the so-called "Altfrankspritzer" Mask Group and Single Masks) completed the survey which already contained relevant topics for the preparation of the report.

Moreover, Manfred Thurner (former member of the carnival committee and active participant in the procession) who was appointed by the carnival committee to organise and coordinate the nomination process for inscription on the RL, was contacted by the Austrian Commission in spring 2015 asking for his support in the preparation of this report. After consulting the carnival committee, it was decided that Mr. Thurner should provide the State Party with relevant information which he most willingly provided. There was a high level of exchange between the State Party and the tradition bearers thereafter. Representatives of the ÖUK are invited to and will attend the next *Schemenlaufen*, the carnical of Imst on January 31st, 2016.

D. SIGNATURE ON BEHALF OF THE STATE

The report should conclude with the original signature of the official empowered to sign it on behalf of the State, together with his or her name, title and the date of submission.

Name: Ms Andrea Ecker

Title: Director General for Arts and Culture at the Federal Chancellery of Austria

Date: 17 December 2015

Signature: