

National Inventory of Living Heritage

How will the applications be evaluated?

The National Board of Antiquities will check the applications made for the National Inventory of Living Heritage to ensure they fulfil the technical criteria (e.g. the length of the application, inclusion in the Wiki-Inventory, applicant's eligibility). The applications will be opened online on the Wiki platform for comments from the experts and communities participating in the evaluation. The comments will be posted using real names and cannot be seen by other evaluators.

The National Board of Antiquities will summarise the views in the received comments and introduce the applications, their respective comments and its own view concerning the acceptance of an application to the expert group of intangible cultural heritage. The National Board of Antiquities will propose a list of elements to be accepted into the National Inventory to the Ministry of Education and Culture on the expert group's recommendation. The Minister of Education and Culture will make the decision on the elements accepted into the National Inventory.

Only the accepted applications will be public. If asked for, the National Board of Antiquities will provide feedback to applicants whose proposals were not accepted. It is possible to apply again during the next application periods for the National Inventory of Living Heritage.

Selection criteria for the National Inventory of Living Heritage

The evaluation will pay attention to the technical criteria, not measure the value of the traditions themselves. The criteria specified by the UNESCO Convention will be used when accepting elements into the National inventory of Living Heritage. The elements must be:

1. Intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention

“practices, descriptions, expressions, information, skills – and the related equipment, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides

them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.”

2. Inscription of the element will contribute to ensuring visibility and awareness of the significance of the intangible cultural heritage and to encouraging dialogue, thus reflecting cultural diversity worldwide and testifying to human creativity.
3. Safeguarding measures are elaborated that may protect and promote the element.
4. The element has been nominated following the widest possible participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent.

In addition, the following items will be evaluated for the elements accepted into the National Inventory of Living Heritage:

1. The phenomenon is an integral part of the living heritage of communities, groups or individuals.
 - All the integral parties are taking part in the application
 - Local or regional and other interested communities can participate in practicing the tradition
2. The continuity of the tradition
 - The tradition is transmitted through mutual learning and development
 - The tradition is transmitted between and within generations
The community wishes to continue safeguarding and practicing the tradition in the future
3. The community constantly recreates living heritage in response to its environment, through interaction with nature and its history
 - The phenomenon has developed creatively and the tradition has adapted to the current conditions
4. Living heritage supports the formation of identities
 - The phenomenon may be part of local or regional traditions or exist, for example, within web communities
 - The tradition is part of self-expression
 - The community may receive income through the tradition
 - The community feels that the tradition is part of its identity