

Region Vb Arab States

Egypt



Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions (EFST)

NGO accredited to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Geographic Coverage of NGO's expertise: Egypt.



Relevant projects and initiatives

ESFT has been conducting an inventory of craftspersons in Historic Cairo as well as the training of craftsmen, with the support of the UNESCO ICH Fund. It produced 4 films on crafts for the National Museum of Civilization and disseminated multimedia resources on performing arts, festivals and traditional dances. The NGO has identified and documented 360 traditional crafts in Egypt, which has helped to develop the production of handicrafts. EFST made recordings accompanied by photographs and videos of the oral epic Al-Sirah Al-Hilaliyyah. This project received the Sheikh Zayed Ibn Nahian Prize and the element was inscribed on the List of Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 2003. The NGO collaborated with the National Council of Women to document the art of Tally (embroidery) in Upper Egypt and trained more than 360 girls in this art. The results of this research have been published in a book, *The Making of a Traditional Artist*. ESFT participates in the production of the magazine *Al Funun Al Folklore*.



Vision

Provide scientific and cultural advisory services in the field of ICH to all scholars and researchers.

Mission

The objective of the Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions is to provide cultural and scientific advisory services. It offers technical and intellectual assistance in the safeguarding of ICH to students of folklore and to tradition bearers. The Society also provides different organizations and governmental agencies with information related to ICH whenever necessary. It also aims to raise awareness of the importance of ICH in strengthening the Egyptian identity and the need for safeguarding its heritage.

Main areas of work related to the Convention

- Conferences and presentations: weekly meetings allowing members to attend conferences related to ICH;
- Participation and documentation of local and national Egyptian festivals;
- Research activities: 1. collecting, documenting, protecting and safeguarding the oral epic Al-Sirah Al-Hilaliyyah; 2. collaborating with the National Council of Women in documenting the art of Tally in Upper Egypt; 3. collecting and inventorying traditional crafts;
- Training of folklore students and practitioners;
- Creation of an ICH inventory since 2013, currently including 228 elements;
- Participation in the Evaluation Body, preparation of several nomination files for elements inscribed on the UNESCO lists.



Traditional
craftsmanship



Awareness-raising



Documentation
and inventory



Education



Research

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