

**REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED
TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

**Deadline: 15 February 2023
for examination in 2023**

*File may be downloaded at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>*

*Please provide only the information requested below.
Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.*

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.*

INSTITUUT VOOR VLAAMSE VOLKSKUNST

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

INSTITUTE FOR FLEMISH FOLK ART

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

NGO 90054

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: Institute for Flemish Folk Art

Address: Jubellaan 123 - 2800 Mechelen - BELGIUM

Telephone number: +32 15 633 499

Email address: info@instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be
gert.laekeman@kuleuven.be
secretariaat@instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be

Website: <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/>

Other relevant information: Tel. Secretary Stefaan Haesen +32 496 59 35 23

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

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

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr.

Family name: Laekeman

Given name: Gert

Institution/position: President

Address: DORPSSTRAAT 83 - 9190 STEKENE - BELGIUM

Telephone number: + 32 475 96 01 21

Email address: gert.laekeman@kuleuven.be

Other relevant information: Prof. dr. Gert Laekeman - Ordinary professor – Emeritus - Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy – KULeuven - ON2 - PB521

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B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework², as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

The mission of the Institute for Flemish Folk Art (IVV) aims at safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) by generating knowledge and disseminating this knowledge. IVV acts by: (1) Collecting, studying and facilitating the practice of **Flemish folk dancing** and related **music**; (2) Researching **traditional costumes** and trades and assisting Flemish folk art groups in making their own costumes; (3) Collecting, creating and organising courses of **flag waving** choreographies; (4) Making personal **archives** of individuals devoted to Flemish folk art of and archives of folk dance groups available in the public field by collaborating with the KULeuven (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven); (5) Disseminating Flemish folk art by a **website** and by a **quarterly journal** (periodical in paper and e-format). Since its youngest accreditation by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2020, IVV has continued to work on the national and international level. IVV was founded in 1964 and starts its 59th year of activities with a limited number of unpaid volunteers. IVV cooperates with financially supported ICH-organisations, folk art groups and international folk dance festivals. IVV exchanges knowledge with the North of France (Frans Vlaanderen), the Netherlands, Austria, China, Japan and India. IVV is an active member of CIOFF (Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore et d'Arts Traditionnels) and IOV (International Organisation of Folk Art). IVV assists in the organisation of courses organised by the Flemish Federation of Folk Arts (VVKB) and contributes to international conferences and meetings (e.g. CEMPER and Ethno Flanders).

B.2. Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the **transmission of and education** for intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

Transmission of and education in folk dancing as ICH: since 1964 IVV published 33 editions with a total of 260 Flemish folk dances (descriptions, drawings, music, historical context). Six editions on dance terminology were made. IVV **cooperated with 'Danspunt' and the Flemish Federation of Folk Arts (VVKB)** in constructing the 'Dansbank', an open database with folk dances: <https://dansbank.be/dansbeschrijvingen>. Video recordings, dance descriptions and dance characteristics are freely available to support folk dance practice. Query's can be made on dance terminology, dance type, origin, age and the required number of dancers. The 'Dansbank' was made available in December 2022 and new data can be inserted: <https://dansbank.be/hoewerkt-het>. 'Volkskunst', the **quarterly journal** of IVV plays an important role in the **transmission of and education for intangible cultural heritage**. Every issue of 'Volkskunst' contains descriptions of non published **Flemish folk dances**. These dances are made in folk dance groups or collected from archives. Articles on traditional **Flemish costumes** are written in every issue. Information about flag waving courses is given in the journal and on the **website**. More than 40 people assisted at the yearly flag waving encounter in Herentals on the 27th November 2022. Editorials and tables of content can be consulted on the IVV-website: <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/index.php/vk202212>. IVV representatives are **member of the jury** of the 'Landjuweel', the yearly encounter of the traditional guilds of the Kempen: <https://www.hogegilderaadkempen.be/gildefeest-en-landjuweel.html>. Advice on dancing, costumes and flag waving practice is given during the contest. IVV is co-monitoring courses for dancing leaders in collaboration with VVKB (new course from 2023 to 2025 in Flanders): <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/vk202212->

1. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.
2. For further information on the Overall Results Framework, please refer to the Chapter 8 of the Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503>

B.3. Describe your organization's participation in the **inventorying and research** of intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

From the beginning of its existence, IVV has done **research** to save ICH from loss by lack of interest, simple destruction or disappearance. **Publications of traditional and created Flemish folk dances** has already been mentioned. Cooperation with individuals and folk dance groups enabled these efforts. Searching **museum collections, archives, paintings, photo's and descriptions of persons who disappeared**, resulted in 3 books on **Flemish traditional costumes**. The books inspired folk dance groups to make or to adapt their own costumes, used during performances: <https://www.reuzegomleuven.be/kledij/uitgebreide-kledij-info> (see also the collaboration with the Working Party on ICH in Flanders, in B5). A **book** with the results of **basic research on flag waving** was published, as well as 7 editions with flag waving sequences, partially based on searching archives and inventorying practice in folk art groups. For an overview of our editions, the reader is referred to the web shop of IVV: <https://webwinkel.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/>.

IVV takes care of archives of folkdance groups and individuals in cooperation with the University of Leuven, more particularly KADOC: the *Documentation and Research Centre on Religion, Culture and Society of the KULeuven*: <https://kadoc.kuleuven.be/english/>. IVV has access to LIAS, the inventory system and takes care of registering archive items to make them available for research and searching purposes. At this moment IVV has **22 archive collections with more than 2600 registered pieces**. When registering, care is taken to facilitate research by multiplying the entries. See <http://abs.lias.be/Query/detail.aspx?ID=1889976> as an example.

IVV is striving for complying with (5) under chapter 6 of the Convention: *the access of communities, groups and individuals to the instruments, objects, artefacts, cultural and natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage*.

B.4. Describe your organization's participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

In order to guarantee safeguarding, IVV opts for **the cooperation model** i.o. the conflict model. Its most important working partners are **VVKB** (the Flemish Federation of Folk Arts) and **Danspunt** (the reference organisation for dance in Flanders). The complementary cooperation was even strengthened during and after corona. A short historical notice may be useful. IVV was founded in 1964. The period between 1960 and 2000 was a flourishing one for folk art in Flanders. This period was characterized by: (1) A diversity in folk art organisations and *ad hoc* institutions (at least 12); (2) A parallel between all these organisations and mutual competition; (3) Voluntarism: working with non paid volunteers. From the year 2000 on, there was a decline. By lack of young successors and lack of interest, organisations disappeared. The decline had still another cause. In the beginning of the 21st century the sector started to be professionalized. New financially supported cultural institutions were created, among them 'Danspunt' (Danspoint), coordinating all dance activities in Flanders. Not all existing folk art organisations wanted to cooperate, because the professional sector stood too far from the real working field. The sector was thorn apart which threatened the safeguarding of unique elements of Flemish Folk art. IVV continued its **networking**, also with the professional sector, 'Danspunt' on the first place, but also with 'Heemkunde Vlaanderen' (transformed in 'Histories'), 'Erfgoedcel Waasland' (from which IVV got several project grants), 'Het Firmament' (transformed in 'CEMPER'), FARO and 'Muziekmozaïek'. Projects like 'Dansbank' and a course for folk dance monitors emerged from cooperation with Danspunt and VVKB (see more in B5).

B.5. Describe your organization's participation in promoting the **role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

In B5 the description of activities is limited to the national level. For the international level, the reader is referred to B8.

- IVV as reference centre for **promotion of wearing traditional costumes in Flanders and promotion of Flemish folk dance**. See dissemination by the Working Party on ICH in Flanders under B6.
- Disclosure of Flemish folk dances, encouraging dancing practice by the '**Dansbank**' in collaboration with 'Danspunt' and VVKB (Flemish Federation of Folk Arts). See also B2.

- Active participation in the yearly '**Rendez-Vous**', organised by 'Danspunt': a day long meeting for instruction, networking, as well as dance and music practicing. Last meeting took place on Sunday 11 December 2022, during which IVV gave instructions on the 'Dansbank'. For the program see: <https://www.danspunt.be/ons-aanbod/evenementen/rendez-vous/> .
- **Collection and disclosure of archives** in collaboration with KADOC at the KULeuven. Access to the IVV archive collections facilitates research and acquirement of knowledge, also in the academic world. See B3.
- **Flemish folk dance courses**. In 2023 a new course will start for training Flemish Folk Dance monitors. An orientation day is planned on 23rd April 2023 and will be followed by 6 full days in 2023-2024 and a course weekend in 2025. IVV gives full support by its expertise and by making its publication available for the participants. The course is announced in the editorial of the last issue of 'Volkskunst'. See: <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/vk202212-editoriaal?page=> .
- **Initiations in flag waving and the yearly gathering of flag waving in Flanders**. Last gathering dates from 27 November 2022. More than 40 people assisted at the gathering and a delegation from Germany was welcomed. See picture on the front page of 'Volkskunst': <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/index.php/vk202212>
- The IVV **webshop** gives an overview of the publications available and publications can be purchased via internet: <https://webwinkel.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/>

Although IVV is not financially supported by the Flemish Community, meeting reports of the General Assembly, the Steering Committee and all working parties are kept and can be consulted by interested parties.

B.6. Describe your organization's participation in **raising awareness** about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

- Spreading the message: study groups of local history in Flanders and local museums send us their journals and reports in exchange for '**Volkskunst**', our quarterly journal. Individuals and Flemish folk art groups subscribe to 'Volkskunst'. When a group subscribes, it receives 2 copies of every issue. The copies can circulate among its members.
- The **website** of IVV is an important tool to communicate initiatives by IVV, to support initiatives taken by folk art groups: <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/activiteiten> (page on folk dance balls and festivals). IVV is a member of CIOFF (International Council of Organisations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts). Members of the IVV steering community are present at **festivals** and copies of the quarterly journal are available for visitors of the festivals. Reports on the festivals appear in the journal 'Volkskunst': <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/vk202209>
- Following the visit of a team of the Flemish TV, the '**Trawantel**', one of the oldest dances of our Immaterial Cultural Heritage has been honoured with a page on Wikipedia: <https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trawantel>
- IVV collaborated with the working party of 'Immaterieel Erfgoed in Vlaanderen' (ICH in Flanders) to **promote the wearing of traditional Flemish costumes in Flanders**. A webpage has now been installed as well promotion by facebook: <https://immaterieelerfgoed.be/nl/erfgoederen/het-dragen-van-streekdrachten-in-vlaanderen> . Also **Flemish folk dance practice** got a page by the same organisation: <https://immaterieelerfgoed.be/nl/erfgoederen/vlaamse-volksdansen> . These initiatives make the larger community aware of different aspects of folk art practice and safeguarding.

B.7. Describe your organization's participation in facilitating the engagement of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 250 words

The role of IVV in facilitating the engagement is described in rubrics B3, B4, B5 and B6. In general, main initiatives concentrate around **generating knowledge for and passing knowledge to individuals**, groups and communities. Regular activities concentrate on giving **advice** by correspondence, by personal contacts, by organising courses and workshops on flag waving and Flemish folk dance, as well as by giving advice on traditional costumes in Flanders. IVV **published** on Flemish folk dances, dance terminology, flag waving and traditional Flemish costumes. To these editions add publications of additional folk dances and articles on Flemish costumes and textile materials in the quarterly periodical 'Volkskunst'.

An example of cooperation in the field with folk dance groups is the support given in **programming folk dance music for a puppet theatre** about the Fox Reynaert in Folk Art Group Reintje Vos and advice about traditional Flemish songs and habits, related to Christmas, New-Year and Epiphany:
<https://sites.google.com/view/volkskunstgroepreintjevoss/activiteiten>

Another example is support to folk art groups during the corona pandemic. Between 2020 and 2022 IVV studied and published Flemish dances that could be practiced individually with a safe distance between dancers. Dances like 'Heksenketel', 't Vestje', 'Kegelaar van Oostham', 'The Wellerman', 'Ei-sprong' (egg dance), 'Klompeliedeke' (clog dance) and 'Schreefdans' were published in the periodical 'Volkskunst'. Some dance music was made freely available by the IVV-website (e.g. 'Kegelaar van Oostham': <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/node/637>; 'The Wellerman': <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/node/615>).

B.8. Describe your organization's engagement in cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives.

Not to exceed 250 words

Engagements on regional and national level have been described in former rubrics. In this rubric engagements on the international level are described.

- IVV presented its achievements during the symposium '**Dance as ICH: New models of facilitating participatory dance events**' which took place from 30 January to 1 February 2023. The meeting was organised by CEMPER (the Centre for Music and Stage Heritage), supported by the Flemish Community and Co-funded by the European Union. There were contributions a.o. from the UAntwerpen, Flanders, Brussels Capital, Scandinavia, France, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Spain.
- **Sr. Jeanne De Vos** was interviewed and brought IVV in contact with **India**. She got a **honorary doctorship at the KULeuven** for her social work in India (1963-2017). She devoted most of her time to protect women who were domestic workers in Indian families against misuse and to guarantee their decent working and living environment. Sr. Jeanne was a fervent folk dancer in her youth and promoted folkdance and singing in the centre where domestic workers could come for support. She played an important role in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to create a regulatory environment in order to give domestic workers perspectives of life. The interview was published in 2 issues of 'Volkskunst' (December 2022: <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/vk202212> ; September 2022: <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/vk202209>).
- The **National Folk Dance Federation of Japan** has special interest in Flemish folk dance In February 2020 IVV provided a package of 15 Flemish folk dances for instruction of Japanese dance monitors and sent it to Japan. The packages consisted of the dance descriptions, drawings, music notations and music recordings. All texts were translated in English. An interview with Mr. Hideki Yabumoto of the National Folk Dance Federation of Japan was published in the September 2021 issue of 'Volkskunst'.
- **Ethno Flanders 2022** took place from 29 July to 9 August. IVV published a report on this edition: <https://www.instituutvlaamsevolkskunst.be/vk202209>.
- IVV exchanges its periodical 'Volkskunst' with the periodical and newsletter of **Kultur Region Niederösterreich**.

B.9. Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.

Not to exceed 250 words

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic only few activities have been organised by the Flemish UNESCO Commission & UNESCO Platform Flanders from 2020 to 2022. The last report dates from 2020. IVV is not a member of the steering committee of the Flemish UNESCO Commission but has regular contacts with **its former President Prof. Dr. Marc Vervenne and the actual Vice-President Mrs. Jorijn Neyrinck**. More particularly Jorijn assisted in promoting the wearing of traditional Flemish costumes and Flemish folk dance practice by the website and face book pages of the Workplace for Flemish Intangible Cultural Heritage (see B6 and B10).

IVV has the intention to strengthen these contacts with the Flemish Unesco Committee in order to specifically promote Flemish folk art practice. IVV is ready to contribute by this way to national reporting.

B.10. Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.

Not to exceed 250 words

An overview of the items for nomination include:

- ✓ The 'Trawantel' as one of the oldest folk dances still practiced in Flanders: <https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trawantel>
- ✓ Wearing traditional costumes in Flanders: <https://immaterieelerfgoed.be/nl/erfgoederen/het-dragen-van-streekdrachten-in-vlaanderen>
- ✓ Flemish folk dance practice: <https://immaterieelerfgoed.be/nl/erfgoederen/vlaamse-volksdansen>

C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

- Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)
 - Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention
 - Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators
 - Cooperation with Category 2 Centres
 - Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO
 - Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs
 - Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
 - Financial support from the Participation Programme
- X Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

IVV is on the list of correspondents of the Flemish Unesco Committee. See also contacts described in B9.

D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

D.1 Has your organization participated in the sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

Not to exceed 250 words

Because IVV has to spend its resources mainly on the national level, it is not possible to yearly participate in the General Assembly. Representatives from Flanders are mainly belonging to financially supported organisations (e.g. FARO). Nevertheless IVV is member of IOV and CIOFF. It will be investigated how a regular attendance can be financially enabled.

D.2 Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (paragraphs 26 to 31 of the Operational Directives), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.

Not to exceed 100 words

Up to now IVV was not asked to serve in Evaluation Bodies.

D.3 *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

We are willing to serve UNESCO when our expertise is useful. We are ready to intensify contacts with the Flemish Unesco Committee.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives):

E.1. *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Our executive committee consists of 8 members. Within the executive committee there is sufficient active and passive knowledge of the English and French language (understanding, reading and speaking). Some members have extensive notions of German, Swedish and Nordic. Assistance of the Institute of Living Languages of KU Leuven is possible in case of international correspondence.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Within IVV there is experience in the domain of ICH related with Flemish folk dance, music, flag waving, traditional costumes, management of archives and access to and networking with the practising field. See the B-sections of this report.

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

Not to exceed 250 words

Up to now IVV did not receive an invitation to evaluate or analyse proposals or applications.

E.4. *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Within IVV there is experience to draft texts in English or French. English is used for international correspondence, French is the second national language in Belgium. German is used when corresponding to German speaking partners.

E.5. *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.*

Not to exceed 250 words

To the experience already described in B8, add the relations with the organising committee of the Shanghai Baoshan International Folk Arts Festival, Chinese Folk Art Group and the Arts Museum of Baoshan (Shanghai), flag waving in European context (Italy, Switzerland, Germany) and networking with the Northern Region of France and the Southern region of the Netherlands.

F. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

G. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of your organization.

Name: Gert LAEKEMAN

Title: President of IVV

Date: 12 February 2023

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Laekeman', is written over a light blue rectangular background.