

**2021, 8th ICCN General Assembly
Nov. 25 – 26, 2021 Gangneung (Online),
Korea**

FINAL REPORT



December

**Inter-city Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network
Secretariat**

The Municipality of Gangneung (Korea) hosted the 8th General Assembly online from 25 to 26 November 2021. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in 2020 but the Covid-19 Pandemic stopped it.

The theme of this year's General Assembly has been “**Local policies for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Post Covid-19 era.**”

BOARD MEETING:

The Assembly started with the Board Meeting, presided by Mar Navarro, the coordinator of the Secretariat of ICCN, in behalf of General Secretary, Julio Ramon Blasco Nacher.

The members that have participated in this year's Executive Board Meeting are:

1. Marta Trezano Rubio, Mayor of **Algemesi** (Spain) and president of ICCN
2. Mr. Jehad Khair, Mayor of **Beit Sahour**, Palestine
3. Ms. Youngi-mi Choi in behalf of Kim Han Geun, Mayor of **Gangneung**, Korea
4. Mr. Natali Giordano, manager of **COPPEM** and Director of ICCN Regional Office for Europe and Mediterranean, Italia
5. Hashem Mazaherizadeh, Head of International Relations Office of **Shiraz**
6. Mr. Ali Moghtadery Esfahani, Advisor for International Affairs and Mr. Mohammad Ali Izadkhasti Advisor to Deputy Mayor of Isfahan from **Isfahan Municipality**, Iran
7. Mr Jayarajan, representative of **Folkand International Centre of Folklore and culture** (India)
8. Ms. Floriana Coppoleta, Consultant and Representative of **NED** (Notte Euromediterranea del Dialogo)

We have missed the participation of two members:

- Vlcnov CZECH REPUBLIC
- Cachtice-Kopanice (Vadovce, Slovakia)

*The propositions of the Executive Board Meeting were brought to the assembly. All the informations about the agenda and the different adoptions can be readen in General Assembly section.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Agenda of the General Assembly Meeting

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda of the Executive Board meeting 2021
3. Report on the members and Secretariat activities (2020-2021)
 - A. ICCN members report and survey
 - B. Secretariat activities and current situation

4. Sustainable development plan (2021-2022)
 - A. Annual membership fee
 - B. Participation of the members
 - C. Permanent position of the contact member
5. Candidates to host the next conferences
6. Current situation and future of Regional Offices
7. (GA) Election of the Executive Board members (2021-2022)
8. Revision of the Statutes
 - A. The right to hold Secretariat for Associated Members
9. Adoption of the List of Decisions
10. Closure of the meeting

Participants:

1. City Hall of Algemesi (Spain)
2. Valencian Museum of Festivities (Algemesí, Spain)
3. Samte Ganjineye Ghoghnoos cultural-artistic institute (Zanjan, Iran)
4. Haft Honare Niakane Parsi art and cultural institute –before Momenzadeh folklore art group- (Isfahan, Iran)
5. Coppem (Italy)
6. Folkand International Centre of Folklore and culture (India)
7. Jeongseon county (Korea)
8. Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (Latvia)
9. City Hall of Gangneung (Korea)
10. Isfahan Municipality (Iran)

APPROVALS OF AGENDA:

**3. REPORT ON THE ICCN MEMBERS AND SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES
(2020-2021)**

A. ICCN MEMBERS REPORT AND SURVEY

According to ICCN Statute, all the members are request to submit a **“Member report and survey”** before the General Assembly for collecting opinions and last activities organized for each member. Nevertheless, this year Secretariat has decided to **not requested it in a mandatory way** due mainly to two reasons:

- The **pandemic situation has hold most of members inactive** and without the possibility to organize cultural projects related to safeguarding intangible heritage during almost two years.
- The theme of the 8th Assembly is **“Local policies for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Post Covid-19 era”**, so every member that wishes can share their experience through the presentation part or, if not, writing it down on the dialogue box at the end of the point.

B. SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES AND CURRENT SITUATION

CURRENT SITUATION:

Algemesi has held Secretariat for more than 2 years now. During 2018/2019 the transfer of Secretariat from Gangneung to Algemesi took place. The first steps were updating all the information, creating new documents and a new website (<http://www.iccnunesco.org/>), contacting national and international organizations for the recognition of the change, as well as assisting to the host city Beit Sahour for the 9th Thematic Workshop on 2019.

Nevertheless, from 2020, we experienced struggles in the organization because of internal changes of technical employees and the pandemic situation, which made us prioritize important health issues putting the projects of international cultural organizations like ICCN on the back burner.

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES 2020-2021

Despite the context, Secretariat managed to develop different activities:

- **Participation in different Immaterial Cultural Heritage conferences**
- **Networking between different ICCN members:**
- Organization of a cultural and **festivities programme to commemorate the X Anniversary of the declaration of the Festa de la Mare de Déu as Immaterial Cultural Heritage of Humanity** (from 26th November until 8th December 2021).
- **Back Office and Secretariat intern tasks:**
 - To elaborate and to send **the Activity Report of the last 4 years of the ICCN** about its contribution to the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in order **to renew the title of an organism linked to UNESCO**. The Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage received all the documentation and will examine it at its sixteenth session in Paris, from 13 to 18 December 2021 (9th February 2020).
 - **Coordinating and assisting to Gangneung in the organization of the 8th General Assembly online.**
 - **Creating new documents and contact lists, sending calling for participation mails, Application and Registration Forms, etc.**

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2021-2022)

A. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

Adopted proposals for improvement of the annual membership fee:

APPROVED PROPOSALS:

As long as we have all experienced an exceptional situation with the **covid pandemic** and, in order to safeguard the ICCN members, we propose that:

- **The members who did not pay the membership fee on the period of 2020-2021 will not be removed from ICCN. Also, they will not be requested to pay the fee of these two years in the future.**
- **The members that had paid the fee in 2020 –Gangeung (Korea) and Vlcnov (Czech Republic) – will not be requested to pay the membership fee for 2022, considering that the economic contribution that they did in 2020 would be value in 2022.**

However, if all of you agree, **from 2022:**

- **ICCN starts again requesting all the economical contributions. In this way, Secretariat will send on January 2022 a reminder of how important is for the sustainability of the ICCN the fee and kindly asking all the members to send a transfer to Secretariat bank's account.**
- **On the contrary, members that will not pay the fee in the two consecutive years that follow, will be removed from ICCN organization by 2024.**
- **Also, a proposition that has been approved is to elaborate a more fair classification of the Membership fee standard, paying attention to the populations of the members of ICCN and changing the fees to a more accurate system in the future.**

B. PARTICIPATION OF THE MEMBERS

INACTIVE MEMBERS:

ICCN has more than 100 members in its contact list, but there are many inactive members. They don't take part in an ICCN meeting, and they aren't paying the membership fee. In order **to have a solid organization we must be able to develop clear lists of memberships**, that's why a differentiation must be done between the members that are participating in the development of ICCN and the ones that are no longer interested or available to share their experiences with us.

Table of members that have not being active in at least in the last 2 years:
(20 full members and 21 associated members)

FULL MEMBERS		ASSOCIATED MEMBERS	
Bangladesh	Bagerhat	Bulgaria	Expert Council on Intangible Cultural Heritage - Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Museum
Cabo Verde	Cidade Velha	Canada	Global Youth Leaders
Croatia	Dubrovnik	Cambodia	Khmer Arts
Croatia	Lepoglava	Croatia	Folklore Ensemble Lindjo
China	Mangshi	Croatia	Association of Danika Bresler
Chile	Valparaiso	Ghana	Integrated Music Company Limited
Egypt	Qalyubiya	Hungary	Hungarian Open Air
Greece	Kalivia	Kuwait	Committee of Sefeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage
Hungary	Moha'cs	Macedonia	Research Society
Hungary	Pecs	Netherland	Tropen Museum
Israel	Rosh Ha'Ayin	Qatar	Qatar museums
Italy	Modica	Romania	National Museum of the Romanian Peasant
Italy	Levanto	Spain	Cantabria
Jamaica	Kingston	Czech Republic	Czech Ethnological Society
Malta		India	Indigenous cultural Society
Mexico	Xoximilco	Iran	Companion of Aria
Russia	Irkutsk	Israel	EHEVI (Promoting Israeli Amateur Performing Arts)
Fiji	Levuka	Italy	Fondazione patrimonio unesco sicilia
Iran	Neyshabur	Mauritania	DACC (Dialogue Association for Culture and Creativity)
Uzbekistan	Samarkand	Palestine	Center for Cultural Heritage Preservation (CCHP)

		Romania	National Museum of the Romanian Peasant
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APPROVED PROPOSALS:

- **Give** inactive members **one last chance:** to **contact all of them again** in order to check if they are willing to stay at the ICCN and, **in the case that we do not receive an answer in the period of TWO months, we will remove them** because they have not paid the annual membership fee and neither participate in General Assembly, Workshops or other ICCN activities and events during at least two years.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:

The lack of participation is one of ICCN biggest challenge.

APPROVED PROPOSALS:

- **Executive Board Members will meet more times a year** to discuss all proposals and ICCN adoptions, through video-conference meetings. **Zoom meeting in 3 months:** on 25TH February 2022 at 9am Madrid time slot.
- In order to develop ICCN beyond the annual conferences, **Secretariat proposes** to carry out an **exhibition about the current situation and history of ICCN as well as its role in safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage for next year.** From Secretariat we will send an e-mail with more details and a deadline to participate and depending on the feedback we will move forward.
- **Every delegation will help secretariat in order to recruit new members in their areas of influence**

C. PERMANENT POSITION OF THE CONTACT MEMBER

As an international organization we face difficulties in order to have fluid contact – some related to the distance, the different technology applications, the time slot difference or even the language- and some others related to **continuous changes on the representatives of each delegation.**

We are **continuously experimenting a lot of delay in our communications as well as contact breakage**, most of the time because the contact member is linked to a political position that is meant to change in a few years term.

APPROVED PROPOSAL:

In order to improve the membership contact and, as it was proposed in Beit Sahour (Palestine, 2019) Workshop:

- **Contacts of each ICCN member mustn't be linked to political position, due to the continuous changes.**
- **Each Municipality must have a technician, a permanent worker of the Council, to be the representative in their delegation and the contact for the rest of ICCN members.**

5. CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT CONFERENCES

As all of you know, last year we could not meet due to health restrictions, so the Assembly that was supposed to be held in 2020 did not. This year we are organizing the General Assembly online, but normally the Assembly is always on an even year and the workshop in an odd year.

APPROVED PROPOSAL:

- Even if normally the Assembly is always on an even year and the workshop in an odd year, now we are facing a new order due to the annulation of last year's assembly. **General Assembly adopted to keep the new order so it would be Workshop on 2022, Assembly on 2023, etc.**

2022 Conference (Thematic workshop)

Coppem has proposed to host the workshop: Sicilian institutions are available to organize it, but ONLY before March, due to financial and political issue.

- General Assembly decided **that before March it was too soon to organize it properly**. Secretariat will wait for news in the beginning of 2022 (deadline in February) from Mr. Giordano to check if he manages to host it in person by the end of the year and if it cannot be: either COPPEM will organize it online or Secretariat will send an email to all the members to check if they are willing to

host it in person.

2023 Conference (General Assembly)

Folkland International Centre of folklore and culture (India) would like **to host the 2023 General Assembly**. Dr. Jayarakan already talked to the Mayor of Kerala and he is willing to host it, probably during the month of October/November.

There was no other member that proposed to host any of the next conferences.

6. CURRENT SITUATION AND FUTURE OF REGIONAL OFFICES

As ICCN Statutes says in article 4-1 *Regional Office* that was added in General Assembly of 2018:

- **Members** of specific regions **can apply for the approval of the establishment of ICCN Regional office**
- ICCN Secretariat shall consider the necessity, number of members, capacity to operate the Regional office at the application of members in the specific regions.
- General Assembly shall approve the establishment of the Regional office
- **Regional office shall be operated and financed by the specific region's members.**

APPROVED PROPOSALS:

- Consolidate the role of the Regional Offices **specifying their functions in ICCN Statutes, article 4-1**: The role of the **Regional Offices** is essential for the organization; they **should contribute to strengthen the network according to the different zones around the world, also coordinating regional and international events with Secretariat or other members, searching for regional projects and sponsors and recruiting new members.**
- General Assembly approved that to be representative and prestigious, the **ICCN Regional Offices must represent a single and entire region of the Globe**. In our opinion, the reference model must be the Unesco II Level ICH Centers. They

are located in the following regions of the world - **Far East and Oceania - Middle and Near East - Africa - South America - North America – Europe.**

- Also, **the Regionals Offices will not be permanent:** they will be re-elected every 4 years, so other members from the same region of the globe can have to chance to open one.

Current ICCN Regional Offices:

- ICCN **Euromed Regional Office**, Via Emerico Amari, 162. Palermo, Italy – Europe.

New Regional Offices that have been opened in this 8th General Assembly:

-The **Middle East Regional Office in Isfahan (Isfahan Intangible Heritage Foundation)** because they have been in the organization with strong implication since years ago.

-The **South Asian Regional Office in Kerala, India (Folkland Center of Folklore and Culture).**

Executive Board Meeting encourages other ICCN members to **start-up new offices** in other parts of the world to contribute to a further development of the organization: **Far East and Oceania, Africa, South American and North America are still regions of the globe without Regional Offices.**

7. (GA) ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (2021-2023)

The ICCN Statute stipules:

- The **Executive Board** is made up maximum **ten (10) board members, including three (3) representatives from associate members.**
- The Executive Board **shall serve for 2 years for three consecutive terms.**

As proposed above, if the General Assembly is in 2023, **the Executive Board Members are elected for the period of 2021- 2023** (until the next General Assembly).

APPROVED MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING FOR 2021- 2023

FULL MEMBERS:

- 1. City Hall of Algemesi (Spain)**
- 2. City Hall of Gangneung (Korea)**

3. **Isfahan Municipality (Iran)**
4. **Beit Sahour (Palestine)**
5. **Shiraz Municipality (Iran)**
6. **Cachtice-Kopanice (Vadovce, Slovakia)**
7. **Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (Latvia)**

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

8. **Haft Honare Niakane Parsi Art&Cultural Institute (Isfahan, Iran)**
9. **Folkand International Centre of Folklore and culture (India)**
10. **Coppem (Italy)**

- **GA also decided to add to the Statute the limitation of the number of members from the same country in the Executive Board Members to three in order to keep the balance of different regions and countries of the world.**

8. REVISION OF THE STATUTES

A. THE RIGHT TO HOLD SECRETARIAT FOR ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

The ICCN Statute stipulates that:

- The **City Hall of Algemesi** serves as the **Secretariat** and principal coordinator of the Network, and finance its own operations in such capacity with partial support from the membership fee.
- **The Secretariat role should be taken by the full members at the rotational manner** with a majority of consensus agreement by a quorum of the Full Members, on the condition that the hosting Member must finance its own operations in such capacity.

As it was proposed in the 2018 Assembly:

- **The Secretariat** (representative of the ICCN) should **be elected in the General Assembly. Its term is 4 years and it can be re-elected. The second election would be from 2023 to 2027.**

-Secretariat has received the interest of:

- **Kashan Municipality by Hassan Bakhshandeh Amnieh**
- **COPPEM by Natale Giordano**
- **Folkland Center of Folklore and Culture by Dr. Jayarajan**

APPROVED PROPOSALS:

As long as 2 from 3 Members that applied for Secretariat are Associated Members and following the ICCN Statute only Full Members can hold Secretariat, GA adopted the following proposals:

- As it is a complex decision to take and we need some time to think about it, the General Assembly approved to give the authority to Executive Board Members to decide about if **Associated Members should have the right to hold Secretariat** and not just members accredited with Full Membership **in the next conference.**
- This also means that **we postpone the decision of the next member holding Secretariat** to next conferences.