

National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ireland

Application Form – Information & Instructions

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage?

The UNESCO 2003 Convention defines Intangible Cultural Heritage as 'the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – 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'.

Application Process

The National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage acknowledges and promotes Ireland's living culture through official State recognition. Applications for inscription on Ireland's *National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage* are accepted by the Department on a rolling basis.

- Applications can be made by organisations, groups or individuals, who are connected with the practice.
Cooperation from multiple interested parties and the provision of other signatories in support of an application is greatly encouraged.
- Interested parties should fill out and submit this application form by e-mail (nationalich@ccs.gov.ie) or via post (NICH, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 R5Y3).
- Application forms will be evaluated by the Expert Advisory Committee to establish if they meet the following criteria:
 - **Is the nominated practice Intangible Cultural Heritage as defined under Article 2 of the UNESCO 2003 Convention?**
 - **Are safeguarding measures in place to ensure transmission by a community of practitioners?**
 - **Is there support from the community of practitioners for the nomination to the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage?**
- Where the Expert Advisory Committee determine that an application meets the criteria for inscription on the National Inventory, a recommendation will be made to the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport for final decision.
- Application forms can be completed in either Irish or English and can be downloaded from our website: <https://nationalinventoryich.chg.gov.ie/engage/>
- **Please note that there is no deadline for this process – all submissions will be handled on a rolling basis.**

Queries should be sent via email to nationalich@ccs.gov.ie

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Application Form

1. Name of the proposed intangible cultural heritage tradition, activity or practice

Be as clear as possible, using verbs where appropriate: i.e., 'Traditional céilí dancing' rather than 'Dance'.

2. Geographical location and range

Briefly indicate where in Ireland the practice, tradition or activity is located, along with any international reach it may have.

3. Categories (mark all that apply)

These are the categories listed in the UNESCO 2003 Convention. If you are uncertain as to which categories to select, mark all that may apply, as this can be clarified at a later stage. You may also indicate associated elements, such as crafts involved in making objects that are used as part of the practice (traditional tools, musical instruments, et cetera).

- ☐ Oral traditions and expressions, including language
- ☐ Performing arts
- ☐ Social practices, rituals and festive events
- ☐ Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- ☐ Traditional craftsmanship

4. General description (500 words maximum)

Explain what the practice, tradition or activity is (in a manner that a person who had never encountered it could understand) - its background, history and evolution may also be detailed in this section.

5. Practice and practitioners (250 words maximum)

Explain how the practice, tradition or activity is engaged in today, and identify its key practitioners. This section should also discuss any variance in practice (geographical or otherwise).

6. Development, transmission and safeguarding (500 words maximum)

Discuss how the practice or tradition is developing at the present moment, how it is passed on from generation to generation and all current efforts to ensure its continuity and safeguarding. This section should detail efforts to inform, educate and engage the public, and in particular young people, about the practice; as such, providing information about initiatives, programmes and events is recommended.

7. Related organisations

List any NGOs, community organisations, groups or individuals that practice or otherwise play a major role in the tradition and that support the nomination to the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

8. Additional information (500 words maximum, optional)

This section may be used to provide any additional information relevant to this application, or to expand on specific details from other sections where necessary.

9. Signatories to this application for inscription

Please provide names and contact details for all signatories. Where a person is signing on behalf of an organisation, please make this clear. In the case of multiple signatories, please designate one authorised individual as a primary contact point for this application and then list all additional signatories in 'other signatories'. A physical signature is not required.

Primary contact

Name:

Organisation and role:

Telephone:

Email address:

Postal address including Eircode:

Other signatories

(The provision of other relevant signatories in support of an application is strongly encouraged)