



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

# NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

## 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 2021  
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2021**

*File may be downloaded at:*

[HTTPS://ICH.UNESCO.ORG/EN/FORMS](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.*

Starpozaru mākslas grupa SERDE

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

Interdisciplinary Art group SERDE

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

NGO-90356

#### 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: Starpozaru mākslas grupa SERDE

Address: Registered: Robežu iela 36, Rīga, LV-1004, Latvia

Postal: Atmodas iela 9, Aizpute, LV-3456, Latvia

Telephone number: +371 29817180

Email address: smg.serde@gmail.com

Website: serde.lv

Other relevant  
information: <https://www.facebook.com/SERDE>  
<https://issuu.com/smg.serde>  
<https://vimeo.com/smgserde>

### 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.):	Mrs
Family name:	Pucena
Given name:	Signe
Institution/position:	Program director
Address:	Atmodas iela 9. Aizpute, Latvia, LV-3456
Telephone number:	+ 371 29817180
Email address:	pucena@gmail.com
Other relevant information:	

### B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)<sup>1</sup>

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. 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 participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (OD) 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH-related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

In the period from 2016 to 2020 SERDE members took active role in several government-led processes. One of the main decision maker in the cultural field is State Culture Capital foundation with expert commissions in 8 cultural fields. Each expert commission has 7 members and they can give expert services for tree year period.

These years from SERDE we had two experts who worked in the commission at the heritage field (there is no separate commission for ICH, but it can be applied to two eligible departments – the Culture Heritage and the Traditional Culture):

Jānis Tolpežņikovs - Member of the Cultural Heritage expert commission of State Culture Capital foundation (2017-2020).

Ieva Vītola - Member of the Traditional culture expert commission of State Culture Capital foundation and member of the Council of State Culture Capital foundation (2019-2021). Expert on State Culture Capital foundation supported programs - Culture program on Vidzeme 2019 and Culture program on Kurzeme 2020 The leader of the expert commission of State Culture Capital foundation program «Improvement of the material and technical base of amateur art groups of the Song and Dance Festival movement 2020»

Since 2020 Signe Pucena became a member (for 3 years period) of the Intangible Cultural Heritage council expert commission of Ministry of Culture Republic of Latvia (administrate by Latvian National Centre for Culture). The commission has to review the applications for inscriptions to National Intangible Culture Heritage list and give advices how to develop and to work out the National safeguarding plan.

<sup>1</sup> . In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E.

**B.2.** Describe your organization's cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).

Not to exceed 250 words

SERDE regularly applies and receives the financial support for projects from State Cultural Capital foundation to implement different ICH activities – 1) expeditions and field works to document ICH, 2) publications of the results in the series of A Notebook of Traditions, 3) ICH workshops, training and educational events.

Latvian National Centre for Culture – 1) collaboration in educational and training programmes with lectures and presentations, 2) Publications about the ICH National inscriptions 'Sigulda walking stick craftwork' and 'The craft skills of Gauja Raftsmen'. Intangible Cultural Heritage in Latvia – National Inventory.

UNESCO Latvia - 1) collaboration in educational and training programmes with lectures and presentations ('Landscape reading', I. Vītola; 'The traditions of Traditional medicine in SERDE researches' S.Pucena, 2) organizing several ICH studies in collaboration with UNESCO-associated school teachers and youngsters ('The Laboratory of Local History', 'Local History school'), 3) participation in 'Story of Heritage – my story, your story' within the framework of #Unite4Heritage activities.

**B.3.** Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State's Periodic Report (OD 152).

Not to exceed 250 words

There is currently no involvement or contribution from our organization to the national periodic report, but we would be prepared to get involved if government organizations were interested in cooperating.

**B.4** 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

Currently there are only 'Sūti Cultural space' on List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and 'Baltic Song and Dance celebrations' on Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity from Latvia.

Recently our team member Ieva Vītola took part on preparation process for multinational nomination file 'The craft skills of timber raftsmen' (Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Latvia, Poland) for application period 2021.

Ieva Vītola has prepared two applications – 'Sigulda walking stick craftwork' and 'Raftsmen of Gauja' for National Intangible Culture Heritage list, and as independent expert has evaluated 7 more national level nominations.

**B.5.** Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

Not to exceed 250 words

SERDE organizes fieldwork and expeditions to document ICH practices, skills, stories in different communities in Latvia. Since 2008, SERDE has collaborated with the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, organizing several folklore studies and expeditions for UNESCO-associated school teachers and youngsters. This activity explores traditions—maintained from generation to generation—and to collect stories about local history still preserved in living memory. The gathered materials were published by SERDE in a 'Notebook of Traditions' book series (currently 23 books although the process is ongoing).

SERDE has organized several educational events to promote the work on ICH preservation issues - 'The Laboratories of Local History' was held in various places in Latvia – Balvi, Daugavpils, Alsunga, Kuldīga, Aizpute. These events were hosted by local schools or libraries, lectures and presentations were dedicated to the practical work and sharing experience about how to organize field work and how to document intangible culture in practice. 'The School of Local History' started on 2020 as annual event for specialists and enthusiasts to come together to learn how to find and preserve the living practices, stories and memories.

**B.6.** Describe your organization's participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:

- a. promoting the function of ICH in society;
- b. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;
- c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.

*Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Promoting the function of ICH in society has implemented within publications and public events:

1) Since 2016 there were 9 publications in the series of A Notebook of Traditions ('Stories of the Forbidden Zone', 'Stories from Sigulda guides', 'Children', 'Local historian Mirdza Birzniece', 'The Raftsmen of Gauja', 'Open-air dance tradition', 'SERDE stories', 'The Stories about the Jews of Aizpute', 'Household stories'). Each publication from this series are delivered to the archive of Latvian National Library.

2) The publications in different newspapers, magazines, online platforms, as well broadcasts on National TV and Radio. All of the publications had media attention for the opening and some for the documentation process as well. There were several reserches and publications who gained wider range of press attention and they were 'Raftsmen of Gauja', 'The sories about the Jews in Aizpute' but the most attention was for «Open-air dance tradition» as it was done during the Latvia 100 anniversary and dedicated to the open-air dance campaign.

3) Public events are held to celebrate the book publication including a presentation of the book and additional workshops with reconstruction of old recipes or storytelling events in which the local community are invited to participate.

4) The annual Art and Craft market Applethink invites for collaboration the researchers, artists and local craftsmen to show and share their skills.

5) Intangible Cultural Heritage workshops – after the expeditions SERDE works out the reconstruction of the documented skill and gives it back to the audience as a workshop.

**B.7.** Describe your organization's involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:

- a. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;
- b. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;
- c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;
- d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;
- e. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.

*Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Educational and information programmes aimed to the general public are 'Intangible Cultural Heritage workshops' which are organized in SERDE residencies centre and upon request often are presented in open programmes of Traditional culture festivals in Latvia. Young people are invited to participate in ICH expeditions to help with documentation processes and data processing. The Annual Art and Craft market 'Applethink' combines various ICH workshops for different audiences, some of them (traditional ceramic, local food) are especially designed for families with young children.

SERDE provides several annual educational and training programmes for the community and enthusiasts groups who are willing to learn more about the traditional skills such as wood restoration, ancient beer brewing and foraging of herbal teas.

The non-formal transmitting of knowledge are provided in the program 'Live like a local' with the guided tours in the historical town Aizpute, visiting the SERDE houses complex, workshops and many local inhabitants who live in historical environment and have interesting stories and some specific traditional skills

to share with. These safeguarding activities teach the local community and visitors to evaluate their cultural heritage and to preserve it.

## C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation

*Report on any activities carried out by your organization 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, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:*

- a. *sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);*
- b. *participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);*
- c. *developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Sharing information and regional cooperation was regularly practised through participation with presentations in various conferences.

Signe Pucena presentations in conferences - Liepaja university 'People of Piemare' 2019; Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia 'Folklore an education' 2019; Bridging National conference in Latvia 'Cultural Heritage future challenges' 2019; 'Latvian cultural heritage pioneers and continuations 2018-1918 = 100', ICOMOS conference in Kuldīga 2017; 'Festival as communication tool of Culture heritage' 2017. Lecture 'Project writing – SERDE experience' ICH in theory and practise, 2020.

Ieva Vītola - Scientific report session on the work of ethnologists 'Timber rafting in Gauja river'. 2016. Lectures for Sigulda highschool students 'Folklore in modern society, Stories and traditions', 2016. Lecture for librarians 'A Notebook of Traditions – idea and realization, 2016. Lecture: Landscape reading' UNESCO summer school 2017. Lecture and guided tour 'Revitalization of tradition in building on the identity of place' Krimulda manor, 2017. Publications - 'Sigulda walking stick craftwork' and 'The craft skills of Gauja raftsmen'. I.Vītola. Intangible Cultural Heritage in Latvia – National Inventory.

Regional cooperation and network projects was implemented in cooperation with Suiti and Rucava Cultural spaces during the annual Art and Craft market 'Applethink' 2016 and ICH workshops..

Interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH was implemented in several international projects - 'Living with Cultural Heritage' 3 year project in cooperation with Rauma Old town, Finland, Turku university, Finland, Visby town Sweden and Kuldīga Municipality in Latvia to work out several programmes 'Live like a local', 'International restoration camp', 'Storytelling workshop'.

## 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 Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Addis Ababa, 2016 – Signe Pucena participates as observer.

Participation (S.Pucena) in 5th ICH NGO Forum in Addis Ababa – 11.COM. (discussions, sharing experiences)

The 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius, 2018 for the thirteenth - Signe Pucena participates as observer.

Participation (S.Pucena) in 13.COM Symposium ICH NGO Forum: 'Role of accredited NGOs in the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention' (voting, discussions, sharing experiences).

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

*Not to exceed 100 words*

On 2014 Ieva Vītola and Signe Pucena were members of Consultative Body expert commission in Latvia to evaluate the nomination files to The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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

*Not to exceed 500 words*

Signe Pucena participates in the consultation meeting on the role of accredited non-governmental organizations within the 2003 Convention, 2019 (Paris, France).

## **E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):**

**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*

All SERDE members use English as international language but for UNESCO communication and document studies there are 2 members involved.

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

We have very good experience by using unesco.org resources (especially 'UNESCO lists') for public presentations to different audiences to show the elements on the lists. To show the ICH elements on the lists and related documents, we use ich.unesco.org.

We regularly receive the news from UNESCO ICH Forum <http://www.ichngoforum.org> and participate in online seminars. Information about ICH news and ICH activities we get through ICH websites <https://www.unesco-ichcap.org/> and <http://www.ichngo.net/> or various mailinglists from [ICHmeetings@unesco.org](mailto:ICHmeetings@unesco.org), [ICH-capacity@unesco.org](mailto:ICH-capacity@unesco.org), [news@ichngoforum.org](mailto:news@ichngoforum.org), [ich.ngo.conference@gmail.com](mailto:ich.ngo.conference@gmail.com), [ich.com@unesco.org](mailto:ich.com@unesco.org), [ichmeetings@unesco.org](mailto:ichmeetings@unesco.org), [unesco.culture.sector@lists.unesco.org](mailto:unesco.culture.sector@lists.unesco.org), [ichngoforum@gmail.com](mailto:ichngoforum@gmail.com), [icheventboard@gmail.com](mailto:icheventboard@gmail.com)

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Ieva Vītola and Signe Pucena were members of expert commission of Latvia to The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on 2014 (evaluation of the files). The following years we have read the nomination files as observers.

In National level Ieva Vītola gave an expertise for 7 nominated files for National Inventory [https://www.lnkc.gov.lv/Uploads/2020/11/19/1605799286\\_3157.pdf](https://www.lnkc.gov.lv/Uploads/2020/11/19/1605799286_3157.pdf) ("Dūru cītaras būvēšanas un spēles tradīcija", "Rakstainu dubultcimdu darināšanas prasme Mazsalacā", "Stikla pūšana Līvānos", "Aušanas prasme Pētera Viļumsona pusautomātiskajās vienpaminas stellēs", "Dūru cītaras būvēšanas un spēles tradīcija", "Carnikavas nēģu ķeršanas un apstrādes prasmes")

**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*

Although all SERDE members can communicate and write English, the final texts are made by Signe Pucena. These texts are mainly related to the international project applications (EU Culture, Central Baltic, Nordic Culture point etc.) for the activities, as well as communication documents and reports.

**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*

SERDE is NGO, which seeks to develop the regional and international collaboration between different cultural fields, organizations and professionals. It organizes activities create dialogue between arts, science and education, which includes organizing residencies, workshops, expeditions and publishing 'A Notebook of Traditions'. Recently SERDE had a partnership in two international projects – 1) EU granted project 'Frontiers in retreat' (2014-2018) in program 'Culture' (leader HIAP/ Finland, partners SERDE/ Latvia; Mustarinda/Finland; SSW/UK; GRAD, Serbia; Farrera/Spain; Skaftfell / Iceland; Jutempus/ Lithuania), 2) 'Living with cultural heritage' (2016-2018) in Central Baltic program (leader Rauma Old town/ Finland; partners SERDE/ Latvia, Kuldiga municipality/ Latvia; Turku university/ Finland; Visby municipality/ Sweden).

Currently there is partnership with Nordic Culture point support for international network project 'Elements of Ecological Community' in partnership with 'Culture Power Station' in Finland and 'Muhu Insea' in Estonia.

## **F. Cooperation with UNESCO**

*Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as funding from the Participation Program).*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Publications:

1) Traditional Medicine. Sharing Experiences from the Field

Signe Pucena. *Folk Pharmacy in Latvia*. Pages 117 – 123

ICHCAP and #Heriatgealive. 2017. ISBN 9791195429493 93510

<http://www.ichngoforum.org/traditional-medicine/>

2) Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: Latvian Experiences

Signe Pucena, *Preserving Living Practices and Memories. The Experience of the Interdisciplinary Art Group SERDE* (pages 14 – 41)

Latvijas Nacionālais kultūras centrs, 2015. ISBN 978-9934-528-14-9

[http://www.unesco.lv/files/unesco\\_web\\_a931d609.pdf](http://www.unesco.lv/files/unesco_web_a931d609.pdf)



## G. 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

## H. Signature

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

Name: Signe Pucena

Title: Mrs

Date: 11.02.2021.

Signature:

