



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

**DEADLINE 31 MARCH 2015
FOR A POSSIBLE INSCRIPTION IN 2016**

Instructions for completing the nomination form are available at:

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/forms>

Nominations not complying with those instructions and those found below will be considered incomplete and cannot be accepted.

States Parties are further encouraged to consult the aide-mémoire for completing a nomination to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity available on the same webpage.

A. State(s) Party(ies)

For multi-national nominations, States Parties should be listed in the order on which they have mutually agreed.

Germany

B. Name of the element

B.1. Name of the element in English or French

Indicate the official name of the element that will appear in published material.

Not to exceed 200 characters

The idea and practice of organizing shared interests in cooperatives

B.2. Name of the element in the language and script of the community concerned, if applicable

Indicate the official name of the element in the vernacular language corresponding to the official name in English or French (point B.1).

Not to exceed 200 characters

Genossenschaftsidee

B.3. Other name(s) of the element, if any

In addition to the official name(s) of the element (point B.1) mention alternate name(s), if any, by which the element is known.

C. Name of the communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals concerned

Identify clearly one or several communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals concerned with the nominated element.

Not to exceed 150 words

The groups assuming the main responsibility for the promotion and safeguarding of the idea and practice of organizing shared interests in cooperatives in Germany are the German Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch Society and the German Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Society. Moreover, in Germany, the now more than 20 million members and about 863,000 employees of cooperatives are actively involved with the daily practice and transmission of the idea and practice.

D. Geographical location and range of the element

Provide information on the distribution of the element within the territory(ies) of the submitting State(s), indicating if possible the location(s) in which it is centred. Nominations should concentrate on the situation of the element within the territories of the submitting States, while acknowledging the existence of same or similar elements outside their territories, and submitting States should not refer to the viability of such intangible cultural heritage outside their territories or characterize the safeguarding efforts of other States.

Not to exceed 150 words

The organization of shared interests in cooperatives in Germany is closely associated with the city of Delitzsch, today located in the Free State of Saxony, and the cities of Weyerbusch and Flammersfeld in the State of Rhineland-Palatinate. From there, the idea and practice spread to other parts of Germany and beyond. Today it is practised nearly world-wide: There are more than 900,000 cooperatives with about 800 million members in more than 100 countries in all world regions.

E. Contact person for correspondence

E.1. Designated contact person

Provide the name, address and other contact information of a single person responsible for all correspondence concerning the nomination. For multi-national nominations provide complete contact information for one person designated by the States Parties as the main contact person for all correspondence relating to the nomination.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr
Family name: Hanke
Given name: Benjamin
Institution/position: German Commisison for UNESCO, Programme Officer
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Other relevant information: <http://www.unesco.de/kultur/immaterielles-kulturerbe>

E.2. Other contact persons (for multi-national files only)

Provide below complete contact information for one person in each submitting State, other than the primary contact person identified above.

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1. Identification and definition of the element

For **Criterion R.1**, the States shall demonstrate that ‘the element constitutes intangible cultural heritage as defined in Article 2 of the Convention’.

Tick one or more boxes to identify the domain(s) of intangible cultural heritage manifested by the element, which might include one or more of the domains identified in Article 2.2 of the Convention. If you tick ‘other(s)’, specify the domain(s) in brackets.

- oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage
- performing arts
- social practices, rituals and festive events
- knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- traditional craftsmanship
- other(s) (forms of social self-organization)

This section should address all the significant features of the element as it exists at present.

The Committee should receive sufficient information to determine:

- a. that the element is among the ‘practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills — as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith —’;
- b. ‘that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize [it] as part of their cultural heritage’;
- c. that it is being ‘transmitted from generation to generation, [and] is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history’;
- d. that it provides communities and groups involved with ‘a sense of identity and continuity’; and
- e. that it is not incompatible with ‘existing international human rights instruments as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development’.

Overly technical descriptions should be avoided and submitting States should keep in mind that this section must explain the element to readers who have no prior knowledge or direct experience of it. Nomination files need not address in detail the history of the element, or its origin or antiquity.

- (i) Provide a brief summary description of the element that can introduce it to readers who have never seen or experienced it.

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

Cooperatives are community-based associations whose members work together on a voluntary basis for the benefit of all. It needs at least three people to found a cooperative. The purpose defined in the cooperatives' statutes may serve social, cultural and economic interests. The principles of self-help, self-responsibility and self-administration as well as trust and reliability form the fundamental basis of all cooperatives. They are based upon democratic principles and intend to contribute towards an improvement in general living conditions. It is a model of civic self-help. Cooperatives are open to all people, regardless of social, political, religious or ethnical background. The idea for the first cooperative organizations goes back to the Welshman Robert Owen. Early precursors can be dated back to the Middle Ages. In Germany, at a time of economic plight in the 19th century, the concept was adapted and shaped in particular by Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch and Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen. They founded non-profit financial cooperatives with open membership and joint business operation in order to make low-interest loans available to farmers and craftsmen. The cooperative idea is spread widely today in Germany. It is applied in the most varied aspects of life such as labor, finances, nutrition or housing. Cooperative practice is a matter of specific, tangible commitment to a common goal. Today, the cooperatives, with their practised solidarity, are an effective structural element of society in Germany. The aim of social self-organization in cooperatives is to live and breathe

personal responsibility and to practice solidarity among the members.

- (ii) *Who are the bearers and practitioners of the element? Are there any specific roles or categories of persons with special responsibilities for the practice and transmission of the element? If yes, who are they and what are their responsibilities?*

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

The principles of self-help, self-responsibility and self-administration are inherent to all cooperatives. Members, employees and customers of cooperatives bring these values to life. On the honorary side there are the German Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch Society and the German Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Society with their members – all important cooperative organizations in Germany – promoting image campaigns and educational measures for spreading the idea and handing down the practice. These two societies represent the urban-craftsmen and the rural-peasant background of cooperatives respectively. Their different historic roots also stem from the federal state organization of Germany. Know-how is also handed down by the entrepreneur organizations organized in the German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation (DGRV). Cooperatives are widespread in Germany, there are ca. 5,800. Just about every farmer is a member of one or more cooperatives, as well as ca. 90 % of all bakers and butchers, ca. 75 % of all retailers, more than 65 % of all self-employed tax consultants and ca. 60 % of all craftsmen. In total, over 20 million people - a quarter of all German citizens - are members of cooperatives. Every member is a co-owner and co-decides on the cooperative's development. They participate in the regional creation of wealth, support the economic cycles in situ and create employment. Around 863,000 employees of cooperatives contribute to shaping the practice. The cooperative banks provide more than 30 million customers in Germany with financial services. The housing cooperatives offer around 3.2 million members a good, secure and socially responsibly supply of living space.

- (iii) *How are the knowledge and skills related to the element transmitted today?*

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

The knowledge of organizing shared interests in cooperatives has been handed down in Germany since the time of Schulze-Delitzsch and Raiffeisen from members to members, from generation to generation. The common system of values builds the backbone of the cooperatives' work. New cooperatives are supported by various institutions within the cooperative family in their founding phase. Pupils' cooperatives are hands-on spaces for the learning of economic and social responsibilities. The cooperative idea is also preserved through the Cooperation Act that defines the legal form of cooperatives. Every cooperative is part of an auditing association which controls its compliance with the regulatory framework. The idea and practice is transmitted through image campaigns and education. Community centers and museums in Delitzsch, Flammersfeld, Hamm, Weyerbusch, Hamburg and in other places both within and outside Germany convey the knowledge. Information materials relevant to prevailing topics with regard to cooperative action are regularly published. The DGRV provides information on relevant topics through series of booklets and specialist essays as does the newspaper "Genossenschaftliche Allgemeine Zeitung". Conferences such as the "Delitzscher Gespräche" (Delitzsch Discussions) or the members' assemblies of the German Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Society are documented in publications. All cooperative institutions constantly implement internal further training measures for their employees concerning cooperative values and principles. Various chairs and institutes at German universities are specialized in cooperatives. The Akademie Deutscher Genossenschaften (Academy of German Cooperatives, ADG) in Montabaur acts as a central research institute that, systematically and task-oriented, offers differentiated measures for German and international participants.

(iv) *What social functions and cultural meanings does the element have today for its community?*

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

Cooperatives allow the identification and organization of shared interests and are thus a community-building practice. This is their most important cultural asset, because this civic capacity is an important contribution to innovation and viable solutions for social and ecological issues in a society. Cooperatives provide a diversity of social services; they promote positive change and contribute towards overcoming community challenges. Cooperatives are based upon local initiative and the subsidiarity principle that places personal responsibility above state action. Economic existences and social and cultural projects that would otherwise not have been possible become reality. Cooperatives also make a contribution to the integration of people in Germany: comparably large numbers of migrants are members of cooperative banks and housing cooperatives. Their emancipatory, democratic, participatory and social practice creates space and other preconditions for cultural and artistic development. Each member acquires shares of the cooperative and thereby becomes a co-owner. Everyone normally has one vote in the general assembly, regardless of number of shares, and thus co-decides upon the future development of the particular cooperative. This guarantees co-responsibility as well as active participation. With their bottom-up-approach, cooperatives open up opportunities to people from all population strata. Cooperatives, a “social micro-system of very particular, also cultural sensibility” (Eberhard Duelfer), have developed an integrating culture of communication and decision-making. They foster mutual assistance and social cohesion among the members and, as they are guided by idealistic values such as solidarity, honesty and responsibility, they also influence the way of thinking and acting of the people.

(v) *Is there any part of the element that is not compatible with existing international human rights instruments or with the requirement of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, or with sustainable development?*

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

The idea and practice of cooperatives is compatible with all existing international human rights instruments in all aspects. Cooperatives in general are free from political and religious ties and welcome members from all social backgrounds. The structure of cooperatives facilitate mutual understanding among the individuals that become co-owners and come together to reach a common goal. Their principles promote social, cultural, emancipatory and economic development. Cooperatives have, for example, played a major role in empowering women in Germany since the early 20th century, allowing them to join together in associations and thereby increasing their negotiation power. Cooperative organizations are recently also playing an increasing role in empowering people in developing countries. Many forms of social collaboration are being practiced in cooperatives today; active civic participation is a prerequisite for the positive shaping of social reality in situ. Cooperatives contribute to social sustainability by creating common property and common financial reserves. Since 1923, the Internationale Day of the Cooperative is celebrated annually on the first Saturday of July, emphasizing the ideals of the cooperative movement. The profound significance of cooperatives worldwide and their contribution to sustainable development has been recognized by the United Nations: The year 2012 was proclaimed International Year of Cooperatives (“Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World”), thus raising the global public's awareness of the idea and practice of cooperatives. Networks among cooperatives ensure mutual respect among various communities. They are incorporated into associations and benefit reciprocally from the diversity of other cooperative groups.

2. Contribution to ensuring visibility and awareness and to encouraging dialogue

For Criterion R.2, the States shall demonstrate that 'Inscription of the element will contribute to ensuring visibility and awareness of the significance of the intangible cultural heritage and to encouraging dialogue, thus reflecting cultural diversity worldwide and testifying to human creativity'. This criterion will only be considered to be satisfied if the nomination demonstrates how the possible inscription will contribute to ensuring visibility and awareness of the significance of the intangible cultural heritage in general, and not only of the inscribed element itself, and to encouraging dialogue which respects cultural diversity.

- (i) *How can inscription of the element on the Representative List contribute to the visibility of the intangible cultural heritage in general and raise awareness of its importance at the local, national and international levels?*

Not fewer than 100 or more than 150 words

The inscription would show a new facet of intangible cultural heritage: It can manifest itself in a form of social self-organization contributing to structure life in all kinds of groups, communities and even whole societies. Inscribing the element would demonstrate clearly the shared asset of intangible cultural heritage to be community-based. The inscription would potentially bring to new audiences the idea of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. It would also show the often transboundary character of intangible cultural heritage as the cooperative practice and its values like solidarity, honesty, responsibility, trust and reliability are shared by members world-wide. Given this nearly global prevalence, these positive values, in fact characterizing many forms of intangible cultural heritage, would get more visibility. The contribution of intangible cultural heritage to social cohesion could also be demonstrated by the cooperatives' practice of including broad circles of society and fostering their participation in economic and cultural development.

- (ii) *How can inscription encourage dialogue among communities, groups and individuals?*

Not fewer than 100 or more than 150 words

Cooperatives are spread world-wide, thus inscription would strengthen the cooperative idea and practice on a global scale. Cooperatives evolved from a dynamic exchange of reformers in 19th Century Europe. As the idea also has its roots in Great Britain, France and some Slavic countries, and has spread to many more countries since, inscription could enhance further cooperation with and between them. Inscription would raise awareness of the inherent potential of cooperatives to stimulate sustainable development. More groups and communities will be encouraged to adapt the concept to their own needs. It would promote the exchange of experiences and strengthen already existing national and global networks. Communication within cooperatives is inseparable from their democratic organizational structure. Decisions have to be taken in consensus which encourages participation, mutual understanding and the exchange of views. Members of cooperatives the world over will be even more encouraged to preserve the values and moral concepts.

- (iii) *How can inscription promote respect for cultural diversity and human creativity?*

Not fewer than 100 or more than 150 words

Cooperatives offer an opportunity for anyone to participate in social, cultural and economic processes by becoming a co-owner. All members normally have equal rights and the same number of votes in the cooperative's general assembly. This ensures respect for diversity in views and opinions. Cooperatives aim at creating an open and participatory environment for their members. This brings out human potential and nurtures creativity. They are open to new initiatives and ideas in order to meet social challenges such as self-determined life of and for senior citizens, the spreading of renewable sources of energy, revitalizing urban districts and

many more. Some cooperatives are wholly dedicated to promoting art, culture and creativity; media cooperatives ensure independent media coverage. Cooperatives can be found in more than 100 countries worldwide. This is evidence to the dynamic structure of cooperatives that makes the concept applicable to different countries and cultures.

3. Safeguarding measures

For **Criterion R.3**, the States shall demonstrate that 'safeguarding measures are elaborated that may protect and promote the element'.

3.a. Past and current efforts to safeguard the element

- (i) How is the viability of the element being ensured by the concerned communities, groups or, if applicable, individuals? What past and current initiatives have they taken in this regard?

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

The German Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch Society and the German Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Society develop a vast array of safeguarding measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the idea and practice of cooperatives. Both societies make constant efforts to develop these from the broadest possible community-base. Information on the values and potential is especially targeted to civil society stakeholders. These two umbrella organizations are also maintaining contacts to politicians, administrators and experts. Together with the German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation (DGRV) they address the general public through public relations or image campaigns, publications, community centers and museum exhibitions. Image campaigns such as "A gain for us all" or "We are building a better world" are aimed at informing the public as well as members and customers of cooperatives. "Pixi" children books contain stories that explain elements of the cooperative idea to young children. Educational fairs as well as the internet and social media are used to raise awareness of people starting from a young age. The project geno@school of the University of Applied Sciences Frankfurt/Main, which is supported by a number of cooperatives, has been implemented in schools since 2004. Through geno@school, pupils' cooperatives are promoted as a viable model for pupil-run companies. This is an example of the general endeavor to anchor the cooperative idea in formal education in schools and universities. Research is undertaken at specialized University chairs and institutes associated with several German universities. A specialized archive (GenoArchiv) is documenting the tradition in an exemplary region.

Tick one or more boxes to identify the safeguarding measures that have been and are currently being taken by the **communities, groups or individuals** concerned:

- transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education
- identification, documentation, research
- preservation, protection
- promotion, enhancement
- revitalization

- (ii) How have the concerned States Parties safeguarded the element? Specify external or internal constraints, such as limited resources. What are its past and current efforts in this regard?

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

Giving people the opportunity of helping themselves is a smart way to empower them for development. The basic framework conditions must be created by the State however: In 2006, the German Federal Parliament passed the Act on the Introduction of the European Cooperative and for the Amendment of Cooperative Legislation. Cooperatives are now allowed to dedicate themselves to social or cultural purposes. The Federal German Government supports activities of the cooperative family both financially and ideationally: The former Federal Ministry for Traffic, Construction and Urban Development sponsored many innovative cooperative housing programmes on the national level through the "Programme for Experimental Housing and Urban Construction" (ExWoSt). One example is the construction of a social-integrative residential facility for women by the "FrauenWohnen eG". The Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer

Protection supports cooperative-friendly accounting standards and the future-oriented development of the Law on Cooperatives. The Ministry of Economic Affairs offers assistance in founding cooperatives; the Federal Ministry of Finance advises cooperatives on fiscal matters. The Ministry of Agriculture is an important partner for projects in development cooperation. The building of sustainable economic structures is supported in ca. 30 developing countries by the German cooperative movement in collaboration with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). Cooperatives support the fight against poverty. They strive for a more just development of globalization processes. For the transmission of knowledge about the cooperative practice in Germany, public universities and schools are important institutions.

*Tick one or more boxes to identify the safeguarding measures that have been and are currently being taken by the **State(s) Party(ies)** with regard to the element:*

- transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education
- identification, documentation, research
- preservation, protection
- promotion, enhancement
- revitalization

3.b. Safeguarding measures proposed

This section should identify and describe safeguarding measures that will be implemented, especially those intended to protect and promote the element. The safeguarding measures should be described in terms of concrete engagements of the States Parties and communities and not only in terms of possibilities and potentialities.

- (i) *What measures are proposed to help to ensure that the element's viability is not jeopardized in the future, especially as an unintended result of inscription and the resulting visibility and public attention?*

Not fewer than 500 or more than 750 words

Promotion: New image campaigns will be developed, for example on the occasion of the 200th birthday of Friedrich-Wilhelm Raiffeisen in 2018; an internal working group of the society will take the lead. The "Genossenschaftliche Allgemeine Zeitung" with articles on topics such as self-help, citizens' commitment or cooperation in the field, is directed towards community members and beyond. It will continue to be published eight times a year with a print run of 260,000 copies. Regarding international exchange, a series of congresses started in the UN Year 2012 (Venice, Berlin, Vienna, Utrecht, Quebec, Manchester etc.) which is intended to be continued. In order to attract more young persons, the German Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Society will be offering an award: Under the slogan "Help yourself. Win together", young people between 14 and 25 will be invited to submit their ideas. The competition has been developed in cooperation with a students' working group at the Institute of Cooperative Research (University of Münster). It is to be advertised and operationalized through social media channels. The founding of pupils' cooperatives will be continued to be actively promoted. In the newly founded "Raiffeisen-Campus" in the Westerwald region (a private grammar school under cooperative sponsorship), teaching materials for each school year on the topic of cooperatives and its ideals have been drawn up and will be implemented. The series of the "Delitzscher Gespräche" (Delitzsch Discussions), in existence since 1993, takes up current issues. They are documented in a series of booklets. Beyond that, information material will be developed regularly. Young children get to know the ideas and practices of cooperatives by the "Pixi" book series. Beyond the existing community centers and museums there are plans to set up a cross-border thematic cultural hiking trail on the subject of cooperatives. A similar project is the 40-kilometre "Historical Raiffeisen Road" in Rhineland-Palatinate. Information brochures are available to visitors on site and will be updated regularly. In the city of Delitzsch, a pathway along the places of interest in relation to Hermann Schulze-Delitzsch will be created in the near future. With smartphones and QR codes, visitors will be able to obtain information in the various locations. New cooperative forms will be further supported, for example in the field of patient care, the service and energy sector, freelancers, in the form of cooperative village shops or theatres and much more – everywhere where new community spirit is asked for. New cooperatives are increasingly springing up in areas in which

State and municipalities are being forced to withdraw from funding.

Protection: In Germany, national and European legislation are important framework conditions for the further development of cooperatives even if the organizational form itself is free from state influence. The German Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch Society and the German Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Society will continue to campaign for this development option. A number of institutes attached to German universities do research on the cooperative system from a sociological, economic or legal point of view. The aim is to give insights to cooperatives and associations that will support the realization of their mandate and their specific form of cooperation between people with a common goal. The research is theoretically founded, empirically substantiated, interdisciplinary, internationally oriented and practice-related. Out of the cooperation between the two bearer societies, a cooperation between the Delitzscher Land (Saxony) and the Raiffeisen-Region (Rhineland-Palatinate) has grown with the aim of submitting a joint LEADER-application to the European Union. The two regions are endeavoring to make the idea of cooperatives more visible locally and useful for the challenges presented by demographic changes. Citizens' cooperatives are to be founded to enable elderly people to lead independent lives for as long as possible, to improve the compatibility of family and profession, to promote civilian commitment and to strengthen democratic participation.

Mitigating potential negative effects: The element could be decontextualized by legal frameworks that oppose its basic principles. A permanent process of negotiation on this has been going on for more than 150 years between the cooperative organizations and the legislator in Germany. For today's conditions, a viable compromise with flexible solutions has been found; this must be preserved and further developed. Should, thanks to inscription, the organizing of interests in cooperatives become heavily in demand, a potential danger could be that cooperative organizations would no longer be in the position of advising newly founded cooperatives in the same quality as at present.

(ii) How will the States Parties concerned support the implementation of the proposed safeguarding measures?

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

Representatives of many groups within German civil society and politicians from all political parties represented in the German Federal Parliament support the cooperatives. They will be called upon by the German Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch Society and the German Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Society to continue their support in the future. The federal ministries are partners of the cooperative system in the transfer of knowledge both at home and abroad. State education facilities and public-service broadcasting, by making this a topic of their classes or their programs, will continue to support the cooperatives. By informing people about the positive social, emancipatory and democratic aspects, they contribute to society's understanding of itself. The UN Member States, in their Millennium Declaration of 2000, have set themselves binding targets. The fight against poverty is on top of the list. Organizations of civil societies and enterprises world-wide are being called upon to collaborate in this endeavor. The German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation (DGRV) commits itself to the improvement of social structures in developing countries. This work will be backed to a decisive extent by the Federal Government in the coming years. Thus the DGRV will be able to share its experiences in the struggle against poverty and its culture of cooperation in the development field, promoting cooperative structures in partner countries. The Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, for example, intends to strengthen the cooperative movement in Ethiopia by helping to establish around 43,000 cooperatives.

(iii) How have communities, groups or individuals been involved in planning the proposed safeguarding measures and how will they be involved in their implementation?

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

The communities and groups - member organizations and partners of the two societies - form a "symphonic orchestra": The different instruments (activities) presented should work on its own, and together, coordinated by the two societies, it should be a successful concerto, leading to the

viability of the element. The members of the cooperative family are involved in the development of programs for raising awareness of the cooperative idea and other safeguarding measures through the members' assemblies and committees of the German Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch Society and the German Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Society. They meet regularly as well as in the form of subject-specific working groups. The diversity of the cooperative organizations and their structures are thereby able to contribute their expertise and potential to the programs and activities. An active incorporation of the cooperatives both in the planning and in the implementation of image campaigns and model projects is indispensable for the success thereof. In the publications of the cooperative organizations, via the public media, in exhibitions and in the cooperatives' institutes of further education, the safeguarding of the cooperative idea will continue to be talked about constructively in the future. In this way, it will be ensured that as many of the more than 20 million members of cooperatives in Germany as possible will be informed of the safeguarding measures. The cooperative institutes at the universities will continue to help carry on the ideas of Schulze-Delitzsch and Raiffeisen and the practice of cooperatives and to breathe a new actuality into them.

3.c. Competent body(ies) involved in safeguarding

Provide the name, address and other contact information of the competent body(ies), and if applicable, the name and title of the contact person(s), with responsibility for the local management and safeguarding of the element.

Name of the body: German National Commission for UNESCO

Name and title of the contact person: Mr Benjamin Hanke

Address: Colmantstrasse 15, 53115 Bonn, Germany

Telephone number: +49 228 604970

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Other relevant information: <http://www.unesco.de/kultur/immaterielles-kulturerbe>

4. Community participation and consent in the nomination process

For **Criterion R.4**, the States shall demonstrate that 'the element has been nominated following the widest possible participation of the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned and with their free, prior and informed consent'.

4.a. Participation of communities, groups and individuals concerned in the nomination process

Describe how the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned have participated actively in preparing and elaborating the nomination at all stages.

States Parties are encouraged to prepare nominations with the participation of a wide variety of all concerned parties, including where appropriate local and regional governments, communities, NGOs, research institutes, centres of expertise and others. States Parties are reminded that the communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals whose intangible cultural heritage is concerned are essential participants throughout the conception and elaboration of nominations, proposals and requests, as well as the planning and implementation of safeguarding measures, and are invited to devise creative measures to ensure that their widest possible participation is built in at every stage, as required by Article 15 of the Convention.

Not fewer than 300 or more than 500 words

The two Executive Committees of the voluntarily organized German Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch Society and the German Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Society have involved themselves intensively with the application for the German nationwide inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Each Committee has unanimously passed an approving resolution. Subsequently, in both organizations, first the Board of Trustees and then the members' General assembly carefully studied the matter. This is important because responsible functionaries of all relevant cooperative organizations in Germany are represented on the Boards of Trustees and in the members' assemblies of the two societies. Thus, it was guaranteed that the cooperative family as a whole, right from the very beginning in 2013, was not only fully informed about the application process, but also actively involved therein. In both societies the governance bodies, after intensive consultations, consented to the joint application. Borne by the conviction that the idea of the cooperative is an important factor in social development and that it has become a characterizing factor of culture in Germany, as well as in Europe and beyond, all committees explicitly welcomed the application. As representatives who should play a leading role in the formulation of the application, the respective Boards of Trustees and the Executive Committees appointed Dr. Manfred Wilde on behalf of the German Hermann Schulze-Delitzsch Society and Josef Zolk for the German Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Society. The final phase, the preparation of the UNESCO-nomination file, was characterized by an intensive cooperation between the representatives of the two societies and the Office for Intangible Cultural Heritage of the German Commission for UNESCO. In a number of discussions and consultations, ideas were gathered, discussed, evaluated and finally merged into this application. Parallel to the internal process, a dialogue with a multitude of stakeholders from politics and society (associations, churches, trade unions) took place. In consultation with university institutes and institutes of further education, the societal, cultural, economic and political mission of the cooperatives in the past and the present was analyzed. For sharpening the description of the cultural significance of cooperatives, the discussion with adolescents in pupils' cooperatives and with visitors to community centers and museums was quite helpful. At the international level, inter alia, the International Raiffeisen Union (IRU) and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) welcome the nomination. Thanks to an extensive and positive accompaniment of the whole process by the media, initiated by the press and public relations work of the two bearer societies, the nomination was widely communicated – beyond the internal media of the two societies themselves. In conclusion, it can be assumed that the overwhelming majority of the members and employees of cooperatives in Germany is informed and welcomes the application. The positive reaction to the acceptance of the cooperative idea as an element in the nationwide inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the nomination for the Representative List of UNESCO show that there is a broad consensus within society with regard to the element. The cooperation between the two societies with their different traditions and histories proved to be

enriching.

4.b. Free, prior and informed consent to the nomination

The free, prior and informed consent to the nomination of the element from the community, group or, if applicable, individuals concerned may be demonstrated through written or recorded concurrence, or through other means, according to the legal regimens of the State Party and the infinite variety of communities and groups concerned. The Committee will welcome a broad range of demonstrations or attestations of community consent in preference to standard or uniform declarations. Evidence of free, prior and informed consent shall be provided in one of the working languages of the Committee (English or French), as well as the language of the community concerned if its members use languages other than English or French

Attach to the nomination form information showing such consent and indicate below what documents you are providing, how they were obtained and what form they take.

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

The resolutions attached to the nomination document the free, prior and informed consent to the nomination. The annexes are decisions taken by the Executive Committees as well as by the Boards of Trustees of the two societies representing the community. The German Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch Society's boards have adopted unanimously their decision on 24 February 2015. The German Friedrich-Raiffeisen-Society's boards have adopted unanimously their decision on 11 March 2015. The form of decision like the ones attached is the usual way of documenting decisions of the boards. They have legally binding force for the members of the respective societies.

The members of the Board of Trustees are appointed by the Executive Committees, whose members are elected by the respective General Assembly of the two societies. The latter in which all relevant German cooperative organizations are represented each meet once a year. The Executive Committees as well as the Boards of Trustees normally meet three times a year. They are tasked with taking decisions between the General Assemblies as well as with giving strategic orientation. All of the board members act in an honorary capacity. They reflect the diversity of cooperatives in Germany and guarantee their involvement in the nomination process. Already the application for including the element in the nationwide German inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2013 has been approved by those four boards.

4.c. Respect for customary practices governing access to the element

Access to certain specific aspects of intangible cultural heritage or to information about it is sometimes restricted by customary practices enacted and conducted by the communities in order, for example, to maintain the secrecy of certain knowledge. If such practices exist, demonstrate that inscription of the element and implementation of the safeguarding measures would fully respect such customary practices governing access to specific aspects of such heritage (cf. Article 13 of the Convention). Describe any specific measures that might need to be taken to ensure such respect.

If no such practices exist, please provide a clear statement that there are no customary practices governing access to the element in at least 50 words

Not fewer than 50 or more than 250 words

In Germany, there are no legal or customary restrictions upon the idea and practice of organizing shared interests in cooperatives. The Law on Cooperatives and its revisions form the legal bases for the further elaboration thereof. The latest statutory regulations indeed make it even easier to found cooperatives, also in the field of culture and social security, and introduce some simplifications for smaller cooperatives.

4.d. Concerned community organization(s) or representative(s)

Provide detailed contact information for each community organization or representative, or other non-governmental organization, that is concerned with the element such as associations, organizations, clubs, guilds, steering committees, etc.:

- a. Name of the entity*
- b. Name and title of the contact person*
- c. Address*
- d. Telephone number*
- e. E-mail*
- f. Other relevant information*

Deutsche Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch-Gesellschaft e. V.

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info@raiffeisen-gesellschaft.de

5. Inclusion of the element in an inventory

For **Criterion R.5**, the States shall demonstrate that ‘the element is included in an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in the territory(ies) of the submitting State(s) Party(ies), as defined in Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention’.

a. Indicate below:

- when the element has been included in the inventory, which should be prior to the submission of the nomination to the Secretariat (31 March),
- its reference,
- the inventory in which the element has been included,
- the office, agency, organization or body responsible for maintaining that inventory,
- how the inventory has been drawn up ‘with the participation of communities, groups and relevant non-governmental organizations’ (Article 11(b) of the Convention),
- how the inventory is regularly updated (Article 12 of the Convention).

b. Documentary evidence shall also be provided in an annex demonstrating that the nominated element is included in an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in the territory(ies) of the submitting State(s) Party(ies), as defined in Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention; such evidence shall include a relevant extract of the inventory(ies) in English or in French, as well as in the original language if different. The extract should be, for example, the inventory record or file for the nominated element, including its description, location, community(ies), viability, and so on. It may be complemented by a reference below to a functioning hyperlink through which such an inventory may be accessed, but the hyperlink alone is not sufficient.

The nominated element’s inclusion in an inventory should not in any way imply or require that the inventory(ies) should have been completed prior to nomination. Rather, a submitting State Party may be in the process of completing or updating one or more inventories, but has already duly included the nominated element on an inventory-in-progress.

Not fewer than 150 or more than 250 words

The idea of cooperatives has been inscribed in the nationwide German Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage (<http://www.unesco.de/en/kultur/immaterielles-kulturerbe/german-inventory.html>) in December 2014. It was thereby one of the first 27 elements that were inscribed: <http://www.unesco.de/en/kultur/immaterielles-kulturerbe/german-inventory/inscription/the-idea-and-practice-of-cooperatives.html>

In 2013, tradition bearers, communities and NGOs were invited for the first time to submit proposals for the inventory. The elements were selected through a multi-level process by the German States (Länder), an expert committee appointed by the Executive Board of the German Commission for UNESCO, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. The proposals for the inventory were made directly by the communities, groups and individuals concerned, in response to a coordinated call by the Länder and the German Commission for UNESCO. NGOs were contacted and actively involved in this process on the states and on the federal level (e.g. the Bund Heimat und Umwelt and the Zentralverband des Deutschen Handwerks each have one representative in the above mentioned expert committee). The German National Commission for UNESCO is the organization responsible for maintaining the inventory. The expert committee, comprising 22 persons experienced in at least one of the five domains of intangible cultural heritage or in cultural policy in general, will regularly evaluate and update the inventory by proposing new elements for inscription according to the above mentioned procedure as well as by checking the viability of the elements already inscribed.

6. Documentation

6.a. Appended documentation (mandatory)

The documentation listed below is mandatory and will be used in the process of evaluating and examining the nomination. The photographs and the video will also be helpful for visibility activities if the element is inscribed. Tick the following boxes to confirm that related items are included with the nomination and that they follow the instructions. Additional materials other than those specified below cannot be accepted and will not be returned.

- documentary evidence of the consent of communities, along with a translation into English or French if the language of concerned community is other than English or French
- documentary evidence demonstrating that the nominated element is included in an inventory of the intangible cultural heritage present in the territory(ies) of the submitting State(s) Party(ies), as defined in Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention; such evidence shall include a relevant extract of the inventory(ies) in English or in French, as well as in the original language if different
- 10 recent photographs in high definition
- cession(s) of rights corresponding to the photos (Form ICH-07-photo)
- edited video (from 5 to 10 minutes), subtitled in one of the languages of the Committee (English or French) if the language utilized is other than English or French
- cession(s) of rights corresponding to the video recording (Form ICH-07-video)

6.b. Principal published references (optional)

Submitting States may wish to list, using a standard bibliographic format, principal published references providing supplementary information on the element, such as books, articles, audio-visual materials or websites. Such published works should not be sent along with the nomination.

Not to exceed one standard page.

Alscher, Mareike: Genossenschaften - Akteure des Markts und der Zivilgesellschaft; betrifft: Bürgergesellschaft 36, November 2011.

Birchall, Johnston: The International Co-operative Movement. Manchester 1997.

DGRV - Deutscher Genossenschafts- und Raiffeisenverband e.V. (continously): Genossenschaften in Deutschland / Cooperatives in Germany: <http://www.genossenschaften.de/>

Eichwald, Berhold / Lutz, Klaus Josef: Erfolgsmodell Genossenschaften – Möglichkeiten für eine werteorientierte Wirtschaft. Wiesbaden 2011.

Faust, Helmut: Geschichte der Genossenschaftsbewegung: Ursprung und Aufbruch der Genossenschaftsbewegung in England, Frankreich und Deutschland sowie ihre weitere Entwicklung im deutschen Sprachraum, 3rd edition, Frankfurt/Main 1977.

Merrett Christopher D. and Walzer, Norman: Cooperatives and Local Development: Theory and Applications for the 21st Century. 2004.

Theurl, Theresia: Das mitteleuropäische Konzept der Genossenschaft als Selbsthilfeeinrichtung in der Tradition von Raiffeisen und Schulze-Delitzsch, in: Harbrecht, Wolfgang (ed.): Die Zukunft der Genossenschaft in der Europäischen Union an der Schwelle zum 21. Jahrhundert, Nürnberg, p. 97-116, 2001.

Vogt, Walter: Nachhaltige Zukunftssicherung durch genossenschaftliches Wirtschaften. In: Schriftenreihe der Deutschen Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch-Gesellschaft e. V. (ed.): Eine Publikation der Hermann-Schulze-Delitzsch-Gesellschaft zum Ende des UN-Jahres der Genossenschaften 2012. Schriftenreihe Heft 20. Delitzsch 2013.

Zeuli, Kimebrly A. and Cropp, Robert: Cooperatives: Principles and practices in the 21st century. University of Wisconsin 2004.

7. Signature(s) on behalf of the State(s) Party(ies)

The nomination should conclude with the signature of the official empowered to sign it on behalf of the State Party, together with his or her name, title and the date of submission.

In the case of multi-national nominations, the document should contain the name, title and signature of an official of each State Party submitting the nomination.

Name: Dr Michael Worbs

Title: Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Germany to UNESCO

Date: 26 March 2015

Signature:

Name(s), title(s) and signature(s) of other official(s) (For multi-national nominations only)