

# I . Safeguarding System & Policy

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The Convention for the Safeguarding of the ICH was signed on 17 October 2003. The Law No 5448 on Approval of the Ratification of the Convention was passed with positive vote of all the governing and opposition parties in the Turkish Grand National Assembly. After the ratification, it was published in the Official Gazette No. 26056 and dated 21 January 2006 and went into effect after completing required procedures, Turkey became a State Party to the Convention as the 45th country on 27 March 2006.

Turkey has treated ICH as an object of protection and a precious treasure of the nation, based on the Law on Organization and Functions of Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Law No: 4848), established and enacted in 2003. Based on this Law, Directorate General of Research and Training under the authority of Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT) was designated as executive body for the implementation of the Convention. In accordance with the Law, following issues are identified as the main duties of the Directorate General of Research and Training under the authority of Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT): research, inventory-making, archiving, registration, promotion, establishing expert commissions for determination and registration of ICH elements and developing cooperation and coordination with national and international institutions for ICH.

In order to implement the Convention properly, in 2008, the ICH Branch was founded. In 2011, the branch was expanded and established as Department of Turkish ICH under the authority of the Directorate General of Research and Training under the authority of Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT). Then, in cooperation with provincial directorates of MoCT in 81 cities and representatives from related institutions (Public Education Center, Municipality, NGOs, and universities) and the bearers of ICH have formed "ICH Boards." The Boards in the

cities prepare and update the necessary forms regarding the inclusion of elements in ICH National Inventory of Turkey or Living Human Treasures National Inventory of Turkey.

Ministry of Culture and Tourism has continued on infrastructure works for a new safeguarding system & policy in Turkey. As well as having intangible cultural heritage experts, Turkey and Turkish authorities are open to cooperation and exchange of opinions with foreign experts.