

SOCIAL INCLUSION OPPORTUNITIES

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

collection of ideas

THE BULGARIAN CHITALISHTA

As part of the UNESCO representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the Bulgarian chitalishta are traditional cultural and educational organizations uniformly distributed across the whole territory of Bulgaria.

They are non-governmental self-regulatory organizations that perform cultural and educational activities aimed at safeguarding the customs and traditions of Bulgarian people, ensuring access to information, distributing knowledge and familiarizing citizens with the values and achievements of science, arts and culture.

The main objectives of the Chitalishta are related to: 1/development and enrichment of cultural life, social and educational activities in the town or village wherein they operate; 2/preserving the Bulgarian customs and traditions; 3/expanding the knowledge of citizens and their affiliation with the values and achievements of science, art and culture; 4/ development and establishment of national self-consciousness; 5/providing access to information.



Social Inclusion Opportunities

They are central to the process of transmitting intangible cultural heritage in the country, with elderly members playing a key role in encouraging young people to get involved. The efficiency of chitalishte is demonstrated by their increasing numbers over the years and the growing numbers of participants in their activities, representing all ages and population groups. With a view to popularizing and presenting intangible cultural heritage, the chitalishta organize festivals, celebrations, gatherings, exhibitions and establishment of local centres for documenting, archiving and handing over knowledge and skills.