

International Partnership Programme for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage
“**Training Course for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage**”
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COUNTRY REPORT: PERU

Introduction to Centro Regional Para La Salvaguardia del Patrimonio Cultura Inmaterial de America Latina-Crespial (CRESPIAL)

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The CRESPIAL was created through the signing of the "Agreement between the Organization of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO, and the Government of the Republic of Peru concerning the creation and the operation of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America in Cusco (Peru)", in Paris on February 22th, 2006. It sits in the city of Cusco.

The CRESPIAL is a centre with an international outlook, under the auspices of UNESCO, being a Category 2¹ Centre of UNESCO, becoming the first regional centre of this kind in the world.

The Centre is formed, in its organisational structure, with the following organs:
1. **The Governing Council:** It is the highest decision-making body of the Centre, composed of government representatives and civil society in each Member State of CRESPIAL² and by the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO. It is responsible for the orientation of the Center's activities.

2. **The Executive Committee:** It is the body responsible for ensuring the effective functioning of the Centre, and is composed of 5 members elected by the Governing Council.

3. **Secretariat:** Composed of a Director-General and the staff necessary for the Centre to work. It is responsible for managing the Centre in accordance with the programme and guidelines, determined by the Governing Council and its administrative operations.

CRESPIAL's Objective:

The Centre's aim is to create a space in which we are able to articulate, to diffuse and to exchange activities for safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in the region, as well as to promote and strengthen cooperation among the countries in the Region and support national capacities in this field, so that the Intangible Cultural Heritage could be

¹ At the 34th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, it was decided that it is possible to establish a method to strengthen the bond between UNESCO and the centres of category 2 named for UNESCO.

² A Government representative and a civil society of each Member State's CRESPIAL

really appreciated as an essential factor for the preservation of cultural diversities of the Region.

For this purpose, it was planned to encourage the participation by interested States in the Region in the CRESPIAL's activities, so that they could benefit from them.

Joining in the Centre's Activities

To join to the Centre, the States concerned shall send a notification to that effect to the Director General of UNESCO, assigning the national agency responsible for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.

The Director-General of UNESCO will redirect the receipt of such notification both to the CRESPIAL and to the soliciting State, so the country can adhere to the center.

Beginning of Activities

The CRESPIAL formally initiated its activities when the first Governing Council acted on having adhered more than four countries of the region to the Center (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Ecuador).

The First Meeting of CRESPIAL's Governing Council of was carried out on November 25th and 26th 2006. The agreements of operational documents were approved and the Council members took work for CRESPIAL³, and the members of the Executive Committee and the Director General of the Centre were elected.

CRESPIAL's Activity:

The First Meeting of the Governing Council approved the Work Plan and guidelines of the Centre, based on which the Operative Annual Plan was prepared. Also, on that occasion, was presented the document about the participation of civil society in the activities of CRESPIAL, which was debated and worked out in detail during the Second Meeting of the Governing Council, for approval.

At the Meeting of the Governing Council, held on April 13th and 12th 2006, they approved the regulation of such collegial, and discussion about the Operational Plan of CRESPIAL went into details.

So far, two meetings of the Governing Council and two meetings of the Executive Committee have been held.

Relations with UNESCO

1. Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Latin America.

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, adopted at the 32nd General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, France, in October 2003 and which came into force on April 20, 2006, has been ratified by 86 Member States of UNESCO, of which 17 countries are from Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, and Uruguay).

³ The Regulations of Governing Council and the Regulations of CRESPIAL

Five of the seven member countries belonging to CRESPIAL have ratified the Convention: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru. Today, Chile is in the process of approval and ratification of the Convention.

2. Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The General Assembly of Member States in the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has chosen Bolivia, Brazil and Peru, three members of CRESPIAL States, as members of the **Intergovernmental Committee**⁴.

3. General Conference

The 34th session of the General Conference adopted a medium-term strategy for the next six years 2008-2013 as well as programmes and budgets for the next biennium: 2008-2009. As for the medium-term strategy, the Conference decided that the cultural programme's aim is the promotion of cultural diversity with its corollary, intercultural dialogue.

Indeed cultural diversity is regarded as the driving force of sustainable development and intercultural dialogue as a factor that facilitates harmoniously social interaction within cultures and between them and thus encourages peace.

The primary objective will be achieved through three strategic programme objectives, namely "to strengthen the contribution of culture to sustainable development", "demonstrate the importance of the exchanges and dialogue between cultures for social cohesion, reconciliation and peace "and" Protect and give value to cultural heritage in a lasting way ".

Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which is the main objective of CRESPIAL, is part of the third programme strategy. This will particularly try to sensitize the public about the importance of this heritage for development and the establishment of a pluralistic society that integrates particular communities and marginalized groups.

⁴ In June, 2008, on the occasion of the Assembly of the States it sets off, Bolivia and Brazil will leave the Committee and other countries will be chosen.