REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Mahmut EVKURAN
DIRECTOR GENERAL
The Directorate

- conducts field studies
- prepares archives of study findings
- provides support for cultural/artistic activities
- encourages performers/masters and volunteers through training programs in the field of folk culture, including handcrafts, rituals, dance, music, theatre, literature and cuisine

The directorate also carries out national/international promotional activities pertaining to Intangible Cultural Heritage
Turkey became a party state to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2006.

Directorate General of Research and Training of Ministry of Culture and Tourism is the authorized government body in ICH.
Wooden Boat Craftsmen in Sürmene-Trabzon and Perşembe-Ordu
Silk Weaving in Hatay

In a study with silk weaving master Hasan Büyükaşık, a Living Human Treasure nominee
Nevruz Celebrations:
a seasonal festival on March, 21
Zurna:
A folk instrument
The Directorate supervises the preparation of nomination files for:

- The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
- The List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding
Representative List

Elements from Turkey that are inscribed in the Representative List

- The Mevlevi Sema Ceremony (2005)
- Aşılık (Minstrelsy) Tradition (2009)
- Karagöz (2009)
- Nevruz (2009)
- Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival (2010)
- Semah, Alevi-Bektaşi Ritual (2010)
- Traditional Sohbet Meetings (2010)
Mevlevi Sema Ceremony

Meddahlîk:
Traditional Art of Storytelling

Aşıklık (Minstrelsy) Tradition

Karagöz:
Turkish Shadow Theatre

Nevruz
Traditional Sohbet Meetings

Kırkpinar Oil Wrestling Fest.

Semah, Alevi-Bektaşı Ritual
Representative List

- Elements nominated for 2011

Nazar Boncuğu (Eye Bead) Tradition

Ceremonial Keşkek Tradition
Representative List

- Elements nominated for 2012
  - Aşure
  - Mesîr Macunû Tradition
  - Turkish Coffee
  - The Art of Ebru (Marbling)
  - Hîdrellez (an element nominated jointly with other countries)
Aşure

Mesir Macunu Festival

Turkish Coffee

Ebru: Turkish Marbling Art

Hıdrellez (A seasonal festival)
Urgent Safeguarding List

Elements nominated for inscription in the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding in 2012

- Ahlat: Stoneworks Tradition
- Seasonal Ceremony of Sabantoy
- Nomadic Movement of Sarıkeçililer
- Whistled Language of Çanakçı, Giresun
Ahlat: Stoneworks Tradition

Sarıkelle: Nomadic Movement of 'Yörük's

Sabantoy: A Seasonal Ceremony

Whistled Language of Çanakçi, Giresun
Handicrafts traditions is among the knowledge and practices, prescribed by the UNESCO convention to be safeguarded and transmitted, along with oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events.

Traditional handicrafts constitute an important part of the Turkish Culture. Turkey is particularly rich in terms of the diversity of handicrafts practiced in different regions. The following is a map of these elements, a product the information and documents acquired through the field studies conducted by the Ministry.
TRADITIONAL TURKISH HANDICRAFTS MAP
2010
Handicraft Tradition

As in any other cultural element, the tradition surrounding a handicraft can only be safeguarded and transmitted to future generations through “humans”. These humans are simply called masters, craftsmen or in other words “bearers”.
Living Human Treasures

The Directorate also supervises the studies related to the Living Human Treasures Program, a safeguarding measure suggested by UNESCO. Through this program, the bearers of critical importance in the transmission of intangible cultural heritage due to their accumulated knowledge and skills are identified and encouraged.

For the years 2008 and 2009, Turkish Intangible Cultural Heritage Experts Commission identified Living Human Treasures in their particular fields and publicly awarded them.
Living Human Treasures (2008)

Karagöz: Turkish Shadow Theatre Masters

Metin ÖZLEN, Orhan KURT, Tacettin DİKER
Mehmet GİRGIÇ:
Master Craftsman of Felt
Hayri DEV: 
Performer and maker of “Çam Düdüğü”, a folk instrument
Sîtkî OLÇAR: Tilework Master
Yaşar GÜÇ:
Performer and maker of “Kaval”, a folk instrument
Emine KARADAYI: A nomadic “yörük” master of weaving and natural dye
Bekir TEKELİ:
Master Maker of Bağlama, a stringed folk instrument
Uğur DERMAN:
Classical Book Artist
Hasan ÇELEBİ:
Calligraphy Master
Mehmet GÜRSOY: Tilework Artist
Fuat BAŞAR: Ebru (Marbling) Artist
The Directorate is additionally involved in studies and workshops aimed at increasing the utilization of traditional Turkish handicrafts as touristic products; in order to:

- allow a wider spectrum for cultural expression and rural development,
- enhance the involvement of women in local workforce and production,
- diversify tourism products and increase tourism’s contribution to local income.