

MACEDONIAN IDENTITY - UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE - Arguments and propositions¹ -

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Abstract

Identity is a trait, a property, a sense of something that exists and that stands out and differs from others. Macedonian identity is a unique feature of an ancient nation with its own language that existed and still exists on the territory of Macedonia. The uniqueness of the Macedonian identity is more of a millennial mosaic layered overlaid with diverse natural and cultural heritage.

The paper is unique and consists of two parts. In the first part, Macedonian natural and cultural heritage included in the current UNESCO list is mentioned. Whereas, in the second part, only a part of the national - Macedonian cultural heritage will be listed according to properties (immovable, movable and spiritual). According to the criteria for cultural world heritage, the unique Macedonian intangible spiritual heritage is presented with arguments, with proposals for placing more properties in the future UNESCO list.

From the rich treasury of the Macedonian spiritual heritage, 30 Macedonian national goods (benefits) have been singled out, of which 11 proposals for folklore goods (Macedonian quick phrases, etc.), 5 language proposals (Macedonian language - centuries. - old tradition. , etc.) are singled out.), 8 proposals for toponyms (the name Macedonia - a unique geographical civilizational value, etc.) and 6 proposals for a Register for good conservation (Preservation of stork nests, etc.).

Finally, in the conclusion, we give recommendations to competent stakeholders (scientists, experts in areas, national and world institutions for cultural heritage) to enter all the mentioned Macedonian benefits in the national register of intangible assets and in the representative list of world intangible heritage of UNESCO. In this way, the tourist identity of Macedonia as a world cultural heritage will be raised.

Key words: Macedonian folklore, language, toponyms, UNESCO

JEL Classification: Z32 Tourism and Development; Z39 Tourism: Other

INTRODUCTION

Every country takes care of its natural and cultural heritage, which it presents to humanity and tourism. This is also the case with the territory of Macedonia³, today only its northern part is the sovereign state of the Republic of North Macedonia.⁴

¹ The most important moments of this paper were presented at a panel discussion, First National Conference on the topic: Cultural heritage between tourism and identity, 20.03.2024, Shtip, of which no printed edition is planned.

² Identity of the author: Macedonian, eight generation (Cvetan, Pavle, Dimitria, Georgia, Naum, Jon, Venko, Nikola), speaks the Macedonian language, writes with the Macedonian alphabet, cherishes the Macedonian traditions and lives in Macedonia.

³ Macedonia as a territory has existed for 3 millennia or 2832 years counted from 808 AD. e.g. AD until today. Throughout history, it existed as an independent kingdom, and then began two millennia of subjugation by various conquerors, who divided it into parts and changed its name. But there were also periods when its parts were independent, for in the last nine decades only one part of it is a republic and an independent state. The diverse past contributed to the creation of an invaluable cultural heritage on the territory of Macedonia.

⁴ Additions to the name Macedonia due to political reasons in the last eight decades (1944-2019): Democratic Federal Republic of Macedonia, DFRM (1944-1946); People's Republic of Macedonia, PRM (1946-1963); Socialist Republic of Macedonia, SRM (1963-1991); Republic of Macedonia, RM (1991-2019), recognized by 133 countries worldwide; application to the UN with temporary reference Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM (1993-2019); Republic of Northern Macedonia, RNM, North Macedonia (Republic) (2019-).

During the course of history, Macedonia was an example of governance - an empire at the center of the world, and then began a two-millennium process of disintegration, wars, divisions, submission, suffering, but also alliances and upheavals. Despite Macedonia's great contribution to world history, part of the modern world, especially its neighbors, appropriates, insufficiently respects and denies its millennial cultural heritage.

We attach a chronology of independent rule and a period of over two millennia under foreign rule and in the composition of other states, a period of divisions, disputes and non-recognition of the name Macedonia and everything Macedonian. (See: Tables 1, Figures 1,2)

Tables 1. Macedonia through periods of time from its appearance until today

No	Macedonia through periods of rule and subjugation	Years	Percentages
1.	Macedonian Kingdom (808 BC-168 BC)	640	22,6
2.	Macedonia under Roman rule (168 BC-395 AD)	564	19,9
3.	Macedonia under Byzantine rule, completely or only parts (from the 5th-9th and from the 11th-12th centuries)	700	24,7
4.	Macedonia as part of the Bulgarian Empire (893-968)	75	2,6
5.	Macedonia in the Kingdom of Samuel (969-1018)	49	1,7
6.	Macedonia, part of the Thessaloniki and Latin Kingdoms (1204-1261) and part of the Kingdom of Bulgaria (13th century)	64	2,3
7.	Macedonia in the Kingdom of Serbia (1282-1355)	73	2,6
8.	Macedonia, independent feudal rulers (1356-1395)	39	1,4
9.	Macedonia under Ottoman rule (1395-1913)	518	18,3
10.	Macedonia, in 1913 the territory of the kingdoms of Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria and Albania was ethnically divided (1913-1944)	31	1,1
11.	Macedonia within SFR Yugoslavia (Socialist Republic of Macedonia) (1945-1991)	46	1,6
12.	Macedonia as an independent state (Republic of Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, from 08.09.1991 to 2019 and Republic of North Macedonia (from 2019 onwards)	33	1,2
	Total years and percentages:	2832	100

Source: Prepared by the author based on historical literature. Proeva, Nade (1997) "Studies about the ancient Macedonians", Macedonia Prima, Skopje, p. 328; Proeva, Nade (2004) "History of Agreads", Grafotisok, Skopje, p. 401; Proeva, Nade (2012) "Alexander the Macedonian: life and work", Grafotisok, Skopje, p. 336; Proeva, Nade (2014) "The religion of the ancient Macedonians", Grafotisok, Skopje, p. 292; Proeva, Nade (2018) "Triptych on the Macedonian identity", Skopje, p. 187; Plutarch, (1994) "Alexander the Macedonian", Children's Joy, Skopje, p. 95.; Brian, Pierre (1995) "Alexander the Great", Doger, Skopje, p. 109.; Hammond, N.J.L. (2020) History of Macedonia, Narativa, Skopje, p. 584, Petrushevski, Ilija (1992) Macedonia on the old maps, Children's Joy/Macedonian Review, Skopje, p. 91; History of the Macedonian people vol. 1, 2 and 3, INI, Skopje, 1969. ; Ostrogorski, G. (1992) History of Byzantium, Our Book, Skopje, p. 771; Antoljak, Stjepan (1985) Medieval Macedonia, item 1, Mislal, Skopje; Panov, Branko (1985) Medieval Macedonia, item 2 and item 3, Mislal, Skopje ; Dimevski, Slavko (1989) History of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, Macedonian Book, Skopje ; Group of authors, History of Macedonia, INI, Skopje, 2002, Hans Lothar

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Macedonia retrieved on 08.04.2024. In the text, we will use the abbreviated name of the country, that is, only the initial letters of the adjectives or RN Macedonia.

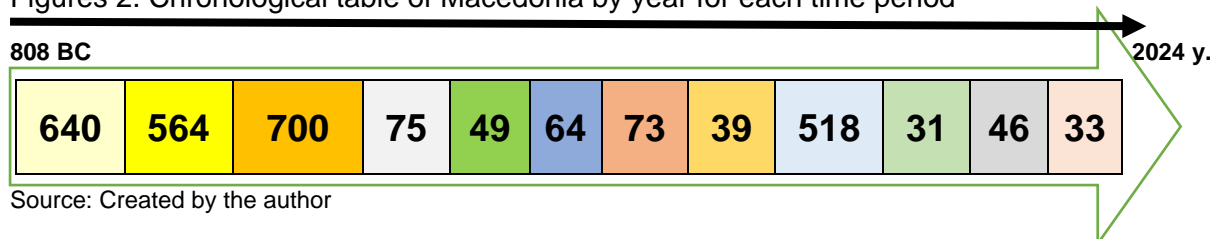
Štefan (2004) The Macedonian knot: the identity of the Macedonians shown on the example of the Balkan Union (1978-1914), "Az-buki", Skopje, p. 439; Macedonian Encyclopedia 1-2, MANU, Skopje, 2009; Branislav Svetozarevic Pokorni, (2021) Macedonians - millennial testimonies about the identity name (documents and analyses), Tetovo, p. 800 and other books.

Figures 1. Chronological table of Macedonia by time periods, years and percentages (%)

Periods	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	1-12
Years	640	564	700	75	49	64	73	39	518	31	46	33	2832
%	22,6	19,9	24,7	2,6	1,7	2,3	2,6	1,4	18,3	1,1	1,6	1,2	100

Source: Created by the author

Figures 2. Chronological table of Macedonia by year for each time period



Source: Created by the author

From table 1, Figures 1 and 2 we get the following answer. 2832 years have passed since the appearance of the name Macedonia until today. Throughout the long past, Macedonia has gone through 12 periods, from an independent kingdom that existed for 640 years or 22.6% of the total history for Macedonia, followed by a conquest by Rome and falling under Roman rule that lasted 564 years (19.9%). Macedonia, most of its history, was under Byzantine rule for 700 years (24.7%), and under Ottoman rule for 518 years (18.3%). For the rest of the period, it was conquered or was part of the kingdoms of Bulgaria, Serbia and others, which alternately ruled the territory of Macedonia and the Macedonian people for a shorter period.

The general conclusion is that in many periods of time, Macedonia and the Macedonian people were first robbed, impoverished, bribed, and then easily conquered or under pressure joined a more powerful state that it would serve, regularly pay taxes, and have to fight for other people's interests etc.

The fact is that the history of Macedonia is a difficult question and it is not possible to cover everything and tell the whole truth about Macedonia and the Macedonians in one small paper. Many historians from different nations, from different periods of time wrote, copied, composed, invented about Macedonia and its people, about the interests of their rulers. In that period (unfortunately even today) the truth dies first and history is always written by the victor, in order to devalue the glorious Macedonian history of Macedonia and the Macedonians.

Accordingly, we do not intend to debate how it unfolded and what is the true history of Macedonia and the Macedonians, we only know one thing, despite all the denials, divisions and renamings, the name and the people still exist for nearly three millennia. We also know that from the middle of the 20th century until today, only the northern part of the geographical part of ethnic Macedonia has its independence and exists as a state, and that the Macedonians as a dominant nation have their own language, history and heritage. Today, on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia there is still a unique cultural heritage (material and immaterial), especially the immaterial spiritual, which should be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Precisely because of this, in the parts of the paper that follow, we will present several arguments and proposals for improving the reputation of Macedonia and the Macedonians by entering its most valuable intangible spiritual heritage into the treasury of UNESCO's world cultural heritage.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Extensive literature was consulted and used - books, monographs, scientific works, etc., which deal with the history of Macedonia for different periods of time. Also, books, monographs, scientific works and expert materials that dealt with the cultural heritage of Macedonia were consulted and used.

When compiling the general sublimated text, several methods were used, namely: historical method, method of description, inductive-deductive method, method of analysis and synthesis, method of abstraction and concretization, method of classification and method of generalization.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the list of natural heritage of R.N. Macedonia includes 4 national parks (171,063 hectares), 4 strict national reserves (12,855 hectares), 3 areas with exceptional natural features (2,338 hectares), 14 different plant and animal species that live in areas outside the nature reserves (2,709 hectares) and 33 natural areas in the category of the so-called "monuments of nature" (61,655 hectares). While, for cultural heritage, there are 10,974 objects registered as immovable cultural heritage (4,361 archaeological sites; 1,726 churches and monasteries with over 150,000 square meters of wall fresco painting; followed by mosques; protected houses; monuments; etc.) and 500,000 museum relics (Dimitrov, V. N., 2020).

<https://kultura.gov.mk/>; <http://uzkn.gov.mk/mk/registri/>; <http://uzkn.gov.mk/mk/публикации/>, (retrieved on 18.03.2024)

According to the national institution, the Administration for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the RNM, 77 items of intangible spiritual heritage have been entered in the register. (<http://uzkn.gov.mk/mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/нематеријално-КН.pdf> ; <http://uzkn.gov.mk/mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/нематеријално-особено-значење.pdf> (retrieved on 18.03.2024.)

Their number is several times higher than the one mentioned, but they are not recorded in the Register. In the paper, we will state a series of arguments and proposals for increasing the register with new goods from intangible spiritual heritage, as well as our sustained arguments and proposals for inclusion in the list of world intangible spiritual heritage of UNESCO.

First part:

The Macedonian natural and cultural heritage in the UNESCO list

According to UNESCO, the number of significant objects that make up the world cultural heritage in March 2024 (end of 2023) registered 1199 world heritage objects, of which: 933 cultural, 227 natural, 39 mixed (56 in danger, 3 deleted), 48 border, distributed in 168 states. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/> (retrieved on 15.03.2024.)

RN. Macedonia participates in the total world heritage with two: Natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid region and Ancient and primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and other regions of Europe.

The Ohrid Lake region is a mixed world heritage property covering 94,729 hectares. Date of admission is 1979, border changes were made in 1980, 2009 and 2019. With the latest changes, the entire region of Ohrid Lake, i.e. the rest of the Lake, with the part in Albania, has been entered as a natural and cultural world heritage. Criteria according to which the Ohrid region has been declared a mixed world heritage are: (i) (iii) (iv) (vii). <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/99> (retrieved on, 15.03.2024.)

The second world heritage site is the ancient and primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and other regions of Europe. RS Macedonia enters this natural world heritage as a cross-border property. This transnational property includes 93 constituent parts in 18

countries (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine) . Date of first inscription: 2007, significant border changes occurred in 2011, 2017, 2021 and 2023. From 2023, RS Macedonia is also included in this zone. This heritage has an estate of 99,947.81 ha, and the entire zone covers an area of 296,275.8 hectares. It has been declared a natural heritage according to the following criteria: (ix). <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133> (retrieved on, 15.03.2024.)

Second part:

Argued proposals for new Macedonian intangible spiritual assets in the national register and in the representative list of UNESCO's world intangible heritage

In the list of intangible cultural heritage of UNESCO, as of 2023, a total of 730 elements corresponding to 145 countries were entered. <https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists> (retrieved on 10.04.2024)

RN Macedonia is included in this list with five intangible cultural heritages. All are declared under criterion (iii) "heritage that has a unique or exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or civilization that still exists or has disappeared". UNESCO registered the first intangible cultural heritage from the Republic of Macedonia in 2013.

- Feast of the Holy Forty Martyrs in Štip (2013)

Inscribed in 2013 (8.COM) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, according to Criterion (iii) Independent, North Macedonia (The original nomination application is in the name of the Republic of Macedonia in Macedonian and English) Independent, North Macedonia (The original nomination application is in the name of the Republic of Macedonia in Macedonian and English) <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/feast-of-the-holy-forty-martyrs-in-stip-00734> (retrieved on 10.04.2024.)

- Kopachkata, a social dance from the village of Dramche, Pijanec (2014)

Inscribed in 2014 (9.COM) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity according to Criterion (iii) Independent, North Macedonia (The original nomination application is in the name of the Republic of Macedonia in Macedonian and English) Independent, North Macedonia (The original nomination application is in the name of the Republic of Macedonia in Macedonian and English) <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/kopachkata-a-social-dance-from-the-village-of-dramche-pijanec-00995> (retrieved on 10.04.2024.)

- Glasoechko, male two-part singing in Dolni Polog (2015)

Inscribed in 2015 (10.COM) on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding according to Criterion (iii) Independent, North Macedonia (The original nomination application is in the name of the Republic of Macedonia in Macedonian and English) Independent, North Macedonia (The original nomination application is in the name of the Republic of Macedonia in Macedonian and English) <https://ich.unesco.org/en/USL/glasoechko-male-two-part-singing-in-dolni-polog-01104> (retrieved on 10.04.2024.)

- Cultural practices associated to the 1st of March (2017)

Inscribed in 2017 (12.COM) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity according to Criterion (iii) Common heritage of the countries: Bulgaria – North Macedonia – Republic of Moldova – Romania (The original application for nomination is in the name of the Republic of Macedonia in Macedonian and English) <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/cultural-practices-associated-to-the-1st-of-march-01287> (retrieved on 10.04.2024.)

- Spring celebration, Hidrellez (2017)

Inscribed in 2017 (12.COM) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity according to Criterion (iii) (The original nomination application is in the name of the Republic of Macedonia in Macedonian and English) Common heritage of North Macedonia – Türkiye

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/spring-celebration-hdrellez-01284> (retrieved on 10.04.2024.)

The general conclusion about this is that in all five cases on the UNESCO website it is noted: Consent of the communities - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Consent of the communities - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: While in the internal applications in the Macedonian language it says: Republic of Macedonia, Ministry of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as the original names of municipalities, settlements, associations, etc.

The part of spiritual cultural heritage includes: folklore goods, language and toponyms. In the Republic of Macedonia, 77 are registered in the register of intangible spiritual heritage.

The question arises - Why, despite the large number of unique intangible spiritual heritages, the Macedonian National Committee or the Cultural Heritage Administration did not submit proposals for nomination to UNESCO !?

We hope that the paper will be an occasion for analyzes and proposals for the inclusion of the Macedonian spiritual heritage in the UNESCO list. Otherwise, the consequences will be negative for the Macedonian people and the Macedonian state.

Arguments and proposals for new intangible spiritual cultural heritages.

The part of **spiritual cultural heritage** includes: folklore goods, language and toponyms.

Folklore goods are customs, rites, traditions, mental creations, costumes, embroideries, folk songs, stories, legends, proverbs, riddles, quick words, dances, games, old and rare crafts, traditional skills and other expressions of intangible folk creativity. (Kitevski, M., 2014) Macedonia abounds in folklore goods that are not entered in the register of national intangible spiritual goods. After entering into the national register some of them, according to the third criterion, to be nominated in the UNESCO list.

Our suggestions of folklore goods for protection and entry into the register are:

1. Macedonian folk songs that mention Macedonia, Macedonians, Macedonian language. From the large number of folk songs that have a unique or exceptional testimony to the Macedonian cultural tradition and still exist, a special group of folk songs should be singled out in which: Macedonia, Macedonians, Macedonian women, Macedonian language and other words with a Macedonian sign are mentioned. To be registered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

2. Macedonian quick words, riddles, proverbs, stories, legends, anecdotes. There are a number of such unique testimonies of cultural tradition and folklore that still exist. So far, no register has been issued for this type of inheritance. At this point, we will only emphasize the importance of **Macedonian quick words**. Quick words are a folk tradition of composing children's songs that are said quickly in order to eliminate speech disorders or deficiencies in the pronunciation of certain letters. Quick words are also word constructions that are difficult to pronounce, they are pronounced quickly and during the fast pronunciation, mistakes are made that cause a cheerful mood. (Penusliski, K., 1969; Cepenkov, K. M., 1980; Jovceski, R., 1997; Tarapuz, S., 2013)

Today, in kindergartens in the developmental period from 5 to 6 years old, learning traditional customs, folk songs, stories, legends, reciting poems, singing, speech games, quick words, playing, etc. is practiced. It is also often used to process a text or story that

contains words with a certain voice that needs to be pronounced correctly or the creation of unusual voice combinations. Example: - Speech games: "Nini, mini, chini, don't tear this" or - Speech game, "Broken phone". Then, exercises for correct posture when speaking and saying a quick word or counter. Example: - Speech game "Loud, loud" etc. (p. 64/65)

https://www.bro.gov.mk/wp-ontent/uploads/2019/08/Programa_za_rano_ucenje_i_razvoj.pdf
(retrieved on 14.04.2024)

Also, fast words are taught in primary education, in the first and second grades as contents of the Macedonian language subject. Picture books and books (stories, fables, fairy tales, poems, riddles, quick words, proverbs etc.). (p.2) Correctly pronounces different sounds in different word positions. (p.6) Students say quick words in pairs, repeat them alternately until they learn them. (p.7) <https://www.bro.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HP-Makedonски-јазик-I-одд.pdf> ; <https://www.bro.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HP-Makedonски-јазик-II-одд.pdf> (retrieved on 14.04.2024)

In RNM, there are several non-governmental associations, folklore societies and the like, which take care of Macedonian folklore goods: customs, rites, traditions, mental creations, costumes, embroideries, folk songs, stories, legends, proverbs, riddles, quick words, dances, games , old and rare crafts, traditional skills and other expressions of intangible folk creativity.

For the centuries-old tradition of fast words that were used in the family of the author of these lines, and to overcome certain difficulties in pronunciation among young children, we will list three fast words: "Tumba tumba divina", "Strino Lazorice" and " Snesla Kvachka 12 jajca"⁵.

Macedonian quick words, riddles, proverbs, stories, legends, anecdotes to be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

3. Macedonian folk music with Macedonian specific tactful musical expression among Macedonians. Macedonian musical rhythm is a unique and exceptional testimony of the specific tactful musical expression of the Macedonians. Macedonian specific tact musical expression is represented by two types of tacts, i.e. simple (two-part and three-part) and complex (composed of two or more simple measures).

A specific feature of Macedonian folk music is the even beats (equally complex or composed of the same simple beats, for example $2/4+2/4=4/4$, $3/4+3/4=6/4$) and especially the uneven beats (mixed-complex or composed of different simple tacts, for example $3/4+2/4=5/4$, $3/8+2/8+2/8=7/8$), which are the most common occurrence in folk games, which means that they are bound exclusively to the way of musical expression of the Macedonians. **Macedonian eight-part singing and the Macedonian seven-eighth measure are especially popular.** (Golabovski, S., 1993; Golabovski, S., 1986). Macedonian eight-part singing and Macedonian seven-eighth beat to be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

4. Macedonian customs related to religious holidays.

Macedonians are a religious nation that celebrates a large number of religious holidays throughout the year. Holidays are the glory as a name day, domestic glory, as a patron or protector of a settlement (city or village). Religious holidays are especially massively

⁵ Menka Pavleska (1881-1961) from the village of Velmevci, Demirhisarsko, who learned the quick words "Tumba tumba divina", "Strino Lazorice" and "Snesla Kvachka 12 jajca" from her grandmother and mother, and passed them on to her children. Her son Venko Pavleski Dimitrov (1920-1984) practiced these quick words and passed them on as a tradition to his children: Jonche (1950), Nada (1952) and Nikola (1958) Dimitrovi. A tradition that has been passed down for two centuries.

celebrated: Christmas, Prochka, Easter, Vasilica, St. Epiphany (Voditsi), St. Elijah (Ilinden), St. Nicholas, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin - Little Virgin, Introduction of the Blessed Virgin - Pure, Dormition of the Blessed Virgin - Great Virgin, St. Dimitria of Thessaloniki (Mitrovden), St. Kliment Ohridski, St. Naum Ohridski, St. Cyril and Methodius, St. Basil the Great, St. Peter and St. Paul (Petkov's Day), St. Council of the 12 Apostles (Paul's Day), St. Petka, St. Anne, St. Panteleimon, St. Kuzman and Damian, St. John the Baptist, St. Tryfun, St. Athanasius, St. Trinity, St. The 15 Holy Martyrs of Tiveriopolis, St. Gavril Lesnovski, St. The 40 Martyrs of Sebastila (Newlyweds), St. Georgij Kratovski, St. Elena and Constantine, St. Zlata Meglenska, St. Lydia of Macedonia, etc.

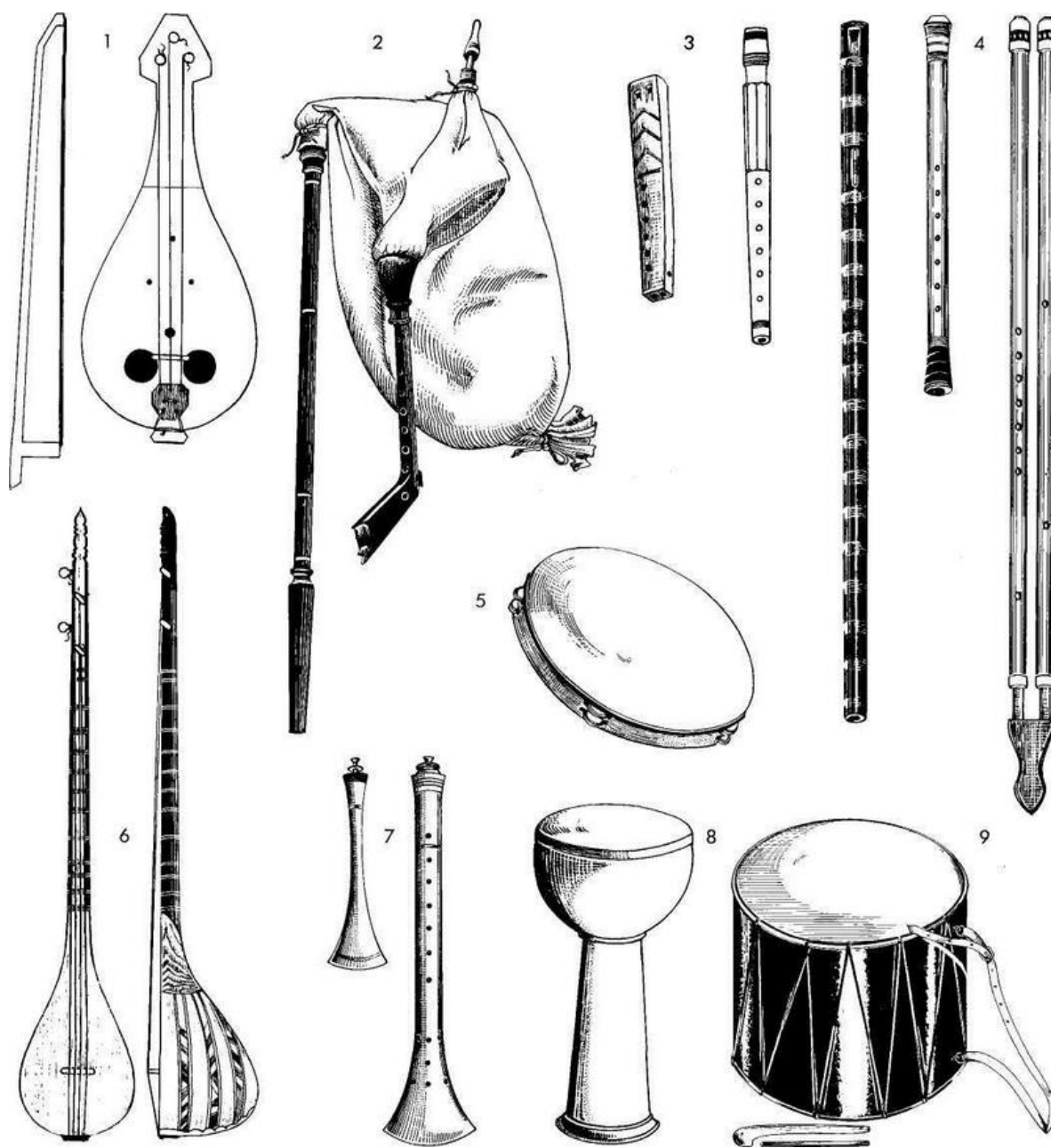
Example: Epiphany or Epiphany - an old Orthodox religious tradition and celebration of the Macedonian Orthodox Church - Ohrid Archdiocese which is celebrated on January 19 in towns and villages in ethnic Macedonia. It is especially massively celebrated in the cities of Ohrid, Struga, Skopje, Bitola, Prilep, Shtip, Strumica, etc.

Protector of cities: St. Nikola is the protector of the cities of Sveti Nikole, Prilep, Shtip, etc.; St. Clement is the protector of the city of Ohrid; St. The Virgin is the protector of Skopje; St. Nektarius of Bitola is the protector of Bitola; etc.

Customs among Macedonians related to religious holidays to be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO. (Kitevski, M., 2019; Kitevski, M., 2013)

5. Macedonian traditional instruments. Macedonian folk instruments that are a unique and exceptional testimony to a centuries-old folklore cultural tradition. From about fifty traditional Macedonian and oriental instruments, which have a centuries-old tradition in Macedonia, we single out: Wind instruments: bagpipe or meshnica (Macedonian), shupelka (Macedonian), kaval (Macedonian), duduk, dvojanka (Macedonian), zurla (Macedonian); whistle made of leaf, leek or onion feather, stick, tile (Macedonian), pukalo, mouthpiece or usnik, ocarina (Macedonian spherical wind instrument with three holes made of baked clay); String instruments: kemane or gusla (Macedonian), tambura (Macedonian), ud (Macedonian); Percussion instruments: dajre (Macedonian), drum, tarabuka (Macedonian), krecetalo or chkratalo. <http://nikoletkapaneva.weebly.com/> (retrieved on 15.04.2024) (Linin N.,A., 1985).

Macedonian traditional instruments should be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and a proposal should be submitted for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.



Figures 3. Macedonian folk instruments by number: 1.Kemane; 2.Gajda; 3.Dojanka, Duduk (small and large); 4.Cavali; 5.Daire; 6.Tambura; 7.Zurla (small and large); 8.Tarabuka; 9.Tapan. https://mk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Македонски_народни_инструменти (retrieved on 15.04.2024)

6. Macedonian names of the months. Macedonian unique folk tradition as an exceptional testimony that was practiced for many centuries and today is an endangered heritage. We are talking about Macedonian medieval names of the months of the year, namely: Koložeg, Sechko, Cutar, Treven, Kosar, Zhetvar, Zlatec, Zitar, Grozdober, Listopad, Studen, and Snezhnik. (Kitevski, M., 2021) <http://www.mpc.org.mk/> ; <http://www.mpc.org.mk/kalendar/mesec.asp> <https://denovi.mk/> (retrieved on 15.04.2024)

The Macedonian names of the months should be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and a proposal should be submitted for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

Tables 2. Names of the months of the year: in English, folk original name in the old Macedonian language and standard name in the modern Macedonian language

Mount in Years				
No	English	Today Macedonian (default name)	Old Macedonian language (source name)	Description
1.	January	Januari	Kolozeg	<i>month of wood burning</i>
2.	February	Fevruari	Secko	<i>month of the ice</i>
3.	Marth	Mart	Cutar	<i>the month of flowering</i>
4.	April	April	Treven	<i>month of the grass</i>
5.	May	Maj	Kosar	<i>month for mowing grass</i>
6.	June	Juni	Zetvar	<i>harvest month</i>
7.	July	Juli	Zlatec	<i>golden month</i>
8.	August	Avgust	Zitar	<i>the month of the grain</i>
9.	September	Septemviti	Grozdober	<i>month of grapes</i>
10.	October	Oktomvri	Listopad	<i>month of falling leaves</i>
11.	November	Noemvri	Studen	<i>cold month</i>
12.	December	Dekemvri	Sneznik	<i>month of snow</i>

7. Ethnometeorology / old Macedonian expressions for day, week, months, year, seasons, atmospheric shape, natural phenomena and weather forecast. In Macedonia and among the Macedonian people there is a unique or exceptional testimony of a cultural tradition for names of days, months, seasons, atmospheric beliefs, natural phenomena and weather forecasting, as well as holidays, beliefs and customs related to the sky and atmospheric phenomena. (Conev, G., 2004) A small part of these beliefs and customs still exist among part of the population, and some of them are on the verge of extinction. That is why urgent protection and entry into the register of national intangible spiritual and world heritage of UNESCO is necessary. Ethnometeorology of old Macedonian expressions to be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

8. Macedonian folk embroidery specific to women's Macedonian folk clothing. Macedonian folk embroidery was continuously passed down from generation to generation as a tradition. Macedonian embroidered art reached its highest level in the 19th century. Various embroideries - ornamentation, geometric motifs, embroidered techniques, various colored threads, on all parts of women's shirts are found in various regions of Macedonia (Mariovo, Skopje, Kumanovo, Tetovsko, Mavrovsko, Strushko, Ohrid, Pelagonisko, Porechie, Kichevo, Palanechko, Shtipsko, Radovishko, Maleshevsko, Pianec etc. (Krsteva, A., 1975; Krsteva, A., 2011; Matovska, P., 1999). The Macedonian national embroidery, specific to the Macedonian women's national clothing, should be entered into the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and a proposal should be submitted for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

9. Pafti is a unique detail from the Macedonian women's folk clothing. Pafts are an integral part and decoration of the women's folk costume, which are heavy metal buckles for looping the belt. This detail in the women's folk costume in Macedonia from the 18th to the beginning of the 20th century. Today, pafts are also made as souvenirs in frames and

are in high demand on the market. (Maneva, E., 1992; Zdravev, G., 1996) Paftas, as a unique detail of the Macedonian women's national clothing, should be included in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and a proposal should be submitted for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

10. Macedonian folk songs about love or Macedonian folk songs related to love.

The group of love songs in our folk lyrics is the most extensive. The love depicted in the folk song is pure, sincere, two-sided, passionate, lifelong, etc. Вакви песни се чести во сите области од Македонија. (Kitevski, M., 2022) Such songs are common in all regions of Macedonia. Macedonian folk songs about love should be included in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and a proposal should be submitted for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

11. Macedonian ethnoanthropology. Macedonian ethnoanthropology covers all the specific unique testimonies of the continuity of the cultural tradition of music, songs, dances, customs, costumes, beliefs, legends, stories, traditions, art and more that have existed on the soil of Macedonia since ancient times and which still exist, even before the disappearance or extinction. Macedonian ethno-anthropology should enter the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and submit a proposal for inclusion in UNESCO's list of intangible spiritual world heritage.

Language as an immaterial spiritual good (*literary ie standard language and its script, as well as local speeches of the same language (dialects), so-called secret languages, etc.*).

Our proposals in the language section, for inclusion in the national list or register and in the list of intangible spiritual goods of UNESCO:

1. Demirhisar dialect - a dialect of the Macedonian language, which is used in the area of Demir Hisar or Zheleznik. To be entered in the national register. (Cvetkovski, P., R., 2006; Cvetkovski, P., R. & Stefanovski, B., 2008)

2. Macedonian language - exceptional testimony of centuries-old cultural tradition. To be included in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO. (Belcev, T., 1995; Belcev, T., 1996)

3. Protection of the terms: Macedonian studies, Macedonians, Macedonia, Macedonianism, Makedonofonia, Macedonia. Science, national ideology and political doctrine of disobedience that cares for the affirmation of Macedonian national distinctiveness with the Macedonian language, the Macedonian people and Macedonia as a national state, and the care of all people around the world who use and know how to speak the Macedonian language. To be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

4. Protection of unique personal names and surnames: Makedon, Makedonka, Make, Mak, Makedonov, Makedonova, Makedonovski, Makedonovska, Makedonski, Makedonska, Makev, Makevski, Makeski, Makeva, Makevska, Makeska. To be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

5. Protection of the unique letter "S" (pronounced as the sound of two joined Latin letters "dz", which is the eighth letter and is actively used only in the Macedonian alphabet (31 letters), in the Macedonian language and Macedonian spelling.







Today, the letter, voice and sign "S" (Dz) is unique in the Macedonian language, Macedonian script, speech and spelling. The letter, voice or sign "S" has existed since the

time of Glagolitic - the Old Slavic script (glagolitic with 38 - 41 letters // created during the 9th century (St. Cyril and St. Methodius) for writing in the Old Slavic language or the Old Macedonian language. The letter or sign "S" is also in the old Cyrillic script with 44-46 characters or letters). Buka is unique and still, out of all the Slavic languages and scripts, it is used only in the Macedonian language and script. The protection of the letter also protects over 200 words, personal names and surnames, names of plants, animals, foods, occupations and geographical toponyms that begin with the letter "S", the sound "S" or the sign" („S“=Dz).

Example: Свезда - Dvezda (Star), Свеп - Dzver (Beast), Свон - Dzvон (Bell), Сиври - Dzivri (Long Cotton underpants), Сид - Dzид (Wall), Суница - Dzunica (Rainbow) (See: Table 3.)

Protection of the unique letter "S" and all its words through inclusion in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

Tables 3. A small part of words with the initial letter "S" (Dz) and their pictorial appearance, in English and Macedonian

Word	Picture	Word	Picture	Word	Picture
Star СВЕЗДА		Beast СБЕР		Bell СВОН	
Long Cotton underpants СИВРИ		Wall СИД		Rainbow СУНИЦА	

Toponyms as intangible spiritual heritage are names of lakes, rivers, springs and other water bodies (hydronyms), towns, villages and other settlements (oikonyms), natural or administrative areas (horonyms), roads (dromonyms), agricultural spatial objects (agronyms), names of flora and fauna (phytonyms and zoonyms), names of mountains, passes and other relief and geomorphological objects (geonyms) as well as names of nature associated with forests (dendronyms) and other original, local and official names that are subject to the toponymy of a certain territory or state.

Our proposals for inclusion in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and submitting proposals for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO are:

1. Macedonia, civilizational value - a unique global geographical name that has existed for several millennia.

In the course of history, it was subjected to several variants of the division of the territory, various changes and additions to the name, and today only its northern part survives as a

sovereign state. Name: Macedonia, an old name 4000 years (four millennia), (Belcev, T., 1995; Belcev, T., 1996) Biblical Macedonia - over 2000 years (Dimitrov, 2023), Macedonia as an identity for the Macedonian people (Macedonian, Macedonians), Macedonian language, Macedonian script, Macedonian alphabet, Macedonian songs, Macedonian folklore, Macedonian traditions, etc.). The name Macedonia should be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and a proposal should be submitted for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

2. Protection of Macedonian geographical toponyms with a unique sign and the letter "S" - the eighth letter in the Macedonian alphabet and spelling. Geographical toponyms with the initial letter "S": - Svegor village, Svezdinci neighborhood (oikonym), - Svegor river, Svonchitsa river (hydronym), Sinsilo - toponym in the village of Evla, Prespa; Šrse - livaa, a toponym in the village of German, Prespa and others. (Pertushevski, I., & Petrushevskaja, N., 2001; Ristevski, D., 2013; Group of authors, 1979; Topographic maps of the Republic of Macedonia, Scale: 1:50,000, 1971, 1973, 1982, 1985). The listed geographical toponyms starting with the unique sign and letter "S" should be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage.

3. Geographical name Makedon - Macedonia - a name over 4000 years old (four millennia). (Belcev, T., 1995; Belcev, T., 1996; Ivanovski, R., 1998). Only as a cartographic toponym the name Macedonia is about 3000 years old. To be included in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

4. Macedonian heraldic symbols: Lion, Wolf, Double-headed Eagle, Sun and others. (Jonovski, J., 2015; Matkovski, A., 1990) To be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage.

5. Geoglyph "Kanda" at St. Nikole in Ovce Pole. Dimensions 85x45 meters and dates from the period 10,000 years. It has the sign "M" on the surface. Associated with Macedonia, Kandaon, Akmon, Migdon, Mygdonia - Macedonian kingdom from the 5th century BC. Constellation Cassiopeia, from where you can continue with an imaginary line to the North Star - Polaris. The sign reminds: "as on earth, so in heaven". This place is dedicated to the God "Se" (Dze) (God of the Sun, God of Sunlight, God who is seen) and Goddess Ma, that is, the Mother Goddess. Kanda also means a lamp in which light is lit. (<http://www.mn.mk/kultura/10181> (retrieved on 18.04.2024); Debertolis, P., Nikolić, D., and Tarabella, N., 2016). The geoglyph "Kanda" should be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and a proposal should be submitted for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

6. Rock art. The first center for rock art in Eastern Europe was established in 1991, headquarters in Kratovo. Center for rock art based in Kratovo (founded in 1991). A rock art reserve in the village of Trnovec in the municipality of Kratovo, the first of its kind in the Balkans. (Aleksovski, D., 2000; Aleksovski, D., 2000a) The rock art found on the territory of Macedonia should be entered in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and a proposal should be submitted for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

7. Megalithic Prehistoric Observatory: "Kokino" on the top Tatichev Kamen (1010-1030 m.a.s.l.), declared by NASA in 2005, in fourth place 1800 BC (Early Bronze Age). That is, 3800 years old. (Stankovski, J., 2018) To be included in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

8. Prehistoric megalithic observatory: "Cocev Kamen" (481 masl) near Shopsko Rudare, Kratovsko. with all accompanying niches, place of sacrifice, sanctuary, painted rock

art, Tatichev Stone. (Aleksovski, D., 2006) To be included in the national register of intangible spiritual heritage and to submit a proposal for inclusion in the list of intangible spiritual world heritage of UNESCO.

A register of good stewardship practices allows signatory states, communities and other stakeholders "to share successful conservation experiences and examples of how they have overcome the challenges they face in passing on their living heritage, its practice and knowledge to future generations ". In this register, Macedonia has not registered a project or activity in UNESCO.

Proposals from Macedonia for entry into the register of practices for good storage, we propose the following six goods:

1. Running with sacks, social practice and festive heritage, Stojakovo village, Bogdanci municipality.

2. Preservation of stork nests, Stojakovo village, Buchin and other Macedonian villages.

3. Macedonian carnivals - transmitted tradition of Macedonian dances, expressions and customs related to the celebration January 14 - for the feast of Vasilica in the northern part of Macedonia ("Babari" and "Mechkari" - Bitola and Prilep, "Vasilicari" - Ohrid "Rusalii" - Strumica and Gevgeli, "Jamalari" - Kumanovo and Tikvesh, "Surovari" - Delchevsko). Active carnivals in: Vevcani, Prilep ("Prilepski mechkari"), Strumica "Trimeri", Svegor ("Svegorska Surva"), Begnishte "Dzamalari"), Capari, Rusinovo and other places. (Prochka, Trimmers).

4. Macedonian traditional wedding customs: Galician wedding, Mariov wedding, Drunken wedding and others.

5. Macedonian festivals of traditional Macedonian food and drinks: wheat, rice, potatoes, leeks, cabbage, pekmez, marmalade, sweet from figs, honey, vintage, apple, plum, pomegranate, chestnut, brandy, wine and others.

6. Macedonian folk dances and accompanying practices related to traditional Macedonian folk dances - about one hundred dances: Beranche, Kopachka, Osogovka, Pajdushko, Potrchano, Ratevka, Rusalsko, Sitno, Teshko, Tresenica and others.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Through this text, we strive for Macedonia, Macedonians and the Macedonian language to find their rightful place in UNESCO's list of intangible spiritual heritage. We do not intend to change or adapt to global movements, the interests of powerful states that often do not respect the benefits of the UN and UNESCO, and when it comes to small states and peoples, they use a variety of methods of assimilation, denial, divisions, and the like. On the contrary, with our smallness we want to help our friends and enemies to respect the reality of Macedonian unique and exceptional testimony of a cultural tradition and civilization that existed, was destroyed, but despite all the happenings it still exists in a millennial continuity.

Popularizing the Macedonian identity as a world heritage will increase the interest in tourist visits to Macedonia and to the wider Balkan Peninsula.

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