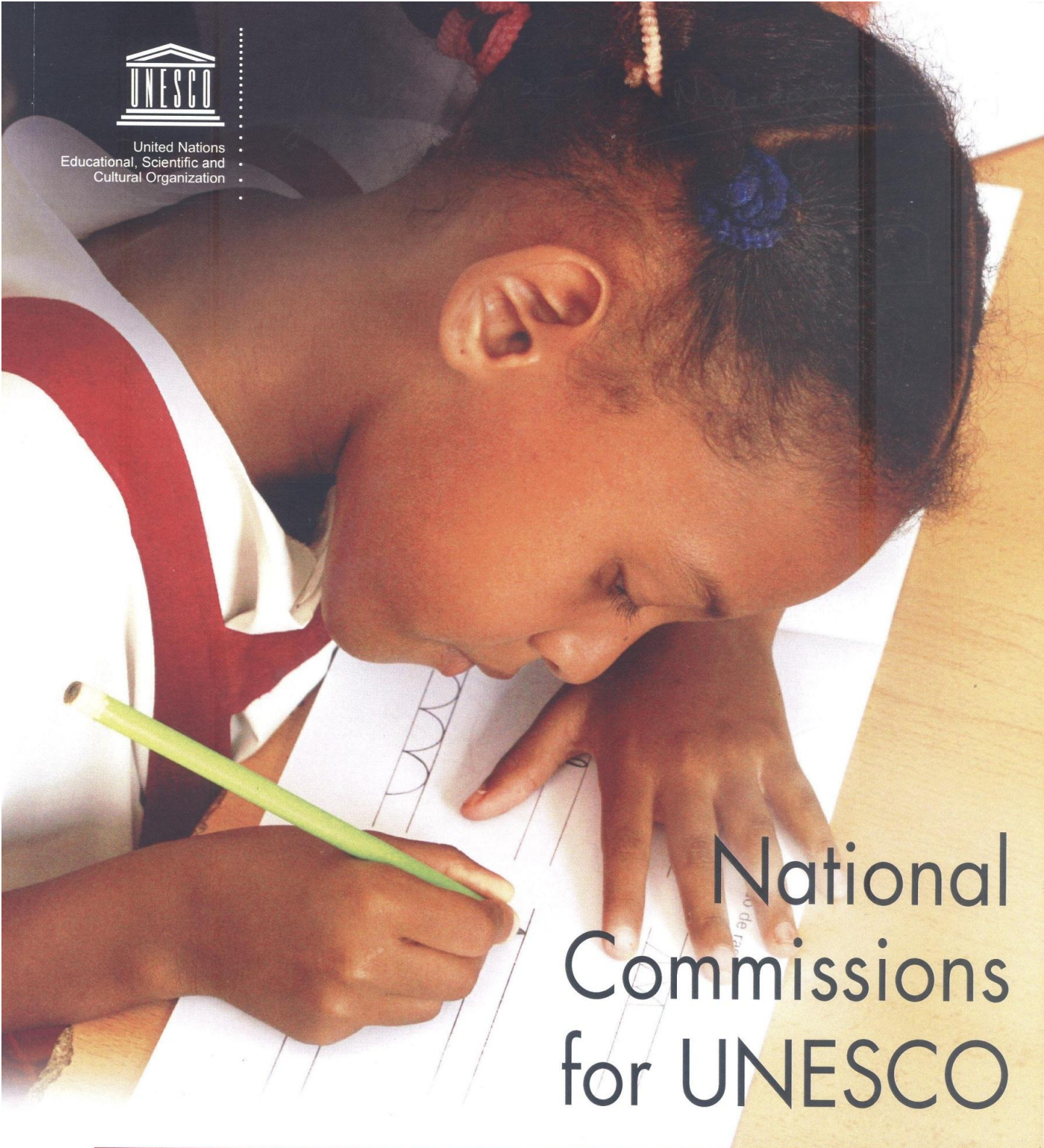




United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



National  
Commissions  
for UNESCO

Annual Report

2013



# CYPRUS

## Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO

**President:** Mrs Loukia Hadjigavriel

**Secretary-General:** Mr Pavlos Paraskevas

**Website:** [www.unesco.org.cy/english/index.htm](http://www.unesco.org.cy/english/index.htm)

### Update of activities in 2013

Established in 1962, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus. It works to promote the full and effective implementation of UNESCO programmes in Cyprus, in cooperation with government departments and non-governmental organizations. In addition, it collaborates with other National Commissions and UNESCO Regional Offices to foster cooperation in education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information.

In a period of significant social, economic and environmental changes and challenges, the Commission's efforts to promote the ideals and aims of UNESCO, were mainly aimed at enhancing the involvement of the educational, scientific and cultural communities of the country in the planning, implementation, communication and evaluation of the various programmes of the Organization.

In 2013, the Commission organized or participated in a series of activities to support the effective implementation of UNESCO's Conventions on Culture. These included celebrations organized by the Department of Antiquities for the International Day for Monuments and Sites, cultural events

organized by the Cyprus Folk Art Museum for the celebration of International Museum Day, and the implementation of a programme by the Commission for the safeguarding of the tradition of Lefkara lace-making.

In the areas of education and youth, the Commission collaborated with the Ministry of Education and Culture for the implementation of the South-Eastern Mediterranean Environmental Project (SEMPEP) under the ASPnet programme. Member schools of SEMPEP implemented projects around the topic 'Cooperation for water sustainability through science and culture'. ASPnet schools participated in activities relating to the topic 'Action for a culture of peace and non-violence'. Moreover, students and teachers of ASPnet Cyprus participated in the 2nd South East European World Heritage Youth Forum (Serbia). In addition, the Commission coordinated the selection and participation of a youth delegate in the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum.

In 2013, the Commission participated in a series of meetings, conferences and other international events organized by UNESCO and other National Commissions. These included the 7th Annual Regional meeting on Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-East Europe (Sofia), the international conference 'Global Ethics: Save the Planet Earth' and the official launch of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (Kazakhstan). A team of delegates and experts in the fields of education, science and culture attended the 37th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

Finally, in October 2013, the Commission produced and circulated, the first issue of its quarterly electronic newsletter with the aim of enhancing awareness and information in relation to the aims, programmes and activities of UNESCO.



The Studying Lefkaritiko Lace Making Apprenticeship Programme of the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO.

© Leontios Toumpouris

### A success story

Inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Lefkaritika is both an art and social practice, and an example of the ability of people and societies to combine local knowledge and traditions in meaningful and creative ways with foreign and contemporary influences.

Reiterating its commitment to safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage and diversity for the benefit of future generations, the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO launched in September 2013 the Studying Lefkaritiko Lace Making Apprenticeship Programme. Considering the importance of intangible cultural heritage as a mainspring of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, as well as a guarantee of sustainable development, the programme provided to Cypriot artists, educators, archaeologists and fashion designers, the opportunity to live and study for a week with renowned lace-makers in Lefkara village (Larnaca district). The various aims of the project included the creation of favourable conditions and environments for the participation of renowned bearers of intangible heritage in the transmission of their knowledge and skills, the promotion and empowerment of women lace-makers, and the renewal of contemporary forms of cultural expression.