

Definition of traditional programs on the stage

Intangible cultural heritage should be considered as a progressive process of which the main characteristics are creative activities based on tradition.

From this point on, in order to define programs presented by - ensembles of traditional expression, it is necessary to specify at the same time contents and style of expression.

In accordance with the definition of the Convention of Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, a program will be considered as representing traditional culture if its content comes from or is inspired by intangible cultural heritage, namely:

- transmitted from generation to generation
- constantly re-created by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history
- provides a sense of identity and continuity
- promotes respect of cultural diversity and human creativity

To serve the cause of traditional culture the ensembles choose a style and a way of expression. In accordance with its main activity, which is the organisation of festivals of traditional culture, CIOFF wishes to define the styles of expression through song, music and dance as outlined below:

A program will be considered as **representing authentic expression**:

- if the content is regional
- if the costumes are authentic or faithfully reconstructed
- if music and dance are presented without arrangement

A program will be considered as **representing elaborated expression**:

- if the content covers a number of regions
- if the elements of costumes are adapted
- if the music is harmonised and the elements of dance modified
- if the creation of new dances uses traditional and authentic elements

A program will be considered as **representing stylised expression**:

- if the content draws its inspiration from the traditional culture of its country
- if the costumes are re-created for the needs of the stage
- if the music and the elements of dance are adapted and re-created to meet the needs of a modern scenic transposition
- if the creation of new dances and music uses traditional elements to represent the creative ideas of the choreographer and the musician.