



**THE NECESSITY OF A STATE
PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE CUSTOM „COLINDATUL
ÎN CEATĂ BĂRBĂTEASCĂ”**

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Protecting the cultural heritage is one of the strategic objectives of the Republic of Moldova. The general cultural policies of the Ministry of Culture are based on the reevaluation of the attitude of the society towards the cultural heritage, on raising the awareness of the bearers and consumers of culture regarding the authentic, original values that contribute to the preservation of our cultural identity. The material cultural heritage became a widely discussed issue in the academic, university and museum medium, as well as in the mass-media so that we can notice in the recent years a clearer awareness for appreciating and protecting the values borne by the cultural heritage. We continue to maintain the social prestige of the cultural legacy, keeping as goals the development of the legislative and normative frame, improving the applying of the legal provisions concerning the protection of the cultural heritage in

general, widening the public access to the inherited artistic values and ensuring their continuity through the contribution of contemporaries. In the mean time, we pay due attention to the immaterial (intangible) cultural heritage – a very important field of the social memory which was conceptualized and promoted in the second half of the XXth century.

*The Republic of Moldova is a member-state of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris, 17.10.2003) since March 23, 2006, a sufficient time to provide the accomplishment of the provisions of this first-rate document supporting the cultures of the traditional states. We are actually concerned with drawing up the **ICH National Inventory of the Republic of Moldova**, where the elements of the immaterial cultural heritage on the territory of the Republic of Moldova will be taken*



under state evidence. We prepare at the same time the cultural folder for the element **Colindatul în ceată bărbătească** in order to include it in the **UNESCO Representative List of the immaterial cultural heritage of humanity**.

The future destiny of the national immaterial heritage depends largely on the effectiveness of the state policies in this field which will be promoted during the next years. An important role in this context will belong to the state programs based on elements of immaterial heritage. A first state program of this kind, that has to be urgently promoted through a four years project, is the program for supporting the custom **Colindatul în ceată bărbătească**.

This Program will form the main political frame for the registration, the documentation, the research, the preservation, valuing and promoting the custom **Colindatul în ceată bărbătească**.

The goal of the program is to fix lasting ways of protecting the mentioned cultural element in the context of preparing the folder for its registration in the **UNESCO Representative List of the immaterial cultural heritage of humanity**, and observing the custom in order to enhance its viability inside communities. The content of the Program is connected to the provisions of the **UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage**, that was signed in Paris on October 17, 2003, and was ratified by the Republic of Moldova on March 24, 2006, through the Law nr. 12-XVI from February 10, 2006.

The program has as a starting point the initiative of promoting the custom **Colindatul în ceată bărbătească** in the **UNESCO Representative List of the immaterial cultural heritage of humanity**, by the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with Romania, in 2011.



***Colindatul** is a calendar custom that has been practiced from immemorial times in several places on Christmas, or on New Year in less villages of the Republic of Moldova. The most important **colindători** in the traditional village were **flăcăi**, i.e. young men. It was they who organized the **colindat** and watched its performance according to the tradition of the ancestors, respecting and imposing the necessary discipline in society. They previously learned from the old men those **colinde** that were specific for the village. The **colinde** that were transmitted by this means, maintain a considerable age, are original, authentic creations, and are very important for understanding the **modus vivendi** and the values of the traditional society. The **colinde** can be compared with some hymns addressed to those that are **colindați**. According to the tradition, as a sign of respect, the **ceata** of young men had to perform **colinde** before all the households of the*

*community. They interpreted the **colinde** being organized, in order to prevent or remediate possible conflicts, and on the second and the third days they organized, using the collected money, a **hora** for the village, where the entire collectivity participated. In this way, by assuming the ethical and aesthetic values of the community, the **ceata** of men **colindători** contributed to the socialization of youngsters, to the communication among generations, to the social inclusion of all the groups, to the transmission of social models.*

*The custom **Colindatul în ceată bărbătească**, with its deep social significances, is a reference custom in the identity strategies of the nation of the Republic of Moldova. **Colindatul în ceată bărbătească** built solidarity of the group of young men, it cultivated discipline among them, taught them to assume collective responsibilities, contributed to shaping their behaviour in a civic,*



patriotic spirit. The social functions of **colindat** concern the updating of social relationships, fortifying the traditional system of values and transmitting of ethical, behavioural, aesthetic models that were constituted across the centuries.

Protecting, documenting and valuing this element of heritage needs efficient programs, ways and methods, supported by financial resources for the accomplishment of the main goals of this domain. Preparing the folder for the proposal of the custom **Colindatul în ceață bărbătească** for the **UNESCO Representative List** can serve as an impulse for the updating, the revaluing and reconsidering this object on a country scale, as it deserves, in order to be preserved for the use of the communities.

The state program will contribute to the rehabilitation of the **colindat** as a cultural phenomenon and restore its social functions,

and will support, as a consequence, the communities in their tendency of reproducing the ethnical traditions in the forms that are specific for the nowadays stage of development of the society.

The state program constitutes a complex instrument of strategic planification, connected with the Millenium Development Goals. In the spirit of the **Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage**, pursuing the objectives of European integration by increasing the access to the national cultural immaterial heritage, acknowledging the importance of this legacy for the preservation of the cultural-historical identity and of the social cohesion, the state assumes, through this Program, the responsibility to take the necessary measures in order to guarantee the protection of this heritage.

Daruri pentru colindători,
Răscăieti, raionul Ștefan Vodă, 2011



Moș Crăciun, Sadâc, raionul Cantemir, 07.01.2011



Colindători din Răscăieți,
raionul Ștefan Vodă, 2011



Ceata de colindători din Șipca,
raionul Șoldănești, 2011



Crăciunul la Giurgiulești,
25.12.2010, ceata mixtă



Ceata de bărbați din Popeasca,
06.01.2011





Colindătorii și gazdele, Șipca, 2011

Ceata de flăcăi pe drumurile satului Răscăieți, raionul Ștefan Vodă, 06.01.2011



**Pregătirea darurilor
pentru colindători,**
Popeasca, Ștefan-Vodă,
06.01.2011



Colindătorii și gazdele, Răscăieți 6.01.2011





Priscăreni, reg. Cernăuți, 1950, col. E. Bâzgu

Colindătorii pe drum, Răscăieți, 2011





Nicolae Gribincea înregistrează colindatul, Șipca, 2011



Colăcarul din Șipca, 2011



Împreună cu flăcăul colindat,
Giurgiuilești, 25.12.2010



Colindatul în fața casei, Șipca, 2011



Gazdele colindate, Popeasca,
06.01.2011

Ceata de bărbați, Slobozia Mare, Cahul, 24.12.2010





Colindători, anul 1950

**Ceata de bărbați, condusă de
Valeriu Chiper**





Colindătorii înainte de a intra în biserică, Șipca, 2011



În biserică, Șipca, 2011

Colindători din Izbiște,
Criuleni, 24.12.2010



Masa pentru colindători, Răscăieți 2011

Popeasca și Răscăieți, 2011



Gazda răsplătește colindătorii,
Șipca 2011



**Primirea colindătorilor
în familia Pogor,**
Popeasca, 2011



Colindatul la Popeasca, 2011



Invitarea colindătorilor în casa familiei Tcacenco, Răscăieți, 2011

Darurile colindătorilor,
Popeasca, Ștefan Voda,
06.01.2011





**Flăcăul a doua zi
după colindat,**
Văleni, Vulcănești,
1965

Colindatul dinaintea casei, Răscăieți, 2011

