

A checklist for organizations

The International Dance Council CID-UNESCO receives many complaints regarding events proposed by suspicious organizations.

We have advised CID members to be very careful before registering for events offered by unknown organizers.

The following checklist has been compiled to help distinguish between real and fictitious non-profit organizations, claiming national or international status.

1. Does the "organization" have a legal status, offices, staff, a budget, a bank account, a long history ?
2. Is it accredited by government agencies or independent authorities ?
3. Who are its leaders, do they have sufficient credentials, have they been elected by a General Assembly, how many members voted ?
4. Ask for printed material and signed documents to be mailed to you. Do not rely on email messages or web sites.
5. Check their web site for a legal office address, names of elected officers, past activities, list of active members.
6. Remember:
 - Anyone can found an "organization" with an impressive name, a website and ambitious goals - there is no law against it.
 - There are many so-called organizations who are actually a disguised business run by a single person operating from his/her home.
 - Many business companies deceive customers by calling them "members". Members vote for the management, customers don't.
 - Before registering for an event (festival, workshop, competition etc.) check if it is organized by a competent organization. Always ask for an official receipt of payment.
 - Titles (diplomas, certificates, prizes, degrees etc.) issued by private organizations do not have legal value unless recognized by state agencies.
 - Read about fraudulent conference announcements in www.uia.be/node/46358

Ask embarrassing questions! Real organizations are not afraid of them.

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