



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

NGO Review of Accreditation

ICH-08 Report – Form

REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

DEADLINE 15 FEBRUARY 2021

FOR EXAMINATION IN 2021

File may be downloaded at:

[HTTPS://ICH.UNESCO.ORG/EN/FORMS](https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms)

**PLEASE PROVIDE ONLY THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW. ANNEXES OR
OTHER ADDITIONAL MATERIALS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.**

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.*

UNPLI – Unione Nazionale Pro Loco d'Italia

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

Italian network of Pro Loco association

A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)*

NGO-90211

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: UNPLI - Unione Nazionale Pro Loco d'Italia

Address: Piazza Flavio Biondo, n. 13 – 00153 – ROME (ITALY)

Telephone number: + 39 06.99223348

Email address:	progetti@unpli.info
Website:	www.unpli.info
Other relevant information:	Facebook page: "Pro Loco Unpli" Online Inventory on YouTube: "Memoria Immateriale"

A.3. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.):	Mr.
Family name:	Desiderio
Given name:	Gabriele
Institution/position:	International Relations Manager
Address:	Piazza Flavio Biondo, 13 – 00153 – ROME (ITALY)
Telephone number:	+ 39 3283894658 - + 39 06 99223348
Email address:	gabriele.desiderio@unpli.info
Other relevant information:	

B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.

B.1. *Describe your organization's participation in State efforts to develop and implement measures to strengthen institutional capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) (Article 13 and Operational Directive (OD) 154), e.g. in the drafting of ICH-related policies or legislation, in the establishment of national ICH committees or in other government-led processes.*

Not to exceed 250 words

During the last 4 years, UNPLI has continued with its actions to raise awareness and involve the Pro Loco associations regarding the objectives of the 2003 Convention and UNESCO in general. In 2018 UNPLI signed a national agreement with the Ministry of Education. The agreement provides for the collaboration of the Pro Loco network with all the schools of Italy on the themes of orality and the transmission of knowledges and practices, between generations. One of the first projects launched is the involvement of schools in a large national competition dedicated to local dialects and languages, as a vehicle for knowledge, culture and dialogue between different cultures. Untill today more than 500 schools all around Italy have been involved in our activities. UNPLI is member of "Italian network for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage". The network was established in Paris on April 2019 at UNESCO headquarter. The network encourages the exchange of experiences between members and support the relationship with regional,

¹ . In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers when filling in parts B, C and E.

national and international institutions. UNPLI coordinates the work of this network.

In 2020 UNPLI signed a new agreement with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in order to promote through its network, of more than 6 thousand associations, the objectives and the instruments provided by the 2003 Convention. UNPLI it's been involved by this Ministry in specific activities related to the little villages in order to promote the enhancement of internal areas of the country, often suffering from depopulation and abandonment of the younger generation because of the lack of job opportunities.

B.2. *Describe your organization's cooperation with competent governmental bodies for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (Article 13), including existing institutions for training on and the documentation of ICH (OD 154).*

Not to exceed 250 words

On 2019 UNPLI signed a national agreement with the Italian Central Institute for Intangible Heritage (ICPI) in order to spread more and more the concepts of the 2003 Convention through its network and experiment national research actions on various issues related to the Italian intangible heritage. On 2020 we registered a great participation of the Pro Loco associations in the survey of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. UNPLI works closely with the Central Institute for Intangible Heritage (ICPI). Thanks to this collaboration, UNPLI has planned for 2021 a national survey of the Italian intangible cultural heritage.

In addition to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, UNPLI also has contacts with the Italian Commission for UNESCO, involved on several occasions in relation to events and projects of national importance.

Furthermore, UNPLI also collaborates with the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies on issues related to food and wine and to the knowledge and techniques of cultivation and management of the landscape. In 2018 UNPLI signed an agreement with the Ministry with the aim of enhancing the events that promote typical local products and the importance of sustainable development of the territories. Precisely for this reason, UNPLI has established the "Quality Festivals" brand to reward the most virtuous events, in the relationship between sustainable development and respect for local communities and their cultural expressions.

B.3. *Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the State's Periodic Report (OD 152).*

Not to exceed 250 words

Untill now UNPLI it's been involved only marginally in the State's periodic report. UNPLI is waiting for greater involvement by the Italian Government in order to give our contribution in the drafting of this periodic report. In recent years we have increased our skills and we believe that we are able to actively contribute to the drafting of the periodic report and to be able to provide informations and ideas coming directly from the local communities with which we are in contact every day.

B.4 *Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.*

Not to exceed 250 words

UNPLI collaborates with many Italian associations and institutions that are active in terms of safeguarding policies and dissemination of the principles of the 2003 UNESCO Convention. Among the main collaborations is that with the *Tocati Festival* of Verona, a festival dedicated to popular Italian games and international. UNPLI provides support for the dissemination of the initiative and encourages the adhesion of the associated Pro Loco. *Tocati* commits to share its experiences, putting them at the disposal of sustainable development with particular attention to developing countries, becoming an open workshop of practices for the safeguarding of traditional games and sports. UNPLI participated in conferences, events and meetings organized every year by the managers of *Tocati*, in order to promote the dissemination of the project's objectives and the involvement of local communities, especially in the internal areas of Italy. UNPLI is also supporting the candidacy for the representative list for the network of the devotion of the cult of San Domenico, in the region of Abruzzo.

Due to the great territorial diffusion of the Pro Loco associations, UNPLI is often involved in candidacy projects that arise in the territories. UNPLI has always given support to all the realities that decide to start nominations for UNESCO and that demonstrate that they act according to UNESCO guidelines and the principles of respect for local communities and their cultural expressions.

B.5. *Describe your organization's participation in the identification, definition (Article 11.b) and inventorying of ICH (Article 12, OD 80 and OD 153). Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Almost all Italian towns and small villages have a "Pro Loco", a civic membership association of volunteers that works with schools, universities and institutions in order to project ways to enhance the town and provide assistance to visitors. Thanks to the involvement and training action that UNPLI has created in recent years, the network of Pro Loco associations is focused on the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage and its from safeguarding to sustainable promotion. UNPLI continued to develop the online inventory "Memoria Immateriale" with more than 2000 videos and interviews to craftsmen, musicians, local experts and many other people on their connections with the cultural heritage of their regions. Memoria Immateriale is the Italy's first on line inventory with thousands videos and interviews. We create it with the cooperation of individuals and groups, where is possible to approach to techniques of craftsmanship, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and universe, performing arts, oral traditions and expressions, memories, etc. The channel is an important example of how the local communities are involved in our activities. The channel it's been realized with the informed consensus of the local communities. It has become a true repository for traditions, rites, social events, gastronomy and the arts and crafts of Italy. The channel reached over 9 million of minutes displayed by users.

B.6. *Describe your organization's participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:*

- a. promoting the function of ICH in society;*
- b. fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;*
- c. facilitating, to the extent possible, access to information relating to ICH while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of it.*

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

UNPLI has very much at heart the dissemination of the UNESCO principles and in particular of the 2003 Convention. UNPLI organizes specific meetings and webinars for its members on UNESCO issues and beyond. Furthermore, since 2018 UNPLI decided to publish a national magazine entirely dedicated to the Italian intangible cultural heritage. The magazine "Arcobaleno D'Italia – La rivista del patrimonio immateriale italiano" involves communities and groups that are active in the various fields of the local cultural heritages. In addition the UNPLI's network is constantly involved in information gathering projects in collaboration with the main Italian governmental bodies and ministries. UNPLI is strongly convinced that the strategic role that the ICH plays in knowledge of our cultural roots and in the sustainable development of the territories must be increasingly emphasized, especially with regard to the new generations. Pro Loco associations work closely with municipalities and local communities and often are themselves an expression of the community: this condition greatly facilitates the involvement of groups or individuals in the preservation and enhancement activities.

B.7. Describe your organization's involvement in measures to ensure greater recognition of, respect for and enhancement of ICH, in particular those referred to in Article 14, ODs 105 to 109 and OD 155:

- a. educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;
- b. educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;
- c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;
- d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;
- e. education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing ICH.

Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals when participating in such measures.

Not to exceed 250 words

One of the main objectives of UNPLI is the raising of the knowledge of the Convention and its instruments between its members and all the volunteers that every day work in a Pro Loco association. UNPLI organizes during the year several meetings in different part of the country. In each of these meetings UNPLI always reserve a space for the thematic linked to the Convention and to what these associations can do to spread the spirit of the Convention and its opportunities. These meetings or lessons are usually held by experts, in cooperation with other accredited NGOs and more often with national institutions.

After the agreement signed with the Ministry of Education we had the opportunity to involve in our activities a greater number of schools and students from all around Italy. Cultural associations, schools, universities, institutions and municipalities are constantly involved in our activities. One of the most important activity organized by UNPLI is the national literary prize "Save your local language" with the patronages of many ministries and institutions. The most important aspect of this activity is the involvement of the schools. Students' participation (from 5 to 18 years old) is crucial because the study of dialects allows them to get in touch with their cultural roots.

Every year UNPLI organizes training courses in which a relevant part is dedicated to raising the awareness of the Pro Loco associations about their strategic role in the safeguarding and transmission of the intangible heritage.

Pro Loco associations work closely with municipalities and local communities and often are themselves an expression of the community: this condition greatly facilitates the involvement of groups and individuals in the preservation and enhancement activities.

UNPLI thus plays a role of mediation between the international-national level and the local one.

C. Bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation

Report on any activities carried out by your organization at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives, as referred to in Article 19 and OD 156. You may, for example, consider the following issues:

- a. sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);
- b. participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);
- c. developing networks of NGOs, communities, experts, centres of expertise and research institutes at subregional and regional levels to develop joint and interdisciplinary approaches concerning shared ICH (OD 86).

Not to exceed 250 words

UNPLI is very committed to the exchange of experiences at national and international level. For this reason we have collaborated with several networks in Europe and around the world. UNPLI has a strong relationship with ICHCAP, the UNESCO second-rate center in South Korea. In fact, we have hosted a trainee in recent years. We also collaborate with this reality especially for the Heritage Alive magazine of the ICH NGO Forum, a publication created to promote good practices

and of which UNPLI participates in the editorial committee, and for all the main initiatives organized by ICHCAP for the involvement of NGOs worldwide. UNPLI also coordinates the Italian network of accredited NGOs mentioned above and which is developing a series of relationships with other international networks.

D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

D.1 *Has your organization participated in the Committee meetings or those of the General Assembly? If so, please indicate which meetings you attended and describe the nature of your contribution to the Committee's work.*

Not to exceed 250 words

12.COM - 13.COM - 15.COM //// 7.GA – 8.GA

During these meetings we supported the work of the ICH NGO Forum that in each meeting produced documents for reflection and ideas that were then read and / or discussed during the work of the Intergovernmental Committee or the General Assembly. Our contribution mainly concerned the area of internal and external communication: managing the website www.ichngoforum.org; preparing and sending newsletters; sharing on social media the most relevant news. We participated also in different working groups organized by the Forum during the meetings.

D.2 *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (OD 26 to 31), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.*

Not to exceed 100 words

No

D.3 *In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (OD 96) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?*

Not to exceed 500 words

UNPLI has not provide yet advisory service to the Committee. In the future UNPLI could give its support to the Committee thanks to the experience gained in the last 4 years. An experience that has been growing thanks to the cooperation and confrontation with the other NGOs of the Forum and the growing relationship with national institutions. Our employees have also attended various training courses within UNESCO and have been engaged for years in projects for the sustainable development of the territories and local communities.

E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (as described in OD 27 and OD 96):

E.1. *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

English – 3 members

E.2. *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.*

Not to exceed 250 words

UNPLI represents approximately 6,300 Pro Loco associations (a unique type of Italian association devoted to promoting a specific town or location) from various municipalities and old medieval towns, where approximately 600,000 members work as volunteers organizing over 10,000 events, fairs, festivals and much more every year.

Many Italian towns and small cities have a Pro Loco, a civic membership association of volunteers that works with schools, universities and institutions in order to project ways to enhance the town and provide assistance to visitors.

the pro loco are active in every area of intangible heritage because they are themselves an expression of the great cultural diversity of our country. The Pro Loco in fact organize all kinds of activities regarding the promotion of their territory. They do this starting from what are local cultural identities and to promote the cultural and social aspects of tangible and intangible heritages

From 2003 UNPLI is working on the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage with several national projects in all the ICH domains: oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; traditional craftsmanship. Collection and storage on our online inventory followed precisely the domains proposed by the Convention. During the year our staff travels all around Italy in order to collect contributions and materials from our network. In every place we've been we had a public assembly where we invited local institutions and citizens to reflect and debate also about the opportunities of the 2003 Convention.

E.3. *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

Not to exceed 250 words

UNPLI it's been involved in different proposals of inscription as described before. We had the opportunity to address the study and knowledge of all phases of submission of an application or a proposal. In the last four years UNPLI raised the awareness of its role as a mediator between local communities, experts and national and international institutions. During the last four years our staff participated to several workshops of capacity building and meetings in which they have dealt with the analysis of documents and critical issues that may arise from the application process for the UNESCO's lists. The participation at the UNESCO's meetings and the organization of the ICH NGO FORUM's activities incremented our skills in the analysis of proposals and applications. Now we have improved our ability to manage and produce documents within the Convention.

E.4. *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

Not to exceed 250 words

English - 3 members

E.5. *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Thanks to the experience gained from the collaboration with UNESCO since 2012 and to the relationships built in almost ten years of presence at all the official UNESCO meetings, we can now say that we now have a qualified staff able to interact at the international level also, starting from the smallest local realities.

UNPLI is very active within the ICH NGO Forum, the platform for communication, networking,

exchange and cooperation for NGOs accredited by UNESCO to provide advisory services to the Intergovernmental Committee.

Since 2013 UNPLI through its manager Gabriele Desiderio has proposed and created the official website of the Forum. The site has been updated and improved a lot in the last years, thanks to the feedback from other NGOs and the collaboration of the UNESCO secretariat. The site, in addition to presenting all the NGOs that are part of the Forum, constantly promotes UNESCO activities in the field of intangible heritage and beyond.

In 2020 UNPLI assisted the ICH NGO Forum' Steering Committee in order to support the forum in organizing online elections for the renewal of some members. UNPLI has therefore closely followed the technical aspects and the management of the software for the elections which were held in total anonymity, with the largest participation recorded so far through accredited NGOs.

F. Cooperation with UNESCO

Report on activities carried out by your organization in cooperation with UNESCO (both direct cooperation with UNESCO as well as activities carried out under the auspices of UNESCO or for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention, or financial support, such as funding from the Participation Program).

Not to exceed 250 words

UNPLI through its manager, Mr. Desiderio, has frequent contacts with the Secretariat in order to coordinate the communication of the ICH NGO FORUM and to disseminate (through the website and social networks) many of the informations arriving from UNESCO, regarding different aspects of the NGO's participation to the Convention or UNESCO's activities. We have also had contacts to receive UNESCO materials to be used for the training of our members.

G. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

H. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.

Name: Mr. Antonino La Spina

Title: National President

Date: 12th February 2021

Signature:



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.