

**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: 17 February 2025  
for examination in 2025**

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[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.*

Unione Nazionale Pro Loco d'Italia

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

Italian network of Pro Loco Associations

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. The postal address should be the one 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

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

Telephone number: + 39 06.99223348 (int.2) - +39 3283894658

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Email address:              | progetti@unpli.info   |
| Website/Social media:       | <a href="http://www.unpli.info">www.unpli.info</a> / <a href="https://www.facebook.com/UnioneProLoco">https://www.facebook.com/UnioneProLoco</a>  |
| Other relevant information: | Online Inventory on YouTube: <a href="#">“Memoria Immateriale”</a><br>Website dedicated to the national census of ICH: <a href="http://www.radiciculturati.it">www.radiciculturati.it</a> |

### 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  |
| Position:                   | Responsible of the Intangible cultural heritage department of UNPLI |
| Postal address:             | Piazza Flavio Biondo, 13 – 00153 – ROME (ITALY)                     |
| Telephone number:           | + 39 06 99223348 / +39 328 3894658 (mobile)                         |
| Email address:              | gabriele.desiderio@unpli.info                                       |
| Other relevant information: | Communication manager for the ICH NGO Forum                         |

## B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)<sup>1</sup>

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention’s Overall Results Framework<sup>2</sup>, as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention’s international cooperation mechanisms. 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 contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Unione Nazionale Pro Loco d'Italia (henceforth be known as UNPLI) plays an important role in strengthening the institutional and human capacity to protect Italy's intangible cultural heritage. With a network of more than 6000 Pro Loco associations, UNPLI works intensively with schools, local authorities and educational and research

<sup>1</sup> . In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.

<sup>2</sup> . For further information on the Overall Results Framework, please refer to the Chapter 8 of the Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503>

institutions to create a framework of best practices for the safeguarding of Italy's intangible cultural heritage. In line with UNESCO's global capacity-building program, which focuses on community-based inventory and protection methods, UNPLI ensures that local communities are actively involved in the conservation process. This inclusive approach guarantees that conservation measures are both relevant and effective, reflecting the unique cultural expressions of each community. In addition, UNPLI's collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Culture has led to the development of capacity-building programs tailored to the Italian context. These programs aim to raise awareness, increase knowledge and develop the skills of relevant stakeholders, while enhancing networking and collaboration at the national level. Through these initiatives, UNPLI not only preserves Italy's rich cultural heritage, but also empowers communities and institutions to actively engage in the preservation of their intangible cultural heritage.

**B.2.** Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the **transmission of and education** for intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

UNPLI is involved in various activities regarding transmission and education. The most important activity is the literary prize "Save your local language" ([www.salvalatualingualocale.it](http://www.salvalatualingualocale.it)), which is now in its tenth year and is aimed at all schools at all levels. This activity is carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, which sends out a call for entries to all schools every year. The aim of the literary prize is to encourage students to explore the relationship with local dialects and the intangible cultural heritage of their territories. Each school that decides to take part initiates a project with one or more classes. In the 3 areas foreseen by the prize (poetry, prose and music), schools will have students work with local languages and dialects, giving them the opportunity to express themselves through their relationship with knowledge, traditions and rituals that best represent their communities. UNPLI is sensitizing its members' network to work more closely with schools. Each Pro Loco is encouraged to involve the educational institutions in its region to raise community awareness of the local intangible cultural heritage and to encourage more and more schools to participate in the literary prize. Finally, UNPLI organizes several internal trainings addressing these aspects by providing tools to our volunteers and educating them on the importance of oral transmission and formal and non-formal education. In addition, many Pro Loco organize workshops throughout the year in which the transmission of knowledge between generations and beyond is encouraged and supported.

**B.3.** Describe your organization's participation in the **inventorying and research** of intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

From 2023, the Italian Ministry of Culture is funding a three-year project to collect the intangible heritage of small municipalities. The project will end at the end of 2025. The outcomes (which are currently being updated) are available on the website dedicated to the project: [www.radiciculturuali.it](http://www.radiciculturuali.it).

In Italy there are 5,534 towns with under 5,000 inhabitants, representing 70.04% of the Italian municipalities. Thanks to the wide variety of cultures and traditions present in the country, the Italian Intangible Cultural Heritage is extremely rich and heterogeneous.

The main goal of the multi-year project, carried out by UNPLI in collaboration with the Institute for Intangible Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and the National Association of Italian Municipalities is to proceed with a widespread inventory of all relevant expressions of the intangible heritage.

The project involves the implementation of a massive training action, initially aimed at the internal network of project contact persons. These contacts will have the task of helping the individual Pro Loco in each region of Italy to fill in the relevant information collection form. The Pro Loco associations will thus have a set of tools at their disposal to deal with intangible cultural heritage issues. A necessary training phase for them to understand the framework in which they operate and to fill in the form by involving local communities or individuals in research and data collection activities. The forms received and the other materials are then validated by a group of anthropologists and researchers who release the material for publication on the portal [www.radiciculturuali.it](http://www.radiciculturuali.it), the platform that collects all the reports.

**B.4.** *Describe your organization's participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

UNPLI actively engages in policy development by partnering with governmental bodies, educational institutions, and research organizations. This collaboration aims to establish a network of best practices dedicated to safeguarding Italy's ICH. By working with these entities, UNPLI contributes to the formulation and execution of policies that promote the preservation and appreciation of intangible cultural assets. In alignment with the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which encourages States Parties to develop or modify ICH-related policies and legislation, UNPLI supports the creation of an enabling environment at the national level. This environment ensures that ICH is valued and respected, and that communities are actively involved in its safeguarding. Pro Loco associations are deeply embedded within their local communities, serving as expressions of local identity. Since 2003, UNPLI has initiated several national projects focused on ICH safeguarding, utilizing Pro Loco associations as instruments for community involvement. These associations promote, enhance, and transmit numerous local traditions, ensuring that safeguarding measures are both relevant and effective. By fostering close cooperation with communities, groups, and individuals, UNPLI ensures that the safeguarding of Italy's intangible cultural heritage is a collective endeavor, rooted in the active participation of those who create, maintain, and transmit these cultural expressions.

**B.5.** *Describe your organization's participation in promoting the **role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Italian network of Pro Loco associations plays an important role in promoting and safeguarding ICH by engaging communities, organizing events, collaborating with institutions and raising social awareness. *Pro Loco* associations often work in partnership with municipalities, cultural foundations, and heritage organizations to implement projects aimed at safeguarding ICH. Through their inclusive and participatory approach, they ensure that intangible cultural heritage remains a living, evolving and valued part of Italian culture. By integrating cultural heritage into education, tourism and community life, they create a sustainable framework for the

preservation of cultural heritage that benefits both present and future generations. UNPLI supports and promotes this way of dealing with intangible cultural heritage and provides tools and assistance where necessary. The aim is to enable Pro Loco and the communities involved to work autonomously by providing up-to-date tools that comply with UNESCO guidelines. Since UNPLI has been accredited by UNESCO, a great deal of awareness-raising work has been carried out, which has inevitably reached not only our network but also all other actors working in this field.

**B.6.** *Describe your organization's participation in **raising awareness** about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Pro Loco associations are increasingly taking on a central role in mediation and dialog with local communities and other institutions seeking to protect and enhance this heritage. UNPLI has long been raising awareness of the issues surrounding the 2003 UNESCO Convention and is also at the forefront internationally in highlighting the strategic role of associations and cultural volunteering. 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. UNPLI publishes a quarterly magazine devoted exclusively to Italy's intangible cultural assets. It contains information sheets and in-depth articles on traditional rituals, processing techniques and sustainable valorization. The magazine "Rainbow of Italy" is distributed to all the main institutional and non-institutional partners of Pro Loco and UNPLI with a circulation of over 10,000 copies. Thanks to the magazine, it is possible to disseminate the principles of the UNESCO Convention and promote best practices throughout the country.

**B.7.** *Describe your organization's participation in **facilitating the engagement** of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Pro Loco network is an important driver of cultural continuity in Italy. Through community-led initiatives, partnerships, documentation, education and sustainable tourism, it actively involves various stakeholders in the protection of Italy's rich intangible cultural heritage. Its work ensures that traditions remain relevant, alive and accessible for future generations and strengthens cultural identity at local and national level.

UNPLI supports and helps Pro Loco associations to act as a bridge between local communities and institutions, ensuring that traditional knowledge and cultural expressions are passed on across generations. They promote the active participation of residents in the preservation and revitalization of local folklore, dialects, handicrafts and historical festivals. By organizing cultural events, workshops and training courses, they help to preserve traditional practices and raise awareness among younger generations.

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**B.8.** Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation 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.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

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, national and international institutions UNPLI coordinates the work of this network. In addition to working with other international bodies, UNPLI is a member of the Board of Directors of ISTO (International Social Tourism Organization) and advocates with all members on issues related to sustainable and inclusive tourism and the need to protect communities and cultural diversity. Through the organization of (online and face-to-face) meetings, tools are provided to international partners to support local communities and spread awareness of UNESCO's principles and mechanisms governing the Convention.

**B.9.** Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

UNPLI is a key player in the regular reporting process, ensuring that local knowledge and community-driven conservation actions feed into the national assessment of the implementation of the UNESCO Convention in Italy. By providing data, collaborating with institutions, evaluating measures and raising public awareness, UNPLI associations actively contribute to shaping a cultural heritage policy that reflects Italy's diverse and dynamic cultural traditions.

The UNESCO Office of the Italian Ministry of Culture has repeatedly involved UNPLI in assisting the periodic report work with requests regarding specific situations. Over the years, we have been asked several times for assistance in preparing the regular reports. In particular, we have collaborated in providing information and data on best practices required.

**B.10.** 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 helps to identify and document cultural practices, rituals, traditional knowledge and crafts that are eligible for inscription on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. UNPLI works closely with local communities, regional governments, the Ministry of Culture and academic institutions to collect historical context, oral testimonies and multimedia materials for the nomination dossiers. Through its network, UNPLI helps to ensure broad community participation, a key criterion for inclusion on the UNESCO list.

Specifically, we have joined the Ministry of Culture's application about the tradition of flower carpets and festive compositions with natural materials brought forward by the Ministry of Culture, involving numerous Pro Loco and communities active in this specific area.

UNPLI also collaborated with the "Tocati, a shared program for the preservation of Traditional Games and Sports" for its inclusion in the Register of Good Practices, which involves numerous Pro Loco and communities working in this specific field.

## C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

- Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)
- Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention
- Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators
- Cooperation with Category 2 Centres
- Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO
- Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs
- Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
- Financial support from the Participation Programme
- Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

UNPLI's collaboration with UNESCO is long-standing and multi-faceted, encompassing nominations, awareness-raising campaigns, policy discussions and local conservation initiatives. By leveraging its grassroots network and institutional partnerships, UNPLI continues to play a key role in the promotion and protection of Italy's intangible cultural heritage in line with UNESCO's mission. 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.

UNPLI also has excellent relations with the Italian Commission for UNESCO, which we involve in all our important activities and from which we have often received moral patronage through the use of the emblem.

## 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 sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

Not to exceed 250 words

- 5.EXT.COM (online) – 16.COM (online) – 17.COM (online) – 18.COM (online) – 19.COM (online)
- 9.GA – 10.GA

During these meetings, our manager, Mr. Desiderio, supported the work of the ICH-NGO Forum, which presented documents for reflection and ideas at each meeting, which were then read and/or discussed during the work of the Intergovernmental Committee or the General Assembly. The contribution mainly concerned the area of internal and external

communication: the management of the website [www.ichngoforum.org](http://www.ichngoforum.org), the creation and sending of newsletters and the dissemination of key messages on social media. Our manager also oversaw all processes related to the internal forum elections and provided technical assistance and support for the election of the Board of Directors. We also participated in various working groups organized by the Forum during the meetings.

**D.2** *Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (paragraphs 26 to 31 of the Operational Directives), 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 (paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives) 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 yet provided advisory services to the Committee. In the future, UNPLI could support the Committee thanks to the experience gained over the last 12 years of accreditation. An experience that has grown thanks to the collaboration and confrontation with the other NGOs of the Forum and the growing relationship with national institutions. Our staff have also participated in various training courses organised by UNESCO and have been involved for years in projects for the sustainable development of territories and local communities.

## **E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives)**

**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 with the language abilities concerned.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

English – 3 members

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

*Not to exceed 250 words*

As already reported, our network enables us to be in daily contact with all areas of the convention. Thank you to the census project described above, we have the opportunity to work in all Article 2 domains.

If we had to report on an area in which we are very experienced, we would report on oral traditions and expressions, including language as a carrier of intangible cultural heritage, because for over 10 years we have been at the forefront in Italy when it comes to protecting and enhancing the cultural diversity inherent in local languages and dialects.

In fact, since 2013, UNPLI has launched the National Day of Dialects and Local Languages and runs the Save Your Local Language literary award (which we have already mentioned as an example of collaboration with educational institutions). The day takes place every year on January 17 and includes hundreds of events throughout Italy dedicated to the enhancement of this field. The literary prize, on the other hand, involves not only schools but also all authors who submit their works in the various categories, ranging from poetry to prose, from



dictionaries to essays, from music to theatre and comics, in order to promote creativity in all areas of local cultural production.

In addition, UNPLI has set up a series of thematic networks dedicated to specific aspects of Italian intangible cultural heritage, characterized by the vitality and commitment of the communities, in order to promote the growth and awareness of the protagonists of the various elements. Thus, national networks have been set up for Pro Loco organizations that: organize masked carnivals; host floral exhibitions and other ephemeral arts; organize historical processions and re-enactments.

**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. 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 with the language abilities concerned.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Italian network of Pro Loco associations has experience in writing synthetic texts in English, especially in the context of cultural promotion, tourism and heritage safeguarding. This experience comes from years of collaboration with international partners, European projects and cooperation with institutions such as UNESCO and regional tourism authorities. UNPLI 3 members have a good command of English, especially those involved in international relations, tourism and cultural projects. Many younger members, students and professionals within the Pro Loco network have a good command of English, which facilitates communication with global stakeholders.

**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*

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.

## F. 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

## G. Signature

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

Name: Mr. Antonino La Spina

Title: National President

Date: 14 February 2025

Signature:

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink over a circular official stamp. The stamp contains the text "PRESIDENZA" at the top, "UNPLI" in the center, and "NAZIONALE" at the bottom, with small dots on either side of the central text.

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For the purpose of collecting information, accredited non-governmental organizations are invited to answer the following question (optional). The information provided will not be assessed as part of the review of accreditation in the sense of paragraph 94 of the Operational Directives.

## Participation in the work of the ICH NGO Forum

*Has your organization contributed to the work of the ICH NGO Forum in the past four years? If yes, please tick the relevant box(es) and provide information below.*

**Member of the *Executive Board* of the ICH NGO Forum**

*If yes, indicate the period and the role played:*

**Member of a *thematic working group* established under the ICH NGO Forum**

*Specify the name of the working group, the period and the role played:*

a) Heritage Alive – Member of the Editorial Board

b) Information And Technology Communication – Member

**Organizer of an *event specifically convened for accredited non-governmental organizations***

*Specify the name of the event, its target group and its date:*

a) *Presentation of the National Census on ICH – 12 June 2024 – Paris, UNESCO Headquarter*

**Other types of cooperation**

*Specify: Our manager, Mr. Desiderio, is responsible for the Forum's website (ichngoforum.org) and supports the Forum members at meetings, webinars, votes on new appointments to the Board of Directors and other important decisions concerning the Forum's activities*