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 2019

for examination in 2019

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*Please provide only the information requested below. Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.*

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| 1. **Identification of the organization**
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| **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.* |
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| A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.* |
| Association for the conservation of folk traditions  |
| A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)* |
| NGO-90316  |
| **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.* |
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| Organization: | Association for the conservation of folk traditions  |
| Address: | Piazzetta Antonio Pasqualino,590133 Palermo  |
| Telephone number: | +39 91 328060  |
| Email address: | mimap@museomarionettepalermo.it; museomarionettepalermo@gmail.com  |
| Website: | www.museodellemarionette.it; www.facebook.com/museoantonio.pasqualino; twitter.com/MuseoPasqualino  |
| Other relevant information: |  |

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| **A.3. Contact person for correspondence** |
| *Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.* |
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| Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): | Mr  |
| Family name: | Perricone  |
| Given name: | Rosario  |
| Institution/position: | President / Director  |
| Address: | Piazzetta Antonio Pasqualino n  590133 - Palermo  |
| Telephone number: | +39.91.328060  |
| Email address: | mimap@museomarionettepalermo.it; museomarionettepalermo@gmail.com  |
| Other relevant information: |  |

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| **B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national level (Chapter III of the Convention)**[[1]](#footnote-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* |
| The Association contributed to modify the national law n. 77/2006 (Gu No. 58 of 10 March 2006) “Special measures for the safeguarding and fruition of the Italian sites of cultural landscape-related and natural interest, inscribed in the World Heritage List, placed under UNESCO’s protection”. Following an exchange between the Association and the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament, the Law was modified and integrated: the law n. 44/2017 made the law 77/2006 apply also the UNESCO ICH elements. The name of the law 77/2006 was thus transformed into “Special measures for the safeguarding and fruition of the Italian sites and elements of cultural, landscape-related and natural interest, inscribed in the World Heirtage List, placed under UNESCO’s protection”. The Association also dialogued with the Chamber of Deputies–VII permanent Commission (Culture, Science and Education) during a survey on the good practices for cultural dissemination and is mentioned in the Commission’s final report (2018).In 2018, the Association promoted and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with: Istituto Centrale per la Demoetnoantopologia-ICDe of the Italian Ministry of Culture; SIMBDEA; 10 puppeteers’ families from all over Sicily. It foresees the creation of #OPERADEIPUPI.IT, a network mainly devoted to draft a Plan of Measures for the Safeguard and Promotion of the Opera dei pupi within a planned programme and designates the Association as the competent body in the field of safeguard, study and promotion of Sicilian ICH (art. 13, lett. b), the responsible for the management and implementation of the activities foreseen.  |
| **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* |
| Since 2018, the Association is among the cultural institutes of remarkable value selected by the Italian Ministry of CH, Activities and Tourism (MiBACT). In the safeguarding field, it has two projects for the restoration of pupi and cartelli from the A. Pasqualino Puppet Museum (founded and managed by the Association): one on the Art Bonus platform-that is one of the MiBACT’s cultural measures for the I/CH safeguarding; one within a collaboration (strated in 2016) with the Regional Dpt. of Cultural Goods and Sicilian Identity-Centre for Design and Restoration. In the documentation field, following a Memorandum signed with Palermo City's Government–Cultural Area (2014), the Association has created and opened (2016) a unique documentary centre at Palazzo Tarallo devoted to Sicilian ICH (art. 13, Dii) gathering the heritage of private/public institutions to: increase, cataloguing, inventorying it according to univocal updated standards (art. 13, Diii); help its use and consultation (art. 13, lett. D ii, iii); promote it through a synergic programming of cultural events, research, education activities, exhibitions. In 2018, Palazzo Tarallo was included in the ethno-anthropological branch of the Cultural Area in order to increase the citizens' participation in sustainable cultural projects. In the education field, the Association is an official partner of the University of Palermo in relation to: the master courses in “Economics and Management of Cultural Goods and UNESCO heritage” (three editions: 2016-17-18) and in “Book, Document, and CH. Cataloguing, Inventorying and Access” (2018); the research project on “Food Culture in Sicily” (2016-19).  |
| **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* |
| The Association is the contact organization of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism (MiBACT) for the periodic reports dealing with Sicilian Opera dei pupi. It was consulted on the occasion of the Italian periodic report on the implementation of the Convention, submitted on 15/12/2013 and examined by the Committee in 2014. The Association contributed to the drafting of the Italian State’s report by providing a report focused on Sicilian Opera dei pupi and its present state.  |
| **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* |
| Through the engagement of some of the members of its Management Board, the Association contributed to the drafting of the application for the inscription of the “Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral of Cefalù and Monreale” in the UNESCO World Heritage List.  |
| **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* |
| Through the engagement of some of the members of its Management Board, the Association collaborated with the Regional Ministry of Cultural Goods and Sicilian Identity for the creation and update of a Register of the ICH of the Sicilian Region (R.E.I.S.) established by the regional decree n. 571 of 5 March 2014 (art. 11B, 12.1, OD 80a,b, 153 a). The R.E.I.S., free and on line, includes six macro areas (named “books”) among which: Book of Performing Practices and Oral Repertoires, Book of Celebrations, Festivals and Ritual Practices; Book of Crafts, Heritage and Techniques.The Association's research activity and support to individual research projects in 2014-18 mainly focused on the Opera dei Pupi and Sicilian traditional food, e.g. the breads of Saint Joseph and the traditional food in the Madonite area, the latter analysed from an anthropological and linguistic perspective. A photo-video-audio documentation was collected, which portrays and gives voice to the communities, groups of people and individuals involved in carrying out or participating in those practices. It allows to update the existing inventories and redefine local ICH considering the present state of those practices and the individual experience of practitioners/participants, their new interpretations and creations of their traditional heritage.  |
| **B.6.** *Describe your organization’s participation in other safeguarding measures, including those referred to in Article 13 and OD 153, aimed at:*1. *promoting the function of ICH in society;*
2. *fostering scientific, technical and artistic studies with a view to effective safeguarding;*
3. *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* |
| In the years 2014-18 the Association organized exhibitions, seminars, theatrical events and education activities involving craftsmen and practitioners within specific annual planning programmes that integrate ICH safeguarding and promote its function in a society, that of Sicily, that is been accentuating its multicultural aspect following the massive flow of immigrants arriving from the sea. Those programmes are conceived within a general policy grounded on an intercultural and interdisciplinary approach. The annual Festival di Morgana is a good example of how the Association involves the community in a dynamic process of differentiation of its identity based on multicultural understanding and aimed at help social cohesion. Featuring almost all the Opera dei pupi families, it spread knowledge about this local tradition while promoting an exchange with other Italian and foreign traditional and contemporary puppet companies. The Association also produced new hybrid theatrical performances, so as to involve both practitioners, craftsmen, artists and audience in new experiences that help a constant re-creation and re-signification of local ICH. The above mentioned research and restoration projects are coherent with this general policy.To facilitate the access to information relating to Sicilian ICH, the Association contributed to create the free on line platform www.archivioetnograficosiciliano.it with the support of the Italian Education Ministry: it collects sound records related to different Sicilian ICH practices, from the libraries of prestigious private organizations. The association is designing another platform dedicated to the BookAlive project where the outputs of the research on the Madonite area traditional food will be published.  |
| **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:*1. *educational, awareness-raising and information programmes aimed at the general public, in particular young people;*
2. *educational and training programmes within the communities and groups concerned;*
3. *capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of ICH;*
4. *non-formal means of transmitting knowledge;*
5. *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* |
| The Association is an official partner of two University master courses: “Economics and Management of Cultural Goods and UNESCO heritage” (three editions: 2016-17-18) and “Book, Document, and CH. Cataloguing, Inventorying and Access” (2018). It organizes education activities (performances, workshops, meetings and seminars with experts and practitioners) addressed to school pupils and students, as well as to the general public.To attract the new generation it also developed innovative technological projects focused on the Opera dei pupi:1\_#CARINDA A.R. is a reproduction of the most ancient pupo in augmented reality: the visitor can interact with it and virtually provoke its movement – which obey the Opera dei pupi traditional cynetic code. 2\_Pupi a 360° is a documentary film by Alessandra Grassi. who used a shooting system at 360 degrees to shoot a traditional Opera dei pupi show. It can be experienced through virtual reality glasses. 3\_The Battle of Roncesvalles by Emanuele Romanelli, is a digital animation of the episodes painted in one of the advertising posters of the Opera dei pupi of Palermo.Every year the Association participates in initiatives for the promotion/safeguarding of Sicilian heritage in an educational perspective. They usually allow a free/cheap admission to the Pasqualino Puppet Museum and tours/events with specific focuses.In the recent editions of Festival di Morgana the Association scheduled performances and activities in the old theatres of some of the Opera dei pupi families involved  |
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| **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:*1. *sharing information and documentation concerning shared ICH (OD 87);*
2. *participating in regional cooperation activities including, for example, those of category 2 centres for ICH established under the auspices of UNESCO (OD 88);*
3. *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* |
| At the international level, the Association promoted and implemented a Network of the Puppet and Image Theatres of the Mediterranean area. The Network was established in 2017 and was signed by: Koukla Festivali – Turkey; Domia Productions–Douma Tanja – Marocco; Unima Middle East&North Africa–France; Association Les Amis du centre Larbi Tebessi–Algeria. It was further implemented with an exchange between Habiba Jandoubi (Domia Production), founder and President of the UNIMA-Tunisia, an international NGO affiliated to UNESCO, and the Association. On the occasion of Festival di Morgana 2017, Jendoubi performed in Palermo and her book on the different Tunisian traditions of puppet theatres (including a local version of the Sicilian Opera dei Pupi) was launched. In 2018, the President and Director of our Association participated in the I edition of the Chartage Days of Puppetry Arts contributing to the international study days on the Evolution and Current Challenges of Puppetry Arts. The Association also performed a traditional Opera dei pupi show.At the subregional level, the Association is involved in the ICH and Museum Project, supported by the Creative Europe programme and involving: Werkplaats immaterieel erfgoed (Belgium, lead partner); Dutch Centre for ICH; SIMBDEA (Italy); Swiss Museums Association; Maison des Cultures du Monde (MCM)-Centre français du ICH. The Association's President and Director is in the project's Steering Group and in 2018 the Pasqualino Museum hosted the project's Italian session on the topic ICH, Museums and Participation.Within the region, Palazzo Tarallo project the Sound-ethnographic Archive share documentation on different local ICH expressions.  |
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| **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* |
| The Association could not take part in the past Committee and General Assembly 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* |
| The Association could not actively work as a member of the Evaluation Body or of the Consultative Body.  |
| **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* |
| The Association's know-how, expertise, networks and impact on the territory can be an important tool for the Committee to evaluate nominations of a high variety of ICH practices. Moreover, it foresees to participate in the next Committee sessions.  |
| **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* |
| The Association's staff includes three people who graduated in foreign languages at university and master the following languages: English, French, Spain and German. All of them have EU certifications (either C1 or C2), studied or lived in one of the Countries where those languages are mothertongues. The other members of the staff can speak an intermediate English.  |
| **E.2.** *Does your organization have experience in working across several ICH domains? Please describe your experiences.**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| Since its foundation the Association has been operating across several ICH domains. Its international puppet collection of 5.000 items includes artefacts used in the 5 puppet traditions that are UNESCO masterpieces: Opera dei pupi (Italy); Sbek Thom (Cambodia), Wayang kulit (Indonesia), Gélèdè (Nigeria), Bunraku (Japan). This led to promote a regular exchange and collaboration with ICH practitioners from different countries of the world and with experts in different ICH fields.On a local level, the Association makes researches, organizes cultural and education activities, exhibitions for the promotion and safeguarding of a high variety of Sicilian ICH expressions raging from traditional theatrical practices, to rituals and religious festivals, to traditional food, carnival and masks, etc. Among the most recent initiatives: -the conferences: “Carnival in Sicily. Among panthomime and allegory” and “Le matin de dieux. From the Persan Nouruz to the Christian Easter” (2018); “Iconologies of tattooes” (2017-18); “Let me take your pain off": Female Shamanism in Central Asian practice and performance”, “What do we talk about when we refer to ICH?”, “Pasos e misteri. The Holy Week in Andalusia and in Sicily” (2017); “Sacred and Profane. Rites and Myths in Sicily” and “Pitrè and Salomone Marino. A conference 100 years after their death” (2016); “Voices of Traditions. From the research in the field to the stage” and “Cultural definition of time” (2015) -the permanent seminars: “Contemporary Ethnographies” (2014-2017), “Art and Anthropology”; “Anthropology and Music” (4editions) - the seminars :“From Cultural Goods to heritage”, “Sound ethnographies”, “Rosalia. Holiness, memories and city identities”(2018)  |
| **E.3.** *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.**Not to exceed 250 words* |
| The Association Management Board and its networks include high-brows, academics, experts mainly in the demo-ethno-anthropological and ICH fields. Some of them collaborated in the drafting of the Opera dei pupi application that led to the UNESCO proclamation and in the drafting of the successful application of the “Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral of Cefalù and Monreale”. Not only do they know procedures and evaluation criteria in the ICH field, by they are often members of evaluating commissions at Universities or within regional or governmental calls, provide counselling.  |
| **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* |
| The Association is well experienced in drafting synthetic texts in English, French and Spanish thanks to three of its staff members. The text genres usually written in foreign languages have been:-international applications for EU calls/funding programmes-short guides, captions and panels related to the Museum's collection or drafted on the occasion of outdoor exhibitions-synopsis of Opera dei pupi shows and other performances-the official web sites content-programs and abstracts of international conferences and seminars;-short exhibition catalogues and an excerpt of the book L'opera dei pupi by Antonio Pasqualino;-applications in international calls in the field of seminars/conferences, etc. -emails, letters, contracts, technical riders, promotional infos concerning the Morgana Festival, an international review of traditional and contemporary theatrical practices organized since 1975  |
| **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* |
| Since its foundation, the Association, which runs the Antonio Pasqualino International Puppet Museum, has been collaborating with a number of international museums, organizations, theatrical companies and artists, experts and high-brows from all over the world. Its general policy has always been grounded on an intercultural and interdisciplinary approach and by consequence it has developed long-lasting collaborations at all levels in different countries of the world. Thanks to this approach, the Morgana Festival, which obtained the EFFE label, offers an occasion to make an exchange between different narrative forms, traditions and cultures in that it schedules performances that are deeply rooted in the cultures of the Countries they are from.The organization of and participation in exhibitions, launchings of editorial products, conferences, seminars, study meetings, conferences at international level offer great opportunities to feed a debate between groups of experts, professionals and museums, and bring the world of museums and not only to dialogue with that of ICH, opening the frontiers of contemporary museography to sharing innovative experiences about anthropology, theatre, art, literature, cultural theories, history. New York University, Harvard University, University of Warsaw, Birkbeck College, University of London are only a few examples of the Association's international networks. The museum also promoted the above mentioned network with the major organizations operating in the field of the puppet and image theatres in the Mediterranean area and is part of the UNIMA platform.  |
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| **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* |
| One of the activities that the Associaiton carried out under the auspices of UNESCO is the Morgana Festival (some of its editions). In conjunction with the opening of the Internationa Puppet Museum (1975), the Association organized the first annual Rassegna Opera dei pupi Review which took place in the Museum’s theatre, and in 1985 the Rassegna became Festival di Morgana (FdM) achieving international relevance. Sicilian puppeteers achieved a higher dignity in their activities following their cooperation with other European and international puppet companies.The annual Festival gives the Museum the opportunity to increase its collections and deepen its studies of the traditional European theatre.The Festival has a special attitude to folk and contemporary culture at the same time, mainly (but not only) in puppetry. The Festival promotes the trans-national mobility of cultural operators and the transnational circulation of artistic and cultural works and products by collaborating with a high number of international festivals and associations. It has been encouraging the intercultural dialogue since its first edition by adopting an interdisciplinary approach (puppetry, music, visual arts and heritage are often present at the same time) and proposing programmes which have always promoted an exchange between popular and cultivated theatre, art and music, also focusing on contemporary puppet theatre in relation to the field of performing arts, heritage and culture in general.  |
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| **G. Signature** |
| *The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization.* |
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| Name: | Rosario Perricone  |
| Title: | Mr.  |
| Date: | 15-02-2019  |
| Signature: | Rosario Perricone  |

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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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)