

## **TOCATÌ A SHARED HERITAGE 2025 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: THE POWER OF NETWORKS INTO PLAY**

**Saturday 20 September 2025, 9:00 – 13:00  
Room To6 Polo Universitario S. Marta - entrance via Cantarane 24**

### **Abstracts of the contributions**

**Alessia Villanucci and Claudio Rizzoni**

***Community Networks, Institutional Networks in Italy: Perspectives from the Central Institute for Intangible Heritage of the Ministry of Culture***

According to Ministerial Decree n. 270/2024, the duties of the Central Institute for Intangible Heritage (ICPI) of the Italian Ministry of Culture include: “the safeguarding and enhancement of the Italian tangible and intangible ethno-anthropological cultural heritage”; “the promotion and implementation of documentation, training, research, and dissemination activities”; and “the management of relations with heritage communities, Italian and international research bodies, and public and private institutions, both national and international, specialized in the field.” How does ICPI work to achieve these goals? In addition to experimenting with practices aimed at reconciling national cultural heritage legislation with the tradition of ethno-anthropological and popular culture studies, another interesting aspect concerns its involvement in the creation of networks. This includes both networks involving various communities of practice and networks of institutions or local authorities that, at different levels, participate in heritage-making processes.

We will present several significant cases that ICPI has worked on in recent years - sometimes supporting highly aware heritage communities (cf. Faro Convention, 2005), and other times playing the role of facilitator in establishing relationships between groups and communities of practice. Examples of collaboration between the Ministry, and local and national authorities and institutions will also be discussed, offering insights into a less-explored but nonetheless central aspect of heritage-making processes.

The experience gained alongside AGA and in support of the Tocatì network will guide the presentation: through comparison with other experiences, it will help outline some desirable lines of action to strengthen the Institute’s role in the future.

**Alessia Villanucci**, PhD in Anthropology and Historical-Linguistic Studies, since 2017 is ethno-anthropologist officer of the Ministry of Culture, now working at the Central Institute for Intangible Heritage. She designs and coordinates researches and initiatives aimed at the protection, enhancement and safeguarding of the ethno-anthropological and intangible cultural heritage. From 2007 to 2016, she conducted ethnographic researches in Ethiopia, in different urban, agricultural and pastoral contexts, focusing on the relationships between the State, transnational organizations and local populations. In her fieldworks, she has given particular attention to the analysis of the impact of development policies on the territories, as well as the relationships between institutions and communities.

Her recent publications include: *Palio 365. Un progetto di tutela partecipata*, Effigi, Roma, 2024 (co-editor).

**Claudio Rizzoni**, Ph.D. in “History and Analysis of Musical Cultures,” has been a ethno-anthropologist officer at the Italian Ministry of Culture since 2017. He is currently serving at the Central Institute for Intangible Heritage, where he is involved in research and safeguarding activities related to intangible heritage, with a particular focus on ethnomusicology. He also collaborates with the Central Institute for Sound and Audiovisual Heritage. From 2020 to 2021, he

taught ethnomusicology at the University of Turin, and since 2022, he has held the same position at the University of Chieti.

Since 2011, he has conducted research on the history of ethnomusicology and oral musical traditions in the Campania and Liguria regions. His publications include *Fare etnomusicologia oggi*, Nuova Cultura Edizioni, 2011, and *Musica e rito nel culto della Madonna dell'Arco*, NeoClassica, 2020.

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### ***Reti di comunità, reti di istituzioni in Italia: prospettive dall'Istituto Centrale per il Patrimonio Immateriale del Ministero della Cultura***

Ai sensi del D.M. n. 270/2024, tra i compiti dell'Istituto Centrale per il Patrimonio Immateriale (ICPI) del Ministero della Cultura italiano, sono annoverati: “la salvaguardia e la valorizzazione dei beni culturali demoetnoantropologici, materiali e immateriali italiani”; “la promozione e l'implementazione di attività di documentazione, formazione, studio e divulgazione”; “la cura dei rapporti con comunità patrimoniali, organismi di ricerca italiani e internazionali, enti pubblici e privati, nazionali e internazionali specializzati nella materia”.

In che modo l'ICPI opera per raggiungere questi obiettivi? Oltre alla sperimentazione di prassi volte a conciliare la normativa nazionale sul patrimonio culturale con la tradizione di studi delle discipline demoetnoantropologiche, un ulteriore aspetto interessante è legato all'intervento nei processi di costruzione di reti. Ciò, sia in relazione a reti che coinvolgono diverse comunità di pratica, sia a reti di istituzioni o enti locali che, a vari livelli, agiscono nei processi di patrimonializzazione.

Saranno presentati alcuni casi significativi cui l'ICPI ha lavorato negli ultimi anni, talvolta supportando comunità patrimoniali già molto consapevoli (vd. Faro, 2005), talvolta detenendo un ruolo di attivatore di relazioni tra gruppi e comunità di pratica. Saranno, inoltre, discussi esempi di collaborazione tra Ministero, istituzioni ed enti locali e nazionali, permettendo di riflettere su un aspetto meno analizzato, ma altrettanto centrale, dei processi di patrimonializzazione.

L'esperienza di lavoro acquisita a fianco di AGA e a supporto alla rete Tocati costituirà il filo conduttore dell'intervento, e, attraverso la comparazione con altre esperienze, permetterà di delineare alcune linee di azione auspicabili per rafforzare il ruolo dell'Istituto in futuro.

**Alessia Villanucci**, dottore di ricerca in Antropologia e Studi storico-linguistici, dal 2017 è funzionario demoetnoantropologo del Ministero della Cultura, attualmente in servizio presso l'Istituto Centrale per il Patrimonio Immateriale, dove progetta e coordina ricerche e iniziative volte alla tutela, valorizzazione e salvaguardia del patrimonio culturale demoetnoantropologico e immateriale. Dal 2007 al 2016, ha condotto ricerche etnografiche e di antropologia applicata in Etiopia, in contesti urbani, agricoli e pastorali, focalizzandosi sui rapporti tra Stato, organizzazioni transnazionali e popolazioni locali, con particolare attenzione all'analisi dell'impatto delle politiche di sviluppo sui territori e ai rapporti tra istituzioni e comunità.

Tra le pubblicazioni più recenti: *Palio 365. Un progetto di tutela partecipata*, Effigi, Roma, 2024 (co-curatrice).

**Claudio Rizzoni**, dottore di ricerca in “Storia e analisi delle culture musicali”, dal 2017 è funzionario demoetnoantropologo del Ministero della Cultura, attualmente in servizio presso l'Istituto Centrale per il Patrimonio Immateriale, dove si occupa di ricerca e attività di salvaguardia del patrimonio immateriale, con particolare attenzione all'ambito etnomusicale. Attualmente collabora anche con l'Istituto Centrale per i Beni Sonori e Audiovisivi; inoltre, dal 2020 al 2021 ha insegnato etnomusicologia presso l'Università di Torino e dal 2022 svolge il medesimo incarico presso l'Università di Chieti.

Dal 2011 ha svolto attività di ricerca nell'ambito della storia dell'etnomusicologia e delle culture musicali di tradizione orale in area campana e ligure. Fra le sue pubblicazioni si ricordano *Fare etnomusicologia oggi* (Nuova Cultura Edizioni, 2011) e *Musica e rito nel culto della Madonna dell'Arco* (NeoClassica, 2020).

**Tamara Nikolić Đerić**

***The ICH NGO Forum: Cultivating partnerships-sustaining futures***

The presentation explores the dynamic role of civil society organizations in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and advocacy. As a global network bringing together accredited NGOs, the Forum fosters dialogue across regions and sectors, strengthening partnerships with communities, experts, and institutions engaged in living heritage. The presentation will outline the rich and diverse expertise of member NGOs as well as ongoing and emerging collaborations, such as the Culture Goal Initiative and the cooperation with Category 2 Centres, which are helping to shape the future direction of the Forum. By highlighting innovative practices and lessons learned, the Forum seeks to demonstrate how networking fosters a more inclusive and sustainable organisation. Through the cultivation of networks and partnerships, it aims to strengthen solidarity and promote collective action in addressing both longstanding and emerging challenges in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**Dr. Tamara Nikolić Đerić** is a cultural anthropologist with more than 15 years of experience in the fields of intangible cultural heritage and museums. As Senior Curator at the Ethnographic Museum of Istria, she led numerous projects, exhibitions, and research initiatives at both local and international levels. Since 2013, she has directed the international activities and strategic development of the Ecomuseum Batana House, inscribed on UNESCO's Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. She is also the founder and director of KulturBüro, a company dedicated to research, management, and heritage interpretation in collaboration with local communities and cultural institutions.

Her expertise lies in the development of museum exhibitions, management plans, and integrated approaches to heritage preservation connected with sustainable tourism and community development. She is the author and co-author of professional publications and methodological tools for museums and communities.

Since 2018, as a member of UNESCO's global facilitators' network, she has conducted training and advisory sessions on the implementation of the 2003 Convention across Europe and Asia. Her work combines field research, audiovisual documentation, museology, and participatory methodologies. She currently serves as Chairperson of the ICH NGO Forum.

**Arno Beunen and Liesbet Salens**

***The process of building networks for the safeguarding of living heritage.  
Perspectives on ludodiversity in Flanders***

Heritage Day 2025 was all about games and sports, with a focus on revaluing traditional sports and games and their role as precursors to modern sports. For Sportimonium, it marked a fresh start, emphasizing playing together, social cohesion, and smart use of public spaces. Activities such as the Belgian Tug-of-War Championship (with some teams qualifying for the World Games in China), game opportunities in the Museum Garden, and summer initiatives for families and summer camps were all part of this focus. All across Flanders, people were playing and engaging in sports on Heritage Day — a bullseye!

Sportimonium is resuming its role as a knowledge center. We focus on responding to information requests (e.g., blowpipe shooting, catapult shooting), collecting and safeguarding knowledge, and keeping traditional sports and games alive. The Heritage Day campaign highlights the importance of play as a unifying force within families, neighborhoods (such as the “Best Neighborhood” initiative by Radio 2, Flemish public radio station), and even in cafés. By reclaiming public spaces for the community, more opportunities for social interaction and play are created. Collaborations with various Flemish partners such as VLAS and WIE further strengthen this mission.

**Arno Beunen** is Policy Officer for International Cultural Heritage Policy at the Department of Culture, Youth and Media of the Flemish Government. He holds degrees in Conservation-Restoration and Heritage Studies from the University of Antwerp. His work focuses on international heritage policy, including the EU, Council of Europe, and UNESCO’s 2003 Convention. He leads the development of a UNESCO Category 2 Centre in Belgium and represents Flanders in various European heritage forums. In 2024, he coordinated the conference “*Unity in Diversity?*” during Belgium’s EU Council Presidency, addressing heritage, culture, and identity in Europe.

**Liesbeth Salens is part of the museum’s public engagement team.**

Promoting sport and play is something she values deeply, often moved by how effortlessly they unite people across generations. She was often to be found in the museum, the sports lab, or the traditional games garden, where she actively engaged with visitors. Her current focus is on discovering innovative ways to keep sporting heritage both vibrant and accessible.

**Pere Lavega**

***Networking from AEJeST: The Case of the Worldwide Network of Teachers and Researchers in Traditional Sports and Games***

The strength of networks that connect cultural and educational associations worldwide testifies to the enduring vitality of cultural resistance, mutual trust, and collective creativity. In this spirit, the European Association of Traditional Sports and Games (AEJeST), in collaboration with INEFC and ITSGA, has led the creation of the *Worldwide Network of Teachers and Researchers in Traditional Sports and Games (TSG)*. This initiative aligns with the values upheld by the ICH NGO Forum, offering a legitimate and dynamic platform for education, research, and international cooperation in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. Structured around five strategic phases—mapping members, launching shared projects, collaborative research, training, and global outreach—the network empowers educators and researchers to use TSG as powerful tools for social transformation. One of its flagship initiatives, the *Opportunity* project (Erasmus+), applies an innovative Learn–Apply–Analyse methodology to promote gender equality and social inclusion through games. The resulting multilingual MOOC has trained over 1,400 participants, offering certified education based on validated scientific tools (GES, CATCH, NATGEN).

Through international forums, webinars, and upcoming in-person trainings (e.g. Tunisia 2025), the network fosters intercultural dialogue and shared learning. Its scientific impact is reinforced through coordinated publications and research platforms (*Frontiers in Psychology*), evidencing the role of TSG in enhancing well-being, cultural identity, and intelligent social decisions. This living network illustrates how education and heritage can converge to resist fragmentation and inspire hope—affirming the role of civil society in shaping a more inclusive and culturally rooted world.

*Key words.* Inclusion, Playing Heritage, MOOC, Glocalization, Empowerment

**Pere LAVEGA-BURGUÉS** is a Full Professor of Traditional Sports and Games at the National Institute of Physical Education of Catalonia (INEFC), which is affiliated with the University of Lleida in Spain. He serves as the Director of the Research Group on Motor Action (GIAM). Additionally, he is a founding member and President of the European Association of Traditional Sports and Games (AEJeST), as well as the Vice President of the International Association of Traditional Sports and Games (ITSGA). Furthermore, he leads the Worldwide Network of Professors and Researchers in Traditional Sports and Games and acts as an external observer for CIGEPS and UNESCO. Since 2005, he has coordinated various European and intercontinental projects, authored numerous high-impact publications, and supervised doctoral theses focused on traditional sports and games. His research explores TSG role as a “Playing Heritage” manifestation, contributing to cultural diversity, peaceful coexistence, conflict transformation, sustainability, social inclusion, and gender equality.

**Daniele Ortiz**

***SportReso: Participatory Digital Networks for Traditional Sports and Cultural Strengthening***

The emergence of digital social networks has profoundly transformed our modes of interaction on a global scale. However, these dynamics have not always been mobilized as drivers of cultural development. The association Île du Monde proposes to explore an innovative approach that consists of integrating networking tools into digital platforms dedicated to strengthening cultural practices.

The SportReso project, developed with the support of the French Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Overseas Territories, is part of this approach. It aims to promote traditional sports by creating a participatory social network that connects practitioners and cultural actors dispersed across the world. By facilitating the circulation of knowledge and the coordination of actions, SportReso seeks to foster the valorization, transmission, and recognition of traditional sports, while contributing to the development of new forms of transnational cultural cooperation.

**SportReso : réseaux numériques participatifs au service des sports traditionnels et du renforcement culturel**

L'émergence des réseaux sociaux numériques a profondément transformé nos modes d'interaction à l'échelle mondiale. Toutefois, ces dynamiques n'ont pas toujours été mobilisées comme leviers de développement culturel. L'association Île du Monde propose d'explorer une approche innovante qui consiste à intégrer des outils de réseautage dans des plateformes numériques dédiées au renforcement des pratiques culturelles.

Le projet SportReso, développé avec le soutien du ministère français de la Culture et du ministère des Outre-mer, s'inscrit dans cette démarche. Il vise à promouvoir les sports traditionnels en créant un réseau social participatif permettant de connecter des praticiens et des acteurs culturels dispersés à travers le monde. En facilitant la circulation des savoirs et la coordination des actions, SportReso cherche à favoriser la valorisation, la transmission et la reconnaissance des sports traditionnels, tout en contribuant au développement de nouvelles formes de coopération culturelle

**Wiremu Sarich, Anna Tripp, Francesco Micarelli, Maria Mariotti**  
***Taonga Tākaro: Ancestral Wisdom, Play, and the Future of Education***

The contribution explores the transformational power of *Tākaro* (traditional Māori games) as a vital expression of intangible cultural heritage and as a vehicle for education, self-awareness, and intercultural connection.

*Tākaro* is not merely recreational but a profound practice of learning, adaptation, and resilience. Spiritually, it is likened to crossing through a gateway between two worlds — the “sharp end of the stick” — where individuals develop identity, courage, and self-realisation. In this sense, *Tākaro* is a vehicle for transformation, continuity, and cultural grounding.

Through play, all participants return to a “default state” of openness and authenticity. In this state, they create a collective field in which barriers of age, culture, and status dissolve, allowing genuine connection and dialogue.

Reframing *Tākaro* as a foundation for education challenges conventional systems that are too rigid - shaping children too quickly for consumerist or industrial lifestyles that are no longer relevant in an age of automation. Instead, *Tākaro* fosters intrinsic growth: adaptability, instinctive reflection, and holistic self-awareness. These qualities form the highest and most enduring form of education, enabling individuals to grow into adults who are free, resilient, and fully aware of themselves.

The power of networks further amplifies this potential. Historically central to Māori society — from trade to kinship alliances — networks today enable the sharing of virtuous practices globally. They provide neutral spaces for exchange, sustain Indigenous voices, and create opportunities to reshape educational paradigms across cultures.

The meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand and Italy — two ancient cultures located at opposite ends of the Earth — forms a symbolic axis of exchange. This dialogue highlights the potential for ancestral knowledge systems to enrich contemporary educational debates, offering new models for human and social wellbeing.

The contribution positions *tākaro* as both heritage and future: a practice that can transform education, foster intercultural understanding, and strengthen collective resilience in a rapidly changing world.

**Wiremu Sarich** - Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi, Tainui, Ngāti Hauā

**Role:** Educator, Cultural Advocate, Delegation Leader

**Discipline:** Traditional Māori Games | Māori Knowledge Systems

Wiremu Sarich is co-founder of Tatu Roa Ltd, dedicated to the revival and sustainable practice of ngā taonga tākaro (traditional Māori games) and associated mātauranga (knowledge systems). With over a decade as a youth educator for Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, Wiremu has developed a unique teaching style rooted in movement, humour, and deep cultural insight.

Recognised nationally and internationally, he is known for uniting people through joy and play, letting his passion speak louder than promotion. He describes himself as a “one-stop shop for all things tākaro — a Whare Karioi (house of joy and learning on wheels).”

Wiremu considers it a privilege to carry ancestral knowledge, honouring his grandparents, father, and tūpuna through every interaction. His facilitation transforms ancient practices into vibrant, living experiences that inspire connection and collective wellbeing. Guided by manaakitanga (care and generosity), his work ensures that ngā taonga tākaro remain a powerful force for education, healing, and intercultural exchange.

**Anna Tripp** - Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi, Vanua Balavu (Fiji)

**Role:** Cultural Educator & Youth Liaison

**Discipline:** Māori Food Systems & Early Childhood Pedagogy

Anna Tripp is a cultural educator and co-founder of Tatu Roa Ltd, working with Wiremu Sarich to revitalise ngā taonga tākaro. With a background in early childhood education at Te Rito Te Whare Reo in Kaitaia, she has integrated Māori knowledge systems, local histories, and te taiao (the natural world) into her teaching.

Her practice has included maara kai (gardening), maramataka (lunar calendar), rongoā (healing), and romiromi (bodywork), connecting tamariki with ancestral traditions and ecological rhythms. She has also contributed nationally, presenting at the Natural Phenomena Conference on the links between mauri (life force), whakapapa (genealogy), and tikanga (protocol).

Anna is currently restoring the whenua of her great-grandmother — a project embodying manaakitanga (hospitality), kaitiakitanga (guardianship), and aroha (love). Her work bridges education, community, and cultural resurgence, embodying a wāhine perspective that nurtures both identity and environment.

**Maria Mariotti**, Cultural Weaver, Community Catalyst & Play Advocate. Maria Mariotti is the co-founder of Playfully, a social enterprise championing play as a powerful tool for community connection, wellbeing, and inclusion. An Italian-born entrepreneur, Maria has lived and worked across continents, raising her three children in different corners of the world while studying diverse cultural traditions, indigenous wisdom, and holistic practices.

Based in Aotearoa New Zealand for the past 15 years, Maria is the founder and director of Conscious Kids, an innovative nature-based education programme that has pioneered outdoor, play-led learning across the country. With a background spanning engineering, natural education, mindfulness, yoga, and event production, Maria brings a unique lens to every project she leads—combining strategic insight with grassroots engagement.

Maria has produced and supported numerous festivals and events centred on indigenous knowledge, alternative education, and intergenerational learning. Her work is deeply community-led, rooted in the belief that inclusive, participatory experiences can create meaningful change. She currently serves as the Project Manager and Community Liaison for Honohono Tātou Katoa, a public health palliative care initiative, and sees her role as a bridge-builder across cultures, generations, and ways of knowing.

**Francesco Micarelli**, Executive Consultant, Transformation Strategist & Co-Founder of Playfully. Francesco Micarelli is an executive consultant, facilitator, and transformation strategist with more than twenty years' experience in leadership, technology, and organisational change. Trained as an engineer, he has guided companies through complex transitions—supporting leadership development, digital transformation, and cultural adaptation—always with a focus on resilience and human-centred growth.

As co-founder of **Playfully**, Francesco integrates strategic systems thinking with the universal language of play, fostering intergenerational connection, cultural exchange, and organisational wellbeing. Since 2023, he and Maria Mariotti have co-led the **Play Festival** in Auckland, an annual event celebrating diversity, identity, and indigenous knowledge through traditional games.

Francesco's work extends beyond consultancy into cultural advocacy. He has coordinated Māori participation in the international **Tocatì Festival** in Verona and collaborates with communities to safeguard intangible heritage. A passionate traveller and bridge-builder, he brings clarity, curiosity, and care to every dialogue—helping individuals and organisations weave ancestral wisdom into innovative, sustainable futures.