



Tocatì

FESTIVAL INTERNAZIONALE
DEI GIOCHI IN STRADA
VERONA

INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF LUDIC CULTURE 2025

**19 – 20 September 2025
Polo Universitario Santa
Marta. Entrance 24
Cantarane street, room T06**

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF LUDIC CULTURE 2025
Friday 19 and Saturday 20 September 2025
Polo Universitario Santa Marta,
Entrance 24 Cantarane street, room To6



The working languages are Māori and English

The International Forum of Ludic Culture with the Symposium "Tocatì, a shared heritage", celebrates this year an exceptional edition of the Festival, dedicated to the Māori of New Zealand!

In the history of Tocatì this is the first edition that welcomes a people arriving from the other side of the planet: an indigenous people, whose presence in New Zealand was sanctioned by the **Treaty of Waitangi**, signed in 1840. A fundamental document in the history of New Zealand, marking the beginning of British colonization establishing the relationship between the New Zealand government and the Maori people.

Indigenous peoples are mentioned thus in the preamble of the 2024 edition of the fundamental texts of the Convention, by Audrey Azouley:

More than two decades after the adoption of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003, an **ecosystem of actors** – States, NGOs, communities and experts – have united in their commitment to safeguard and promote the living heritage of humanity. (...) While the Convention now enjoys near universal ratification with 183 State Parties, the twentieth anniversary also affirmed the ongoing need to broaden our outreach. **We must pay particular attention to Indigenous Peoples and marginalized and minority communities – those communities whose rich heritage has often been overlooked or is at risk of being lost.** (https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/2003_Convention_Basic_Texts_2024_version_EN.pdf)

What do the Maori bring to Verona, and well beyond the walls of Verona, to the wide civil society movement that Tocatì embodies and represents?

What is their message for Europe, Italy, and for the Convention?

In the preamble letter of the Director of UNESCO, indigenous peoples are associated with communities: those communities whose rich heritage is a powerful instrument of change, in our hands and in the hands of our public policies. Those communities that Tocatì represents, brings together, connects in a great network that dream to embrace the planet.

ROUND TABLE LIVING HERITAGE, COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES THE UNESCO CONVENTION 2003

Friday 19 September 2025 – 2.00-5.30 p.m.

Polo Universitario Santa Marta, entrance 24 Cantarane street, Room To6

[Link Zoom](#)

What tools are possible today to make the cultural rights of indigenous peoples effective and enhance the possibilities of asserting their living heritage as the heritage of the Humanity, as a whole?

Can the Convention serve as an effective instrument for this purpose, both at the institutional-regulatory level and in the recognition of civil society movements and associations, including those representing the cultures of indigenous peoples?

To that end, the Convention provides an important opportunity for indigenous peoples to shape the international heritage discourse and ensure that their experiences and needs in safeguarding living heritage are taken into account. (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/indigenous-people>)

Remembering that Great Britain, whose colonial history is deeply linked to that of New Zealand, has just ratified the Convention, we will question the meaning of this journey of the Maori to Verona, encouraging the meeting with some key figures of the scientific community involved in the great international workshop of the Convention.

2.00 p.m. Opening greetings

Olivia Guaraldo, University of Verona

Giorgio Paolo Avigo, Associazione Giochi Antichi (AGA)

Marta Ugolini, Councillor for Culture and UNESCO delegation, Municipality of Verona

Leandro Ventura, Central Institute for Intangible Heritage (ICPI) - Italian Ministry of Culture

2.30 p.m. Introduces and moderates. Valentina Lapicciarella Zingari, Anthropologist and UNESCO ICH Facilitator, *Some key points from the UNESCO Guidelines on ICH and Indigenous Peoples*

Contributions by:

2.45 p.m. Lucas Lixinski, Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW Sydney, Australia. *The Cunning of First Nations Intangible Heritage in Australia*

3.10 p.m. Harriet Deacon, University of Hull, UK. *What implementation of the 2003 Convention can learn from the experiences of Indigenous Peoples about economic aspects of heritage safeguarding*

3.30 p.m. Benedetta Ubertazzi, University of Milano Bicocca, *Protection of ICH through collective and individual's intellectual property rights of communities and indigenous people.*

3.45 p.m. Thomas Mouzard, Directorate-General for Heritage, French Ministry of Culture and **Carlo Barletta**, Association Iles du monde, *Autochthony and Intangible Heritage. A French Perspective based on traditional sports and games*

4.00 p.m. Pena Makoare (Ngapuhi) & Hinerangi Himiona (Ngāpuhi), Māori delegation – *Cultural Sovereignty and the Reclamation of Living Heritage – A Māori Perspective on sovereignty expressed through Te Wakaminenga, (Declaration of independence 1835) Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi 1840), and tribal aspirations for future generations.*

5.00 p.m. - 5.45 p.m.

Q&A - Debate with the contributions of the **national and international partnership of Tocati**: institutional delegations and communities' representatives from **Belgium, Cyprus, Croatia, France, Italy**

6:00 p.m. Inauguration of the Festival Tocati

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

**Saturday 20 September 2025, 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
Polo Universitario S. Marta, entrance 24 Cantarane street, Room To6**

[Link Zoom](#)

The strength of the networks that connect cultural associations and more generally the world of associations across the planet never ceases to amaze us.

Despite wars, occupations of territories and processes of colonisation, migrations and forced displacements, conflicts and border dramas, climate, health, social and economic crises linked to the imbalances of an uncontrolled development that mortifies the planet, the great journey of cultures in the global world continues to send us signals of resistance and vitality, trust and creativity.

In the great international workshop of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, together with the governments, the NGOs organised in the ICH NGO Forum (<https://www.ichngoforum.org/>) have a space of legitimacy and are acquiring credibility and authority over the years.

The arrival of the Māori at the Tocatì Festival and in Verona is a story to question, build, transmit and try to share in its many meanings. It shows us how strong, we would say increasingly stronger, the networks of relationships that bind people together with their cultures in the global world can be.

This edition of the Symposium will give the floor to some representatives of these networks, placing the Māori delegation and its projects related to the revitalization of traditional Māori games at the centre of the listening, as a powerful tool for changing our educational and cultural perspectives.

We have called our partners to reflect on the topic of the *networks into play*, gathering reflections from some actors of the UNESCO NGO Forum, Belgium, Italy and New Zealand. We will listen to the Māori and their story, that will close our meeting opening a collective debate.

9:00 a.m. Institutional opening greetings

Anna Paini, University of Verona

Giuseppe Giacon, Associazione Giochi Antichi (AGA)

Marta Ugolini, Councillor for Culture with UNESCO delegation, Municipality of Verona

Fausta Bressani, Heritage, Cultural Activities and Sport Directorate, Veneto region

Agostina Lavagnino, Archive of Ethnography and Social History (AESS), Lombardy region

Leandro Ventura, Central Institute for Intangible Heritage (ICPI) - Italian Ministry of Culture

Matteo Rosati, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

Contributions by:

9.30 a.m. Valentina Lapicirella Zingari, AGA. *The Tocatì network. Open questions*

9.45 a.m. Alessia Villanucci and Claudio Rizzoni, Central Institute for Intangible Heritage (ICPI-MIC). *Community Networks, Institutional Networks in Italy: Perspectives from the Central Institute for Intangible Heritage of the Ministry of Culture*

10.00 a.m. Tamara Nikolić Đerić, NGO 'House of batana'. ICH NGO Forum, Chairperson. *The ICH NGO Forum: Cultivating partnerships-sustaining futures*

10.15 a.m. Arno Beunen, Focal point for the Flemish Community. Officer for International Cultural Heritage Policy, Belgium. With **Liesbet Salens**, Sportimonium, *The process of building networks for the safeguarding of living heritage. Perspectives on ludodiversity in Flanders*

10.45 a.m. Pere Lavega, NGO European Association of Traditional Games and Sports (AEJeST) Chairperson. *Networking from AEJeST: The Case of the Worldwide Network of Teachers and Researchers in Traditional Sports and Games*

11.00 a.m. Daniele Ortiz, NGO Iles du monde. *SportReso: Participatory Digital Networks for Traditional Sports and Cultural Strengthening*

11.15 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. The Māori delegation: Francesco Micarelli, Wiremu Sarich, Anna Tripp, Maria Mariotti. *Taonga Tākaro: Ancestral Wisdom, Play, and the Future of Education*

12.15 p.m. – 1.15 p.m.

Q&A - Debate with the room, with the contributions of the **national and international partnership of Tocati**: institutional delegations and communities' representatives from **Belgium, Cyprus, Croatia, France and Italy**

1:30 p.m. Shared lunch