



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



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To: UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section

Maison de l'UNESCO

1, rue Miollis
75732 PARIS CEDEX 15

Reçu CLT / CIH / ITH
Le 26 FEV. 2010
N° 2784 *ey*

Subject: Letter of Support Flemish Commission for UNESCO

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL Heritage

Programmes, Projects and activities best reflecting the principles and objectives of the convention

Proposals to be selected in 2010

LETTER OF SUPPORT

I have the honour to inform you that, upon further examination within our commission,

the Flemish Commission for UNESCO (Belgium)

wishes to give its full support to

"A programme of cultivating ludodiversity: safeguarding traditional games in Flanders"

The proposal form ICH-03 is attached to this letter.

Place and date

Brussels February 25, 2010

Name and signature

Jan De Bisschop
(Secretary General of the Flemish Commission for UNESCO)



Vlaamse Traditionele Sporten vzw

Polderstraat 76 A bus 2 - 8310 Brugge
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reknr.: BE62 7343 3238 5461 KREDBEBB
e-mail : info@VlaS.be



Brugge, 23 February 2010

Attestation

The NGO Vlaamse Traditionele Sporten vzw (VlaS) was founded in 1988 and acts as an umbrella organisation for 23 types of traditional games (www.vlas.be). The confederation offers the traditional games community administrative, managerial, technical and promotional support. Promotional projects are always launched in close cooperation with the affiliated federations. Special attention is devoted to attract new members, especially younger people and women. VlaS certainly will continue its efforts to safeguard and enhance the practice of traditional games in collaboration with peer institutions in the heritage sector and other partners such as research institutes and public bodies.

VlaS is very willing to share its experience with the traditional games communities in other countries and to give support based on its long field experience in safeguarding and relying on the experience in collaborating from the grassroots level with cultural and research institutions.

Hein Comeyne
Coordinator
Polderstraat 76A bus 2
8310 Brugge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hein Comeyne', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Vlaamse Traditionele Sporten vzw

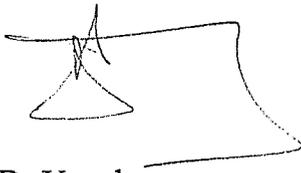


Attestation by Sportimonium

Over the past thirty years the Sportimonium has been working on a programme to safeguard traditional games in Flanders and to raise awareness for the importance of ludoversity. Many initiatives have been taken and many projects have been carried out to study and document the existing diversity and richness of the play heritage and to promote and safeguard it in collaboration with the traditional games practioners themselves.

The Sportimonium believes that the programme of cultivating ludodiversity fits well into the spirit of the 2003 Unesco Convention for the safeguarding of intangible heritage. Indeed it deals with the wide range of concepts which are embedded in the concept of safeguarding and reflects well the principles and objectives of these convention. The Sportimonium believes that the gained experience may be helpful to others and that the various components of the program, if necessary in appropriate form, can be taken over in other countries in North and South.

In the future the Sportimonium will continue its programme en its efforts for the safeguarding of traditional games and is still looking for new forms of cooperation on national and international level. The management and the staff of the Sportimonium will be glad to share its knowledge, methodology and experience.



Erik De Vroede
conservator Sportimonium vzw
Trionondreef 19
1981 Hofstade-Zemst
Belgium
www.sportimonium.be

Brussels, 2010-02-23

Attestation by the Ministry of Culture, Agency for Arts and Heritage

Sportimonium is a museum with an extraordinary expertise on traditional games and sports. It functions as the reference point for the local Flemish heritage organisations and for the interested individuals. Sportimonium that started in 1985 as the ngo Sports museum Flanders was recognized and subsidized by the Flemish government since 1999 through the Museums Act. The expertise center 'the Flemish Center for traditional sports', which merged into the museum lately, was subsidized since 1999 by the Flemish government according to the conditions of the Flemish Act for Popular Culture of 1998.

The programme of safeguarding ludodiversity which is presented now was developed in Flanders and fits perfectly the Unesco Convention 2003 's principles and spirit of safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage.

Sportimonium is not a mere museum but executes the museum functions of collecting, documenting, safeguarding and demonstrating in a very active way. They have a well-equipped documentation center/archive which is at the disposal of a broad network of organisations, schools, groups and individuals. They have a workshop where they produce copies of the traditional games in wood, to be used for demonstrations and for lending. They have an extensive databank of where other similar collections are kept, decentralising the museum's collection.

The way Sportimonium fulfils its tasks as a museum can be put as a model for the museum of the future, combining the tangible and intangible heritage aspects. This kind of interactive museum can be an example for museums in developing countries, combining the national work with the local realities.

The Flemish ministry of Culture, the Agency for Arts and Heritage considers this programme of safeguarding ludodiversity as a valuable best practice to be spread through article 18 of the Unesco Convention 2003.

Jos Van Rillaer
Administrator-general
Agency for Arts and Heritage
Flemish Ministry of Culture, Sports, Youth and Media

Brussels, 2010-02-22

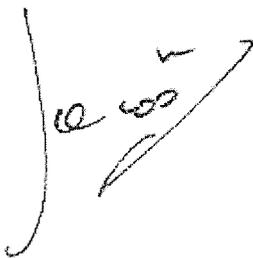
Attestation by FARO. Flemish interface for cultural heritage

We would like to underline and emphasize that the “programme of safeguarding ludodiversity”, developed in Flanders (Belgium), is an excellent example of a sustainable and realistic programme that is compatible with the spirit and the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. It is a case that illustrates what article 18 is all about. The history and effects of this programme clearly demonstrate the power of the safeguarding paradigm as it is formulated in the 2003 convention. It is an excellent didactic example of the importance of all aspects of the concept of safeguarding and the combination of several methods and techniques. In particular the fact that the results are documented over a longer period of time and that the effects can be monitored on the scale of a region, makes it an interesting case that deserves recognition and further study.

The ludodiversity programme also puts traditional games and sports on the agenda of UNESCO (in particular the Section Intangible Cultural Heritage), the international community and networks working on intangible cultural heritage. It is one of those fields covered under “inter alia” in the definition of ICH.

The formula of the Sportimonium (www.sportimonium.be) is interesting in 21st century heritage management. It would be a good idea to introduce these kinds of institutional experiments (combining museum practices, archive and documentation practices, dealing with repertoires and intangible cultural heritage, managing networks of associations, groups and individuals, ...) in the debates about safeguarding. In short, the programme proposed here corresponds perfectly to article 18 of the 2003 convention. It has a big potential for international applications and exchanges, in particular also for developing countries and for north-south-south cooperation. To explore and develop the possibilities will be a fascinating endeavour. FARO. Flemish interface for cultural heritage will be very glad to facilitate and help in the process of the international exchanges, through publications, workshops or other ways.

It would really be an excellent decision to select this programme, started by Roland Renson, Erik Devroede and others in the 1970s, and flourishing under the new UNESCO convention of 2003, as one of the best practices.



Dr. Marc Jacobs
Director of FARO. Flemish Interface for cultural heritage/Vlaams steunpunt voor cultureel erfgoed vzw
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BE 1000 Brussels
Belgium

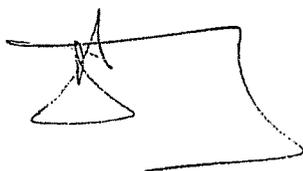
Hofstade-Zemst, 2010 – 02 - 23

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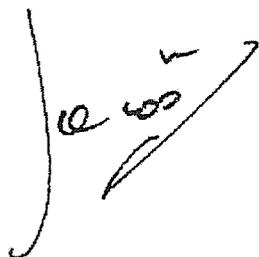
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