

**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 2023
for examination in 2023**

File may be downloaded at:
<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.*

Coordinadora de Colles Castelleres de Catalunya

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

Colles Castelleres Coordinating Body in Catalonia (Federation)

A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)*

NGO-90366/483

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.

Organization: **Coordinadora de Colles Castelleres de Catalunya**

Address: **C/ Sant Oleguer, 9 (43800, Valls)**

Telephone number: **(+34) 608 561 236**

Email address: **direccio@cccc.cat**

Website: **www.castellscat.cat**

Other relevant information: <https://linktr.ee/castellscat>

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.): **Ms**

Family name: **Sanchez**

Given name: **Cristina**

Institution/position: **Director**

Address: **C/ Sant Oleguer, 9 (43800, Valls)**

Telephone number: **(+34) 608 561 236**

Email address: **direccio@cccc.cat**

Other relevant information:

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)¹

Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework², 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

Strengthening both institutional and human capacities for safeguarding our activity is one of the main goals of our organization. The CCCC embraces up to 102 human tower groups most of them in Catalonia, but some of them settled in Andorra, Balearic islands and south of France, which means that absolutely all the groups (*colles*, in Catalan) are together under the same federation. This allows us to achieve more, better, and easily the goals we aim for in order to safeguard the activity and have a much closer relationship with institutions such as Catalan Government. It all translates in more resources both economical and support from the

1. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.
2. 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>

administration, focused on preserve the activity specially after more than two year COVID affectation and the difficulties the colles have had to face. The CCCC has been there together with the national government as well as regional and local administration that has helped us assist the colles with more difficulties. The values that represent human towers (team work, cooperation...) are now more alive than ever and we work hard to rase them at the maximum level so all the activity and colles make de most of it.

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

Once more, the transmission and perpetuation of the activity is on of the reasons the CCCC exists. We work together with the colles and design specific resources and workshops to help them develop new ways of transmitting the knowledge and bicentennial history behind modern human towers. For the first time ever in 2022 the CCCC boosted a national wide campaign to promote the knowledge and awareness of the human towers activity which counted with the support of the Catalan Government as well as other relevant cultural institutions and even the national TV channel (<https://castellscat.cat/ca/noticia/278-jo-faig-castells>). Public television programs are also an important channel through which explain and promote the activity, its relevance and historical importance. We have been working together with La Xarxa in order to launch a new OTT embracing every program and broadcast ever filmed and are now available for free at <https://laxarxames.cat/home>.

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

All the colles that have ever existed are in our inventory and website where we gather all the structures that have been tried from 1926. It means thousands and thousands of human towers all over the world (although mainly in Catalonia) raised by any of the close to 130 colles ever existed. This is an accurate work we daily deal with in order to have the database updated and open to new structures might be found when historical research is done.

We are also working together with the “Càtedra URV per l'estudi del fet casteller” (URV Chair for the Study of the Castells <https://www.urv.cat/ca/societat-empresa/catedres/catedra-urv-per-a-l-estudi-del-fet-casteller/>) from where historical research has been carried up since 2017 and has lead to new evidences of a human tower performance back in 1791 in Valls (Tarragona, Catalonia), a research that is expected to last until 2025.

We have recently started a new collaboration with the Catalan National Archive (<https://anc.gencat.cat/ca/inici>) who we present a monthly picture from the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century archive. It has been an interesting collaboration we trust might lead to new horizons and opportunities to promote the activity and give awareness of its historical value, as well as recognizing the oldest groups (colles).

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

All measures that help preserve what we are, what we do and what we represent are essential and we can not work on them without hearing the voice and opinion of our members. That is why we work on new policies every year according to the changing situation but the decision of its implementation is taken in a yearly assembly where all colles are invited to take part. Before and after these assemblies the CCCC organises different meetings in which to debate about the needs

and ranges of the newly proposed policies.

Luckily, we have the support of the Catalan Government that sees a unitary need and claim for the safeguard of one of the few recognized intangible cultural heritages in Catalonia, which proudly represents the Catalan culture, people and history.

Thanks to this valuable relationship the CCCC has been actively taking part in the assessing of three different law projects, both at national and state level, designed for a better recognition, protection, and support of the cultural heritage.

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

Promotion is also one of the main responsibilities we have in the CCCC as we can work on the activity itself, as a collective and transversal cultural element, without focusing on any particular group (colla). We work on different environments in order to take the information to the general public, increase knowledge and awareness and thus, participation, and value the activity among other cultural elements to be found.

Traditional media is still one of the main focus as there are several specialised digital newspapers, but also generalist newspapers and magazines write about the public performances during our high season, which we promote and even offer workshops for journalists in order to improve their knowledge and accuracy when talking about castells. We also rely on fast changing digital media. We offer our website in different languages so it can become a first entrance to discovering the amazing human tower experience (www.castellscat.cat) but also social media (having profiles in Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Youtube @Castellscat and @Castellscat_) and one of the most effective promotion opportunities: local and national tv close relationship that has been increasing since the first public castells broadcast back in 1992.

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

We understand the raising awareness about intangible cultural heritage in general and human towers in particular as one of the goals of the promotion we work on all year long, but also the public performances (and the already mentioned implication of public television) help show and tell about what we are. One of the characteristics of human towers is that they are to be performed in public squares in special and festive days so the places where they take place are usually crowded and spectators can feel it first-hand. So we will keep working and promoting television and media and campaigns but they will never move spectators as a live demonstration will. So our efforts are also focused in that, having the most accurate agenda there can be with the more than 1.000 yearly performances with updated information, place, time and participants groups (<https://castellscat.cat/ca/agenda>).

Apart from that we are highly motivated in new ways of talking and sharing our activity, which is why we are always exploring new languages and environments. We are currently working on a “Where’s Waldo” version of the history of human towers in collaboration with Comanegra (<https://comanegra.com/ca/>) editorial that will hopefully be released in September and that will definitely be an innovative way of approaching “castells” to the general public.

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

Human tower public performances imply engagement between different groups (from two to four with some exceptions such as the Concurs de Castells de Tarragona in which up to 18 groups can

take place). So, the activity itself promotes the relationship among the colles. Plus, the CCCC organises several events year-round that facilitate the relationship between our members that often result in new performances and relations that directly participate in a better and more connected human tower world. Some of these events might be focused on training (technical, management, musical and feminism) but one of the most important ones is the “Season launch party” that takes place in April and gathers up to 200 people not only from the human tower teams but also government, administration, city halls, sponsorships and media. Some examples here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a23RQI5wjys&t=37s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0ZpEWHIOQc&t=44s>

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

The CCCC accepts all the invitations to all of the events, symposiums and presentations we are invited at. To mention only some of the most recent or most relevant participations:

- Federació d'escudelles i ranxos. We are currently in touch with this federation to exchange information and experiences related to the preservation and popularisation of the element (currently).
- Jornada: Protecció Jurídica del fet casteller com a Patrimoni Cultural Immaterial. Organized by the URV Chair for the Study of the Castells in Tarragona (16/11/2022).
<https://www.urv.cat/media/upload/arxiu/catedres/1369%20-%20C%C3%A0tedra%20URV%20per%20a%20l'Estudi%20del%20Fet%20Casteller/Dossier%20conclusions%20jornada%20FINAL.pdf>
- Simposi Internacional sobre Patrimoni Cultural Immaterial. Organized by the Catalan federation of Catifaires, working on its path to be included in the UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list (18/09/2022).
- Foro virtual Salvaguardia del PCI después de la crisis por el covid-19. Organized by the UNESCO accredited NGO Interactividad cultural, Mexico (15/05/2020).
- Càtedra falles dels Pirineus. Organized by Universitat de Lleida to promote the creation of a federation such as ours to work on the preservation and promotion of the newly recognized by UNESCO intangible cultural heritage representative list (15/09/2019).
- Symposium casteller. Organized yearly in Valls in October for around ten years.

Apart from that we have been leading a new and strong relationship between the three federations related to the human tower structures, being falcons (<https://federaciofalcons.cat/>) and muixerangues (<https://fcmuixerangues.org/>). We strongly believe this relationship is enabling each other a win-win individual and collective growth.

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

Last year 2022 we worked on a detailed report regarding our activity and evolution for the past four years, paying special attention to the effect of the pandemic as a requirement of the Spanish National Government.

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

We have not been taking part in this process yet, although we are willing to soon get involved.

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

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

We partially followed the Seventeenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (November - December 2022, Rabat) last year without any specific role. Our recent recognition (2018) plus the effect of the pandemic has led us in a very difficult situation in which all the efforts were to attend the needs and difficulties of our more than a 100 members. Now that the situation has been recovered we are hoping to be able to get our attention to such sessions in which we can participate, learn and share with other organizations.

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

We were recognised as an accredited NGO in 2018 and the more than two year affectation to our activity (one of the lasts to be recovered mid 2022) we have not been able to serve as a member of the Evaluation Body. We are now entering in a new post-pandemic reality in which the federation has gained strength and reliability and are ready to be more involved in such

international initiatives.

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

We have not been able to provide such advisory serviced to the Committee yet, but we firmly believe we will be able to soon do so.

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.*

Not to exceed 250 words

We do so. We are a group of 14 people in different roles and assuming different responsibilities. One of the two-people professional structure is in a C1 comfortable level of both English and French, and so do in English five of the 12 members in the governing body.

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 we previously mentioned we have a tight relationship between the two other human tower structures federations: falcons and muixerangues. We are the oldest one (founded in 1989 while the others are less than 5 years old) and so our experiences and assessing is of reference for the others, but at the same time we learn and from theirs.

Apart from that, “castells” are part of the popular festive celebration in towns, villages and cities (known as “festa major”), which means we are in constant collaboration with other local cultural elements such as *gegants*, *bastons*, *esbarts* and so on. So working with and across other cultural heritage domains is part of our daily basis.

E.3. *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

Not to exceed 250 words

Although not as an organisation, several of our board members have experience in evaluating professional documents including scientific proposals and applications in the medical or business scope. This knowledge and experience could be easily applied to the CCCC context and we would be glad to be able to contribute.

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

We do so. Several of our members and staff (6 from out of 14) can comfortably read and write synthetic text in English and we had to work on it both for the recognition of the “castells” in the representative list (back in 2010) as well as for the NGO accreditation in 2018. Apart from that we have been giving support to other heritages in their international recognitions journey such as falles, pedra seca and Catifaires.

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

We do so. Most of our board members have had professional international experiences which allow us to widen our point of view and apply our apprenticeship to an international context, both in what specific human tower building refers (teamwork, collective objectives and rewards, etc.) and in the organisational experience (as we have to deal with such local and state organizations that we can empathise to other international realities).

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: Cristina Sánchez

Title: Director

Date: February 2nd 2023

Signature: