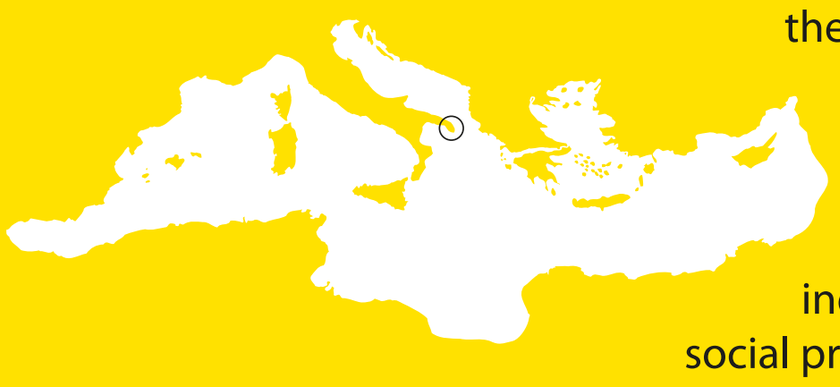
PARTICIPATORY MUSEUMS

Co-Creation Digital Cultural Heritage through **Micronarratives** and **Community Memory**

LIQUILAB ORS APS

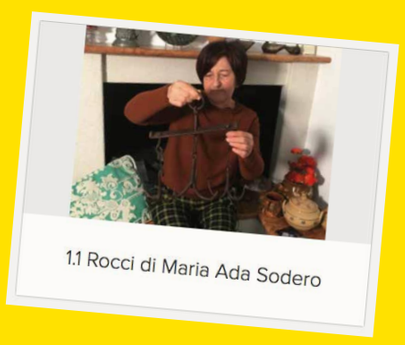


At the "***Museo Etnografico della vita popolare***" in Tricase (Southern Salento), the ***ORS APS – LIQUILAB*** **association (NGO UNESCO)** developed a cultural heritage co-creation project based on the active involvement of local communities. In line with the perspectives of participatory museology, the museum acts as a relational and dynamic space, where individual and collective memory, social practices, and forms of living heritage intertwine, reinterpret, and renew each other. In this context, citizens contribute to the processes of production, interpretation, and transmission of collective memories, redefining the role of the institution as an active presence in the local area.





The project involved participants from different generations in the construction of micro-narratives linked to the objects in the ethnographic collection, which preserves testimonies of rural and maritime civilizations and ancient local crafts.
Through a widespread participatory process, developed inside and outside the museum – including in participants' homes – autobiographical stories and family memories were collected, bringing out the objects' social biographies and enriching their meanings. Museum objects were thus reinterpreted as relational devices, capable of activating connections between tangible and intangible heritage, between past and present.



1.1 Rocci di Maria Ada Sodero



1.2 Grembiale du battezzu di Anna Rita Aniceto



1.3 Scarfamani di Giovanna Serio



1.4 Macininu di Liliana Basile



1.5 Cusifierru di Antonella Musio

Micronarratives are a methodological tool for integrating institutional narratives with community perspectives, fostering processes of participatory heritage creation and intergenerational dialogue. In this approach, cultural heritage is constructed as a shared practice, in which communities become co-producers of knowledge and active custodians of memories.



1.6 Machina cu cusi di Anna Maria Marra



1.7 Quatri di Maria Maddalena Schifano



1.8 Pignata di Giuliana Lecci



1.9 Pompa a zaino di Luigi Leone



1.10 Spiritiera di Antonio Bleve

The project also experimented with digital storytelling as a tool for collecting, documenting, and reproducing narratives.
The stories collected by participants were transformed into audio guides available on izi.TRAVEL, maintaining the participants' original voices, and linked to a playlist on the LIQUILAB YouTube channel, where the digital storytelling produced can be viewed. Digital technologies have thus expanded the possibilities for access and sharing, creating connections between the museum's physical space and digital environments open to participation.
The museum thus emerges as a "hybrid" space, integrating the local dimension and digital access.

In peripheral contexts characterized by territorial marginalization and depopulation dynamics, these practices take on strategic value in strengthening a sense of belonging, enhancing local heritage, and generating new forms of social innovation, transforming the museum into a collaborative platform for cultural production and shared memory construction.



1.11 Ferro da stiro di Anna Alessio



1.12 Ozzu di Giuseppa Marisa Carrisi



1.13 Minaturu di Teresa Longo



1.14 Capasa

The results highlight the museum's potential as a collaborative platform for cultural production and shared memory construction. The poster presents the methodological framework, the phases of the participatory process, the tools used, and the main outcomes of the project, proposing a replicable model for strengthening the social role of museums in local contexts.

From this perspective, the model can be extended to include the involvement of foreign communities present in the area, encouraging the emergence of narratives often marginalized or absent from official historical discourses.
This opens new spaces for intercultural dialogue, hybrid identities, and plural narratives of heritage, in line with perspectives on Mediterranean cultural heritage.



1.15 Macchina fotografica a lastre di Adamo Martella