



PRESS RELEASE

“LA PERGOLA” THEATRE PASSES FROM THE STATE TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF FLORENCE AS PART OF STATE PROPERTY FEDERALISM

Florence, 14 December 2011 – The “La Pergola” theatre of Florence has today been transferred, free of charge, from the State to the Municipality of Florence, pursuant to art. 5, paragraph 5 of the so-called *federalismo demaniale* (state property federalism) law.

This transfer deed, signed by Maria Francesca Lastrucci, Head of the Property Assets Department of the Municipality of Florence, and by Stefano Lombardi, Director of the Tuscany and Umbria Office of Agenzia del Demanio (State Property Office), is the second case in Tuscany, after the “Ex Carcere of San Gimignano”, of the transfer of an historical and artistic real estate asset from the State to local authorities based on a project to restore and modernise the property. Today’s act follows on from last August’s revitalisation agreement which specified objectives and strategic development plans for the preservation and protection of the theatre, founded in 1652 and coming under State ownership in 2010 following the closure of the Ente Teatrale Italiano.

To implement the revitalisation agreement a key role is being played by Agenzia del Demanio which, in conjunction with the Ministry for Cultural Assets and Activities, defines strategies and supports the Municipality with the drafting of an enhancement programme that can increase the profitability and usability of the asset on the part of citizens.

According to this agreement, Florence city council undertakes to keep the property operating as a theatre, and to try out a new operational model based on business-oriented criteria, with the aim of creating an International Centre of Theatre Culture, promoting training, the promotion of national languages and creation of bibliographical and audiovisual archives. The Municipality of Florence must also ensure the safety and preservation of the theatre through actions to be authorised in advance by competent Superintendency authorities.

The transfer of the “La Pergola” theatre is an example of the synergies and active collaboration between the State and the local administrations involved, in order to foster and ensure the strategic development and more efficient management of a valuable asset for the community. “La Pergola” is indeed a crucial element of the city theatre network and represents, due to its tradition and the quality of its productions, a centre of excellence for Florence and for the whole country.

