

INQUA

Activities' Report - Year 2019

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1. Introduction

The International Union for Quaternary (INQUA), founded in 1928 from a scientific research group, is aimed at improving the knowledge of environmental changes during glacial periods through multidisciplinary research. At Present 43 countries are INQUA members (34 are contributors and decision makers) and are active for INQUA initiatives; these are partially summarized in the last issue of Quaternary Perspectives (December 2019). The new INQUA Executive Committee has not already published the 2019 annual report.

The basic aim of INQUA is promoting a better international linkage and collaboration in Quaternary studies and related applied research.

INQUA and the related activities represent a key role for the Italian researches in the Geosciences. The widespread of Quaternary deposits in Italy and the Geodynamics interesting our country (seismicity, volcanism) has promoted in Italy a long lasting tradition in Quaternary studies since the beginning of the XXth Century. Several field studies of Quaternary research have applied consequences (e.g., risk, resources, global climate change) which yielded indications and knowledge greatly useful for our country, also from socioeconomic point of view.

Most of the 2019 activities were reported in the previous report and here briefly resumed.

The most important event in INQUA is the International Congress, held every four years, in which the Executive Committee and presidents of commissions are turned. The last took place in Dublin (Ireland) from July 25th to 31st 2019.

INQUA International Council in Dublin voted and assigned to Italy the organization of the XXI INQUA Congress in 2023. This is an historical result for our country, which will be the only one together with USA and the former URSS to host the International Congress twice. It is important to remark the historical mean of this event, which will be held in the 70th anniversary of the IV INQUA Congress made in Italy in 1953.

In Dublin INQUA Executive Committee was renewed and now it has the following composition:

- President: Professor Thijs Van Kolfschoten (Netherlands)
- Secretary General: Professor Eniko Magyari (Hungary)
- Treasurer: Dr Freek Busschers (Netherlands)
- Vice President: Dr Brian Chase (France)
- Vice President: Professor Zhengtang Guo (China)
- Vice President: Professor Laura Sadori (Italy)
- Vice President: Dr Lynne Quick (South Africa)
- Past President: Professor Alan Ashworth (USA)
- ECR Chair: Francesca Ferrario (Italy)

The scientific activities are pursued through the five INQUA Commissions:

- CMP (Coastal and marine processes) President: Dr. Sarah Woodroffe (UK)
- HABCOM (Humans and Biosphere) President: Prof. K. Anupama (India)
- PALCOM (Palaeoclimate) President: Prof. Tom Johnson (USA)

- SACCOM (Stratigraphy and Chronology) President: Prof Lewis Owen (USA)
- TERPRO (Terrestrial Processes, Deposits and History) President: Prof. James McCalpin (USA)

ECR has now responsible in each commission s follow:

CMP	Annie Lau, The University of Queensland, Australia; Martin Seeliger, Goethe-University, Frankfurt, Germany
HABCOM	Aliyu Adamu Isa, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria-Nigeria; Kimberley Davies, University College Cork, Ireland
PALCOM	Emuobosa Akpo Orijemie, University of Ibadan, Nigeria; Nivedita Mehrotra, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, India
SACCOM	Sourav Saha, University of California, USA; Mokshada Salunke, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, India
TERPRO	Maria Francesca Ferrario, Università degli Studi dell'Insubria, Italy; Guido Stefano Mariani, University of Cagliari, Italy

2. Main activities carried on by (Union name) during 2019 relevant for Italy and for CNR

The assignment to Italy of the 2023 International Congress, the presence of two Italians in the Executive Committee, three Italians as Commission ice-president and the Italian head for ECR-TERPRO led our country to maintain a leadership position within INQUA.

The ongoing revision of IFG and funded projects could reduce the funds for future projects; but a better consideration for ECRs is remarkable; for them a better involvement in the intercongress period is desirable.

For the 2019, as already described, the projects were the same as in 2017 report.

3. Activities carried on by (Italian Delegate name) within the Union during 2019 and impact on the Italian scientific community

During the short 2019 period as Italian delegate, I had ordinary correspondence with INQUA Ex-Comm, contributing to the dabate for IFG reorganization, interacting with Vice-President Laura Sadori.

Nel breve periodo dalla nomina ho avuto ordinaria di corrispondenza con l'Executive Committee dell'INQUA, si è contribuito al dibattito sulla riorganizzazione degli IFG, interagendo con il Vicepresidente Sadori.

A preliminary activity in planning initiatives for the XXI INQUA Congress was also done. In particular meetings for promoting the initiative for the "Map of the Italian Quaternary" to be realized during the current intercongress period. This project is carried on with the participation of many Italian quaternarists and the outcome would be one of the showcase products for the 2023 Congress. The working group is made of researchers from CNR, INGV, ISPRA, ENEA and universities. Fundings query is ongoing.

4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

As already resumed in the previous report, in the last intercongress period one third (7 over 22) of the projects funded by INQUA were coordinated by teams that included Italian researchers.

The assignment to Italy of the XXI INQUA Congress and the election of Laura Sadori as Vice-President allow to positively evaluate the Italian participation in INQUA. The International Congress is one of the most important four-year Geoscience events, because it gather over 2000 participants. The debated themes are relevant in the study and knowledge of the ongoing environmental and climate changes.

The Italian community that is already on-work for the planning of the 2023 Congress activities has a multidisciplinary nature (botanists, geomorphologists, sedimentologists, marine geologists, palaeontologists, palaeoanthropologists, stratigraphers, palaeoseismologists, etc.). This bond of the community involved many

young researchers and representatives of Public research (CNR, universities, ENEA, INGV, OGS, ISPRA) which guarantee the success for the next congress and for future national and international activities.

5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement

The assignment to Italy of the XXI INQUA Congress and the relevant number of Italian participants both at the Congress in Dublin and into the INQUA commissions as well as in the international projects are elements for remarking the Italian participation in INQUA, justifying the Italian membership. The organization of the XXI International Congress will be very important, also on the light of the debated themes, for improving the gathering among Italian research groups in the study of our country. The proposal for a "Map of the Italian Quaternary" is an initiative that would promote new PhD researchers on Quaternary subjects.

6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs (if known)

Laura Sadori INQUA Vice-President

Matteo Vacchi CMP Vice-President

Adele Bertini SACCOM Vice-President

Cesare Ravazzi, Roberta Pini, Pierluigi Pieruccini, Mariarita Palombo, Giovanni Monegato, Enrico Capezzuoli, Maria Marino, Advisory Board Members of SACCOM

Alessandro Fontana, Alessandro Michetti, Advisory Board Members of TERPRO.

Andrea Zerboni TERPRO Vice-President

Francesca Ferrario ERC CHAIR

Guidi Stefano Mariani ERC vice-chair of TERPRO

Alessandro Fontana, Andrea Zerboni, Sahra Talamo, Pierluigi Pieruccini, Matteo Vacchi, Maria Rita Palombo, responsables for funded projects in 2019.

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2019 CNR Commission activities

At Present there is not a CNR-committee for INQUA, only the DSTTA Working Group "Dinamica del paleoclima" made in 2018 is active on these themes. The activities for Quaternary researches are coordinated by AIQUA (Italian Association for Quaternary Study). The association has up to 170 members, manages the journal "AMQ - Alpine and Mediterranean Quaternary", organizes several events such as meetings, workshops and summer schools on topics related to Quaternary studies.

Since June 2018 the writer is President of AIQUA.

Giovanni Monegato



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