

INQUA

Activities' Report - Year 2020

Giovanni Monegato

1. Introduction

The International Union for Quaternary (INQUA) was founded in 1928 from a scientific research group, and is aimed at improving the knowledge of environmental changes during glacial periods through multidisciplinary research. At Present 44 countries are INQUA members (34 are contributors and decision makers) contribute to INQUA initiatives; these are partially summarized in the last issue of Quaternary Perspectives (2 issues, June and December 2020).

Because of COVID-19 pandemic INQUA activities were reduced during 2020 and the Executive Committee only joined by virtual meetings.

At December 1st 2020 INQUA was registered as INQUA Foundation incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands and registered with the trade register of the Chambers of Commerce under number 81067321. The foundation has its official seat in the municipality of Utrecht and its business office at Princetonlaan 6, 3584CB Utrecht, the Netherlands, at the Geological Survey of the Netherlands (TNO).

2. Main activities carried on by (Union name) during 2020 relevant for Italy and for CNR

The reduction funds of INQUA commissions led to the reduction of the IFG and the funded projects; nevertheless the following International Focus Group (IFG) and Project with an Italian leader were funded:

- HYPEDAE (PalaeoHYdrological, -PEDological and -AEolian processes shaping Quaternary landscapes) IFG sponsored by TERPRO and coordinated by Alessandro Fontana, University of Padova;
- EDITH (from Earthquake Deformation to seismic Hazard assessment), Project sponsored by TERPRO and coordinated by Franz Livio of University of Insubria.
- NEPTUNE Project sponsored by CMP and coordinated by Gaia Mattei of the Partenope of Napoli.
- INQUA-MARE (INtegrated QUaternary MARine REcord at Sensitive Latitudes), Project sponsored by CMP and coordinated by Karen Gariboldi of University of Pisa.
- DATESTRA (Database of Terrestrial European Stratigraphy), IFG sponsored by SACCOM and coordinated by Perluigi Pieruccini of University of Torino.

Editorial changes were performed for the newsletter journal of INQUA, Quaternary Perspectives; Guido Stefano Mariani and Francesca Ferrario became editors of the journal. Pierluigi Pieruccini ed Andrea Zerboni became Associated Editors of the Scientific Journal of INQUA, Quaternary International.

3. Activities carried on by (Italian Delegate name) within the Union during 2020 and impact on the Italian scientific community

During 2020 I maintained regular correspondence to the INQUA Executive Committee, including the debate on the reorganization of the IFG and the modalities of funding the projects, with a final poll for approval. In this mean a vote for changing some point of INQUA Statute was done. Indeed, the voting for the admission of Benin as Associate Member was performed. For these activities the interaction with INQUA vice-President Laura Sadori had been continuous.

During 2020, despite of the pandemic emergency, the planning for initiative related to the XXI INQUA Congress in Italy had continued. In particular, several virtual meeting were done for defining and promoting the METIQ Project to be realized before the Congress. This outcome, that involves many Italian Quaternary scientists, is aimed at being showed off during the Congress. The working group involves scientists from CNR, INGV, ISPRA, ENEA and OGS and also from many universities. CNR, INGV, ISPRA and OGS produced an agreement for managing the project and finding of funds.

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

In 2020 the Projects and IFGs funded by INQUA led by Italian scientists were five, moreover Italians are included in other IFGS.

The planned activities for the XXI International Congress already involve the Italian Quaternary community with multidisciplinary works (botanists, geomorphologists, sedimentologists, marine geologists, palaeontologists, palaeoanthropologists, stratigraphers, palaeoseismologists, etc.) in which many young researchers of Public research (CNR, universities, INGV, OGS, ISPRA) are involved. These activities ensure continuity and success for the Italian research in national and international frameworks. The scheduled activities for the XXI International Congress involve also the INQUA Executive Committee and are reported in Quaternary Perspectives (the 1st issue of 2020 has a front cover of an Italian study site).

The subjects of the funded INQUA Projects, also in the XXI International Congress perspective, are hot topics for the study of the ongoing climate and environmental changes; moreover, these topics can be of great interest for media in the forthcoming years that will be characterized by EU incentives in the RRP.

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

The relevant number of Italian scientists involved in INQUA commissions, editorial boards and in International Focus Group and Projects marks the importance of Italy in INQUA and underlines the Italian participation in the organization. The works in progress towards the XXI International Congress are remarkable on the light of the debated themes, for improving the gathering among Italian research groups in the study of our country and the application of Quaternary studies for the study and protection of the Italian landscapes. In this mean the METIQ Project is a stimulating initiative. In this period of sanitary emergency, the organization of virtual events can help for maintaining close the Italian Quaternary community and give it an international exposure.

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

Guido Stefano Mariani ERC vice-chair of TERPRO

Pierluigi Pieruccini and Andrea Zerboni are Associated Editors of Quaternary International

Guido Stefano Mariani and Francesca Ferrario are Editors of Quaternary Perspectives

Alessandro Fontana and Pierluigi Pieruccini are responsables for funded IFG in 2020

Karen Gariboldi, Gaia Mattei and Franz Livio are responsables for funded Projects in 2020

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2020 CNR Commission activities

At Present a specific CNR-committee for INQUA does not exist but only the DSTTA Working Group "Dinamica del paleoclima" (<https://dta.cnr.it/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.

8. Notes (if any)

No additional notes to report.

9. Conclusions

The Italian participation in INQUA gained more relevance because of the increased role of Italians in leading and decisional roles within the organization, this also in the perspective of the next XXI INQUA Congress in 2023.

Place and date

Padova, 30/04/2021

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Mongelli', written in a cursive style.