

INQUA – International Union for Quaternary

Activities' Report - Year 2021

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1. Introduction

The International Union for Quaternary (INQUA) was founded in 1928 from a scientific research group with the goal of 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 2021).

Because of COVID-19 pandemic INQUA activities were reduced even during 2021 and the Executive Committee only joined by virtual meetings. During 2021 INQUA outflow, related the funded projects and EC meetings, had been lower in respect to the pre-pandemic period, as in 2020.

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). The webpage of INQUA is: <https://www.inqua.org/about/foundation>

Since 2021 INQUA newsletter service is active thanks to the recruitment of new secretary staff.

2. Main activities carried on by (Union name) during 2021 relevant for Italy and for CNR

The revision of funding of INQUA commissions led to the reduction of the IFG and the funded projects in 2020. During 2021, due to limited movement because of the pandemic, the projects' activities had been mostly virtual. 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.

Guido Stefano Mariani and Francesca Ferrario are editors of the journal Quaternary Perspectives. Pierluigi Pieruccini ed Andrea Zerboni are Associated Editors of the Scientific Journal of INQUA, Quaternary International.

3. Activities carried on by (Italian Delegate name) within the Union during 2021 and impact on the Italian scientific community

During 2021 I maintained regular correspondence to the INQUA Executive Committee mostly because of the organization of the XXI INQUA Congress. In particular, during October 2021 a meeting with the INQUA President Thijs van Kolfschoten for defining the Congress organization, which, depending of the overall global state, will take place in the Campus of Roma La Sapienza University. The iconic maxim "Time for Change" was identified for enhance the significance of the event.

For these activities the interaction with INQUA vice-President Prof. Laura Sadori and with the Chair of the Congress Prof. Francesco Latino Chiocci had been continuous.

Also during 2021, several virtual meetings were done for the METIQ Project. The working group involves more than 60 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 2021 the Projects and IFGs funded by INQUA led by Italian scientists were five, moreover Italians are included in other IFGs. Despite the virtual mode of the activities, the projects had a significant contribution from Italian early career researchers, as reported in the 2021 issues of *Quaternary Perspectives*.

The planned activities for the XXI International Congress already involve the Italian Quaternary community with multidisciplinary works in which many early career 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, as stated by the involvement in INQUA projects. The scheduled activities for the XXI International Congress involve also the INQUA Executive Committee and are reported in *Quaternary Perspectives* and in the magazine *Geologicamente* of the Italian Geological Society.

The subjects of the funded INQUA Projects, also looking at the XXI International Congress of 2023, 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 2021

Karen Gariboldi, Gaia Mattei and Franz Livio are responsables for funded Projects in 2021

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2021 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, re-elected in June 2021.

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 Rome in 2023.

Place and date

Padova, 30/04/2022

Signature

