

## **Report on activities 2023 in IGU - International Geographical Union**

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### **1. Introduction**

With the UGI Congress in Paris in August 2022 we recorded further confirmation of the central Italian participation in the coordination activities of the IGU. Maria Paradiso, representative in IGU, was elected Vice President with the highest number of votes except for the candidate for General Secretary. The Italian presidencies of the Professors' Commissions were reconfirmed: Elena dai Prà after Cosimo Palagiano for Toponymy (Joint Commission IGU-ICA), Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg for History of Geographical Thought; Barbaria Staniscia as Executive Secretary 'Human Mobility'. Chiara Giubilaro, Palermo was reconfirmed Co-Chair of Research Methods; Andrea Vacca for Land Degradation and Desertification; Teresa Graziano, in the Young Geographers Task Force.

There are Italians in the Steering of Political Geography and active participation in Rural Geography is increasing.

Italy held an IGU Thematic Conference which was held successfully with international participation and level of relations, especially keynotes, at the Bicocca University in June 2023 entitled 'Oceans and Seas in Geographical Thought', Conference Chair Prof. Schmoldt by Friedberg, Bicocca University.

### **2. Significant activities for Italy and for the CNR carried out in 2023 by the body of which you are representative**

Maria Paradiso shared information and stimulated initiatives in IGU and ISC with the Presidency, the Councilor Prof. Spadoni and the Head of International Relations Dr. Coda Nunziante. You have regularly informed the AGEI-Association of Italian Geographers

In Italy All IGU information and reports are accessible on the website <http://igu-online.org/>

### **3. Activities carried out as Representative in 2023 within the Body and indications regarding the impact on the national scientific community**

The Representative supported the initiative of the IGU Thematic Conference in Italy, Oceans and Seas organized by Milano Bicocca, Commissions History of Geographic Thoughts and other consortium members.

She gave an opening speech as IGU VP. She corresponds regularly with Colleagues who request information to encourage participation and inclusion.

### **4. Evaluation of participation in the Union in relation to the benefits and costs of membership**

The relationship is excellent. The IGU promptly informs national members with newsletters and is particularly open and productive to the exchange of ideas and information through the Secretary, the President and the Commission Chairs.

The IGU and the GeoUnions successfully proposed the election of Professor Maria Paradiso to the Governors Board of the ISC International Science Council in 2021. Professor Paradiso was elected in 2022 Vice President of the International Geographical Union.

Recently the ISC Nomination Elections Committee reconfirmed Prof. Paradiso on the Governors Board as a staggered member without having to go through an election.

## **5. Evaluations of Italian participation with proposals to improve interest and involvement**

As also emerges from previous reports, the financial problems of Italian public research in the social sciences and humanities sector and the August period do not favour a numerically stronger presence, while broad transparency and access to information is ensured by the Representative with the support of AgeI Italian Geographers Association and all other associations of members of the national community.

## **6. Italian experts with top roles appointed within the Body or in related Commissions and Programs (of which we are aware)**

Maria Paradiso Honorary Chair Mediterranean Basin, Cosimo Palagiano Honorary for Topomimy (Joint Commission IGU-ICA), Elena dai Prà new Chair Toponymy, Andrea Vacca for Land Degradation and Desertification; Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg for History of Geographical Thought; Barbaria Staniscia Executive Secretary 'Human Mobility'; Chiara Giubilaro University of Palermo Co-Chair of Research Methods, Dr. Teresa Graziano, in the Yong Geograohers Task Force.

There are Italians in the Steering of Political Geography and promising new collaborations in Rural Geography. In fact, the success of affirmation is above all females.

## **7. If an entity with an Italian Committee, brief summary of the 2023 activities of the CNR Committee**

Currently there is no national IGU Commission of a truly 'executive' nature within the CNR. However, the electronic information activity and the complete collaboration now with AGEI Association of Italian Geographers are highlighted. There is a Committee formed up by the Representative and the Chairs of Geographical Associations.

We hope for a National Committee mixed with AGEI members, national academic communities and CNR members on common topics with geography within the CNR.

## **8. Notes**

We do continue to propose the establishment of a mixed CNR and Italian Geographers associations Committee.

## **9. Conclusions**

I am always available for supplementary information also in meetings. I do rest available for clarifications and proposals.



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