

INQUA – International Union for Quaternary

Activities' Report - Year 2024

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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 41 countries are INQUA members (30 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 2024).

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> and the website was completely renewed at the end of 2024.

Since 2021 INQUA newsletter service is active thanks to the recruitment of new secretary staff. During 2022 this service became monthly and includes updates on INQUA activities. The 13th of March 2022 INQUA released a public statement about Ukraine war suspending the collaborations with Russian and Byelorussian institutions.

2. Main activities carried on by (Union name) during 2024 relevant for Italy and for CNR

In 2024 the INQUA-SEQS 2024 Meeting “Quaternary stratigraphy and terrestrial carbonates: climate, tectonic and humans driven landscape changes” took place between 28 September and 2 October 2024 in Gavorrano, Southern Tuscany (Italy). 85 participants from Europe contributed to the success of the meeting.

Even in 2024 many International Focus Group (IFG) and Projects had an Italian leader:

- ONSEA (EvolutiOn of Seasces) sponsored by CMP commission and led by Gaia Mattei of the University Partenope (Napoli).
- PALeo constraints on SEA level rise (PALSEA_next) sponsored by CMP commission and led by Matteo Vacchi of the University of Pisa.
- EQ (European Correlation of Quaternary Stages Boundaries) sponsored by SACCOM commission and led by Perluigi Pieruccini of University of Torino.

Guido Stefano Mariani and Francesca Ferrario are editors of the journal Quaternary Perspectives. Pierluigi Pieruccini is editor in chief of the Scientific Journal of INQUA, Quaternary International. Andrea Zerboni is editor in chief of the Scientific Journal of INQUA, Quaternary Environments and Humans.

In the framework of the INQUA Fellowships program the researcher Muhammad Usman was visiting at the University of Milano-Bicocca.

3. Activities carried on by (Italian Delegate name) within the Union during 2024 and impact on the Italian scientific community

During 2024 I regularly communicated with the INQUA Executive Committee, led by Laura Sadori. The communications through the INQUA Newsletters were regularly sent to the Italian Quaternary community from INQUA secretary.

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

During 2024, three INQUA Projects were funded and led by Italian researchers. The remarkable participation of many young Italian researchers characterized many activities of INQUA, as stated in Quaternary Perspective journal and from the INQUA Newsletters.

The Meeting INQUA-SEQS “Quaternary stratigraphy and terrestrial carbonates: climate, tectonic and humans driven landscape changes”, organized in Tuscany in 2024, was important for the Italian and European community.

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

The importance of the INQUA membership for Italy is remarkable as stated by the relevant number of Italian scientists involved in INQUA commissions, editorial boards and in International Focus Group and Projects, including the organization of meetings, workshops and thematic short courses. The Italian President in the 2023-2027 four-year period is important for the international research activities. Moreover, the METIQ Project continued during 2024 and it is carried on by a large group of Italian Quaternary researchers.

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

- Laura Sadori is INQUA President.
- Alessio Rovere is CMP commission president.
- Marco Peresani is Advisory Board Members of HABCOM commission.
- Adele Bertini is SACCOM commission vice-president.
- Giovanni Monegato, Roberta Pini, Enrico Capezzuoli are Advisory Board Members of SACCOM commission.
- Alessandro Fontana and Alessandro Michetti are Advisory Board Members of TERPRO commission.
- Andrea Zerboni is TERPRO commission president.
- Irene Puliti is ERC member for TERPRO commission.
- Pierluigi Pieruccini is Editor in Chief of Quaternary International.
- Andrea Zerboni is Editor in Chief of Quaternary Environments and Humans.
- Guido Stefano Mariani and Francesca Ferrario are Editors of Quaternary Perspectives.
- Alessandro Fontana and Pierluigi Pieruccini are IFG Responsibles for 2024.
- Gaia Mattei, Pierluigi Pieruccini and Matteo Vacchi are project leaders for 2024.

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2024 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.

From June 2018 to June 2024 the writer had been President of AIQUA. The President of AIQUA is now Ilaria Mazzini (CNR-IGAG).

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, with Laura Sadori as INQUA President and both the INQUA scientific journals has an Italian Editor in Chief.

Padova, 22/05/2025

Signature

