

Name of the Union
Activities' Report - Year 2016

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1. Introduction

The specific Italian situation within the frame of IAMAS-IUGG has been the subject of coordination and start-up activities in the meteorological field. It tends to bring our country to the level of other European countries, starting from an objective situation of suffering for one, sadly, ancient lack of interest in the necessity of building up a meteorological market, and which saw the continued existence of a purely academic culture concealed in disciplinary fences without considering instances from the real world. This has led the sector into a vicious circle where lack of market, due to the lack of professional figures, has depressed the demand for university courses, until the disappearance of the few existing ones. In recent years, the undersigned, as a national delegate, has also brought these instances within the association, receiving a warm invitation to continue, working as DN at the Military Italian Air Service working table for the definition of a professional figure of METEOROLOGIST AND METEOROLOGICAL TECHNICIAN. This technical table has completed its work recently, and the certification scheme has been approved by the Permanent Representative at WMO as compliant to WMO1083 recommendations. The work has therefore focused on enhancing the scheme and the ability to expand certification features to companies providing meteorological services.

2. Main activities carried on by (Union name) during 2016 relevant for Italy and for CNR

The activities that characterized the last year, significant for Italy and the CNR, were two main orders:

1-the preparation of the exam sessions for obtaining the qualification of meteorologist and meteorologist technician, operated by DEKRA, International Certification Body, which saw a total of about 50 certified persons, operators in the industry and public services. Today we can say that our country also has a profitable professional figure on the international skills market. This impetus to the market has produced immediate beneficial effects on the academic world as well, and today we are witnessing a rebirth of interest in the launch of university courses dedicated to Meteorology.

For the CNR, the return in terms of image was very strong as the National Delegate IAMAS, appointed by CNR, represents a national reference for all these activities. It was not only a matter of image as the link with the University strengthened in terms of scientific exchange. In addition, certification exams were conducted mainly in our CNR structures, thus leading the Institution to be a sure reference for meteorological service providers and companies.

2-We could not remain insensitive to the spontaneous request arising from the certification scheme that came from meteorological companies that were beginning to require that their services were also certified. In the last year, in collaboration with DEKRA, we worked on the development of an attestation system based on the new ISO9001 standards, which could have a market value attesting precisely the congruity of the services with the WMO recommendations. This certification is in the process of being completed and is carried out through a support to DEKRA that is operating with a provider of great national interest and then extending to the market all such new product.

The combined action of these two activities will bring the national system to be unique in the European market by combining WMO, ISO17024 and the new ISO9001 together. The CNR, therefore, strives to play a role as a national guide and an international reference role within this framework

3. Activities carried on by (Italian Delegate name) within the Union during 2016 and impact on the Italian scientific community

As a result, the relapse resulting from this activity is manifold and attested by the interest shown that has been reported in all recent conferences (whether national or international). The emergence of new meteorological courses takes absolutely the move from this activity, just to the emergence of the market. In addition, this certification implies the assumption of a Code of Conduct and will help the country system to cultural growth

in meteorology, also allowing for control of meteorological statements leading to a gradual disappearance of the phenomenon of 'spoof weather' claims.

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

As a result of the above, the interest raised in the international arena and attested by the inclusion of these activities in the NEWS IAMAS-IUGG, we believe that leads the national proposal to become of great interest to the whole scientific community and we cannot lose this advantage now acquired that I would consider it a sensible issue. I must, therefore, express an opinion that is absolutely conducive to maintaining membership at a time when we are a leader in a sector.

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

Improving interest and involvement now becomes a matter of how much our Entrepreneurship wants to engage in maintaining such a clear position of supremacy, which is achieved also with great personal effort. It would now require a CNR policy that could consolidate the results achieved, also with the support of the Ministry and Civil Protection. In fact, the acknowledgment of the scheme at the level of public sensibility is actually consolidated, but there are still reservations and slowdowns produced by the public components that could be overcome by a decisive and precise position of our Institution.

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

The National Commission IUGG has been the issue of a complete reconnaissance of our experts in all Associations and Organization Bodies, the work it was done with the support of great expertise and dedication by Dr. Cecilia Lalle, and now we have available a full overview of the national contributions. As far as IAMAS is concerned, the references are:

Teodoro Georgiadis (DN, CNR), Michele Brunetti (DN, CNR), Cristina Facchini (CNR), Giorgio Alcide Di Sarra (ENEA), Guido Masiello (UNI-Basilicata) and Kristina Plainaki (INAF).

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2016 CNR Commission activities

The writer was appointed Scientific Secretary of the National Commission, chaired by Prof. G. Panza and therefore participated in all the activities of that Commission. The great effort made in the last year is precisely the full recognition of Italian scientists in the various organisms. The purpose of this recognition was the obvious need to reach a broader capacity to affect different international activities by working in synergy with other colleagues.

I must also highlight the appointment of the writer in the IUGG Education and Capacity Building Committee, which has already allowed me to address some themes and opportunities, thus highlighting and reinforcing the role of national research in the broader context of the various associations.

8. Notes (if any)

In the face of the work I have done, as I say with personal sacrifice, I would like to emphasize the request to the CNR Institution to accompany these efforts by putting the problem of scientific representation as a priority, which is through "participation". Participation is achievable with tangible support to the activities. The recollected scientific priorities and scientific image then become extremely easy to extract and made highly qualified for the entire national Community.

9. Conclusions

High staff involvement in the activities of the Association, the Commission and the IUGG Committee have confirmed to me the certainty that we need to carry out this work by our Institution, as presence is essential to reiterate the capabilities of a System. More explicit, though limited support, it would greatly increase these capabilities.



Teodoro Georgiadis