

International Geographical Union

Activities' Report - Year 2017

Prof.ssa Maria Paradiso
University of Sannio

1. Introduction

2017 was a year without UGI Congresses.

2. Main activities carried on by (Union name) during 2017 relevant for Italy and for CNR

For Italy and the CNR significant activities concerned the organization by Maria Paradiso of sessions within the Italian Geographic Congress, Rome, June 2017, dedicated to Mediterranean mobility both in terms of migrant and refugee flows. The sessions involved Corrado Bonifazi of the CNR, researchers of the Institute directed by Dr. Bonifazi and about twenty leading researchers on the themes of mobility and migration that responded positively to the Call, including Antoine Bailly Chair Social Sciences Committee European Academia, Klaus Zimmerman University of Bonn and Lepoldina Academy, Academia Europaea, Parvati Nair Director of the United Nations University of Barcelona, Prof Naso, Sapienza.

3. Activities carried on by (Italian Delegate name) within the Union during 2017 and impact on the Italian scientific community

As a Representative, I organized the above sessions, maintained contacts with UGU Executive Committee and Italian Geographers Association. In particular, I coordinated for the Italian side, in favor of the Geographers colleagues of the Sapienza University of Rome, the drafting and signing of a collaboration agreement with the Russian Academy of Sciences (Department of Economic and Social Geography, Director Vladimir Strelevsky).

I reposed and coordinated the election campaign for Vice President UGI of an Italian, Prof. Elena dell'Agnese. In the Congress of August 2018 of Quebec the new appointments will be official.

I have favored and coordinated with ItalyI Association of Italian Geographers (President Prof. Andrea Riggio) the participation of Italy in the Network 'Night of Geography- Nuit de la Géographie' coordinated by the French UGI Representative Antoine Le Blanc as a member of the European Board of the night. The Italian participation was the most lively with 32 locations thanks to the excellent promotional action of AgeI which has developed the initiative of the UGI representative very positively. The aim is to promote the knowledge of geographic knowledge and usefulness of Geography in the training of citizens among other disciplinary vocations.

Maria Paradiso with her colleague IGU, Representative of France (Antoine Le Blanc) and with the Commissions IGU Mediterraneo and Cultural Geography organized a session in September 2016 at the Eugeo Congress in Brussels on the issues of integration of migrants in Europe.

Italian Geography is an active member of the European Network. The representative favored the stable networking of the Italian IGU Committee with AgeI (member by right), Eugeo (Association of European Geographical Societies).

Maria Paradiso has prepared the volume proposal Mediterranean Mobilities. Europe changing relationships positively evaluated by anonymous reviewers of Springer publisher and published in June 2018. The volume sees the participation of Colleges CNR of the Institute of studies on population and social policies in the writing of chapters.

All activities increased visibility and networking of Italian scholars internationally.

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

Very positive.

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

The obstacles to Italian participation depend on structural factors of our national research system which, having drastically reduced public funding for humanistic and social research, does not allow for the great majority of scholars, both senior and junior, to participate in congresses abroad.

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

Commission Chairs: Maria Paradiso (Mediterranean) Marcella Schmidt / History of Geography) Andrea Vacca (Land degradation and desertification) Cosimo Palagiano (Toponymy). Vice President Elena del'Agnese.

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2017 CNR Commission activities

Mainly the Night of Geography.

