

# IACS (International Association of Cryospheric Sciences)

## Activities' Report - Year 2020

**Barbara Stenni**

### **1. Introduction**

The International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) is the youngest associations inside IUGG. In 2007 during the General Assembly in Prague, IACS became the eighth IUGG association replacing the former International Commission on Snow and Ice of IAHS.

One of the main IACS objectives is to support the cryospheric sciences promoting and sponsoring workshops and symposia organized by its divisions, working groups, as well as other organizations.

In February 2019 the new IACS website was opened: <https://cryosphericosciences.org/>

The IACS Bureau is posting a "IACS NEWSLETTER", which reports the activities of the IACS and is downloadable in pdf format from the site itself.

The individual registration to the IACS is free of charge. You can register at the following link: [https://cryosphericosciences.org/members/membership/#iacs\\_stats](https://cryosphericosciences.org/members/membership/#iacs_stats)

At the same link you will find interesting statistical information that shows how there has been an important growth in the IACS individual membership during the year 2019 and that this growth continued in 2020. The members from European countries are predominant and the category that is most represented is that of the PhD students. Both data, which are also relevant for our country, demonstrate the interest and importance of these topics closely related to the global climate changes in which the cryosphere plays an important role. Unfortunately, the statistics also reveal a still limited participation of women.

### **2. Main activities carried on by (IACS) during 2020 relevant for Italy and for CNR**

Unfortunately, due to COVID pandemic no activities have been carried out.

The IACS-IAMAS-IAPSO Scientific Assembly, to be held in South Korea in July 2021 has been cancelled. The Virtual Atmosphere-Cryosphere-Ocean seminar series (VACO-21) will be hosted between 19 and 23 July 2021. The registration is free; for registering just connect to: <https://cryosphericosciences.org/vaco-21/>

The next time that IACS will meet in person will be at the IUGG 2023 General Assembly in Berlin.

### **3. Activities carried on by (Barbara Stenni) within the Union during 2020 and impact on the Italian scientific community**

Unfortunately, due to COVID pandemic no activities have been carried out.

Nevertheless, also in 2020 I kept the Italian glaciological community informed by sending information and the newsletter to the colleagues of the Institute of Polar Sciences of the CNR, of the Italian glaciological committee. On these occasions the possibility of individually enrolling in the IACS has been renewed. Attention has been drawn to the deadlines for the IACS Early-Career Scientist Award nominations.

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

As I have already observed in previous reports, even with limited support, the involvement and sponsorship of events by the IACS in the cryosphere is of fundamental importance for enhancing the activities of the Italian scientific community at an international level. I believe that participation in the Union is of fundamental importance.

The presence since June 2019 of a new CNR Institute of Polar Sciences and the activation in 2019 of a PhD in Polar Sciences at Ca 'Foscari University of Venice are already in themselves clear reasons for continuing the Italian participation in the IACS and IUGG.

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

The possibility of individual membership free of charge to the IACS since February 2017 has certainly led to a greater involvement of the Italian scientific community, and in particular of young researchers, in activities related to the IACS. Statistics that show a significant increase in individual registrations to the IACS during 2019 and 2020, are a confirmation of the importance of opening individual memberships to scientific associations.

The creation of new working groups within one of the currently existing divisions, or the participation in existing ones, which currently do not see the presence of Italians in the positions of head of division, could increase the involvement of the scientific community.

Although there are many national institutions and research teams that are involved in research topics which are of interest for the association, to date a reference community that can be identifies with it doesn't exist (as it happens in other IUGG sectors). In this respect, an action having as aim the strengthen of a common identity and a better coordination of the national community, promoted through seminars, workshops, exchanges would certainly lead to a benefit and to a better positioning within the association. Such actions can be started once the pandemic situation will improve.

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

There are no Italian experts with apical roles inside the IACS but there are experts in other related programs as reported in the following: Carlo BARBANTE is National Delegate to the IUGG International Arctic Science Committee (IASC); Giovanni MACELLONI is national Delegate (alternate) to the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences, Italian Focal point for the Global Cryosphere Watch of the World Meteorological Organization (GCW-WMO) and member of the CRYONET team of the same organization; Silvano ONOFRI is President of the National Scientific Commission for Antarctica.

## **7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2020 CNR Commission activities**

The undersigned has participated by email and video conference in the various activities and requests by the CNR-IUGG Commission. On 16 June 2020 I participated at the video meeting of the IUGG Commission.

## **8. Notes (if any)**

None

## **9. Conclusions**

The free and individual registration to the IACS, the presence of a new website and associated newsletters have already led to a greater involvement of the Italian scientific community in the activities of the IACS, which in recent years, 2017 and 2019, has both financed international initiatives in which there was an important involvement of the Italian scientific community and supported young Italian researchers to participate in the General Assemblies.

Unfortunately, due to COVID pandemic during 2020, the activities in presence have been cancelled; nevertheless, the Italian glaciological community has been kept informed by email.

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