

International Science Council

Activities' Report - Year 2020

Deputy Delegate Augusta Maria Paci

1. Introduction

The International Science Council is a non-governmental organism with a global membership constituted by 40 International Scientific Unions and more than 140 National organizations. CNR is full member of ISC, the newly funded organism in 2018, which unites the previous ICSU and ISSC (the International Social Science Council). ISC promotes worldwide the values and principles of global science for the benefit of society.

The ISC mission is “to act as the global voice for science”. ISC promotes science as a global public good for humanity development and operates to mobilize scientific and economic resources to respond to global challenges as depicted by the SDGs of the United Nations 2030Agenda.

ISC promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and dialogue among scientists from all disciplines and all countries to convey expertises, sound opinions and to stimulate thinking ahead for global solutions. ISC aims to overcome science inequalities, to promote inclusion and participation in the entire world and for this operates in synergy with the United Nations. The headquarter of ISC is based in Paris.

2. Main activities carried on by ISC during 2020 relevant for Italy and for CNR

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemy, ISC efficiently re-organized activities by going digital. The Zoom platform was available for virtual meetings and workshops.

Due to this timely intervention, existing and new initiatives have been brought forward succesfully, avoiding isolation and ensuring members' participation to topics relevant to CNR and to Italy.

During 2020, then, a considerable range of activities was addressed.

CNR participated in the following activities:

- Virtual meeting “Dialogues and Knowledge Sharing Sessions.
- Approval of new Members
- Virtual event promoted by ISC together with UN, in particular “ Rethinking Human Development for today's world”
- Attendance to the 3rd Annual Meeting European Members of the International Science Council ISC 10 September 2020
- Bilateral meetings with ISC Secretariat Scientific to contribute to dissemination activities.

3. Activities carried on by dr. Mario Malinconico and Augusta Maria Paci within the Union during 2020 and impact on the Italian scientific community

The Delegates had contacts with Italian experts to increase knowledge awareness of ISC particularly experts in the domain of Climate change. Another important activity to increase awareness about ISC and the relevance of its message. In addition, ISC Delegates were invited to attend the extended meetings of the Italian Committee of the IUPAC-NAO CNR. In these meetings, ISC topics and initiatives were openly presented and discussed.

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

Italy has been always active in ICSU and therefore it is important to continue and to strengthen the participation of CNR to the new ISC actions which embrace human and social sciences, that of great interest for CNR and for the whole country. ISC represents indeed the proper global context of peers on developing programmes

and initiatives that require a policy of global dimension and where science represents the key enabler for socio-economic development.

CNR Delegates in 2020 dedicated efforts to increase the involvement of CNR in ISC. Although the Pandemy made impossible to convey the planned workshop on the 10th June 2020 in Roma, several contacts with ISC Scientific members and with the President Daya Reddy were dedicated to shape this workshop that should concentrate on ocean and marine waste. The CNR membership responds indeed to multiple scientific interests and being a member of ISC multiplies the visibility of single experts opening the possibility for CNR to be involved in international projects of global relevance.

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

Italy aims at strengthening the participation to ISC in the interest of the scientific community and of CNR. This effort can be realized involving the Academy of Science of Italy Lincei and Accademia dei XL, major scientific societies in Italy.

During 2020, the Delegates developed preliminary relations useful to achieve this aim

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

Contacts with Italian experts are underway particularly looking at United Nations programmes.

In the following, there are the experts in the domain of ocean and marine waste that expressed their potential interest in collaboration with ISC: Rosalia Santoleri (CNR); UNEP Gaetano Leone; COI - Presidente CNR ISMAR Stefano Aliani.

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

There is the intention to approach the possibility to form an National Commission for ISC and to this end there will be contacts with Italian Lincei and Accademia dei XL.

8. Notes

Dr. Mario Malinconico suddenly passed away during the night last August, leaving all astonished and terribly sad. His memory will last in many people who met also in ISC in this very late commitment to develop science for the benefit of society.

9. Conclusions

The Italian presence in ISC has renewed interest in our country and could lead to positive outcome for the scientific community. It is of fundamental importance to stimulate active participation of Italian researchers and scientists in the ISC activities and to promote synergies at national level to growth interest towards the global actions for science carried on by the International Science Council.

Augusta Maria Paci

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