

Report on 2022 activities in IGU - International Geographical Union

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1. Introduction

With the IGU Congress in Paris in August 2022 we recorded further confirmation of the central Italian participation in the coordination activities of the IGU. Maria Paradiso, representative in the IGU, was elected Vice President with the highest number of votes except for the candidate for Secretary General. Italian Commissions chairs have been reconfirmed: Cosimo Palagiano for Toponymy (Joint Commission IGU-ICA), Marcella Schmidt of Friedberg for History of Geographical Thought; Barbara Staniscia as Executive Secretary 'Human Mobility'. Chiara Giubilaro was reconfirmed Co-Chair of Research Methods. There are Italians in the Political Geography Steering and active participation in Rural Geography is increasing.

Italy obtained an IGU Thematic Conference which will take place in Bicocca in June 2023 on Oceans and Seas in Geographical Thought, Conference Chair Prof.ssa Schmidt di Friedberg, Bicocca University.

2. Significant activities for Italy and for the CNR carried out in 2022 by the Body of which it is the Representative

The Representative has launched the campaign for the election of IGU Vice President with the Italian Geographical Society.

Maria Paradiso shared information and stimulated initiatives in the IGU and ISC with the past Director Palaja and Councilor Spadoni.

In Italy All IGU information and reports are accessible on the web site <http://igu-online.org/>

3. Activities carried out as Representative in 2022 within the Body and indications on the effects on the national scientific community

The Representative supported the initiative of the IGU Thematic Conference in Italy, Oceans and Seas curated by Milano Bicocca, Commissions History of Geographic Thoughts and other consortium members.

The Night of Geography/Nuit de la Geographie was organized in Italy in concert with the Presidency of the Association of Italian Geographers and numerous UGI National Committees with the participation of numerous Italian offices for the month of April 2022.

4. Evaluation of participation in the Union in relation to the benefits and costs of membership

The relationship is excellent. The IGU promptly informs the national members with newsletters and the exchange of ideas and information with the Secretary, the President and the Commission Chairs is particularly open and productive. The IGU and GeoUnions successfully proposed the election of Prof. Maria Paradiso to the Governors Board of the ISC International Science Council.

5. Evaluations on Italian participation with proposals to improve interest and involvement

As also emerges from previous reports, the financial problems of Italian public research in the social sciences and humanities sector and the August period do not favour a numerically stronger presence, while ample transparency and access to information is ensured by the Representative with the support of AgeI Italian Geographers Association and all other associations to members of the national community.

6. Italian experts with top positions appointed within the Body or in related Commissions and Programs (of which we are aware)

Maria Paradiso Honorary Chair Mediterranean Basin, Cosimo Palagiano for Topomimy (Joint Commission IGU-ICA), Marcella Schmidt of Friedberg for History of Geographical Thought; Barbara Staniscia Executive Secretary 'Human Mobility'; Chiara Giubilaro University of Palermo Co-Chair of Research Methods, Dr. Teresa Graziano, in the Yong Geographers Task Force.

There are Italians in the Political Geography Steering and promising new collaborations in Rural Geography. In fact, the success of affirmation is above all for women.

7. Se Organismo con Italian Committee, brief summary of the 2022 activities of the CNR Commission

Currently there is not truly 'executive' national IGU Commission within the CNR. However, the electronic information activity and the complete collaboration now with AGEI, the Association of Italian Geographers, should be highlighted.

We hope for a mixed National Committee, AGEI members, national academic communities and CNR members on common themes with geography within the CNR.

The current Committee which by right (practically) provides for the presence of the presidents of the major associations needs to be reformed to make room for younger colleagues who are truly engaged in international scientific activities, primarily in the IGU. Finally, it would be desirable to include CNR colleagues on main topics such as migration, the Mediterranean, sustainability.

8. Notes

It is suggested that the activity of the Representative, in concert with the competent CNR bodies, can be supported in other mission activities abroad - not only that one of participation in UGI congresses - in order to develop further joint initiatives.

The creation of a mixed National Committee is proposed between exponents of the national academic community of geography and exponents of the CNR; this Committee should envisage funding from the CNR.

9. Conclusions

I reserve the right to broaden some arguments or provide additional information and considerations. I remain at your disposal for further clarifications or proposals.

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