

**Report on bilateral cooperation and on the activities of AIS³ in the period
December, 2013 to November, 2014
and
Action plan for 2015**

1. Introduction

The Association of Italian and Serbian Scientists and Scholars - AIS³ - serves as a focal point for the advancement of cooperation between Italian and Serbian scientists and researchers in all aspects of higher education, science and research. “AIS Cube”, as it is affectionately known, strives to bring together researchers from both countries, and promotes creative solutions and innovations from the academic community, as well as networking and stronger ties with business and industry.

AIS³ has been able to fulfill its purpose thanks to the encouragement and support of the Italian Embassy in Belgrade and the University of Belgrade.

2. Bilateral cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education, Research and Technological Development of Serbia and the AREA Science Park Trieste was signed. State Secretary Dr. Mr Aleksandar Belić of the Ministry of Education, Research and Technological Development and the President of Area Science Park Trieste, Prof. Adriano De Maio, signed, in the presence of H.E. Ambassador Giuseppe Manzo, a MoU for cooperation in the fields of Smart Specialization Strategy and Innovation and Technology Transfer.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Istituto Superiore di Sanità and the Institute of Public Health of Serbia “Dr Milan Jovanović Batut” was signed. The President of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, prof. Fabrizio Oleari, and the director of the Institute of Public Health of Serbia, prof. Dragan Ilić, signed, in the presence of H.E. Ambassador Giuseppe Manzo and State Secretary Dr. Vladimir Djukić of the Ministry of Health, a MoU in the field of public health research and policy.

On the occasion of the 160th anniversary since the birth of Mihajlo Pupin, distinguished Serbian innovator and scientist, an overview, prepared by Dr. Sanja Vraneš, Institute Director, was presented on the cooperation of the Institute Mihajlo Pupin (Belgrade) with Italy. The presentation is available at

<http://www.ais3.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/PupinSerbiaItalia.pdf>.

3. AIS³ General Assembly

The General Assembly was held in December, 2013 and the members of AIS³ electronically voted and adopted the annual report (<http://www.ais3.rs/wp-content/uploads/AIS3-Annual-Report-rev.pdf>), financial report and the plan of activities in 2014. The General Assembly also voted that Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajković, Institute of Microbiology and Immunology of the School of Medicine of the University of Belgrade, replace Prof. Dr. Vladimir Kostić of the same University in the Steering Committee. AIS³

recognizes the support and efforts of Prof. Kostić in the initiation and founding of AIS³ and thanks him for his service.

4. AIS³ Steering Committee

The Steering Committee held meetings on January 28, March 25, May 22, September 9 and November 18, 2014.

The members of the Steering Committee (SC) are: Dr. Paolo Battinelli, Prof. Dr. Živadin Bugarčić, Prof. Dr. Zoran Knežević, Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajković, Prof. Dr. Ivanka Popović (chairperson), Prof. Dr. Pavle Sekeruš and Prof. Dr. Ljubiša Topisirović.

The SC agreed that the AIS³ in 2014 should coordinate its activities with Expo 2015, which will be held in Milano under the theme "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

The SC agreed to support, endorse and follow the project dedicated to the Asinara Health Quarantine station and WWI prison camp. The project is realized jointly by the historians of the University of Sassari and the University of Belgrade and is supported by the Municipality of Porto Torres

Mrs. Branka Janda Marković, Head of the Sector for International and Interuniversity Cooperation of the University of Belgrade, kindly provided full administrative and logistical support to the SC.

The activities proposed and/or coordinated by the Steering Committee are presented in the subsequent sections.

5. Events

a) Workshop "Mini-Invasive Surgery", School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, December 16, 2013

The workshop was opened by Prof. Nebojša Lalić, Dean of the School of Medicine, H.E. Giuseppe Manzo, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, Prof. Vladimir Djukić, State Secretary of Ministry of Health of Serbia and the President of AIS³. Lectures were held by Prof. Francesco Badessi, Dr. Pietro Familiari, Prof. Giusto Pignata and Prof. Attilio Ignazio Lo Monte.

b) Representatives of AIS³ were present at the ISC 2014 - CONFERENCE ON ITALIAN-SERBIAN COLLABORATION PLATFORM IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES -Towards the FACTORY of the FUTURE, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, Belgrade, April 29, 2014. AIS³ will be a co-organizer of future ISC conferences. The next conference will be held in March, 2015.

c) "Italy – Serbia Relations towards EXPO 2015", University Megatrend, May 14, 2014
A lecture held by H.E. Ambassador Giuseppe Manzo in the framework of the Italian Day at Megatrend. During the Italian Day, bilateral projects were presented and discussed. Mr. Franco Coin, CEO of MHT s.r.l presented the project Megatrain2 on services and IT consulting on Microsoft Dynamics AX.

d) Public Health Workshop, Belgrade, Institute of Public Health of Serbia “Dr Milan Jovanović Batut”, May 19, 2014

Experts of the Institute of Public Health of Serbia “Dr Milan Jovanović Batut” and of the Italian Istituto Superiore di Sanità, discussed possible fields of cooperation in public health research and policy. Several fields were identified and the project “EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: A GOAL FOR SERBIA” was submitted to the Central Europe Initiative as a KEP project on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder management. This project that will start in 2015, was approved and will be financed by CEI.

e) 2nd Quality of Life Workshop “Food – Science, Institutions, Health, Culture”, Palazzo Italia, Belgrade, June 9, 2014

Lectures were held by Prof. S. Marjanović (Republic Hydrometeorological Institute), Prof. Slobodan Lilić, (Institute of Meat Technology Belgrade), Prof. Maurizio Battino (Univ. Politecnica delle Marche), Dr. Riccardo Rossi Paccani (Italian Min. of Agriculture), Dr. Jelena Marjanović (Assistant Minister - Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications of the Republic of Serbia and the Serbian Commissioner General for Expo 2015), Prof. Nejboša Lalić, Dean of the School of Medicine (University of Belgrade), Mrs. Zorana Gajić, Director of the Association "Bio Development", Dr. Jelena Gudelj Rakić (Institute of Public Health of Serbia), Prof. Julijana Vučo (University of Belgrade), Dr. Biagio Carrano (Slow Food Serbia). The workshop was closed by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, H.E. Ambassador Giuseppe Manzo, Rector of the University of Belgrade Prof. Vladimir Bumbaširević and the President of AIS³.

The workshop presentations are available at <http://www.ais3.rs/quality-of-life-2014/>.

f) Italy meets Serbia - Conference “Engineering for Energy and Water”, Faculty of Civil Engineering, UB, June 11, 2014

This conference, organized by AIS³ in collaboration with the Italian Embassy and the Universities of Belgrade and Kragujevac was attended by Italian and Serbian experts and engineers working in the fields of energy production and water-resource management. During the event two joint projects were presented: InnoSmartWater and Epta. The former project focused on the optimization of water resources, while the latter on energy production by acoustic waves.

These two projects were presented in the framework of the European programme Horizon 2020. Beside Serbia (City of Kragujevac and University of Kragujevac) and Italy (University of L’Aquila, University “Sapienza” Roma, Geo L’Aquila s.r.l.), The Netherlands and Bulgaria participate in InnoSmartWater, while Germany, Greece and Romania are partners in Epta.

g) High-level Workshop on ADVANCED BIOFUELS, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, UB, Belgrade, November 28, 2014

The high-level workshop, organized by the Italian Embassy, AIS³, the Central Europe Initiative, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (University of Belgrade) and the Italian Trade Agency, focused on the Serbian potential in advanced biofuel production. It was attended by fifty top-level selected Italian and Serbian experts. The meeting was opened

by H.E. Ambassador Giuseppe Manzo, Prof. Nenad Zrnić, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Mr. Dragan Satarić, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the President of AIS³. The keynote speech was held by Dr. Giorgio Rosso Cicogna Special Advisor of the Secretary General of the Central Europe Initiative, who also moderated the discussions. Lectures were held by Mr. Peter Canciani, CEI, Ms. Luisa Marelli - JRC, Ispra, Ms. Raffaella Serra - Beta Renewables Mossi Ghisolfi Group, Ms. Mirjana Vujičić, EBRD Serbia, Mr. Andreas Beikos, Prof. Dragoslava Stojiljković, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Mr. Vittorio Venturi, ICGEB, Trieste, Ms. Stanka Leskovac, NIS, Mr. Dragan Satarić, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ms. Vesna Crnojević-Bengin, University of Novi Sad and Ms. Dragana Vuković Georgijev, journalist. The presentations from the workshop are available at <http://www.ais3.ac.rs/publications/>.

6. Visibility

The main visibility of AIS³ is through the webpage <http://www.ais3.rs/>. The persons responsible for the web site are Prof. Popović and Dr. Battinelli. The website provides general information, information about the activities of AIS³ and membership profiles. Members are encouraged to fill out their membership profiles in order to fulfill the goal of having a data-base for all Association members. The websites also posts open calls for partnerships, scholarships and scientific meetings (<http://www.ais3.rs/opportunities/>).

7. Publications

The Proceedings of the Italian – Serbian Bilateral Workshop on “Science for Cultural Heritage” (Belgrade, November 12, 2013), edited by P. Battinelli and J. Striber (ISBN 978-86-7522-043-5) were published as hard copy. The electronic version is available at http://www.ais3.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/Italia-Serbia_Science-for-Cultural-Heritage.pdf. All previous publications are available at <http://www.ais3.ac.rs/publications/>.

8. Membership

AIS³ now has more than 300 members. Membership in AIS³ is open to institutional and individual members. Professional societies are also eligible for membership. Applications for membership are submitted for approval to the SC. The list of institutional members is available at <http://www.ais3.ac.rs/institutional-members/>.

9. Social Responsibility



The members of AIS³ collected material and financial assistance for the recovery of cities and municipalities severely struck by floods in Serbia in the spring of 2014 (<http://www.ais3.rs/wp-content/uploads/AIS3-Floods-in-Serbia.pdf>).

10. Finances

The activities of AIS³ were financed through the kind support of the Italian Embassy in Belgrade and the University of Belgrade.

Bilateral projects are funded by the respective Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Serbian Ministry of Education, Research and Technological Development.

The Italian Serbian Business Council has expressed its will to financially support mobility for a certain number of Italian and Serbian researchers.

11. Support

Technical support for the website is provided by Mr. Milan Radonjić, Ms. Irena Odžić and the staff of the Information Center of the University of Belgrade. Support for collecting and disseminating information on AIS³ activities is provided by Mr. Mario Liguori of the University of Novi Sad and the Sector for International and Interuniversity Cooperation of the University of Belgrade

12. Action Plan for 2015

- i)* Promote attendance at EXPO 2015 in Milano
- ii)* Plan and organize the 3rd Quality of Life Workshop in Belgrade
- iii)* Plan and organize a meeting on biofuels in Novi Sad
- iv)* Co-organize the ISC2014 Conference - Italian-Serbian Collaboration Platform in Advanced Manufacturing
- v)* Plan and organize a meeting on the outputs of Italian-Serbian bilateral projects
- vi)* Improve the AIS³ website
- vii)* Organize and carry out AIS³ Steering Committee elections
- viii)* Organize the General Assembly