

**Report on bilateral cooperation and on the activities of AIS<sup>3</sup> in the period  
December, 2014 to December, 2015  
and  
Action Plan for 2016**

## **Introduction**

The Association of Italian and Serbian Scientists and Scholars - AIS<sup>3</sup> - 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.

AIS<sup>3</sup> has been able to fulfill its purpose thanks to the encouragement and support of the Italian Embassy in Belgrade and the logistic support of the University of Belgrade.

## **Bilateral cooperation**

The Second Executive Program of Scientific and Technological Bilateral Cooperation 2016-2018 between the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Serbia was officially signed on November 16, 2015. The Executive Program was signed by the Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development, Dr. Srđan Verbić and H.E. Mr. Giuseppe Manzo, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to Serbia. The full text of the Executive Program containing the list of approved projects can be found at: [http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica\\_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecuti vi/accordi\\_programmi\\_culturali\\_tecnologici.html](http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmiesecuti vi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.html).

## **AIS<sup>3</sup> General Elections**

According to the AIS<sup>3</sup> Statute, the mandate of the members of the Steering Committee is three years. Nominations for new Steering Committee members were opened in June, 2015. Elections were held in July, 2015 by electronic voting and, of the 10 nominated candidates, the following six were elected for the period 2015-2018: Sanja Vraneš, Ivanka Popović, Miroslav Dramićanin, Pavle Andjus, Gradimir Milovanović and Snežana Smederevac. Paolo Battinelli was appointed to be the representative of the Italian Embassy in Belgrade in the Steering Committee. (<http://www.ais3.ac.rs/election-results/>).

## **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee held meetings on March 17, June 2, July 15, October 2 and October 20, 2015.

The members of the Steering Committee (SC) till July, 2015 were: Dr. Paolo Battinelli, Prof. Dr. Živadin Bugarčić, Prof. Dr. Zoran Knežević (Vice-President), Prof. Dr. Vladimir Trajković, Prof. Dr. Ivanka Popović (President), Prof. Dr. Pavle Sekeruš and Prof. Dr. Ljubiša Topisirović. The newly elected members of the Steering Committee are: Prof. Dr. Sanja Vraneš, Prof. Dr. Ivanka Popović, Prof. Dr. Miroslav Dramićanin, Prof. Dr. Pavle Andus, Academician Gradimir Milovanović, Prof. Dr. Snežana Smederevac and Dr. Paolo Battinelli. Prof. Popović was elected President and Prof. Vraneš Vice-President of AIS3 for the period 2015-2018.

The Steering Committee has invited the Director the Italian Cultural Institute, Dr. Davide Scalmani, and the heads or representatives of Italian language departments from the Universities of Belgrade, Novi Sad and Kragujevac to regularly participate in the meetings of the Steering Committee.

Mrs. Branka Janda Marković, Head of the Sector for International and Inter-University 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.

## Events

a) *ISCP 2015 – Research to Business Conference Italian-Serbian Collaboration Platform (ISCP) in Advanced Manufacturing Systems and Technologies*, Belgrade, May 13, 2015.

The development and application of new production technologies, called the Factory of the Future, was the main topic of the meeting, organized at the Belgrade Fair. The meeting, initiated by Prof. Dr. Petar Petrović, brought together key Italian and Serbian stakeholders – representatives of industry, science and government regulatory bodies. ([http://www.ais3.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/ISC2015\\_Conference.pdf](http://www.ais3.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/ISC2015_Conference.pdf))

b) *ITALY meets SERBIA - Translational Cancer Research: The Use of Physics and Chemistry*, Palazzo Italia, Belgrade, October 28, 2015. The meeting organized by the Italian Embassy, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare and C.R.O. Aviano, offered the opportunity to top Italian and Serbian experts to discuss the most advanced cancer therapies stemming from basic sciences. Further information at: <http://www.vin.bg.ac.rs/180/itsr-tcr/index.php>.

c) *“Italy – Serbia Day”*, Belgrade, November 16, 2015.

The Embassy of the Republic of Italy and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, endorsed by the Association of Italian and Serbian Scientists and Researchers, AIS<sup>3</sup>, organized a presentation of the results of the First Executive Program of Scientific and Technological Bilateral Cooperation 2013-2015. The venue of the meeting was the University of Belgrade. Prof. Dr. Viktor Nedović, Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bumbaširević, Rector of the University of Belgrade and

Prof. Dr. Sanja Vraneš, Vice-President of AIS<sup>3</sup> addressed the attendees at the opening of the event. A round-table discussion was held on the subject of *Societal Challenges: Integrating Social Sciences and Humanities with Natural Sciences*. The discussion was moderated by Prof. Dr. Sanja Vraneš and Dr. Steven Taylor. Inspiring introductory speeches were given by five esteemed panelists - Carlo Rizzuto, Pavle Andus, Snežana Smederevac and Fabrizio Michetti. All of them provided different perspectives regarding the synergy of social and natural sciences as a means of dealing with societal challenges and ensuring sustainable development. The discussion also focused on the relationship between science and innovation - whether research funded by the EC should be more “high risk” and “blue sky” or research with more tangible results, ready for industrial outreach. After the official part of the program, the results of 22 bilateral research projects were presented in the hall of Kapetan Miša’s Edifice.

d) *Serbian-Italian Urological Days*, Belgrade, December 11, 2015. The meeting is jointly organized by the Serbian Urological Society, the Italian Embassy in Belgrade and AIS<sup>3</sup> and will be held at the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Clinic of Urology of the Clinical Center of Serbia. The meeting topics include: laparoscopic radical prostatectomy, the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia with different types of lasers, the treatment of postoperative incontinence and impotence and the genetic screening of prostate cancer. The Serbian Minister of Health, Mr. Zlatibor Lončar, is expected to attend the meeting.

e) *Final Conference KEP Project “Emergency Management and Community Resilience: A Goal for Serbia”*, Institute of Public Health of Serbia “Dr. Milan Jovanović Batut”, Belgrade, December 14, 2015. Experts from the “Batut” Institute, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, WHO, Red Cross, Civil Protection, along with relevant stakeholders, will present results obtained by this project granted by the Central Europe Initiative and the new program for the year 2016 will be discussed.

### Visibility

The main visibility of AIS<sup>3</sup> 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 AIS<sup>3</sup> 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/>).

The website experienced technical difficulties during the summer that have now been resolved.

## **Publications**

The Proceedings of the Italy – Serbia Day “*Growth & Development through Science & Technology*” (Belgrade, November 16, 2015), will be published as hard copy. The co-editors of the Proceedings are Prof. Dr. Pavle Anđus and Dr. Paolo Battinelli. The electronic version will be available, along with all previous publications, at <http://www.ais3.ac.rs/publications/>.

## **Membership**

Membership in AIS<sup>3</sup> 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/>.

## **Finances**

The activities of AIS<sup>3</sup> 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 and Serbian ministries.

## **AIS<sup>3</sup> Action Plan for 2016**

Not all of the planned activities in the Action Plan for 2015 were realized. Additional meetings were organized.

Action Plan for 2016

- i)* Plan and organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quality of Life Workshop in Belgrade
- ii)* Plan and organize a meeting in Novi Sad
- iii)* Plan and organize a meeting in Kragujevac
- iv)* Plan the next ISCP Conference - Italian-Serbian Collaboration Platform in Advanced Manufacturing
- v)* Improve the AIS<sup>3</sup> website
- vi)* Organization of the General Assembly