

**Report on bilateral cooperation and on the activities of AIS<sup>3</sup> in the period  
December, 2015 to December, 2016  
and  
Action Plan for 2017**

## **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 first year of the Second Executive Program of Scientific and Technological Bilateral Cooperation 2016-2018 between the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Serbia was successfully completed. Researchers in the Program participated in some of the activities of AIS<sup>3</sup>. The full text of the Executive Program containing the list of running projects can be found at: <http://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2015/12/p.e.20italia-serbia202016-2018.pdf>.

## **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee held meetings on January 28, March 1, June 9 and December 20, 2016.

The members of the Steering Committee (SC) till July, 2018 are: Prof. Dr. Sanja Vraneš, Prof. Dr. Ivanka Popović, Prof. Dr. Miroslav Dramićanin, Prof. Dr. Pavle Andjus, Academician Gradimir Milovanović, Prof. Dr. Snežana Smederevac and Dr. Paolo Battinelli. Prof. Popović was elected President and Prof. Vraneš Vice-President of AIS<sup>3</sup> for the period 2015-2018.

The Steering Committee regularly invited the Director the Italian Cultural Institute, Dr. Davide Scalmani, Prof. Dr. Snežana Milinković, Chair of the Italian Department of the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Asst. Prof. Dr. Danijela Janjić, Chair of the Italian Department, Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac and Mr. Mario Liguori, Department of Romance Languages Studies, University of Novi Sad, to 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) Kick-off meeting of the CEI-KEP project “*Development of a training program on Management of Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Rapid Response*”, Belgrade, January 27, 2016. This project, between the *Istituto Superiore di Sanità* and the *Institute of Public Health of Serbia “Dr Milan Jovanović Batut”*, was granted by the Central Europe Initiative.
- b) Lecture by Professor Federico Ferrini, Director of the European Gravitational Observatory – EGO, “*From Einstein’s Prediction to Gravitational Waves Observation: a New Window on the Universe*”, University of Belgrade, April 13, 2016. Professor Ferrini gave a lecture on the recent groundbreaking discovery of gravitational waves, one of the most important finds of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The lecture was live-streamed and is available at <http://media.rcub.bg.ac.rs/?p=5223>.
- c) ISCP 2016 Annual Conference – “*Research to Business Conference on Italian-Serbian Collaboration Platform in Advanced Manufacturing – Fostering Manufacturing Entrepreneurship through Technology Innovation and Skills*”, Belgrade Fair, May 19, 2016. The Conference traditionally brings together Italian and Serbian partners in the field of mechatronics with the goal of expanding scientific and industrial collaboration. The Conference was organized by the Engineering Academy of Serbia with the support of the Italian Embassy in Belgrade, the Serbian Government and AIS<sup>3</sup>. The Conference Program is available at [http://www.ais3.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/ISCP2016\\_Conference\\_PROGRAMME-EN-2016%2005%2006.pdf](http://www.ais3.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/ISCP2016_Conference_PROGRAMME-EN-2016%2005%2006.pdf).
- d) Italian National Holiday, Italian Embassy in Belgrade June 2, 2016. In recognition of the activities and efforts of AIS<sup>3</sup> to promote and improve cooperation between Italian and Serbian scientists and researchers, H.E. Giuseppe Manzo awarded the President of AIS<sup>3</sup>, Ivanka Popović, the medal *Ordine della Stella d'Italia*. The medal is an honour and commitment for AIS<sup>3</sup> to expand its work and activities.
- e) “*IS3 HRC 2016: Italian-Serbian Summer School on Human-Robot Coworking*”, Belgrade, August 22-26, 2016. The summer school was realized as a research/dissemination activity of the project: “*Human-Robot Co-Working as a Key Enabling Technology for the Factories of the Future, Project ID PGR00221*”, within the Executive Program of cooperation in the field of science

and technology between the Italian Republic and the Republic of Serbia for the years 2016-2018.

- f) 2016 Quality of Life Workshop “*Nano for Health*”, “*Mihajlo Pupin*” Institute of the University of Belgrade, September 21, 2016. The fourth QoL Workshop was dedicated to the subject “Nano for Health” and attracted a large number of master and PhD students. Lectures by Italian and Serbian experts stimulated lively discussions. The Workshop was organized by Prof. Dr. Pavle Andjus and Dr. Pavle Spasojević. The QoL Workshop was opened by H.E. Giuseppe Manzo. The Workshop Program is available at <http://www.ais3.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/QoL%20Workshop%202016.pdf>.
- g) “*IV International Official GEANT4 School*”, Belgrade, October 23-28, 2016. COMETA Consortium, together with the Italian Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN-LNS) and the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences organized the IV International Geant4 School under the patronage of AIS<sup>3</sup> and the Italian Embassy. The school had 60 participants from more than 15 different countries all around the world: many of them came from Europe but also US, South African and Russian students joined the event. More information is available at: [http://www.ambelgrado.esteri.it/ambasciata\\_belgrado/it/ambasciata/news/dall-ambasciata/2016/10/iv-international-geant4-school.html](http://www.ambelgrado.esteri.it/ambasciata_belgrado/it/ambasciata/news/dall-ambasciata/2016/10/iv-international-geant4-school.html).
- h) “*Food Quality Policy – the Italian Experience*”, Palazzo Italia, Belgrade, November 22, 2016. This event, organized by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, the Italian Embassy and AIS<sup>3</sup>, presented Italian policies and technologies about high-quality and organic food production to Serbian experts.

## 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.

The websites also posts open calls for partnerships, scholarships and scientific meetings (<http://www.ais3.rs/opportunities/>).

The lack of availability of human resources in ICT and frequent changes in IT personnel at the University of Belgrade affected the dynamics of the website. It is expected that the website will be updated regularly in 2017.

## Publications

The Proceedings of the Italy – Serbia Day “*Italian - Serbian Cooperation on Science, Technology and Humanities*” (Belgrade, November 16, 2015), was published as hard copy, ISBN 978-86-7522-048-0. The co-editors of the Proceedings are Prof. Dr. Pavle Andjus and Dr. Paolo Battinelli. The electronic version is available at <http://www.ais3.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/Libro-Serbia-Italia-terzo-volume.pdf>.

The Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> QoL “*Nano for Health*” Workshop will be published in 2017. All previous publications on Italian-Serbian cooperation may be found 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 number of AIS<sup>3</sup> members is steadily growing. 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, the University of Belgrade and Italian-Serbian bilateral projects. Bilateral projects are funded by the respective Italian and Serbian ministries.

The hospitality and financial support of the “Mihajlo Pupin” Institute of the University of Belgrade is kindly acknowledged and appreciated.

## AIS<sup>3</sup> Action Plan for 2017

- i) Celebrate the fifth anniversary of AIS<sup>3</sup> 2012-2017
- ii) Plan and organize the 5<sup>th</sup> Quality of Life Workshop in Kragujevac on the topic of life sciences
- iii) Plan and organize the first AIS<sup>3</sup> event in Italy in the framework of the *Innovation Village*, Naples, April 6/7, 2017
- iv) Plan and organize a meeting on the topic of astronomy
- v) Plan and organize a meeting in Novi Sad
- vi) Plan the next ISCP Conference - Italian-Serbian Collaboration Platform in Advanced Manufacturing
- vii) Improve the dynamics and visibility of the AIS<sup>3</sup> website
- viii) Organization of the General Assembly (in January and December, 2017)