

Report on bilateral cooperation and on the activities of AIS<sup>3</sup> in the period June 2012 to November, 2013

## Introduction

The Association of Italian and Serbian Scientists and Scholars - AIS<sup>3</sup> was envisioned to serve 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, will strive to bring together researchers from both countries and promote creative solutions and innovations from the academic community. This exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas is expected to lead to further networking and stronger ties with business and industry.

AIS 3 was the brainchild of several enthusiasts, among which the efforts of Dr. Paolo Battinelli, Scientific Attaché of the Italian Embassy in Belgrade and Prof. Dr. Marko Ivetić, former Vice-Rector for Science of the University of Belgrade should be specially recognized.

The kind support of the Italian Embassy in Belgrade has enabled AIS<sup>3</sup> to start fulfilling its purpose.

## First General Assembly, June 25, 2012

The first General Assembly at which the Association of Italian Scientists and Scholars was founded was held on June 25, 2012 at the Rectorate of the University of Belgrade. The General Assembly was attended by the participants of the workshop "Serbia – Italia: Status and Perspectives of Scientific and Technological Bilateral Cooperation". The General Assembly adopted the Statute of the Association (please see <http://www.ais3.rs/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/StatutAIS3en.pdf>).

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

## Steering Committee

The Steering Committee held meetings on July 12, 2012, October 15, 2012, December 11, 2012, July 12, 2013 and October 13, 2013.

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.

## The bilateral agreement between Serbia and Italy for scientific research

The bilateral agreement between Serbia and Italy for scientific research was ratified by the Italian Parliament. The agreement enables mobility as well as “progetti di grande rilevanza”, which means that additional funds, beneficial to Serbia, are expected. Priority areas are: Biomedicine and Health; Agriculture and Food Technologies; Energy and Environmental Protection; Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology; Nanotechnologies and New Materials; Information and Communication Technologies; Technologies Applied to Cultural Heritage.

The first Executive Programme for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Italy and Serbia was signed on July 9, 2013 by H.E. Ambassador Giuseppe Manzo and the Minister of Education Science and Technological Development of Serbia, Prof. Dr. Žarko Obradović. The full list of approved projects is available at [http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica\\_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/Programmi\\_Esecutivi/Accordi\\_programmi\\_culturali\\_tecnologici.htm](http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Politica_Estera/CooperScientificaTecnologica/Programmi_Esecutivi/Accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici.htm).

## Events

### a) *Workshop “Serbia – Italia: Status and Perspectives of Scientific and Technological Bilateral Cooperation”* June 25-26, 2012

The workshop “Serbia – Italia: Status and Perspectives of Scientific and Technological Bilateral Cooperation”, held on June 25-26, 2012 at the University of Belgrade, was the first event organized by AIS<sup>3</sup>. The workshop was opened by H.E. Armando Varricchio, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy and Prof. Dr. Branko Kovačević, Rector of the University of Belgrade. It brought together an array of organizations and researchers covering a broad range of topics. The largest and most influential research organizations from both Italy and Serbia presented their plans and visions for mutual collaboration.

The workshop opened new contacts and strengthened existing ones. It also brought about the eagerly awaited formalization of the cooperation between CNR and the University of Belgrade. The activities of AIS<sup>3</sup> are expected to stimulate partnerships in project proposals for the forthcoming framework program “Horizon 2020”.

The proceedings of the workshop, edited by Dr. Paolo Battinelli and Prof. Dr. Marko Ivetić, are available at <http://ais3.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/Status-and-Perspectives-of-the-Scientific-and-Technological-Cooperation.pdf>.

### b) *„CNR Meets Serbia“*, November 13, 2012

The meeting was opened by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bumbaširević, Rector of the University of Belgrade, H.E. Armando Varricchio, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy and Prof. Dr. Ivanka Popović, President of AIS<sup>3</sup>.

CNR presented its new organization scheme and its priority research areas. Presentations were held by 8 heads of research divisions. The meeting was very well attended, especially by young researchers.

### c) *Agreement between the University of Belgrade and CNR*, September 24, 2013

On September 24, 2013 Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bumbaširević (Rector of the University of Belgrade) and Prof. Dr. Luigi Nicolais (President of the CNR) signed an agreement on scientific cooperation between CNR and University of Belgrade, as agreed at the „CNR Meets Serbia“ meeting .

d) *The First Quality of Life and Research Workshop “Well-being in urban and rural areas”*, September 16, 2013, Belgrade/September 17, 2013, Radmilovac

The flagship event for AIS<sup>3</sup> is an annual event dealing with various aspects of quality of life. The specific topic of the annual event is chosen according to the current activities and strategic interests of AIS<sup>3</sup>, with a strong focus on younger researchers. The first „Quality of Life“ two-day workshop focused on the quality of life and prosperity in urban and rural areas. It was organized by the Italian Embassy, AIS<sup>3</sup> and the Universities of Belgrade and Novi Sad, with eminent keynote speakers from Italy and Serbia, and the active participation of students and young researchers (please see <http://www.ais3.rs/wp-content/uploads/final-vision-report.pdf>). The event was opened by the Rector of Belgrade University, Prof. Vladimir Bumbaširević, the Minister of Agriculture, Prof. Dr. Dragan Glamočić, the Italian Ambassador H.E. Giuseppe Manzo, the Vice-President of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Prof. Dr. Ljubiša Rakić, and Prof. Dr. Ivanka Popović, President of AIS<sup>3</sup>.

The event was part of efforts in the preparation for Serbia’s participation in the 2015 Milan EXPO, with its theme “Feed the planet, energy for life”.

e) *Italian-Serbian Bilateral Workshop on „Science for Cultural Heritage“*, November 12, 2013

The workshop was organized by the Embassy of Italy in Belgrade, AIS<sup>3</sup>, the Italian Development Cooperation and the Serbian network of scientific research institutes related to the field of conservation of cultural heritage (Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Institute of Physics Belgrade, Central Institute for Conservation in Belgrade). The venue of the workshop was the Museum of Yugoslav History in Belgrade. The objective of the workshop was to create an interdisciplinary forum for discussing all aspects of cultural heritage conservation. Italian-Serbian bilateral projects concerning technologies applied to cultural heritage were presented, as were the Italian partner institutions: Sapienza University of Rome, ArsMensuraeInnovazione and ENEA (Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development).

The workshop was opened by H.E. Giuseppe Manzo, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Culture and Media, the Museum of Yugoslav History and the President of AIS<sup>3</sup>.

The support of Dr. Santa Mole, Director of the Italian Development Cooperation in Belgrade to efforts of preserving cultural heritage in Serbia was recognized through a certificate of appreciation.

f) *Italian Language Department at the Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac*, October 23, 2013

The first step toward forming the Italian language department at the University of Kragujevac was taken on April 21, 2011, when a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Foundation Fiat Automobiles Serbia (FAS) and the University of Kragujevac. FAS agreed to organize and conduct internships for students of the University of Kragujevac, award a scholarship to the best PhD student of the University, and also provide full support to the University for establishing international cooperation with universities from Italy. In October 2013, the Italian language

department was established at the Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac; entrance exams were held and 10 students were selected to be the first students of the department.

The official ceremony was held on October 23, 2013, in the University Rectorate. Three visiting professors from the University of Bari Aldo Moro introduced themselves and congratulated the University on the successful establishment of a new department, and wished their future students success during their studies.

The AIS<sup>3</sup> Steering Committee invites all Departments of Italian Language in Serbia to join and become actively involved in AIS<sup>3</sup>.

## 2. Visibility

The main visibility of AIS<sup>3</sup> is through the webpage <http://www.ais3.rs/>.

The persons that are 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.

## 3. Publications

The proceedings of the workshop “*Serbia – Italia: Status and Perspectives of Scientific and Technological Bilateral Cooperation*” held on June 25-26, 2012, edited by Dr. Paolo Battinelli and Prof. Dr. Marko Ivetić, are available at <http://ais3.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/Status-and-Perspectives-of-the-Scientific-and-Technological-Cooperation.pdf>.

## 4. 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.

## 5. 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.

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

## 6. Support

Technical support for the website is provided by Mrs. Irena Odžić and the staff of the Information Center of the University of Belgrade.

ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANI E SERBI SCIENZIATI E STUDIOSI  
АСОЦИЈАЦИЈА ИТАЛИЈАНСКИХ И СРПСКИХ НАУЧНИКА И ИСТРАЖИВАЧА

**AIS<sup>3</sup>**

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