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1. Introduction. The State of Cartography in Italy

This report is intended to provide an overview on the recent state of cartography in Italy, focusing on the activities carried on by the Italian Cartographic Association and, in general, on the structure of cartographic production and analysis.

The rest of the report is organized as follows. The next paragraph introduces the Italian Cartographic Association and its aims. The third paragraph recalls its structure in terms of the Executive Board and the other statute components in the periods 2010-2013 and 2014-2017. It follows an overview on the yearly conferences organized by the association (paragraph 4) and a description and rationale of the yearly prize for young researchers in paragraph 5. The participation of the Italian Cartographic Association to other activities at national levels with sister associations is described in paragraph 6, while in paragraph 7 space is given to the work done with the Bulletin of the Association.

In paragraph 8 the report is focused on the official cartography produced by national mapping agencies and other bodies, while in paragraph 9 the activities of the private sector are introduced. Paragraph 10 is dedicated to universities and research. Links and references and useful contacts in the Italian Cartographic Association conclude the report.

2. The Italian Cartographic Association (AIC)

It is a cultural association which aim is to contribute to developing studies and research on Cartography, to improve the professional cartographic culture among associates and to promote Italian cartographic culture abroad within the international cooperation.

The Italian Cartographic Association has recently celebrated its 50th year since its foundation that took place in 1964. Since the beginning of its history, the Association gathers scholars, professionals, mapping agencies, map makers and simple amateur cartographers in its activities, which include a yearly Conference, a collection of works done by associates into a four-monthly Bulletin, as well as several local activities, these including prizes for young cartographers and for school children. In more recent times the Association evolved and has been more and more active on the national and international contexts involving Geographic Information and Cartography. At national level the Association is part of ASITA, the Italian Federation of the Associations for Environmental and Geographical Information Systems that realize an important yearly national conference on the state of the art of Gi science.

The Association is organized in a General Assembly, that takes place once a year, and the work of an Executive Committee made of 10 members, plus the *de jure* members from Italian National Mapping Agencies.
The Executive Committee is integrated by a consultor organ as the Scientific Committee that is dedicated to counseling on the Bulletin, the yearly AIC prize and the AIC representatives in the national Federation ASITA.

The Association accepts associates interested in cartography, as professionals, academics, mapping agencies, private companies, as well as amateur cartographers.

At present around 150 single associates and 20 bodies (companies, universities, etc.) are part of the Italian Cartographic Association and take part to the General Assembly meetings.

3. The Structure
The Executive Board for the period 2010-2013 was formed by the following members.

President: Giuseppe Scanu
Vice President: Andrea Favretto
Secretary and Treasurer: Ida Zanetti

Other elected members: Serafino Angelini, Felice Di Gregorio, Angelo Penon, Alberta Bianchin*, Antonio Arrighi*, Lucilia Gregori*, Maria Paola Casu*, Margherita Azzari°, Domenico Tacchia°, Paola Zamperlin

*= until 2012
°= from 2012

De Jure members:

Director of the IGM - Italian Geographic Military Institute
Director of the IIM - Italian Navy Hydrographic Institute.
Director of the CIGA – Italian Air Force Geo-topographic Information Centre.
Director of the Italian Cadaster – Department of Territory under the Italian Ministry of Finance.
Director of the (former) Italian Geological Survey - Director of the Department for the Protection of the Land under the Italian Ministry of Environment.

The Scientific Committee was composed by the following people:
Giuseppe Borruso (President), Milena Bertacchini, Giovanni Mauro, Alessandro Nobili, Raffaela Gabriella Rizzo, Sandro Savino, Domenico Tacchia.

The Executive Board for the period 2014-2017 is formed by the following members.

President: Giuseppe Scanu
Vice President: Andrea Favretto
Secretary: Elena Dai Prà
Treasurer: Giovanni Mauro
De Jure members:
Director of the IGM - Italian Geographic Military Institute
Director of the IIM - Italian Navy Hydrographic Institute.
Director of the CIGA – Italian Air Force Geo-topographic Information Centre.
Director of the Italian Cadaster – Department of Territory under the Italian Ministry of Finance.
Director of the (former) Italian Geological Survey - Director of the Department for the Protection of the Land under the Italian Ministry of Environment.

Other Elected Members: Serafino Angelini; Margherita Azzari; Milena Bertacchini; Giuseppe Borruso; Maria Giovanna Riitano; Paola Zamperlin.

Auditors: Francesca Krasna; Marco Mastronunzio.

Arbitrators: Fulvio Landi; Sandro Savino.

The Scientific Committee is composed by the following people:

Giuseppe Borruso (President), Milena Bertacchini, Giovanni Mauro, Alessandro Nobili, Raffaela Gabriella Rizzo, Sandro Savino, Domenico Tacchia.

The president of AIC (Giuseppe Scanu) is also the Director of the Bulletin of the Italian Cartographic Association. An Editorial Board manages the editorial line of the Bulletin and takes contacts with Authors, Referees and the Publisher.

Editorial Board: Giuseppe Borruso, Andrea Favretto, Giovanni Mauro, Raffaela Gabriella Rizzo.
4. The Yearly Conferences

The Italian Cartographic Association organizes every year a national conference in which delegates gather and present their works on cartography. The conference takes place every year in a different city and the results of the conference are published in proceeding volumes, distributed together with the Bulletin.

Conferences are also hosting the General Assemblies, which represent a moment of meeting and exchange of ideas on the state of cartography and future initiatives.


Figure 1. - National Cartographic Conferences in Italy
5. The Prize. AIC Fund for Young Cartographers

The Italian Cartographic Association - Associazione Italiana di Cartografia (AIC) every year issues a competition for a prize for a cartographic product or research work on cartographic theories or techniques.

The 1000 € prize is dedicated to a young researcher and is offered in cooperation with ASITA, the Italian Federation of Scientific Association for the Environmental and Geographical Information (Federazione delle Associazioni Scientifiche per le Informazioni Territoriali e Ambientali).

The works to be prized, that can be also part of wider projects, could be referred to:

- Cartography, particularly if processed to be used in a IT environment (GIS, navigation systems, WEB, data infrastructure);
- Software for cartographic visualization (WEB, teaching resources);
- Research work in cartography as a geographic information tool or for reading spatial processes in a geo-historic interpretation;
- A map, chart or atlas;
- Techniques for elaboration, production, maintenance of cartographic products;
- An innovative cartographic application.

The submitted works must be unpublished ones, and published works are excluded by the selection.

The names of the winners and the rank are on the Italian Cartographic Association website. The first classified is assigned 1000 €, a paper certificate, a free registration to the ASITA National Conference, the publication of a resume, on the proceedings of the ASITA conference, as well as the opportunity to present the work done during the conference days, the publication of the work or on the Bulletin of the Italian Cartographic Association.

The second and third classified will gain a paper certificate, a free registration to the ASITA National Conference and the publication of the work or a resume on the Bulletin of the Italian Cartographic Association.

Prizes are delivered during a ceremony taking place during the yearly Conference ASITA.
6. The Italian Cartographic Association and ASITA - Italian Federation of the Associations for Environmental and Geographical Information Systems

AIC is part of ASITA the Italian Federation of the Associations for Environmental and Geographical Information Systems. It includes national scientific associations of Topography, Geodesy, GIS and Remote Sensing.

ASITA organizes the most important Italian yearly conference on the state of the art of GI science and business, gathering generally between 300 to 400 delegates.

In the present period AIC – Italian Cartographic Association – is also involved in the Federation’s activities, with its president, prof. Giuseppe Scanu, acting also as president of ASITA. AIC’s members are also giving their contribution in the decisions concerning the federation’s life, both from the organizational and scientific points of view. AIC is present in the ASITA federation with three members in the Executive Board and three members in the Scientific Committee of the Federation. ASITA federation publishes proceedings in digital format, available as chapters of a volume indexed with ISBN code.

Figure 2. – ASITA Federation website and the founders (AIC and sister associations) [http://www.asita.it](http://www.asita.it)

The main commitment of the members of ASITA federation is to organize and plan the yearly conference, that takes place every year in a different city. It represents a unique opportunity in Italy to put together professionals, private companies, public bodies, people from academia, schools, involved in the world of Cartography, GIS, Remote Sensing, Photogrammetry and Topography. Recent conferences took place in Colorno (Parma; 2011), Vicenza (2012), Riva del Garda (Trento; 2013) and Florence (2014). The 2015 edition is planned in Lecco.
Figure 3. - ASITA Conferences in the years 2011 - 2014
7. The Bulletin of the Italian Cartographic Association

The Bulletin collects the works done by associates into a peer-review, three-issue per year on-line journal. The Bulletin is open to receive contribution by associates. Associates do not need to be Italian nationals but also international contributors are accepted, as the paper and the Association are more and more oriented towards an international audience. At present associates from France, Greece, Romania and Spain are regular contributors to the Bulletin.

Recently a hard work is ongoing to improve the quality and the level of internationalization of the Bulletin of the Italian Cartographic Association. A few years ago a double blind revision process has been introduced, while now the papers submitted arcome generally either in Italian, English or other languages (i.e., French), but in this latter case holding English Title, abstract and keywords, and from year 2015 a full double language (Italian and English) realization of the common parts of the Bulletin has been introduced.

Figure 4. - A screenshot of OpenStarTS, the Trieste University Press website dedicated to Open Access journal including AIC Bulletin. Available at: http://www.openstarts.units.it/dspace/handle/10077/9933

The Bulletin is distributed as an Open Access Journal by EUT, the University of Trieste Press and the full editions of the Bulletin as well as the single papers can be downloaded in pdf and ePub formats. A process of digitalization and indexation of the older issues of the Bulletin is ongoing, so to make also the papers produced in the past accessibile to associates and other people interested in the topics.
Figure 5. - Screenshots the layout of the Bulletin of the Italian Cartographic Association in its latest form, including Italian / English use of common parts, Title, abstract and keywords, as well as peer-review proof. The issue is available here: http://www.openstarts.units.it/dspace/bitstream/10077/11146/5/barbarella.pdf

a. The Italian Geographical Military Institute (IGMI)

The Italian Geographical Military Institute (IGMI) provides geotopocartographic support to the Units and Commands of the Italian Army. It is officially designed as National Mapping Agency (State cartographic body) since 1960, de facto operating from 1872. IGMI’s activities include:

- production, update and distribution of cartography at small and medium scale;

- aerophotogrammetric coverage of national territory

- set up and management of the geographical database;

- maintenance of state borders;

- conservation of the national historical cartography.

With reference to the base topographic maps, IGMI is based on the 1:50,000 scale maps that are in a constant updating process, while the 1:25,000 production is still carried on, although its update is generally provided by Regions, that are in charge of the large scale maps in Italy.

Figure 6. - The production of the Italian Geographical Military Institute. The Map of Italy
More recently the Institute has undergone a wide process of digitalization of all of its product, including the realization of several examples of “Trittico” that is a 3-map viewer of the traditional topographic and base maps of major Italian cities, with layers consisting of aerial and satellite imagery as well as old paper maps.

b. The Italian Navy Hydrographic Institute (IIM)

Founded on December 26, 1872 as part of the Italian Navy, the Istituto Idrografico della Marina is the Italian Hydrographic Office, in charge of the official nautical documentation for those waters which were internationally assigned to Italy. Its role is to support and contribute to the safety of navigation, to the national defence and to promote the study of all sea-related matters and the protection of the marine environment. The Navy has been in charge of the Hydrographic Service since 1865 The Italian Hydrographic Institute has been operating since 1872

The Istituto Idrografico performs regular surveys of the Italian coasts (over 7,800 km) and seas (over 550,000 km²). Based on such data, the Istituto issues official nautical documentation, consisting of charts, books and Notices to Mariners. Its portfolio currently includes over three hundred charts in different scales, ten Sailing Directions and many other products required for safe navigation, both paper and digital.
c. The Italian Air Force Geo-topographic Information Centre (CIGA)

CIGA is the service dedicated to mapping air routes and features, as well as providing meteorological information. Its base maps derive from those realized by the Italian Geographical Military Institute over which the specific aeronautical features are presented.

It produces the Aeronautical Chart of Italy and is in charge of representing the national air space.
The chart is produced at 1:500,000 scale.

d. The Geological Survey of Italy (ISPRA)

The Geological Survey has undergone structural changes, moving it to become a service of the ministry of the environment. It is dedicated to creating the base geological maps to be used for mapping and evaluating the hydrogeological risks and anthropogenic and natural hazards of the Italian territory. The Geological Survey of Italy has been producing geological maps for over 130 years. In 1999 the Survey as the Department for National Technical Services joined the National Agency for Environmental Protection (ANPA), so a new Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services (APAT) was created. In 2008 APAT, ICRAM (Central Institute for Scientific and Technological Research Applied to the Sea) and INFS (National Institute for Wildlife) giving birth to ISPRA, National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research. So now the Geological Survey of Italy has become the Land Protection and Georesources Department.

Figure 10. - The present production of the Geological Map of Italy and its coverage (blue tiles). An example of the geological map of Italy (La Marmolada, Veneto Region)
http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/Media/carg/veneto.html
http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/Media/carg/28_LA_MARMOLADA/Foglio.html

The Geological Survey carries on several projects. The CARG Project - Geologic and geothematic cartography, involving the creation of 652 geological and geothematic sheets on a scale of 1:50,000 covering the entire national area, and the realization of Geological and Geothematic maps of Italy. CARG Project "involves the creation of a database supplying more detailed geological and geothematic maps enabling cartographic data to be used for many different purposes. It will provide the cognitive tools – geological data – required for proper territorial

AIC – Associazione Italiana di Cartografia – Italian Cartographic Association
planning and management and, in particular, for the prevention, reduction and mitigation of hydrogeological risk” (ISPRA website).

A geoportal has been also developed, to allow sharing and access to the cartographical layers realized by the service.

e. The Ministry of the Environment

The Ministry of the Environment has recently developed applications dealing with integration and harmonization of cartography.

Within the services provided by the Ministry of the Environment, a National Geoportal has been realized to collect some layers of geographic data and maps from official sources, available to the general public to be used as a remote on-line GIS platform.

![Figure 11. - Geomapviewer of the Italian Geological Service](http://sgi.isprambiente.it/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page)

f. The Cadaster - Department of Territory under the Italian Ministry of Finance

The Cadaster service has undergone several structural and organizational changes in the recent past.

In particular the service has, from a technical point of view, started a process of digitalization of its former paper maps. That process took a considerable amount of time, given the difficulties in
putting together maps at very large but different scales, very often deriving from pre-unity maps. In any case the advances made are considerable and the service is today acting both as an important asset in the process of digitalization of geographical features at very large scale, and also as an important historical repository of historical documents as old maps and cartographic products. More recently the Cadaster service has become a “real estate service” inside the Revenue Agency, dedicated therefore to the precise identification of buildings for the tax collection system.

![Figure 12. - Real estate values from Italian Cadaster portal.](http://www.agenziaentrate.gov.it/wps/file/Nsilib/Nsi/Documentazione/omi/Manuali+e+guide/Guida+alla+consultazione+delle+quotazioni+OMI/guida_cons_quotOMI_20130724.pdf)

### g. The Regions

Large scale mapping is realized by Regions, the administrative units that lay at an intermediate level between the State and the Municipalities, and Autonomous Provinces. Municipalities produce their own large and very large scale maps.

Italy is organized in 20 regions (one with two autonomous provinces) that are in charge of realizing large scale cartography, generally and traditionally at scales between 1:2000 - 1:5000 (depending on the kind of territory of the area) and 1:25000.
Each region in the years has moved to digital cartography, initially to a CAD based one and in the more recent years to GIS and geodatabases and geoportals. These portals are more and more made available to the general public for free download and use, in many case under a Creative Common license and according to Open Data policies the state's organizations are acquiring. However there is still a certain level of heterogeneity in the cartographic production and redundancy in the realization of the products by the different organizations and services present in Italy at the different territorial scales.

In the last few years a work of harmonisation of the databases and adoption of standards is ongoing, with regions and national mapping agencies adopting the European INSPIRE initiative to produce common and sharable spatial data.

Also the CISIS CPSG organization is acting as a permanent conference to harmonize the cartographic and geographic production of the different authorities involved. The CISIS is the Inter-regional Centre for Information, Geographical and Statistical Systems. It is working to help the harmonization of data provider according to the INSPIRE framework. A part providing the general public with catalogs of data and open data of regions, the Centre is working to collect some major features (i.e., road networks) and merge them within a unique national database.

The Centre is also acting as a permanent consulting body for public administration bodies to help setting up the geotopographic databases according to the INSPIRE standards.

Figure 13. - CISIS - CPSG Services to access geographical data and open data from Italian Regions
http://www.centrointerregionale-gis.it/servizi/opengeodata.asp
http://www.centrointerregionale-gis.it/servizi/servizi.asp
9. The Private Sector. Mapping Companies

Italy traditionally hosted some important companies dedicated to the realization of cartographic products. Historically DeAgostini and Touring Club produced several maps and atlases of Italy. DeAgostini is today also delivering products via a web-based interface and geographical and cartographical data can be visualized and thematized through the DeAWing portal. Now also other smaller companies are in charge of the private sector's cartographic production. We could remind LAC - Litografia Artistica Cartografica, a traditional cartographic company producing traditional paper maps as well as digital mapping services and solutions. Several companies are active in realizing web-based cartography and 3D visualization, as well as GIS services, as GeoInfoLab, a Sardinia-based company working on 3D modelling.

Figure 14. - DeAgostini "DeAWing" geoportal.
http://www.deagostinigeografia.com/wing/confmondo/confronti.jsp
Italy - given also its geomorphological structure - is also home of several companies dedicated to the production of mountain hiking and ski maps. Among these, Tabacco is providing 1:25000 and 1:50000 maps of Italian Alps and mountain areas (particularly in North and Northeastern regions), still particularly appreciated by users. Recently, the traditional paper production – based on the base maps of IGMI – has been integrated by a set of web services and applications for smartphones and tablets.
Figure 16. - Hiking maps of Italy. Maps by Tabacco.Val di Fassa - Dolomiti fassane.
http://www.tabaccoeditrice.it/ita/map.asp?cat=1&id=6
10. Cartography in Education and Research

Cartography is present in Italian research system in Universities, where GIS and cartographic laboratory are implemented. Cartographic laboratories are well distributed in the Italian education and research system. The research is in line with those carried on at international level. Education is particularly in terms of GIS and Geomatics, little reference is generally given to “Cartography” per se within Bachelor and Master degrees.

Figure 17. – Map of Cartographic Laboratories in Italian Universities. Data provided by University of Salerno (prof. M.G. Riitano) processed by O. Albolino and F. Galluccio, University of Naples “L’Orientale”. Map available here: https://jpsan72.cartodb.com/viz/b356db70-4749-11e5-9a0e-0e0c41326911/map
Figure 18. - Some cartographic production by LabGeo, the Applied Geography Laboratory of the SAGAS Department (University of Firenze. Courtesy: prof. M. Azzari)

Figure 19. - The tourist WebGIS by gislab, the GIS laboratory by DISU Department (University of Trieste. Courtesy: prof. A. Favretto) [http://disugis.units.it/OL/Progetti/mappa.html]
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<td>TOPOGRAPHY LAB</td>
<td>Department of History, Cultures, Archeology, Anthropology, Oriental Studies, History, Geography - University of BOLOGNA</td>
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<td>Department of Ancient, Medieval and Territorial Studies - University of CASSINO AND SOUTHERN LAZIO</td>
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<td>Lab Name</td>
<td>Department/University</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARTOGRAPHY AND GIS LAB</td>
<td>Department of Methods and Models for Economics, Territory and Finance - University of ROME &quot;LA SAPIENZA&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIS LAB FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND HISTORY OF LOCAL AREAS PROSIT PROGETTO SISTEMI INFORMATIVI TERRITORIALI</td>
<td>Department of Architecture, Design and Urban Planning – University of Sassari</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOTECHNOLOGY CENTER (CGT)</td>
<td>University of Siena</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIS AND GEOMATICS LABORATORY- GEOSITLAB</td>
<td>Department of Earth Sciences – University of Turin</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;B. BAGOLINI&quot; LAB</td>
<td>Department of Philosophy, History and Heritage Science – University of Trento</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOLAB - GEOMATIC SERVICE AND TERRITORIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS</td>
<td>Department di Mathematics and Geosciences – University of Trieste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTER FOR INTERDEPARTMENTAL SURVEY SERVICES, CENTRO DI SERVIZI INTERDIPARTIMENTALI DI RILIEVO, CARTOGRAPHY AND PROCESSING</td>
<td>IUAV – University of Venice</td>
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Source: processed by O. Albolino and F. Galluccio, University of Naples "L'Orientale"
11. Links and References

Agenzia delle Entrate / Revenue

AIC – Associazione Italiana di Cartografia / Italian Cartographic Association: http://www.aic-cartografia.it/

ASITA – Federazione delle Associazioni per I Sistemi Informativi Territoriali e Ambientali / Italian Federation of the Associations for Environmental and Geographical Information Systems: http://www.asita.it

CIGA - Centro Informazioni Geotopografiche Aeronautiche / : http://www.aeronautica.difesa.it/communities/catalogoCiga/Pagine/Edizionecorrentecatalogoprodotti.aspx

CISIS – CPSG Comitato Permanente per I Sistemi Informativi Geografici http://www.centrointerregionale-gis.it/script/index.asp

De Agostini Geografica: http://www.deagostinigeografia.com/

DERMAP: http://www.dermap.com/

GeoInfoLab: http://www.geoinfolab.com/


IGM - Istituto Geografico Militare / Italian Geographical Miliary Institute: http://www.igmi.org/


ISPRRA - Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/cartografia ; http://sgi.isprambiente.it/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page

LAC: http://www.lac-cartografia.it/

Ministero dell’Ambiente / Italian Ministry of Environment: http://www.pcn.minambiente.it/GN/

OpenStarTS EUT – Edizioni Università di Trieste / University of Trieste Press Open Access portal: http://www.openstarts.units.it/dspace/handle/10077/9933

Rivista Geomedia: http://www.rivistageomedia.it/
12. Contacts

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Social networks

Twitter profile: @aic_it

Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/AIC-Associazione-Italiana-di-Cartografia/146500192089911