REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE in MERANO

The Conference on Acoustics AIA-DAGA 2013, the Euroregio joint event which included the 39th annual congress of DEGA and the 40th annual congress of AIA, was held in Merano from March 18 to 21, 2013. The Conference achieved resounding success, both for its scientific significance and the impressive attendance.

Regarding the scientific aspects of this event, it is worth mentioning the 6 keynote lectures, the 644 papers included in the 59 general and structured sessions covering all the topics on acoustics and the 136 posters, discussed in two different sessions. All the presentations were arranged in 16 rooms. The keynotes covered the following topics: “Acoustics of historical opera houses in Italy: past, present and future”, “The secret life of bubbles in a sound field”, “On the use of scientific tools in today’s violin making”, “Speed of sound in fluids”, “Low-frequency sound - a special sound”, “Trends in binaural technology”. In addition, 38 European companies, operating in many fields of Acoustics, took part in the exhibition on instrumentation and another 7 companies sponsored the Conference by scientific literature and other means, giving the participants a unique opportunity to upgrade their technical skills.

Regarding the Conference attendance, it is worth mentioning that there were more than 1300 participants, coming not only from Italy (19.5 %) and Germany (56.6 %) but also from many other European (22.8 %) and Extra-European (1.1 %) Countries.

Full texts of the plenary lectures, papers and posters presented at the AIA-DAGA 2013 have been included in a CD-Rom that will be available from June 2013.

Within the Conference the following satellite events were held from 15 to 23 March:
- EAA Winter School: one course on “Approaching acoustics” (90 participants) and five hot topic courses on “Cutting edge in spatial audio”, “Computational acoustics”, “Synergies between environmental noise control and soundscape approach”, “Understanding musical instruments in theory and praxis”, “Introduction to aeroacoustics” (a total of 159 participants attended to the hot topic courses);
- DEGA Precolloquium: “Computation, simulation and modelling in acoustics”;
- two AIA workshops “Classroom acoustics”, “Global quality in buildings: environment, energy, acoustics” (more than 400 participants overall);
- 28 meetings, among which the Boards and General Assembly of AIA, DEGA and EAA; DEGA TC Meetings; EAA TCs Meetings; ITG-FA Meeting; DIN-NALS Meeting; Young Acoustician Meeting; LIFE Workshop, EUFP Workshop; AIA Technical Groups Meetings; COST TD 0804 Final Conference on “Soundscape of European Cities and Landscape”.

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Overall, Merano was able to attract more than 1600 people, thus being – for one week – the capital of our important discipline of Acoustics indeed!
The density of acousticians, the immediate vicinity of a picturesque city within its breathtaking landscape and the bicultural spirit of Southern Tyrol were able to improve and strengthen the professional and personal spirit of friendship between the delegates, the Italian and German Acoustical societies and their European and International Acoustical environment.
The great success of this Conference is due to the valuable synergies developed among many parts. First of all it is due to the many participating colleagues, their qualified scientific contributions and their active and sociable presence in Merano. Then it is due to the whole Conference organization staff of AIA-DAGA/Euroregio 2013 who has worked hard in close cooperation for 4 years, doing its best to set up good conditions for such a big event.
Last but not least, this success is due to the support and effective cooperation of various local entities (Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Bolzano Environmental Protection Agency, Merano Municipality and Merano Tourist Office) as well as by the friendliness and warmth we received by the people of South Tyrol during our stay in Merano.