



INQUA 2025 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 2025, the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) maintained its strong engagement in advancing research and expanding knowledge in the Quaternary sciences by supporting a range of projects, workshops, fellowships and collaborations with other scientific organisations. Significant efforts were also dedicated to supporting the organisation of the XXI INQUA Congress in 2027.

INQUA Foundation

The new INQUA website, launched at the end of 2024, features an updated design, improved navigation, and enhanced accessibility, significantly increasing community engagement and making it easier to access resources, publications, and information on upcoming events. This new platform further supports collaboration and knowledge sharing within the Quaternary science community. It is worth mentioning that, in terms of the website's carbon footprint, INQUA is doing better than the global average for carbon. In addition, the INQUA logo was redesigned to match the website's style, and a social media strategy was developed.

The foundation is now undergoing an official audit process.

INQUA Executive Committee

In March 2025, the INQUA Board met in person in Zaragoza, Spain, to discuss organisational matters. Among the issues discussed during the meeting were strategies to increase community engagement, particularly from underrepresented regions, a proposal to introduce new topics synthesised around five themes, and a donation scheme to support discussions ahead of the centennial meeting. Also, it was decided that projects can be submitted by PI/CO-PI coming from INQUA paying members. However, participation in project activities is open worldwide. After this meeting, Spain joined as a full-member. Dr. Opeyemi Adewumi was appointed as the new ECR representative.

The XXII INQUA Congress 2027

The INQUA delegation visited the venue of the XXII INQUA Congress 2027 in February 2025. The President of the XXI INQUA Congress 2027 provides regular updates to the Executive Committee on the status of the Congress organisation.

INQUA Secretariat

Aritina Haliuc continues to serve INQUA as secretary remotely, contributing to administrative work.

INQUA Project Funding

In 2025, INQUA received 38 Project applications (11 multi-year, 15 single-year, and 11 skill activity), out of which 13 were awarded. In addition, INQUA approved the continuation of 8 multi-year projects started in 2023. A mid-term INQUA IRN (Project) meeting took place in July, with presentations by the

project leaders. Commission Presidents, the secretary, the VP of Commissions and INQUA President participated in this meeting.

INQUA Fellowship Program

The INQUA Fellowship Program financially supports early-career scientists (ECRs) and scientists from low- and middle-income countries/developing countries (DCRs) to gain international quaternary research experience at a foreign institution for 3-6 months. In 2025, INQUA received 70 applications; 7 were awarded. In May 2024, a welcome fellows meeting was organised by the VP.

INQUA Medals

The Sir Nicholas Shackleton Medal for Outstanding Young Quaternary Scientists is awarded once every two years to an outstanding young Quaternary scientist. In 2025, INQUA received 13 applications, out of which 6 candidates were invited for an interview. Professor Dr. Nicole Khan from the University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong) was the recipient of the Shackleton medal.

INQUA Publications

Our INQUA/Elsevier journal Quaternary International published 35 issues in 2025. In 2025, prof. Liping Zhou (Peking University, Beijing, China) joined Prof. Pierluigi Pieruccini as editor-in-chief. At the end of October 2025, Quaternary International underwent a renewal of the Associate Editorial Team with new members joining. Former Associate Editors reached the end of their six-year term.

The INQUA/Elsevier Journal, titled Quaternary Environment and Humans, published 3 volumes. INQUA's Newsletter, Quaternary Perspectives, published two issues in 2025, with many exciting contributions reporting on ongoing projects.

The INQUA Monthly Newsletter publishes 12 issues per year, compiling up-to-date information in the field.

INQUA Participation in International Initiatives in 2024

INQUA is affiliated with other international scientific unions/organizations and supports several global initiatives. INQUA is a full member of and active within the International Science Council (ISC). INQUA Executive members attended meetings of the ISC -GeoUnions and the Delegate meeting of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). INQUA participated in the General Assembly of the Earth-Humanity Coalition.

INQUA is part of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, 2024-2033 (IDSSD). The Commission on Geoheritage (ICG) of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) initiated a successful initiative, the identification and recognition of iconic geologic sites. INQUA is one of the partners of the project and coordinates the submission of Quaternary sites and plays a role in the selection of the submitted Quaternary Geoheritage site proposal.

In cooperation with the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), INQUA will participate in organising a workshop for Early Career Researchers (ECR). The event will take place between 4 and 8 June 2026, at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (India).

Rome, February 5, 2026

Laura Sadori, INQUA President

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