

TOWARDS CRITERIA OF EVALUATION OF RESEARCH AND RESEARCHERS: STATE OF THE ART FIVE YEARS AFTER THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR RESEARCHERS

di Laura Teodori, Zofia Maciorowski and Bruno Betrò

We are pleased to announce the ESOF2010 satellite event organized by ANPRI (Associazione Nazionale Professionale per la Ricerca - Italian Professional Association for Research) which will take place in Turin July 2, 2010. Please visit the ESOF 2010 page at: <http://www.esof2010.org/programme/satellite>. ESOF (Euroscience Open Forum), created by Euroscience (<http://www.euroscience.org>), is a pan-European meeting dedicated to scientific research and innovation. At the ESOF meetings, leading scientists, researchers, young researchers, business people, entrepreneurs and innovators, policy makers, science and technology communicators and the general public from all over the world discuss new discoveries and debate the direction that research is taking in the sciences, humanities and social sciences. ESOF takes place every two years in a major European city (Stockholm, Munich, Barcelona, Turin, Dublin) and presents breakthroughs in disciplines as varied as mathematics, music, geography and genetics through a range of different formats including lectures and workshops. ESOF presents and discusses the frontiers of scientific and technological research in Europe, contributes to the development of a European Scientific Identity, bridges the gap between science and society and stimulates policies to support scientific research (<http://www.esof2010.org/>).

The ANPRI international workshop will spotlight the sustained effort of our association to contribute to the establishment of a fair evaluation system for research performance and output of individuals, research groups and Institutions in Governmental Research Entities. As part of global competition, the need to identify and support excellence in research is increasingly valuable.

Research is an essential part of innovation and the consequent generation of wealth in advanced countries, thus justifying the necessity for policy makers and the wider public to have insight into the quality of research output. Research activity is not as easy to evaluate and rank as other domains of the Civil Service (PA). The International Scientific Community has elaborated a set of scientific indicators, mainly derived from the "web of sciences" published by Thompson Scientific. Unfortunately, such evaluation techniques are difficult to import into the Italian context, where we struggle against endemic nepotistic research management, from funding and resource allocation to career development and job opportunities, with long standing opposition to the introduction of appropriate rules for researchers. Our association has engaged in a debate, via the organization of international meetings, workshops and conferences, in which we invite leading experts in the field of scientometrics to propose a fair and ethical pathway to establish a road map for an international evaluation system. The result of this ongoing debate, along with an overview of the Italian evaluation system and career development in Governmental Research Institutes will be presented and compared with the situation in other European countries. The program includes the participation of outstanding speakers. We are waiting for final confirmation of Italian and European political interlocutors at the highest level.

The agenda also includes the Vincenza Celluprica Memorial Award for outstanding dissertations in the field of Policy of Science. Attendance at the workshop is free. We would like to encourage you all to participate.

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For the last 17 years, I have been responsible for the flow cytometry core facility of the Curie Institute in Paris, France. Born and brought up in Canada, I received my B.Sc. at McGill University in Montreal, and my MSc at Wayne State University in Detroit. I have been involved with ISAC, the International Society for the Advancement of Cytometry, for the past 8 years, as co-chair with Laura Teodori of the Membership Services Committee, and currently as Chair of the Education Committee.

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