

#### **Executive Committee and Council Member Meeting 2019**

#### Tirana, Albania, 25 September 2019

The meeting started at 17:15 and finished at 19:30.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome address (C. Dazzi; P. Zdruli)
- 2. Report by the President (C. Dazzi)
- 3. Report by the Treasurer (W. Cornelis)
- 4. Report by the Secretary (E. Costantini)
- 5. Report by the Editor in Chief (M. Fullen)
- 6. Info on the 9th ESSC International Congress (P. Zdruli)
- 7. Gerold Richter award 2019
- 8. Young person's award 2019
- 9. Proposal from Marketing Edinburg
- 10. Proposal from Soil System
- 11. Toward a 2020 2024 new ESSC Executive Committee and Council
- 12. Reflection on ESSC future activity and organization (all participants)
- 13. Any other business

Participants: Carmelo Dazzi, Edoardo Costantini, Josè Rubio, Pandi Zdruli, Peter Strauss, Ildefonso Pla Sentis, Ádám Kertész, Lillian Øygarden.

#### 1. Welcome address

President Dazzi thanks all Council members for coming and particularly the colleagues of the Tirana University, who organized the 9<sup>th</sup> ESSC conference

#### 2. Report by the President

In his introductory speech the President reports the activities carried out by the society during the last 4 years term, mentioning, in particular:

- In the year 2015, the society promoted a petition to add again the Soil Thematic strategy in the agenda of the EU parliament.
- From 18 to 22 May 2015, the Timiryazev State Agrarian University (Moscow, Russia) hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> ESSC international Congress on "Agroecological assessment and functional-environmental optimization of soils and terrestrial ecosystems (AGROFOSTER)".

- In the year 2016, the society organised a Booth (together with IUSS and BSSS) at the EGU conference.
- Always in 2016, 15-18 of June, the society organised the annual international conference of European Society for Soil Conservation (ESSC) in 2016 in Cluj Napoca, Romania,.
- In the year 2017 the 8<sup>TH</sup> ESSC INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS was organized in Lleida, Spain. The 1st World Conference on Soil and Water Conservation under Global Change (CONSOWA), was a joint Conference of the "International Soil Conservation Organization" (19th ISCO Conference), the "World Association for Soil and Water Conservation" (WASWAC International Conference), the "European Society for Soil Conservation" (8th ESSC Congress), the "International Union of Soil Science (IUSS-Commissions 3.2, 3.6), the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), the "International Erosion Control Association" (IECA) and the "World Association for Sedimentation and Erosion Research" (WASER) in parallel with the VIII Simposio Nacional sobre Control de la Degradación y Restauración de Suelos (SECS)
- In the year 2017 the ESSC participated to the organization of the "International Conference: Soil Classification: A Powerful Tool for Planning Soil Conservation" in Riga, Latvia, in collaboration with the WRB group of the IUSS.
- In 2017 the society organized the Workshop "The contribution of the Soil Science Societies
  to scientific knowledge, education and sustainability" in collaboration with IUSS, WASWAC,
  and SSSA
- In the year 2018, ESSC celebrated 30 years of activities organizing the International Conference "Soil and Water Security: Challenges for the next 30 years!" in Imola (Italy)
- In the year 2019, the society promote the position paper "The contribution of the European Society for Soil Conservation (ESSC) to scientific knowledge, education and sustainability." by Dazzi, C., Cornelis, W., Costantini, E.A.C., Dumitru, M., Fullen, M.A., Gabriels, D., Kasparinskis, R., Kertész, A., Lo Papa, G., Pérès G., Rickson, J., Rubio, J.L., Sholten, T., Theocharopoulos, S., Vasenev, I. (2019) N. 7: 102-107. International Soil and Water Conservation Research. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iswcr.2018.11.003.
- In 2019 ESSC also promoted the petition to ERC aiming at the establishment of an ERC panel specifically dedicated to the field of "Soil Science" in its broad meaning.
- Finally, in the year 2019, the ESSC organized its  $9^{TH}$  ESSC INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS in Tirana, Albania.

#### 3. Report by the Treasurer

The president reads the Report by the Treasurers (attached). Participants unanimously approve the budget. In the effort to reduce the deficit, Peter Strauss suggests not to print the newsletter in paper form but only digitally. After a vivid discussion, the Council decides, in its majority, to produce the newsletter only electronically.

Always to improve the budget of the society, Ildefonso Pla suggests adding a small money for the ESSC to the conferences organized by ESSC, instead of charging member with a fee. The Council unanimously agrees and decides to add a little sum to the fee of every conference and congress organised, partially or totally, by the ESSC. This money should be transmitted by the local organizers to the Treasure of the ESSC, together with the list of paying people. People who want to participate

to the events, without being involved as member of the society, should pay more the registration fee. Therefore, exemplifying, the registration fee should be X, membership fee Y and discount for being member of ESSC Z: people who want to be member of ESSC will pay X+Y-Z, being Z more than Y. The President highlights that this new procedure will entail the change of the statute. Lillian agrees for ESSC conference and congress, but for conferences where ESSC is one of the organizers-maybe also co- organisers would like to have a part of the fee. In such cases she suggests that it has to be made an agreement for each conference.

Ildefonso Pla also suggests producing an alert for more urgent news, in addition to newsletter. The Council does not see the feasibility of this proposal and underlines that we already have the Web page and the Facebook page to spread important news.

#### 4. Report by the Secretary

The Secretary introduces the secretary report (attached). Like the former years, the secretary has been also taking care of the Facebook page. Through that tool, it is possible to summarize the state of the art of the ESSC, as it results from the Facebook statistics. In the year 2019, there was still a noticeable interest toward the information provided by ESSC through the Facebook page, much larger than the society's members. Nevertheless, the society remains within its niche dimension.

- 1. Currently, 1657 people like ESSC and read the Facebook page, they were 1335 in 2018, 1180 in 2017, 852 in 2016 and 389 in 2015.
- 2. Apart from Italy, ESSC followers were mainly from outside Europe. Among the other European nationalities, there were people from Spain, UK, Germany, and Romania.
- 3. It seems that the web page is mainly reached by young people, browsing Facebook, possibly not members of the society.
- 4. Therefore, the Facebook information of the ESSC is much appreciated outside the European boundaries of the society. Nevertheless, as noticed last years, there is a clear positive impact of the organisation of the ESSC conferences, including the launch of Grants.
- 5. The impact of the issue of the newsletters instead, and of the news in the ESSC web page soilconservation.eu, are hardly recognizable.
- 6. Posts with photos and videos confirm their positive impact and should be increased.
- 7. The linkages with other pages could be improved, to get a better visibility of the society. In particular, the linkages with the web pages of national soil science societies and of other societies dealing with soil and water conservation should be promoted. Members of the ESSC might consider asking managers of web pages of their societies to activate a link to that of ESSC.

#### 5. Report by the Editor in Chief

The President reads the report by the Editor in Chief (attached). The Council acknowledges the huge work done by the newsletter editors and the difficulties currently occurring to the editorial board.

The Council suggests writing to the Editor asking if a practical contribution from a young fellow of him, paid by the society, could help in overcoming the problem.

#### 6. Info on the 9th ESSC International Congress

Pandi Zdruli reports that 70 papers will be presented, as oral or poster, and 80 people are supposed to participate. The Council thanks very much the local organizers for the excellent and huge work made for the success of the event.

#### 7. Gerold Richter award 2019

The President communicates that one proposal has been submitted for the appointment of the award, regarding Edoardo Costantini. The president summaries the motivations for the nomination reported in the submission (attached) and suggest approving it. The Council unanimously approves awarding Edoardo Costantini with the Gerold Richter award.

#### 8. Young person's award 2019 and grants for the ESSC Tirana congress

The President reports the outcomes of the evaluation process of the candidatures for the young person's award 2019. There has been only one candidature, which was anyway carefully examined by the President, Secretary and Treasurer and winner of the award resulted Dr Alexey Dimov.

The President also reports the outcomes of the evaluation process of the candidatures for the grants for the ESSC Tirana congress 2019. The evaluators were the President, Secretary and Treasurer. Six young researchers applied, and the winners resulted Dr. Valeria Cardelli from Italy and Dr. Viktoriia Hetmanenko from Ukraine. Both attended the Congress and presented their work orally.

#### 9. Proposal from Marketing Edinburg

The president introduces the proposal from Marketing Edinburg, about hosting a future Congress or conference of the society. The Council unanimously decides to answer that ESSC appreciates the offer, but we are not in the position to accept the offer provided that no conferences are foreseen so far in UK for the next future.

#### 10. Proposal from Soil System

The president introduces the proposal from the journal Soil System, about hosting papers produced by members of the society in its open source journal. The Council decides, in its majority, to answer that ESSC appreciates the offer, but we are not in the position to accept the offer provided that the journal has no IF and researchers are forced to publish on IF journals for their career.

#### 11. Toward a 2020 – 2024 new ESSC Executive Committee and Council

The President reminds the Council the process of renewal of the ESSC Executive Committee and Council. Unfortunately, in spite of the many calls for candidatures, no replays have arrived. Costantini observes that the efforts payed by the member of the Council in involving new and young people in the society have been unsuccessful. A vivid discussion is started, pointing to the fact that

all European scientific societies are having trouble, apart from EGU, which is actually cannibalizing all the others. Activities on soil conservation, in particular, are currently supported by big financing organisms, like the EC Commission and FAO, through the Global Soil Partnership.

#### 12. Reflection on ESSC future activity and organization

The discussion highlights that the current organization of the society is too complex for the few active members of it. Already in the last year Council meeting in Imola, Peter Strauss had suggested structuring the Council in a more effective way, by creating a different structure for the Management Committee, able to meet more frequently, also in a telematic way, and take decisions in a more efficient way. Moreover, he suggested to reorganize the ESSC council in a way to more efficiently account for the small number of participants at the council meetings. The Council had already agreed on his proposal in Imola. In the present meeting, the Council reiterates the approval and asks Peter Strauss to prepare a draft for a new statute by the next year, to face the current situation of the society, which needs a simplification of its organisms. Peter is also asked to delineate in the proposal of statute the suggested new procedure to pay membership of the society.

#### 13. Any other business

Ádám Kertész announces his resigning from the position of vice-President. Adam explains his situation of being retired and not having any financial supports. He will continue following the activities of the society but without any responsibility. The Council acknowledges the dedicated work and service to the society given by Adam for so many years and the President awards him with a certificate of excellence.

Lillian presents a proposal for the next conference to be hold in Norway. The Conference will be focused on soil and water conservation under changing climate in Northern or high-altitude conditions. It will be organised in cooperation between ESSC, IUSS, NJF. The Council supports the proposal, provided that the Conference will be scientifically open to members of the other countries.

The secretary

Edoardo A.C. Costantini

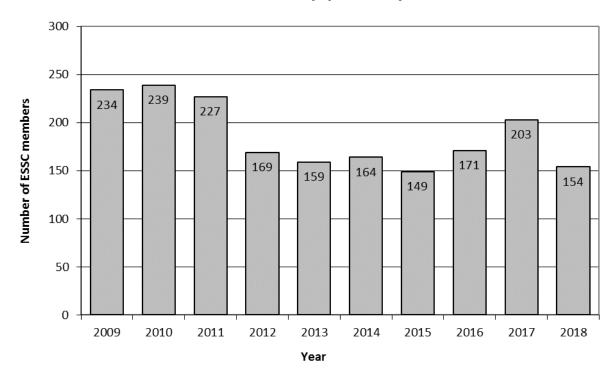


# **Treasurer Report 2018**

**ESSC Council Meeting 2019** 

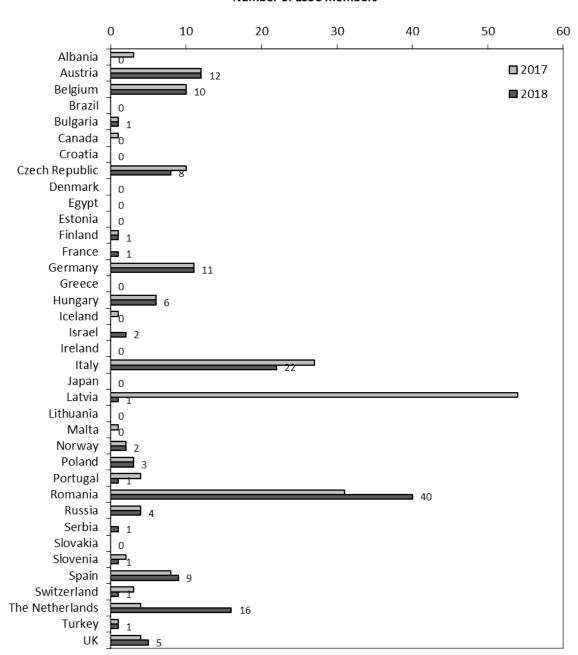
Tirana, Albania, 25 September 2019

# **Evolution ESSC membership past 10 years: 2009-2018**



### ESSC membership per country in 2016-2017

#### **Number of ESSC members**



Note: numbers refer to members in 2018

## **Financial Report**

### **Overview 2014-2018**

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Budget January 1 (EUR)	12535.34	11874.17	11695.24	12845.96	10158.82
Income (EUR)					
Membership contributions	463.00	2076.67	4236.30	2856.13	1406.50
Interest (bank account)	8.43	7.04	0.35	0.00	0.00
Books sold	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conferences	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total (EUR)	471.43	2083.71	4236.65	2856.13	1406.50
Expenses (EUR)					
Newsletters	0.00	1195.90	$0.00^{*}$	3499.60*	2704.72*
Bank Account	32.60	45.87	47.29	44.14	48.04
Conferences	1100.00	1000.00	2231.79**	1999.53**	2445.21**
Other Expenses	0.00	20.87**	806.85***	0.00	55.08***
Total (EUR)	1132.60	2262.64	3085.93	5543.27	5259.10
Balance (EUR)	-661.17	-178.93	1150.72	-2687.14	-3852.60
Budget December 31 (EUR)	11874.17	11695.24	12845.96	10158.82	6306.22

<sup>\*</sup> Newsletters 01/2016, 02/2016

Grants to young scientists for ESSC Conference in Imola (Italy) (3 x 500 EUR)

Ghent, 13 September 2019

Prof. Dr. Wim Cornelis

**ESSC Treasurer** 

<sup>\*\*</sup> Reimbursement activities ESSC president (592.07 EUR) Refund Imola conference (353.14 EUR)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Web hosting service

### **Secretary report**

# **ESSC Council Meeting 2019**

## Tirana, Albania, 25 September 2019

The secretary has continued supporting the Presidency in all societal actions, as well as the Newsletter editor, the treasure, and the web master. The secretary has also contributed to the organization of the present 9th International Congress, included the Grants for young researchers.

Like the former years, the secretary has been also taking care of the Facebook page. Through that tool, it is possible to summarize the state of the art of the ESSC, as it results from the Facebook statistics.

Currently, 1657 people like ESSC and read the Facebook page, they were 1335 in 2018, 1180 in 2017, 852 in 2016 and 389 in 2015 (Fig. 1).

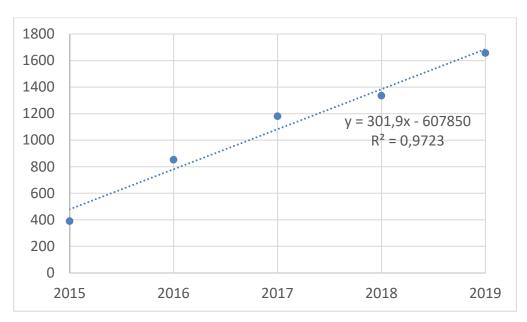


Figure 1 - "I like" trend during the last years. The positive increase is highly significant. There are about 317 new likes every year, with a recovery in 2019 after the decrease of 2018. This could be due to the organisation of the Tirana conference.



Figure 2 - The average number of people who viewed a post in the last year was 61, slight less than last year, 72. The Tirana conference however has played a great role in improving the performance.



Figure 3 – The top source is Facebook, followed by our web page soilconservation.eu. Last year there was a driving effect of the Imola conference through the web page of the University of Bologna. Possibly more external links could improve the visibility of our Facebook page.

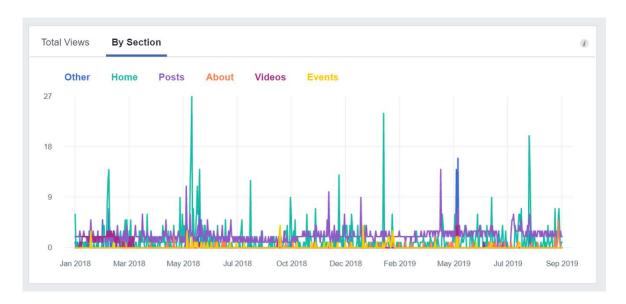


Figure 4 – The home section is the most attractive. There is an important role played by photos and videos.



Figure 5 - Similarly to last years, people who like ESSC are mainly from Italy, Brazil, Egypt, Pakistan, India, Spain.

#### In conclusion,

- 1. In the year 2019, there was still a noticeable interest toward the information provided by ESSC through the Facebook page, much larger than the society's members. Nevertheless, the society remains within its niche dimension.
- 2. Apart from Italy, ESSC followers were mainly from outside Europe. Among the other European nationalities, there were people from Spain, UK, Germany, and Romania.
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The secretary

Edoardo A.C. Costantini

### Report of the Editor-in-Chief (Mike Fullen) to ESSC Council Tirana (Albania), 25 September 2019

- 1. The Editor-in-Chief (Mike Fullen, MAF) sends his apologies for absence from the ESSC Council meeting.
- 2. Progress with the ESSC Newsletter has been slow. Both the Editor-in-Chief and Deputy Editor have health problems. Possible strategies to remedy the situation have been suggested by MAF to the ESSC Council, with particular details relayed to ESSC President Carmelo Dazzi.
- 3. Since the appointment of the new editorial team in May 2004, 32 Newsletters have been published. MAF thanks the commitment and support of the Assistant Editor (Dr Colin Booth, CAB), the Editorial team in Bratislava, Professor Carmelo Dazzi, Professor José Rubio and the ESSC Executive Committee. The 'Guest Editorials' are proving popular and, to date, 25 have been published. Guest Editorial #26 has been received from Professor Jane Rickson for the next ESSC Newsletter.
- 4. Catena Verlag has kindly agreed to publish a book based on Guest Editorials. This will be entitled 'Global Perspectives on Soil Conservation.' This will form part of the Catena 'Advances in GeoEcology' series. In principle, it is agreed that there will be future volumes, associated with the four-year cycle of Congresses of the ESSC. Work on Volume 1 is making slow, but sure, progress.
- 5. The Book 'Advances in GeoEcology 44' (a book based on papers presented at the ESSC Congress in Thessaloniki in May 2011) has been completed and includes 25 chapters. The Book has received favourable reviews. The citation details are: M.A. Fullen, J. Famodimu, T. Karyotis, C. Noulas, A. Panagopoulos, J.L. Rubio and D.R. Gabriels (Eds) (2015). <u>Innovative Strategies and Policies for Soil Conservation</u>. Advances in GeoEcology 44. Catena, Reiskirchen, 274 pp. (ISBN: 978-3-923381-62-3, US ISBN: 1-59326-266-3).
- 6. The 'ESSC members citation list (2000-to date)' and the 'PhD theses completed by ESSC Members (2004-to date)' are proving popular in both the printed and webversions of the Newsletter. The citation details of Ph.D. theses by ESSC members since and including 2004 have been added as an additional page to the ESSC web-site. To date, the citation details and abstracts of 51 PhD theses are quoted. Currently, the number of quoted publications cited on the web-page is 721. These information sources are proving useful for both teaching and research. It is suggested that the Council discuss whether the database should be revised into an interactive format on the ESSC web-site. This would improve searches on the web-site.
- 7. Council members who have not already done so, are requested to provide MAF with the citation details of papers in international refereed journals and book chapters published since (and including) the year 2000.
- 8. We are not getting as many articles as anticipated relating to the PhD process.
- 9. The ESSC web-site is developing well, and the team in Bratislava continue their splendid work in supporting web-site development and maintenance. Karol Végh (KV)

is leading ESSC publications (Newsletter and ESSC web-site) at Bratislava. Our sincere thanks go to Karol. KV has developed and launched a new version of the ESSC web-site and this revised web-site is proving popular. For administrative purposes, Karol has arranged for the web-site to be hosted on an external server. The publication activities of the ESSC based at Bratislava is receiving the full support of Professor Dr Pavol Bezák (the new Director of the National Agriculture and Food Centre, Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute at Bratislava). The e-mail address of Professor Bezák is: p.bezak@vupop.sk

- 10. The development of the ESSC Facebook page continues to make good progress and, judging from both the quality and quantity of contributions to the Facebook page, is having a major impact on the global Soil Conservation community. Special thanks are due to ESSC President Carmelo Dazzi and ESSC Secretary Edoardo Costantini for their prolific, sustained and high-quality contributions to the ESSC Facebook page.
- 11. As agreed at the ESSC Council Meeting in May 2011, all Presidents of European Soil Science Societies have been offered a paper copy of the ESSC Newsletter. Four Presidents have accepted the invitation. Most stated they were happy to view the Newsletter on-line.
- 12. At the ESSC Council meeting in Průhonice (Czech Republic) on 23/06/2009, it was agreed that ESSC Newsletters should carry reports on soil erosion and conservation in specific countries. To date, there have been five reports:

Czech Republic by Jana Podhrázská (Issue 2010/3, p. 25-31). Greece by Theodore Karyotis and Constantine Kosmas (Issue 2011/1, pages 11-25). Iceland by Andres Arnalds and Johann Thorsson (Issue 2012/2, pages 10-21). Italy by Edoardo Costantini (Issue 2013/2, pages 7-18). Romania by Ion Ionita (Issue 2016/2, pages 3-9).

It is requested that the ESSC Council invites an Albanian colleague to write a report on 'Soil erosion and conservation in Albania' to be published in the ESSC Newsletter.

- 13. MAF has received suggestions for a soil photo archive to be made available on the ESSC web-site. It is suggested the Council discuss this possibility.
- 14. Progress has been made in preparing a publication reviewing the development of the ESSC since its launch in 1989. Professor José Rubio is particularly active in progressing this project.
- 15. The Soil Conservation Group at the University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) is making a valuable contribution to disseminating information on ESSC activities on their Facebook page. It is very positive that we have such a young and dynamic research group contributing to ESSC activities. Further information is available at: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/horea.cacovean?fref=hovercard&hc\_location=none">https://www.facebook.com/horea.cacovean?fref=hovercard&hc\_location=none</a>

#### NOMINATION OF DR. EDOARDO A.C. COSTANTINI

Dear President,

I herewith nominate dr. Edoardo A.C. Costantini for the Gerold Richter award of the ESSC for the year 2019.

Dr. Costantini is a worldwide renown pedologist and agronomist, expert in soil genesis, classification, mapping and conservation. Soil conservation has always been at the centre of his interest in his research, teaching, and dissemination activities.

He started to do research work in the eighties by the Agronomy Experimental Institute of Modena and by the Experimental Institute for Soil Study and Conservation of Florence, where he collaborated with prof. Giancarlo Chisci, one of the funders of the ESSC and most prominent soil conservationists of any time. He participated to the seminal research works carried out by prof Chisci in the study of soil erosion and particularly on the quantification of soil losses and on the relationships with land use and management. In the Institute of Florence, he also collaborated with two others major soil conservationists, prof. Giuliano Rodolfi, on relating soil erosion and geomorphological processes, and dr. Luciano Lulli, on the contribution of soil properties to erosion forms. The ability to conduct interdisciplinary research work based on the interactions between Pedology, Geomophology and Agronomy paved the road for his pioneering study of the relationships between soil suitability for vine cultivation, wine quality and soil erosion through a territorial approach, which was the first published research work highlighting the consequences of excessive land levelling and bulldozing on vine grape production and wine quality (Costantini, 1992). A similar approach has been also applied to forest stands, to evaluate the consequences of silviculture on soil regeneration (Costantini 1993). During the following years, dr. Costantini developed relevant collaborations with other outstanding soil scientists in the field of soil conservation, namely, dr. Marcello Pagliai (Lagomarsino et al., 2010; Barbetti et al., 2010; Pagliai et al., 2013), prof. Carmelo Dazzi (Dazzi and Costantini 2008; Costantini and Dazzi, 2013, 2014; Dazzi et al., 2019) and prof. Cristina Branquinho (Costantini et al., 2015, 2016; Nunes et al., 2016, 2019).

Another breakthrough in soil conservation was the introduction of the concept of soil heritage among geosites, with the pioneer work on the recognition of soils as part of our cultural heritage (1999) and following researches on pedodiversity, with methodological studies and applications (Costantini et al., 2007, 2009, 2012a, 2012b, 2016).

The extension of the notion of soil heritage to agro-ecosystems allowed the introduction in the scientific arena of the concept of soil as support of best terroir for wine production, since they formed because of past geomorphological events, which are no more reproducible. Therefore, soil functional characters of the best cru are precious and unique and can be considered a cultural heritage and a legacy, which should be protected from destruction (Costantini et al., 2000, 2008, 2015, 2018).

Other relevant research works on soil conservation were dedicated to the fight against soil degradation and land desertification (Costantini et al., 2005, 2007a, 2007b, 2009, 2013, 2015; Costantini, 2009; Fantappiè et al., 2013) also in relationship with ecosystem services, in particular, soil carbon sequestration (Fantappiè et al., 2010, 2011).

As research director, dr. Costantini has coordinated and participated to several EU and national research projects dealing with soil conservation and currently he is Coordinating expert of the EU EIP-AGRI for soil issues. His valuable research work has been acknowledged both internationally (Presidency of the IUSS Commission on Palaeopedology) and nationally, where he was admitted to the Academy of Georgofili of Florence and to the National Academy of Agriculture of Bologna.

He attended ESSC since the second International Congress (1996) and since the year 2011 he has been serving the ESSC as the secretary.

Author of 358 papers (80 ISI) books and monographs, among which the best sellers "The Soils of Italy" (2013) Springer, and the "Manual of methods for soil and land evaluation" (2009) Science Publisher.

 $\underline{http://scholar.google.pt/citations?sortby=pubdate\&hl=it\&user=CJ\_5xboAAAAJ\&view\_op=listworks}$ 

Prof Carmelo Dazzi

University of Palermo

Italy