



Novel national and international Ground Penetrating Radar Associations

Lara Pajewski (1) and Raffaele Persico (2)

(1) Sapienza University, Department of Information Engineering, Electronics and Telecommunications, Roma, Italy (lara.pajewski@uniroma1.it), (2) Institute for Archaeological and Monumental Heritage IBAM-CNR, Lecce, Italy & International Telematic University Uninettuno UTIU, Rome, Italy (r.persico@ibam.cnr.it)

This contribution aims at presenting the scientific activities and objectives of two recently founded associations dedicated to Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR).

TU1208 GPR Association (www.GPRadar.eu) is a non-profit international association founded in 2017 as a follow up of COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Action TU1208 “Civil engineering applications of Ground Penetrating Radar,” to continue the excellent work that was done by the Action and further support cooperation between Universities, research centres, companies and public agencies active in the GPR field. The association is **open to scientists and professionals from all Countries**, not only to the Members of the recently ended Action.

The association inherited the same **primary objective** of the Action: exchange and increase scientific-technical knowledge and experience of GPR technique, whilst promoting an effective use of this safe and non-destructive method.

The **research activities** carried out in the framework of the association cover all areas of GPR technology, methodology, and applications. The association is active in the organization of **events**, such as conferences and training schools; moreover, it publishes open-access proceedings, papers, books, and educational material.

Among the most ambitious editorial initiatives of TU1208 GPR Association is the creation of the **first peer-reviewed scientific journal dedicated to GPR**: *Ground Penetrating Radar* (www.GPRadar.eu/journal). This is an open-access open-science journal, published quarterly. Papers are currently published free of charge. The journal welcomes submissions of research and review papers, tutorials, software/data papers, and communications (coming from any research team, obviously, and not only from TU1208 Members).

The **Italian Association of GPR** (Associazione Italiana del Georadar, www.gpritalia.it) was founded in 2015 and is aimed to **launch a bridge between academia and industry**, in Italy, with particular emphasis on the spreading of good practices, awareness about safety issues, and right application of existing regulations. Possibly, the association also proposes initiatives in order to favour the establishment of correct and fair laws regarding GPR prospecting in Italy.

In 2017, the association offered two **schools** and has made available online, for its members, the videos of all given lectures. Further training initiatives are planned for 2018, at both national and international level. Most courses can be attended for free by the association members.

The association **website** is written in Italian and includes several pages available for the general public, plus an area reserved to the members. The public part of the website contains technical considerations, practical advices, and recommendations about safety aspects, as well as links to national and international guidelines and links to the available literature on the GPR topic.

The association is coordinated by a **management committee** that organizes periodical meetings and takes care of uploading online all the resulting memorandums, along with balance sheets updated to December 31th of the previous year. At least once per year the association organizes a **general meeting**, where all members are invited; during this assembly, the activities of the association are planned and discussed. The management committee members and president of the association are periodically elected by all members during the general meetings.