



COST Action TU1208 “Civil Engineering Applications of Ground Penetrating Radar:” follow-up initiatives

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In this abstract, authored by the conveners of the new EGU GA session “COST Actions in Geosciences: breakthrough ideas, research activities and results,” the main follow-up initiatives of the recently ended COST Action TU1208 “Civil engineering applications of Ground Penetrating Radar” (www.GPRadar.eu) are presented.

In September 2017, the non-profit TU1208 GPR Association was founded. The Action Members hope that this association will make it easier to keep the scientific network alive, continue the excellent work that was done in the framework of the Action, and further support cooperation between Universities, research centres, private companies and public agencies active in the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) field. The association is open to scientists and professionals from all Countries (not only to the Action Members) and inherited the same primary objective of the Action: exchange and increase scientific-technical knowledge and experience of GPR technique, whilst promoting a wider and effective use of this safe and non-destructive method. The research activities carried out in the framework of TU1208 GPR Association cover all areas of GPR technology, methodology, and applications. The association is active in the organization of scientific events, such as conferences, workshops, and training schools; moreover, it publishes and disseminates open-access proceedings of events, educational material, journal papers, books, and multimedia content useful to spread out the results of the studies fulfilled by its members.

Among the most ambitious editorial initiatives of the newborn 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: the first issue (January 2018) is already available online. Papers are currently published free of charge. The journal has an online submission form and welcomes the submission of research and review papers, tutorials, software and data papers, communications and comments. The journal accepts also manuscripts presenting the outcomes of training, dissemination and outreach activities, and contributions aiming at communicating to a broader audience with regard to research projects financed with international, European or national funds.

A series of events organized by our network are planned for the near future. One of them is the EGU GA session dedicated to COST Actions, within which this abstract is presented. A Training School on "Ground Penetrating Radar for civil engineering and cultural heritage management" will be held on 14-18 May 2018 in Rome, Italy (organized by Sapienza University, University College of London, TU1208 GPR Association and Associazione Italiana del Georadar). A meeting dedicated to TU1208 will be hosted by the forthcoming edition of the International Conference on Ground Penetrating Radar, in Rapperswil, Switzerland, in June 2018. An event dedicated to presenting the guidelines developed by the Action, for the use of GPR in civil engineering, will be organized by the Faculty of Technical Sciences of Novi Sad, Serbia (the dates have to be fixed). In July 2019, the Action Chair and a team of TU1208 Members will organize in Rome the 10th International Workshop on Advanced Ground Penetrating Radar.