



## **ECSL Italian National Point of Contact Report 2019-2022**

The ECSL Italian NPOC was first created as the Italian Centre for Space Law, dated 27 April 1992. In **2001**, the **Institute for International Legal Studies** (Istituto di Studi Giuridici Internazionali-**ISGI**) of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) took over the role of Italian NPOC at the initiative of the ISGI founding director, Prof. Sergio Marchisio. Progressively, the activities of the Italian NPOC have been conducted in collaboration with the **Department of Political Sciences (DSP)** of Sapienza University of Rome, having a long tradition on space law.

Since 1 January 2022, the **Institute of CNR and the DSP are the Italian NPOC** in a consolidated partnership. Overall, the Italian NPOC carries on its activities by the commitment of a core group of people composed of Prof. Marchisio, Viviana Iavicoli (ISGI researcher), Gianfranco Nucera, Pierfrancesco Breccia, Anne-Sophie Martin, Alessandra Matteis and Ludovica Ciarravano (Sapienza researchers).

This **Triennial Report** deals with the activities that the Italian NPOC carried out in the period **2019-2022** to promote space law in Italy, including the promotion of, and participation in, ECSL initiatives.

### **1. Italian NPOC activities for the promotion of space law in Italy**

During the 2019-2022 term, in order to disseminate the knowledge of outer space law in Italy and promote the creation of a fruitful network of students and professionals, the NPOC carried out information activities on space law; organised and promoted initiatives for the study of space law; carried out training activities in cooperation with public and private entities; conducted research activities in the field, ensuring wide dissemination of scientific results; provided scientific and organisational support to ECSL initiatives.

The spread of the **Covid-19 pandemic** has greatly impacted the activities carried on during the period 2019-2022 by ECSL and those performed at the national level by the Italian NPOC. Notably, many of the learning opportunities and events, especially those in large groups or involving in-person interaction, have been cancelled or postponed. Notwithstanding the limits imposed by the pandemic, the Italian NPOC has continued the collaboration with the ECSL through the organisation and promotion in Italy of space law and policy initiatives. This has been possible thanks to the

unparalleled and persistently efforts in adapting the agenda of the ECSL and the Italian NPOC to an online format while waiting to move back to in-person events.

The Italian NPOC took such a challenging period to improve its role as a reference point for the space law community in Italy and reorganise its structure in order to enhance its range of action and further its activities. In 2022, this culminated in a **new partnership** between the ISGI and the DSP. Thus, the Italian NPOC is consolidating its activities to better supporting the attainment of ECSL's objectives. In this line, we can mention the creation of dedicated web pages on the DSP website as a platform for spreading information on ECSL and Italian NPOC activities widely. A periodic newsletter will keep Italian and foreign students, academicians and professionals, updated with information on space law matters.

During the term 2019-2022, the Italian NPOC **organised and participated in several space law-related events**, among them: the session titled *Legal Challenges of New Space Applications* within the *XXV International Congress of the Italian Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics*; the lectures of Prof. Marchisio within the *Training Course on Earth Observation and Remote Sensing, Space Science, Law and Policy*, organised by the Italian Space Agency in collaboration with the Kenya Space Agency (KSA) and UNOOSA, at the Broglio Space Centre (BSC) in Malindi; the participation of Prof. Marchisio as a speaker at the *United Nations/Austria Symposium: Space Applications for Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action* (1-3 September 2020) and at the 2021 LSC side event *Artemis Accords: Safe and Sustainable Space Exploration* organised by the signatories of the Artemis Accords (2 June 2021).

Yet, the Italian NPOC has jointly organised two **webinars** with Fondazione Amaldi titled *New Space Economy and New Space Law* and *Space as a Driver of New Professional Profiles*. Finally, the Italian NPOC participated in the celebrations of the *Italian National Space Day*, instituted every 16 December. Sapienza University joined the celebrations with an event paying tribute to the great Italian Masters of Space who have boosted the development of space activities in Italy, including Edoardo Amaldi and Luigi Broglio. Space law was given great recognition with the keynote lecture by Sergio Marchisio, focusing on the legal regime governing outer space activities and the challenges posed by new space applications.

In the term 2019-2022, the Italian NPOC maintained its involvement in **educational programmes and training courses** in space law. Among them, the *Course on Space Law* at Sapienza University of Rome and the *Master in Space Institutions and Policies*, organised since 2009 by the Italian Society for International Organisation (SIOI) and the Italian Space Agency, with the patronage of the ECSL. Notably, the Italian NPOC was one of the founders of the Master which is aimed at providing specialized qualification and professional training in the field of space institutions and policies. The NPOC is also involved in the development of the legal

modules of **Master Courses**, such as the Master Programme in *Space Systems and Services* at Sapienza University of Rome.

Thanks to a well-stocked library covering space law, the Italian NPOC assists students in the preparation of their degree, **Master and PhD theses**. In the period 2019-2022, several Master's degree and PhD theses have been defended in the field of space law in Italian Universities. The topics addressed encompass the legal aspects of a broad range of issues, such as Space Situational Awareness, large constellations of satellites, space resources.

At the same time, the NPOC continued to support the Italian Delegation to the **sessions** of the COPUOS and its Subcommittees and served as a point of reference for consultancy activities and collaborations in the field of space law for national institutions, such as the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Italian Space Agency.

## **2. Promotion and participation in the ECSL initiatives**

In the term 2019-2022, members of the Italian NPOC have been involved in the ECSL meetings, boards, workshops, Moot Court, Young Lawyers' Symposium, and Happy Hours. The NPOC widely contributed to the 28th edition of the **Summer Course** in Messina, Italy, on the theme "Disaster Management and Outer Space". After the cancellation of the 2020 edition due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 edition was successfully organised online. Overall, during the term 2019-2021, 15 Italian students and young professionals have attended the Courses, among whom were the winners of the group project competition in the 2019 edition.

As for the **European Rounds of the Moot Court Competition**, the ECSL Italian NPOC assisted Italian teams by providing the necessary information on the competition. Moreover, members of the Italian NPOC acted as Judges of the European Regional Rounds.

The Italian NPOC was also involved in the promotion of the **Young Lawyers' Symposium** (YLS) among students (up to PhD level) and professionals. During the period 2019-2022, as in the previous three-year term, Italian students and young professionals presented their papers and actively participated in their respective YSL panels.

Finally, the Italian NPOC actively promoted the **new activities** included in the ECSL's portfolio, such as the ECSL Summer Webinar Series, the ECSL Training for Institutional members, and the very recent ECSL Winter Webinar Series, which have registered a remarkable attendance.