



Activity Report 2019

In 2019 ASLERD did not expand. The Association registered the loss of some memberships compensated by the registration of few new ones.

In any case, as in the past, ASLERD has successfully organized its fourth International Conference in Rome involving four different Institutions (CNR, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Quasar and ISIA) and, collocated, the third International Student Contest on “People Centered Smart Learning Ecosystems”, together with the corresponding exhibition of student projects.

They have been both successful but we registered, as for the previous edition a limited participation of ASLERD members for both the events, partially compensated by the participation of local (Italian) participants (overall more than 30 papers have been submitted with an increase of about 25% with respect to the previous conference edition). It is possible that the Association hasn't a strong capability to attract and aggregate stakeholders. A stronger commitment on the dissemination at local (regional/national) level to make understand the relevance of ASLERD actions, that aim mainly at a cultural change rather than to the acquisition of economical and/or individual advantages, it might be required. Another issue is the shortage of resources that is experienced by several research groups. Apparently the forced virtual organization of SLERD 2020, that induced a reduction in the cost of participation, has attracted a larger number of submissions, an increase of about 25% with respect to those that were submitted for the f2f conference. It means that the future organization of SLERD in the blended format should be seriously taken into consideration. At the same time the habit to give and attend webinars, that become popular with Covid-19, should be considered as an opportunity for dissemination of ASLERD vision and the activities of their members.

The 2019 SLERD edition has been marked by

- the keynotes given by Ante Runnquist, Daniela Selloni, Mihai Dascalu that allowed to cross-fertilize the ASLERD environment and, at the same time, disseminate some of the most relevant results obtained by ASLERD members
- the publication of the conference proceeding with Springer
- the organization of two workshops and an open debate attended by stakeholders from industry, research and education (more than 50 attendants)
- the Student Design Contest won by Eftychia Roumelioti (Free University of Bozen).

As usual an IxD&A journal special issue has been devoted to SLERD conference, n. 43. It had a reasonable success and it is expected to be published soon. Once more this indicates that the core vision of ASLERD is slowly attracting more people but that the face to face events continue to suffer a crisis.

The organization of the fifth yearly conference, SLERD 2020, and the fourth edition of the International ASLERD Student Contest was started by the Polytechnic University of Bucharest but



the locked-down caused by the pandemic has forced to postpone the conference to June and to adopt a fully virtual format. Because of this the International ASLERD Student Contest have been cancelled.

Proceedings will be anyway published by Springer and a special issue of IxD&A journal will be also organized.

This year ASLERD has not taken part in the submission of any European project and this is a fact that deserve attention.

The communication activities on the social channels are continuing as usual but no efforts has been put in place to seriously increase the number of followers. It can be a goal for next year with the aim to attract new ASLERD members and disseminate further the ASLERD vision.

Overall we have not been able to:

- make growth the level of joint researches;
- support the preparation of further joint scientific proposals;
- make increase substantially the “consolidated memberships” that both at individual and institutional level remained more or less constant. The increase of consolidated members continues to be a goal also for 2020 and for the years to come.

The renewal of the ASLERD website is still currently underway.

Regional activities

The Italian branch of ASLERD has continued its training consulting activity and produced some incomes in favor of the Association (basically are only incomes in addition to the membership fees).

In particular it has contributed to develop high quality alternance schemes.