

Report on the 1st INTERNATIONAL SPRING SCHOOL OF ELECTROCHEMISTRY (ISSE) - Smart Materials for and from Electrochemistry - 19th to 23rd May 2019, Castellammare del Golfo (Trapani), Italy

Organized by the electrochemistry groups of the University of Palermo, on behalf of the Electrochemistry Division of the Italian Chemical Society, the 1st INTERNATIONAL SPRING SCHOOL OF ELECTROCHEMISTRY (ISSE), Smart Materials for and from Electrochemistry, has taken place from 19th to 23rd May 2019 at the Hotel Al Madarig, Castellammare del Golfo, Italy.



The School has been attended by 70 students, from 9 countries: Italy, Israel, Germany, Lithuania, United Kingdom, Poland, South Africa, Slovenia, Sweden.



The program comprised 12 lectures covering topics like materials for fuel cells, batteries, modern sensors, photoelectrochemical devices and smart integrated electronics, as well as fundamentals of electrochemical impedance spectroscopy, X-ray absorption spectroscopy, electrocatalysis in water and in aprotic solvents, electrodeposition, anodizing science and technology. A special lecture has been devoted to illustrating the opportunities offered by the European Union to young investigators wishing to develop their own original research projects. The teachers panel included Anders Hagfeldt, Marc Koper, Andrea Russell, Vincent Vivier, Francesca Brunetti, Sergio Brutti, Vito Di Noto, Luigi Falciola, Fabio La Mantia, Marco Musiani, Patrizia Mussini and Monica Santamaria.



In addition to the rich scientific program, the students and teachers could enjoy the hospitality and the beauties of a fascinating area of Sicily. Teachers and students consumed all lunches in a typical restaurant facing the main square of Castellammare, only a few steps away from the hotel Al Madarig. A free afternoon allowed the participants to spend some time on the beaches or visiting tourist attractions like the *Riserva Naturale dello Zingaro*. A delicious banquet held at the restaurant *La Cambusa*, next to the harbour, offered to students and teachers a chance to taste high quality Sicilian cuisine, one of the richest in Italy and therefore in the world.



The ISE substantially contributed to the success of the INTERNATIONAL SPRING SCHOOL OF ELECTROCHEMISTRY, through the financial support offered by Division 3 “Electrochemical Energy Conversion and Storage”, Division 4 “Electrochemical Materials Science” and the ISE Regional Section of Italy. Equally important was the promotion of the School via the ISE E-mailer, which enhanced the international participation of students by disseminating essential information in all countries where the ISE has members.

Encouraged by the success of the first edition, the board of the Electrochemistry Division of the Italian Chemical Society intends to organize similar Schools on a regular basis, possibly each third year. Castellammare del Golfo might be chosen again as venue, since it combines appropriate facilities, excellent connection with the airport of Palermo “Falcone e Borsellino” and wonderful surroundings.



Monica Santamaria and Onofrio Scialdone, on behalf of the Scientific and Organizing Committees of the ISSE.