Sabrina Ricci

WORK EXPERIENCE

Italian Space Agency (ASI) Employee (Senior Technologist) seconded to ESA.

- **From 15/12/2021 to present:**

Fully seconded to the European Space Agency (ESA) at Φ-Lab, ESRIN as Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ecosystem Manager to support the Φ-lab in becoming the reference for transformational innovation and a key influencer in the Earth Observation ecosystem.

As an AI Ecosystem Manager, the Key responsibilities include:

- fostering relationships between key stakeholders in the Italian and European Artificial Intelligence and innovative technologies ecosystem,
- encompassing industries, start-ups, universities, research centres, NGOs, national agencies, etc., and integrating them into the space domain,
- engaging and building partnerships with universities and companies, both Italian and international, to promote the use and adoption of AI4EO (Artificial Intelligence for Earth Observation).
- Driving the promotion of Φ-lab's commercial activities and fostering connections and business opportunities among start-ups and companies within the ecosystem.
- delving into cutting-edge digital technologies, such as AI, ML, QC, the New Internet, and others, with a specific emphasis on their potential applications in Space and Earth Observation and understanding regarding the opportunities and challenges that emerge from integrating these technologies into the space sector.
- Bridging the gap between traditionally unrelated domains and the space sector, actively exploring the innovation landscape of both space and non-space domains to seek connections and opportunities for advancement integration.
- Fostering synergy, collaboration, and mutual growth to unlock the full potential of diverse fields.
- Participating in conferences, events, and festivals organized by leading AI players to connect the non-space world to Earth Observation (EO) and the space domain.
- Organizing meetings and roundtable discussions at the Φ-Lab to showcase activities, interact with stakeholders, and promote new initiatives, ideas, and projects.
- Arranging informative and competitive events at the university and school levels, such as challenges and hackathons, on behalf of ESA/Φ-Lab, with the objective of promoting STEM skills and the use of innovative technologies in Space for Earth Observation.
- Coordinating the involvement of Φ-Lab ESA experts in workshops, webinars, and TED Talks to attract talents, students, young researchers, and facilitate the development of ideas and projects related to learning from Earth Observation data, science, and AI.
- Creating opportunities through high-quality relationship-building and networking activities, enhancing the skills of Φ-Lab, and establishing new contacts and partnerships within the artificial intelligence and digital technologies ecosystem.
- Analysing innovation trends and opportunities within the ecosystem, promoting the hosting of visiting researchers at various levels (industrial PhD, post-doc, etc.) to generate new ideas and future scenarios for EO.

- Proactively networking with external units to increase awareness and collaboration with Φ-Lab, maximizing Φ-Lab visibility in relevant events and conferences.

➢ **November 2015 - November 2020:**

Executive at the ASI High Education Unit: Project Manager overseeing the execution of all implementation agreements between the Agency and high education stakeholders, responsible for promoting and supporting Academia students and researchers in the space field

Key responsibilities included:

- Organizing and managing training and higher education programs supported by ASI, targeting undergraduates, recent graduates, PhD students, Postdocs, and young Italian researchers.
- Building and coordinating international collaborations with international institutions, Academy and Industry.
- Project managing of implementation agreements with leading Italian universities, research centres, etc.
- Coordinating capacity building initiatives, including the first Training Course on Earth Observation and Remote Sensing, Space Science, Law and Policy organized by ASI in collaboration with the Kenya Space Agency and supported by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).
- Representing ASI in the Working Group Capacity Building and Data Democracy (WGCapD) within the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS).
- Representing ASI in the ASI-NASA Working Group for the implementation of the Italian ASI-NASA Postdoc within the ASI-NASA Agreement on Earth Observation.

➢ **May 2005 - November 2015:**

ASI HR Department - Responsible for Personnel Management at the Space Base Camp in Malindi, Kenya (Broglio Space Center), ASI's Space Base. Key contributions included:

- Managing contracts for 225 Kenyan employees and approximately 10 Italian employees at the BSC. Negotiated the Collective Bargaining Agreement with local unions to establish contractual terms and conditions for all employees.
- Developing internal procedures for personnel, such as the Staff Manual, Hours of Work procedure, Additional Paper to the Main Contract, and Medical procedure.
- Serving as the Contract Manager for the ASI contract with GRANT THORNTON Kenya, responsible for salary preparation for BSC employees;
- Project manager for ASI contract with Vitrociset – HR management

➢ **December 2001 - May 2005:**

ASI COSMO SkyMed Program Office, reporting directly to the Program Manager. Main responsibilities included:

- Documentation and configuration management.
- Focal point for the Joint System Team Italy-France (ASI-CNES) for the ORFEO Program.

- Managing the classified documentation archive (with N.O.S Nulla Osta di Segretezza).

➢ **September 1995 - December 2001:**

Administrative Assistant, TDS Space and Fox-Bit S.r.l (Space SMEs)

- My primary role was to support the administrative functions of the company and assist in the preparation of proposals for the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Italian Space Agency (ASI) including the supervision of quality control processes (experience in issuing the Quality Manual and ISO9001 certification).

EDUCATION

March 1995: **Master's Degree in Political Sciences,**

110/110 cum Laude, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II.

August 1999: Business and American Culture Course,

International Language Academies – Alexandria (VA), USA.

August 1996: Business English Diploma,

Specialization Course in Business English, University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB), Santa Barbara, CA, USA.

PUBLICATIONS:

1. Fabio Santoni, Ricci. S, et al, "The Italian-Kenyan International, Postgraduate Course in "Capacity Building in Astronautics", Washington, USA, E1. IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM, IAC-19, E1,4,4, x53170

2. Messina M, Garagnani G, Tagliamonte R, Ricci S, "Expanding the Space of Space Learning", Budapest Hungary, 4th International Conference on Research, technology and Education of Space, 2017, ISBN 978-963-313-279-1.

3. Messina M, Ricci S, et al, "A Glance at Space Education: An Italian Point of View", New Space the Journal of Space Entrepreneurship and Innovation, MARY ANN LIEBERT INC, VOL.6 NO 4, 2018, DOI 10.1089/space.2018.0023.

4. Messina.M, S.Ricci et al, "Blowing space junk clouds away: the compliance of recommendations to a space debris removal new concept", Washington, USA, Interactive Presentations - 17th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE DEBRIS, IAC-19, A6, IP,22, x54718.

SKILLS

LANGUAGE SKILLS (Self-assessment European framework)

Italian (mother tongue) - English (advanced user C2) - French (autonomous user B1) – Spanish (basic user A2).

OTHER SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

- Cognitive abilities, analytical thinking, strategic planning, and possessing strong communication and relationship-building skills.
- Capability to think innovatively and explore uncharted territories with innate curiosity and a genuine enthusiasm for new subjects and research domains.
- Team player and ability to work under stress, in diverse environments, and manage peak periods.
- Good proficiency in quality control processes (experience in issuing the Quality Manual and ISO9001 certification).
- CADM (Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing), preparation and management of databases.
- ECDL (European Computer Driving License) certification.
- Excellent knowledge of Office tools, particularly Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access (database), Win Project (program planning).

Sabrina Ricci
02.11.2023
16:10:38
UTC

