The 29th World Congress of the International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatrics by Alexandra Ameen

The 29th World Congress of the International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatrics (IALP) was held at the end of August 2013, in the beautiful and historical city of Turin, Italy. The IALP is the oldest (1924) worldwide organisation of professionals and scientists in communication, voice, speech language pathology, audiology and swallowing in children and adults. The theme of the congress was entitled, “Where practice meets science”. Delegates of affiliated associations from over 60 countries, attended this congress including Malta, represented by the Association of Speech Language Pathologists (ASLP). There were over 250 oral presentations and 270 posters exhibited. The ASLP members’ participation in this congress comprised both oral and poster. A poster was designed covering all information about the association itself. As for the oral presentations, there were four altogether, all in different areas of specialities; Fluency delivered by Dr Joseph Agius, Aphasia by Dr. Ritienne Grima, Child Language by Dr. Daniela Gatt and Multilingual Affairs, delivered by Dr. Nadine Calleja. This congress was even more special for Malta as it marked the beginning of a three year term with new IALP Committees and a new President. The president elect of the IALP is an ASLP member, Associate Professor, Dr. Helen Grech who will be at the stern of the IALP for the next three years. In a symbolic ceremony the Maltese flag replaced that of the United States of America, the country of the past president. The next IALP congress will be held in Dublin in 2016. My attendance to this conference was made possible thanks to funds obtained through the Lifelong Learning Programme, Grundtvig Programme for adult education.