

**AComIn participates in the Exhibition "The Battle of Pavia 1525"
(Visconti Castle, Pavia, June–November 2015)
Associated event of Expo 2015 in Milan, Italy**

The AComIn project provides 3D restoration of historical events for the exhibition "The Battle of Pavia 1525". The novel IT approach to bring cultural heritage artifacts closer to people is implemented jointly with the Computer Vision and Multimedia Lab of Pavia University, headed by Prof. Virginio Cantoni.

The Battle of Pavia is the decisive engagement of the Italian War (1521-1526) where France fights against Spain and the Holy Roman Empire for dominance in Italy. More than 10,000 knights and 40,000 soldiers took part in the battle; for the first time small arms were successfully used. The Exhibition shows a famous original medieval tapestry dedicated to the battle as well as multimedia presentations of six other large tapestries and several IT applications (eye tracker, avatar, 3D figures, 3D tactile matrices) that demonstrate modern digitised presentations of the tapestries and their main characters. The exhibition is located in the historic Visconti Castle in Pavia and will be open till November 2015.



Visconti Castle in Pavia – the location of the exhibition



One of the original tapestries on the Battle of Pavia, created in 1528-1530 (9x4 m, brought from Naples for the Exhibition in Pavia)

IICT-BAS participates in the exhibition with 3D figures of historical characters from the Battle of Pavia, printed on the AComIn 3D printer using 3D models created by students and members of the Computer Vision and Multimedia Lab of Pavia University. In addition to the 3D figures, 3D tactile matrices were developed for 7 historical tapestries dedicated to the Battle of Pavia and were printed with the SmartLab 3D printer. The images are especially created to meet the needs of visually impaired people, including Braille inscriptions. These activities were carried out in the framework of a cooperation between the University of Pavia and the project AComIn, using 3D modeling software, the SmartLab 3D mobile scanner and 3D color printer. The 3D modeling tasks were performed by the PhD students Nikolay Stoimenov and Stanislav Gyoshev under the leadership of Prof. Dimitar Karastoyanov.



Printed 3D tactile matrices of medieval tapestries with outlines in relief and Braille signs for visually impaired people



Printed 3D figures of tapestry characters

On 12 June 2015, the day before the Exhibition opening, a Press Conference was held in Visconti Castle in Pavia with accredited local and national Italian journalists. The Press Conference was led by Giacomo Galazzo – the Director of the Department of Culture of the Pavia Municipality. Prof. Kostadin Kostadinov, Bulgarian Vice Minister of Education and Science, spoke about the importance of socially significant science that produces visible results for the people, and congratulated the organisers for the modern approach to the digitisation of cultural heritage artifacts.



Participants in the Press Conference, 12 June 2015

On the left photo, from left to right: Mr. Giacomo Galazzo, Prof. Karastoyanov, Prof. Angelova, Prof. Kostadinov and Prof. Cantoni

The Exhibition was opened on 13 June 2015. The event was attended with great interest by officials and more than 200 representatives of the scientific and cultural elite of Pavia and the Lombardy region, among them Massimo Depaoli – the Mayor of Pavia, Aldo Poli – the President of the Lombardy Foundation, Susanna Zatti - Director of the Museums of Pavia, Luigi Casali - a specialist in military history. All of them, as well as Prof. Virginio Cantoni, gave a welcoming speech to the presence in conjunction with the exhibition. The supportive and successful Bulgarian participation in the preparation of the exhibits was highlighted in all presentations and speeches as well as in the promotional materials and posters. Prof. Cantoni introduced Prof. Kostadinov and Prof. Angelova to the audience, followed by an applause and very friendly greetings from the attendees. A large poster with information about BAS, IICT and project AComIn is placed in the main exhibition hall (the last picture in this report). A same-sized poster presents the University of Pavia and its Computer Vision and Multimedia Lab. The Opening was also attended by representatives of local organisations of the blind, who expressed great satisfaction with the possibilities presented "to analyse" by touching the tapestries and figures of Battle of Pavia. It is expected that the exhibition will be viewed by hundreds of thousands of visitors because it is advertised on EXPO 2015 as a satellite event.



Statements by officials at the Exhibition Opening



Prof. Angelova, Prof. Karastoyanov and Eng. N. Stoimenov at the Opening of the Exhibition



Moments from the Opening of the Exhibition



POSTER about Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the institute IICT and the ACOMIN project at the main Exhibition hall