

Enoforum 2015 confirms itself as an all-round showcase for innovation in the wine world

The practical application of scientific research has always been the focus of Enoforum, which is an important meeting point for researchers, wine producers and suppliers in the sector. This approach, which gave rise to Enoforum 15 years ago, is now perfectly in tune with the European Commission, which, in its recent documentation on policies to support research, defines innovation as “ideas successfully put into practice: scientific insights and the results of laboratory research are the necessary basis for innovation, but it only becomes such if the phase of transferring the new technologies into vineyard and cellar practices is completed”.

An essential part of the innovation process is therefore the scale-up of production to the industrial level, widespread on-farm experimentation under different conditions, and the completion of any authorisation steps, knowledge dissemination and large-scale adoption.

Enoforum is an event created specifically to highlight and value the application phase of research, the one that leads to true innovation.

The 9th edition of Enoforum, held at the Fiera di Vicenza Congress Centre from 5 to 7 May 2015, has confirmed the European leadership achieved over the past few editions, both in terms of quantity and - above all - quality.

Over the three days of the conference, 102 oral presentations were given in two lecture halls; 70% of the speakers belonged to public research organisations, and 30% were R&D managers from leading private companies.

Further technical and scientific information was available to participants via 40 posters and 5 guided tasting sessions.

In recent years, no less than 49 public research centres, 28 of which are Italian, have exhibited the results of their work, accounting for a large part of wine research conducted in our country. Enoforum, therefore, proves to be a unique opportunity for the technician to become acquainted with many of the technological innovations that have been developed within the last few years, and in particular with those that have recently - or will soon - be used in everyday work. It is also because of this that Enoforum is firmly established as the wine congress in Europe with the largest number of participants: the 9th edition was attended by more than 1000 participants, more than 60% of whom were oenologists and agronomists.

The Vicenza venue facilitated a large attendance from the north-east, more than 40%, but the percentages of congress participants from the north-west, centre and south islands were also significant (15-18%).

The presence of international participants also increased, approaching 100.

This year's Enoforum also achieved a new record in the approval rating of participants, who were invited to express their opinion on the quality of the oral presentations by filling out an analytical questionnaire. Overall, the oenologists and agronomists gave the conference content an average mark of 8/10, the highest mark awarded so far in any previous Enoforum editions.

The papers presented in the single-topic modules, which feature joint presentations by researchers and technicians from supplier companies and a more application-oriented focus, received on average the same appreciation as the papers presented in the conference sessions focusing on public research.

In fact, it is widely believed among participants that Enoforum 2015 featured previews of real innovations in greater numbers than usual, as well as many first-hand experimental results on technologies that had only recently been implemented in practice.

The same survey with the participants' opinions - which is another distinguishing feature of Enoforum compared to other conferences - made it possible to pinpoint the works nominated for the SIVE Research for Development Awards that were considered by oenologists and agronomists to be most useful for the development of the wine sector.

The evaluation of the technical experts was made on the papers already selected by the SIVE 2015 Scientific Committee, composed of 50 scientists (28 Italians, 15 Europeans and 7 non-Europeans), when setting up the Enoforum 2015 oral presentation programme.

The lectures presented at Enoforum were audio-visually recorded and a selection of them was published in the internet magazine www.infowine.com