:- gulp!

is 25 years old
**What is GULP?**

GULP is the Italian Association for Logic Programming (Gruppo Utenti e ricercatori di Logic Programming)

It is a non-profit organization founded in **1985** in Pisa

GULP is affiliated to ALP

Aim: to keep the interest in LP and related themes alive by promoting various initiatives both in research and education; an opportunity for young researchers to be introduced into an active and challenging research area in a very informal and friendly way
The birth and growth of GULP are closely linked to the activities of Giorgio Levi.

The **constituent assembly** of GULP was held in Pisa on June 18th, 1985 (about 90 people).
The constituent assembly

- CSELT, Torino
- SIPE Optimization, Roma
- Selenia, Roma
- CGD, Roma
- S&M, Pisa
- Digital, Milano
- Olivetti, Ivrea
- ELSAG, Genova
- LIST, Pisa
- INTECS, Pisa
- Univ. di Genova
- Univ. di Padova
- Univ. di Pisa
- Univ. di Salerno
- Univ. di Torino
- Univ. di Trento
- CNUCE, CNR - Pisa
- IEI, CNR - Pisa
- IMA, CNR - Genova
- ILC, CNR - Pisa
- Scuola Superiore G. Reiss Romoli, L’Aquila
- IDG, CNR - Firenze
Why GULP?

The birth and growth of GULP are closely linked to the activities of Giorgio Levi.

Constituent assembly of GULP was held in Pisa on June 18th, 1985 (about 90 people).

First year: more than 160 members, both from academia and industries.

First president: Giorgio Levi – see members of the first Executive Board.
The first Executive Board

Giorgio Levi, Dip. Informatica, Univ. Pisa (president)
Giuliana Dettori, IMA, CNR, Genova (secretary)
Luigi Marcolungo, ISI, Univ. Padova (vice-president)

Giovanni Adorni, DIST, Univ. Genova
Giovanna Ballaben, Selenia, Roma
Pietro Jalamoff, Scuola superiore Reiss Romoli, L'Aquila
Leonardo Roncarolo, ELSAG, Genova
Gianfranco Rossi, Dip. Informativa, Univ. Torino
Umberto Rugani, INTECS, Pisa
Genoveffa Tortora, Dip. Informatica e Appl., Univ. Salerno
The first ten years

Detailed report on the first ten years in a book edited by Maria Sessa

Many universities, CNR centers and companies were involved

The Pisa group was the leading group in LP in Italy in those years
The first ten years

Detailed report on the first ten years in a book edited by Maria Sessa

Many universities, CNR centers and companies were involved

The Pisa group was the leading group in LP in Italy in those years

Members of the Logic Programming Group

[The group leader...]

... imagine the others!]
The first ten years

The GULP Conferences

Since 1986 GULP organized an annual national conference on LP
Past Conferences 1986-1993

1. GULP (1986), Genoa (Italy)
2. GULP (1987), Turin (Italy)
3. GULP (1988), Rome (Italy)
4. GULP (1989), Bologna (Italy)
5. GULP (1990), Padua (Italy)
6. GULP (1991), Pisa (Italy)
7. GULP (1992), Tremezzo (Italy)
8. GULP (1993), Gizzeria (Italy)
Since 1986 GULP organized an annual national conference on LP

100 -150 participants - main occasion for all people dealing with LP in Italy to meet and exchange ideas and experiences. Lively assemblies and ... social dinners (with singing and dancing ...)

Summer schools in Alghero (Sardinia) and Maratea (Basilicata)
The first ten years

Projects

Many projects dealing with LP founded by Ministry of Education and by CNR

With the participation of many Italian companies (CSELT, DATAMONT, Digital, ELSAG, Enidata, Italdatal, Olivetti, S&M, DS-Logics, ICON, ...)

e.g., “New Programming Languages”, sub-project of CNR/Progetto Finalizzato “Sistemi Informatici e Calcolo Parallelo” (1989-1994)
The first ten years

Projects

This was the era of:

- the **Fifth Generation Computer Systems** (FGCS) project

- the opening of **ECRC** (European Computer Industry Research Centre) in Munich

- the **ESPRIT projects** (e.g., ALPES “Advanced Logic Programming Env's” - Enidata + Univ. Bologna, Rome + CNR Rome)

- the ESPRIT Network of Excellence **Compulog Net** (1991) Rome Univ. + many others
  
  (1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} Compulog area meeting on Programming Languages held in Pisa in 1992 and 1993)
The APPIA-GULP-PRODE Era
1994 - 2003

GULP conference organized jointly with the Spanish Conf. on
Declarative Programming (PRODE)
and later with the conference of the Portuguese Ass. for
Artificial Intelligence (APPIA)
9. I GULP-PRODE (1994), Peñiscola (Spain)
10. II GULP-PRODE (1995), Vietri (Italy)
11. III APPIA-GULP-PRODE (1996), San Sebastian (Spain)
12. IV APPIA-GULP-PRODE (1997), Grado (Italy)
13. V APPIA-GULP-PRODE (1998), La Coruña (Spain)
14. VI APPIA-GULP-PRODE (1999), L'Aquila (Italy)
15. VII APPIA-GULP-PRODE (2000), La Habana (Cuba)
16. VIII APPIA-GULP-PRODE (2001), Évora (Portugal)
17. IX APPIA-GULP-PRODE (2002), Madrid (Spain)
18. X APPIA-GULP-PRODE (2003), Rende (Italy)
GULP conference organized jointly with the Spanish Conf. on Declarative Programming (PRODE) and later with the conference of the Portuguese Ass. for Artificial Intelligence (APPIA)

Very friendly and cooperative environment (strongly supported by Giorgio ...)

International conferences on LP in Italy:
ICLP 94 – S.Margherita Ligure (org: Maurizio Martelli)
Others ...
International conferences
beginning of the 90s

- WELP’92 - 3rd Int. Workshop on Extensions of Logic Programming, Bologna, 1992, organized by Evelina Lamma and Paola Mello
- ALP’92 - 3rd Int. Conf. on Algebraic and LP, Pisa, 1992, organized by Giorgio Levi and Helene Kirchner
- WSA’93 - 3rd Int. Workshop on Static Analysis, Padua, 1993, organized by Gilberto Filè.
1996 Int'l Summer School on Advances in Logic Programming (Alghero, Sardinia)
The crisis

The interest for LP by the industrial world was progressively but inexorably going down

The FGCS project did not meet with the expected success: perceived as a failure of LP

Industries stopped funding LP research & development projects

A progressive migration of many researchers born and raised in the area of LP to related areas (and associations)

World-wide negative trend
Enlarging the horizons

Thinking LP not only per se but mainly as a key tool to understand problems and to support solutions in relation to other disciplines

Moving from LP to (more general) Computational Logic (CL)

GULP Conference changed to Italian Congress of Computation Logic (“Convegno Italiano di Logica Computazionale” (CILC)) lighter organization and lower costs to have larger audience and to attract young people
Past Conferences 2003-2010

19. I CILC (2004), Parma (Italy)
20. II CILC (2005), Rome (Italy)
21. III CILC (2006), Bari (Italy)
22. IV CILC (2007), Messina (Italy)
23. V CILC (2008), Perugia (Italy)
24. VI CILC (2009), Ferrara (Italy)
25. VII CILC (2010), Rende - Cosenza (Italy)

Average figures:
- 20-40 presentations
- 30-70 participants (most of which PhD students and young researchers)
New topics of interest

- Multi-Agents systems
- Semantic Web
- Answer Set Programming
- Knowledge discovery and learning
- Static analysis
- Model checking
- Knowledge representation and automated reasoning
- Computational molecular biology
GULP at present

GULP currently has about 60 members spread over the whole country and abroad
RESEARCH
- GULP: ca. 30 universities and research centers

TEACHING
- 20 universities
- 13 regions
- 50 courses
- 1500 students
- Main areas: IA, KR&R, Languages, TCS, Logics

http://lia.deis.unibo.it/gulp/
GULP at present

GULP currently has about 60 members spread over the whole country and abroad.

Annual Italian Conference on Computational Logic (CILC)

One-day Workshops (with tutorials)

Best Italian PhD Dissertation Award in Computational Logic
- 2 awards (600 euro each)
- 15 submissions in the edition
- International committee (38 international referees)

Home page: http://lia.deis.unibo.it/gulp/
Further readings

This information and more in a forthcoming paper:

*Logic Programming in Italy: A Historical Perspective*

by Gianfranco Rossi

to appear in a book:

*25 years of LP in Italy*

edited by Agostino Dovier & Enrico Pontelli

published by Springer-Verlag (2010)