My name is Irene Cortesi, and I am a Ph.D. student in the second year (XXXVI cycle) at the University of Florence (Italy), Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. I've applied to the ISPRS Foundation (TIF) Travel Grant to attend the XXIV ISPRS Congress which took place in Nice, France, from June 6 to June 11, 2022, and I've presented a poster about my paper “UAV-Based River Plastic Detection With A Multispectral Camera”. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this was the first Congress I was able to attend in person and not remotely. It was a real pleasure and a new formative experience.

During my poster session, I was able to explain my research project and propagate my work. It was very important for me to share my results and my ideas with other Ph.D. students in my research field. At the same time, I was able to engage with experts from around the world and consider new points of view. I believe that in research continuous confrontation is very stimulating and essential for personal and work growth.

Moreover, my presence at the congress allowed me to attend many presentations and poster sessions other than my own. I was thus able to get in touch with fields of study close to my own, learning new approaches and methodologies, but also more distant fields allowing me to expand my knowledge.

To conclude, I would also like to mention the newfound human connection. After many months of lockdown and working remotely I think it is really important to take these opportunities to build new networks and have new contacts.
Thanks to The ISPRS Foundation for giving me this great opportunity. It was a great pleasure for me to accept this travel grant, thus being able to participate in the Conference.

Florence, 14/06/2022

Irene Cortesi