



PROFESSOR Furio Honsell, the new rector of the University of Udine, opening the conference on “*L’italiano e le regioni*”, organised last month in Udine by the *Centro Internazionale sul Plurilinguismo*. With him are (from left) Professor Vincenzo Orioles, the convenor and director of the CIP; Professor Robert Blagoni; and Professor Joseph Brincat, an elected member of the CIP. This was Professor Honsell’s first official function. He spent seven years in Malta in the Seventies, and received his secondary education at St Aloysius College. He graduated in Mathematics at Pisa in 1980 and later specialised in “*metodi formali dell’informatica*”. He is now the youngest rector in Italy. The universities of Malta and Udine have a bilateral agreement on co-operation, and ties may now become even stronger. The aim of the conference was to take stock of the development of studies on regional varieties of Italian since the SLI congress of 1984. Participants included Giuliano Bernini, Gabriella Alfieri, Luciano Canepari, Tullio Telmon as well as Manlio Cortelazzo, a pioneer in the field.