

## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Central Secretariat of a global organisation for physicists is moving to Trieste**

**The transfer of the IUPAP administrative offices to a new Central Secretariat in Trieste's Sottostazione Elettrica, in the area of Porto Vecchio, will be completed by the end 2021.**

May 11, 2021

The Executive Council of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), the international organisation representing the global community of physicists, has announced in a note to Stefano Fantoni, President of the Trieste International Foundation (FIT), that Trieste has been chosen as the location of its next Central Secretariat.

The transfer of the IUPAP administrative offices from the present Singapore headquarters to the new site at Trieste's Sottostazione Elettrica di Porto Vecchio will be a gradual process completed by end 2021. At that point, Stefano Fantoni and Sandro Scandolo, a scientist at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), will take the posts of Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General for Administrative Affairs.

IUPAP aims include promoting international collaboration in physics, organising, and sponsoring international meetings, promoting the free movement of scientists, encouraging research and teaching, and promoting international agreements on the use of symbols and physical units.

IUPAP was founded in Brussels in 1922 with 13 member nations and with the British Nobel Prize winner William Bragg as its first President. It currently has 60 member nations and is governed by a General Assembly that meets every three years (in 1984 the meeting took place in Trieste, at the Miramare headquarters of ICTP). The organisation consists of 22 commissions and 15 working groups dedicated to various branches of physics; one commission in particular deals with the definitions and names of the units of measurement in physics.

Forthcoming IUPAP initiatives will include actions to combat gender inequality in physics and programmes to support the development of research infrastructures in emerging countries. In 2022, IUPAP will coordinate global celebrations for the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development, promoted by UNESCO.

"The process for the identification of a new location for IUPAP's Central Secretariat was based on an open invitation," said Professor Michel Spiro, current IUPAP President. "We received many generous offers from across the world—to whom bidders I am most grateful and that demonstrate the global commitment to IUPAP. The offer from the Trieste International Foundation was in the end selected by the Executive Council. IUPAP is looking forward to benefit from the competency of the



Foundation and further strengthen its links with the international physics community based in Trieste”.

Commenting on this prestigious achievement, FIT President Stefano Fantoni said: "Being selected by the IUPAP's Executive Council for its new Central Secretariat is a source of great satisfaction for FIT and represents further important recognition of the high quality of scientific research performed by our universities and research centres, coming after acknowledgement of our work for ESOF2020. The secretariat offices will be located in FIT headquarters at the Sottostazione Elettrica in the Porto Vecchio, a beautiful area of great potential where we hope that a Science Technopole of great importance for our country is being created."

"The transfer to Porto Vecchio of the headquarters of this institution that represents physicists on a global level is the demonstration of the attractive strength of Trieste and its extraordinary scientific community," said the governor of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Massimiliano Fedriga. "An important step towards the definitive relaunch of the Porto Vecchio, a space in the heart of the city that has been abandoned for too long. An integral part of the region's long-term plan for major works, the development of this area is in fact of an absolute strategic value for the entire economy of the Friuli Venezia Giulia. Thanks to the Trieste Convention & Visitors Bureau, the first regional congress hub equipped with the largest auditorium in the Northeast, thanks to the Ursus consortium, born precisely for its urban redevelopment in the key of sustainability, and today thanks to the IUPAP, the Porto Vecchio becomes more and more a point of reference for international projects and investments."

The importance of this recognition is also underlined by Roberto Dipiazza, Mayor of Trieste. "The importance of Trieste's Science System, formed by the various Bodies and the University, receives, thanks to the Executive Council of IUPAP which has decided to establish the new Administrative Headquarters in our city, a further recognition of the value of our scientific skills in a European and international context." The Mayor of Trieste continues: "Science is a bridge between different cultures that confront each other on the common ground of research to find practical solutions aimed at improving the social, economic and cultural conditions of the community. This new presence, in addition to pleasing us and filling us with pride, is the demonstration that we are working well."

"This development confirms Trieste's role as a crossroads of world science, and rewards the strongly international outlook of local research activity," explains Sandro Scandolo, Acting Senior Coordinator (Research & Partnerships) at ICTP, and IUPAP's new Deputy Secretary General. "Our success is also due to teamwork involving all the local institutions active in the physical sciences: Trieste University, Elettra, and the local offices of the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN) and the National Research Council (CNR). Thanks are also due, of course, to ICTP, the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA), and FIT for its invaluable coordination work."



REGIONE AUTONOMA  
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA



Greeting the announcement, SISSA Director Professor Stefano Ruffo said: "The IUPAP Executive Council did us a great honour in selecting Trieste and FIT for the organisation's Central Secretariat, a recognition of Trieste's entire community of physicists. During the period 2011-14, I held the positions of Chairman of the IUPAP Statistical Physics Commission and Vice-President of IUPAP itself, and I was able to participate in, and direct, top-level activities conducted by this important international organisation."

"The dense network of scientific collaborations intertwined by the research bodies of Trieste continues to bear extraordinary results," said the rector of the University of Trieste, Roberto Di Lenarda. "The arrival of IUPAP in Porto Vecchio will give new life to the physics sector which, starting from the initiative of great figures from the University of Trieste such as Paolo Budinich, Luciano Fonda and many others, whose tenacity and visionary nature gave rise to the Trieste System, which continues today to feed an ecosystem of science that has no equal in Italy and is capable of competing at the best international level."

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**LINK**

<https://iupap.org/>

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