

The Data Science & Artificial Intelligence Institute is born.

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Trieste – A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed among Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (SISSA), University of Trieste, University of Udine, The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), MIB Trieste School of Management and Generali to create the Data Science & Artificial Intelligence Institute. The goal is to create a centre of innovation to generate research and new business opportunities based on data science and artificial intelligence.

In particular, the Data Science & Artificial Intelligence Institute, which aims to join the ELLIS (European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems) network, is intended to carry out world-class research and encourage knowledge transfer in machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Among its goals is to also pool young talent and foster new collaborations through joint activities such as seminars and workshops, PhD and master programmes, dissemination activities, as well as upskilling and reskilling opportunities for the employees of industrial partners.

The **Chairman of Assicurazioni Generali, Gabriele Galateri di Genola**, affirmed: *“At a time of immense change, data science and artificial intelligence bring opportunities to optimise efficiency and operations, and to remain by our customers’ side, which are fundamental elements of our Generali 2021 strategic plan. The link between the excellence of the territory with digital transformation, knowledge sharing, and the collaboration between academics and industry leaders have a remarkable potential for innovation, both through the ability to generate value and drive development, and the capacity to anticipate and overcome contemporary challenges. With its Academy in Trieste, Generali is part of this project that adds yet another piece to the history of the Company, celebrating its 190th anniversary this year.”*

The **SISSA Director, Stefano Ruffo**, affirmed: *“This new project can fly high. At the moment, our country does not have enough expertise in data science, a crucial area for the future. The initiative we are launching today addresses this important need. SISSA, the first Institute in Italy to offer PhD training, has built a strong research group in data science, attracting talents from abroad, and is ready to contribute.”*

The **Dean of University of Trieste, Roberto Di Lenarda**, affirmed: *“Friuli Venezia Giulia’s Universities have been working for a long time with other research institutions on the Data Science & Artificial Intelligence Institute project. This letter of intent adds to it the fundamental support of Assicurazioni Generali and once again testifies to the exceptional nature of the so-called Trieste System in the national scientific panorama. We have been contributing and shall continue to contribute enthusiastically to strengthening and expanding this initiative, which brings together research and business, confident that we will give the contribution of our researchers in terms of innovation and new opportunities for our under- and post-graduate students.”*

The **Dean of University of Udine, Roberto Pinton**, affirmed: *“The University of Udine has a long tradition in the field of computer science and artificial intelligence that dates back to more than forty years ago, when one of the first degree courses in Information Science in Italy was created. With the University of Trieste and SISSA, our institution conceived the idea of an inter-university centre focused on data science and artificial intelligence, with its roots in the region but also with a national and international scope and able to establish fruitful collaborations with the corporate world. Today, we are even more convinced that pooling complementary skills will allow the creation of a centre of excellence, destined to become an important hub for issues of great significance for the future”.*

The **Director of The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Atish Dabholkar**, affirmed: *“It is clear that data science and artificial intelligence will drive new breakthroughs at the frontiers of science, for the benefit of all humanity. A public-private partnership can be particularly fruitful in exploring these new frontiers, and we are very glad to have Generali’s strong interest and support. As highlighted in its new strategic plan, ICTP recognises the opportunities for innovation in these fields. We are pleased to be joining forces with Trieste’s top research institutes, together with Generali, to encourage knowledge transfer not only among our Trieste partners but also with the worldwide ICTP community, which encompasses regions eager to overcome the digital divide for equal access to science and education.”*

The **CEO of MIB Trieste School of Management, Vladimir Nanut**, affirmed: *“MIB Trieste School of Management will have the mission of fostering the dialogue between the world of research and the world of business, and empower them to seize every opportunity offered by Digital Transformation and by the advances in Artificial Intelligence.”*

THE GENERALI GROUP

Generali is one of the largest global insurance and asset management providers. Established in 1831, it is present in 50 countries in the world, with a total premium income of € 70.7 billion in 2020. With more than 72,000 employees serving 65.9 million customers, the Group has a leading position in Europe and a growing presence in Asia and Latin America. Commitment to sustainability is one of the enablers of Generali’s strategy, inspired by the ambition to be the Lifetime Partner to its customers, offering innovative and personalized solutions thanks to an unmatched distribution network.

THE SISSA

Founded in 1978, SISSA is a leading institute for research and postgraduate training on the national and international stage. It is one of the six schools of excellence in Italy. Research and training activities are grouped within three main areas: Physics, Mathematics and Neuroscience. Moreover, the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Advanced Studies works at the interface between science, humanities and the public. The School was the first institute in Italy to offer postgraduate studies culminating in a PhD degree. Since its founding, SISSA has trained almost 1500 PhD students, 30% of whom arrive from abroad.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TRIESTE

Founded in 1924, the University of Trieste flourished in a particularly stimulating environment: it can count on a stable connection with the urban and regional context in which it is located, benefitting from the relations established with Universities and several research entities. The lively urban context, coupled with its geostrategic location in Central Europe, allow the University of Trieste to play a pivotal role in the continent, see international recognition of the quality of its educational offer, and obtain significant results in all research fields.

THE UNIVERSITY OF UDINE

The University of Udine started its activity on November 1st, 1978. It was created thanks to the expression of the people's will through a law proposal that collected about 125,000 signatures, following the earthquake that struck Friuli in 1976. Its action is based on four pillars: higher education, research and technology transfer, interaction with the territory, and internationalization. Its educational offer consists in 77 among three-year degree courses (39), master programmes (35), and single-cycle degree courses (3), 20 graduate schools, 13 PhD and 21 master programmes. It has eight departments, a School of Advanced Studies, around 16,000 students, and its teaching staff counts 650 members.

THE ICTP

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) is a unique world institution that explores fundamental scientific questions at the highest level, promotes active engagement with scientists in developing countries, and advances international cooperation through science. Founded in 1964 by the late Nobel laureate Abdus Salam, ICTP offers research and educational opportunities unavailable in developing countries, providing a rich, international environment that crosses political and geographical borders. For more details, visit the website at www.ictp.it.

THE MIB

MIB Trieste School of Management is an international center of higher managerial education, founded in Trieste in 1988 as not-for-profit Consortium of academic and business partners, with the mission of developing the human capital and upgrading the skills required by leaders and managers. The School targets the post-graduate and post-experience segment of Management Education, providing MBAs, Specialized Masters and Executive Education and training every year young talents, executives, and entrepreneurs coming from all over the world. All the Masters have been accredited by independent certification bodies: MIB Trieste is among the 2% Schools in the world to have gained top international accreditations for its Programs (AMBA, EFMD and ASFOR Accreditation).