

## **See you in Leiden: ESOF 2020 Trieste passes the baton to the Dutch city for 2022**

**The curtain falls on an innovative edition responding to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, attended by eminent scientists and authorities, including the Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.**

**During the closing ceremony, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte took part in a public demonstration of encrypted communication in fiber optics using Italian quantum technology**

Trieste, 6 September 2020 – The five days of ESOF2020 were marked by a renewed desire for discussion and sharing on issues of great scientific and social impact of our time, after months of distancing. ESOF's bet that Trieste in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic could reconnect and rekindle an increasingly necessary dialogue between science, politics, economy and society seems to have been won: with 150 events, more than 700 speakers, and remote connections from all over the world to follow the high-profile panels proposed by this first hybrid edition, with face-to-face and remote sessions that have run continuously since September 2nd.

During the closing ceremony of ESOF2020 - EuroScience Open Forum, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte took part in a public demonstration of encrypted fiber optic communication with Italian quantum technology, performed for the first time in Italy. The demonstration was carried out by the "Quantum Communications" group of the National Research Council (CNR) of Florence thanks to the "Quantum FVG" project, funded by the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and coordinated by the University of Trieste.

Scientists and authorities took part in the final ceremony, which saw the passing of the baton from Trieste to the Dutch city of Leiden, which will host the 2022 edition of ESOF: Giuseppe Conte, Prime Minister of Italy; Stefano Patuanelli, Italian Minister of Economic Development; Stefano Fantoni, Champion of ESOF2020; Michael Matlosz, Euroscience President; Massimiliano Fedriga, President of the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia region; Roberto Dipiazza, Mayor of Trieste; Henri Lenferink, Mayor of Leiden; Mariachiara Tallacchini, Professor of Science, Law and Democracy; Massimo Inguscio, President of the Italian National Research Council (CNR); Roberto di Lenarda, University

of Trieste Chancellor; Massimiliano Fuksas, Architect; Angelo Bassi, University of Trieste; Alessandro Zevatta, Italian National Research Council (CNR); Ferry Breedveld, Champion of Leiden European City of Science 2022; Corinne Hofman, Champion of Leiden European City of Science 2022; and Paolo Glisenti, Italian Commissioner General of Expo 2020 Dubai. Silvia Bencivelli, a science journalist, moderated the ceremony.

Here a few words from the Ceremony:

**Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte:**

"All the conditions exist to build something destined to develop also in the future. Trieste is the Italian city with the highest number of researchers per number of inhabitants. Here are concentrated scientific centers of absolute international importance. So today is an important and symbolic moment to also launch this future perspective; we must work on technological innovation, on the most advanced technologies, and Italian scientists are at the forefront of this. There are four fundamental, priority objectives of research in Italy: to favor complex, integrated multidisciplinary research; to strengthen basic research; to promote 'mission-oriented' research; and to bring research closer to training, since the labor market demands skills that are always up-to-date, always adequate to the challenges."

**Stefano Patuanelli, Minister of Economic Development:**

"We need to foster the direct application, promotion and use of knowledge: this is the only way to contribute to the collective cultural and economic development of this country and of Europe. In the field of scientific research, collaborative relationships between different subjects are more fruitful than those based on competition only. In this regard, we need to start changing our mind-set, and days such as those experienced at ESOF facilitate this shift: we can work in a different way, we can work better, and we can work more."

We need to create the conditions to make it possible for Trieste to become a pivotal point on the path towards sustainability that our country and our industry and manufacturing activities will have to walk, and to become the center for quantum technology – we must seize this unique opportunity, with the backing of the government; this will of course have my support, as well as the support of the Prime Minister."

**Stefano Fantoni, Champion ESOF2020:**

"Biologist Mark Moffett in the recent book, The Human Swarm, argues that one of the most surprising things about evolution is that when we enter a crowded bar, we don't fight like many other animals would. It seems a trivial fact, yet this shows that for our species social coexistence, even among strangers, is an essential dimension of our nature. The pandemic has called this

essential trait into question and I am excited because ESOF2020 in Trieste, the first major scientific event in the Covid era, has shown that we do not want to give up this essential dimension. In the name of knowledge, because knowledge is sharing, it is connection, it is the antithesis of secrecy and exclusion. Many of the panels these days have focused on sustainability and an extraordinary legacy of ESOF2020 for Trieste is to create an international Institute on sustainability based also on the ideas heard in these days, capable of enhancing the scientific and technological skills of the Trieste European City of Science”.

**Michael Matlosz, Euroscience President:**

"It was never an option to cancel ESOF 2020, and the experience of the last few days physically here in Trieste and virtually throughout Europe and around the world has shown just how important it is for researchers and other science professionals to meet and exchange with each other and with all those interested in enhancing the contribution of science in, with and for society in the midst of the current global crisis."

**Massimiliano Fedriga, President of the Venezia-Giulia Region:**

"The ESOF2020 edition that ends today was an important breeding ground for ideas and comparisons. We had the opportunity to question ourselves on topical issues of great importance for the future, including the role of science, which is crucial in breaking down prejudices and is a valuable ally for a government and a society that aim at social equity. From ESOF the process begins of ensuring that Friuli Venezia Giulia continues on its path to become a hub for innovation and international research”.

**Mariachiara Tallacchini, Professor of Science, Law and Democracy**

“The pandemic has highlighted new spaces and times of coexistence also from the point of view of the rules governing social life. There is a new fundamental role for what is called ‘soft law’, namely the ability of citizens to manage science-based knowledge and conduct their behavior based on shared individual responsibility”, said Mariachiara Tallacchini, who added “Our country must not miss the opportunity to educate citizens, scientists and institutions in a valid epistemology of uncertainty. Scientific uncertainty is not arbitrary and does not justify arbitrary political decisions. On the contrary, clarification and dialogue on aspects of uncertainty make it possible to make the choices of political decision-makers more robust, legitimate and reliable”.

**Massimo Inguscio, the President of the Italian National Research Council (CNR):**

“Research builds the future and will be an essential element for reconstruction. Quantum technologies represent a new transversal paradigm, which brings together different fields to offer completely new opportunities in sectors ranging from the simulation of new drugs and materials with quantum computers, to self-driving systems and precision agriculture with quantum sensors ,

up to the secure transmission of data with quantum communication. The CNR, with its multidisciplinary, has taken up this challenge also in the European sphere and implements strategies in synergy with other research institutions, the university world, and businesses, to build a future based on knowledge and innovation".

**Roberto di Lenarda, University of Trieste Chancellor:**

"ESOF Trieste 2020 closes after 5 days full of multidisciplinary contributions that once again demonstrate the need for science to be recognized with the relevance that it deserves and that is necessary for society and citizens. For this to happen, infrastructural, financial and organizational resources are necessary. However, this must equally be accompanied by a change in approach by scientists and institutions, aimed at creating stable networks of medium-long term, strategic and transparent institutional collaborations. The University of Trieste is certainly committed now and for the future to this fundamental challenge for our city, our region but also the whole country. A heartfelt thanks to Prof Fantoni".

**Roberto Dipiazza, Mayor of Trieste**

"The splendid and important city of Trieste has been able to welcome ESOF2020 in the best possible way, it has highlighted and employed for the common good its scientific heritage, which is the heritage of the country and of the entire international scientific community. Trieste was happy to host this international event and today, we pass more than just the baton to the beautiful and important city of Leiden for the next edition of ESOF; we are transferring precious baggage—of new knowledge, so that this common heritage can continue to grow in its future events. Trieste therefore looks forward to seeing Leiden soon, when we will continue working together in the common interest."

**Henri Lenferink, Mayor of Leiden:**

"The organisations in Trieste and Strasbourg have done an incredible job in adjusting this phenomenal conference to the current COVID-conditions, thus showing their strength and resilience. I hope and trust we can learn from their excellent work, and offer an equally exciting ESOF- congress in Leiden, in July 2022. In 2022, Leiden will host the 10th edition of the ESOF-conference. We will of course make sure to celebrate this festive fact with you in the best possible way! Together with the EuroScience foundation and the European Commission in Brussels and Strasbourg, we will make every effort to develop a new, future-proof formula for the ESOF-conference. But we will also propose another profound change: for the first time Leiden will offer a year-long program in order to boost the reputation of European Cities of Science. In doing so, we hope to build a legacy and thus create a chain of European Scientific Capitals that points towards the future, from Trieste, to Leiden, to many more".

**Paolo Glisenti, Section Commissioner for Expo 2020 Dubai:**

"Expo Dubai 2020, which will be inaugurated in October 2021, will be a unique moment of interface between European and international networks in the scientific field and the Italian Pavilion intends to enhance the legacy, work and thinking of ESOF2020. We will build an Open Science platform in the Italian Pavilion at Expo Dubai 2020 to strengthen public-private collaboration in all fields, with a strong inclination towards interdisciplinary skills and multi-sectoriality as suggested by the theme of Expo Dubai 'Connecting minds, Creating the Future'".

**Massimiliano Fuksas, Architect:**

"The horizon of innovation is at the center of the discourse and focus of our time, despite the difficulties which it faces in Europe, and in Italy. It is necessary to reflect on what kind of sustainable innovation we should implement for a shareable future towards a common and global perspective that will accompany us until the end of the century. In our work we have always focused on research, materials, distribution solutions, and technological elements, with a multidisciplinary and systemic approach. This model goes back to the human horizon of the Renaissance, overcoming the limits of individual disciplines, blending and hybridizing specializations and knowledge from different cultural sectors".

**Press Office ESOF 2020:**

**Leo Brattoli mob. +39 335 1236284**

**Chiara Saviane mob. + 39 333 7675962**

**Nico Pitrelli mob. +39 339 1337950**

[pressoffice@esof.eu](mailto:pressoffice@esof.eu)