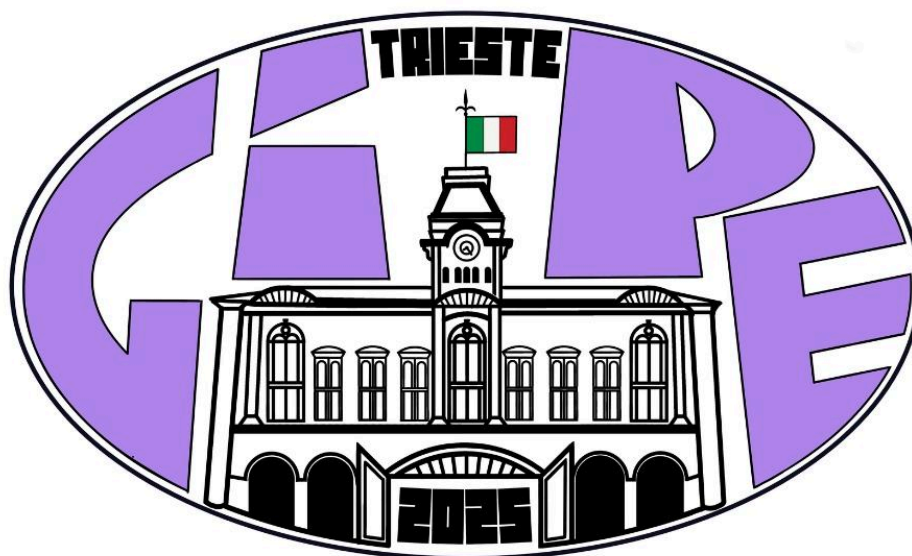




FINAL REPORT



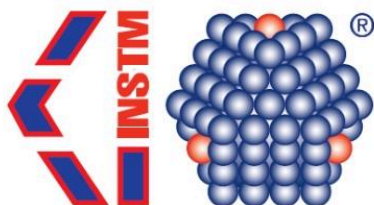
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Dipartimento di

Fisica

Dipartimento d'Eccellenza 2023-2027



Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste



Fondazione
FONDAZIONE CR TRIESTE



REGIONE AUTONOMA
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA
SCIENTIFIC
AND INNOVATION SYSTEM
OF FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

Sponsors:



Collaborations:



September 16–20, 2025

Trieste, Italy

GENERAL INFORMATION

GIPE is a long-standing partnership event between AISF (Italian Association of Physics Students) and jDPG (Junge Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft), taking place every year alternately in Italy and Germany. In 2025, the 9th edition of GIPE was held in the city of Trieste, an international hub for scientific research and innovation.

The event was organized by the Trieste Local Committee of AISF and it brought together 50 physics students from Italian and German universities (24 Italian, 20 German, and 6 from the University of Trieste) for five days of plenary lectures, institutional visits to scientific centers of excellence, and social activities, all aimed at fostering academic collaboration and intercultural exchange.

The organizing team consisted of:

- Emmanuel Brunetti, bachelor student at the University of Trieste.
- Sofia D'Ambrosio, master student at the University of Trieste;
- Agata De Maria, bachelor student at the University of Trieste;
- Margherita Fedel, bachelor student at the University of Trieste;
- Carola Ferrari, bachelor student at the University of Trieste;
- Giulia Forchino, bachelor student at the University of Trieste;
- Denis Cristian Pal, bachelor student at the University of Trieste;
- Davide Podorieszsch, bachelor student at the University of Trieste;
- Nicholas Pregarc, bachelor student at the University of Trieste;

Target audience

Students from all academic levels (Bachelor, Master, PhD) affiliated with AISF or jDPG.

Objectives of the event

The main objective of GIPE is to promote an inclusive and collaborative learning environment where students from different academic and cultural backgrounds can explore advanced topics in physics, while creating meaningful professional and personal connections. The event combines academic depth with networking and intercultural exchange, giving students access to high-level scientific institutions and fostering long-term collaboration between the Italian and German physics communities.

Openness to citizenship and other members

In line with the inclusive and outreach-oriented mission of AISF, GIPE25 featured several moments of openness to the wider student community at the University of Trieste.

The Opening Ceremony, held on the afternoon of September 16th at the University of Trieste, was open to all students of the university, including those not affiliated with AISF or jDPG. This moment allowed local students to engage with the international nature of the event.



Institutional welcome by the university rector

Additionally, all plenary lectures hosted at the Department of Physics were open to the entire academic community, with promotional efforts made via posters, newsletters, and direct invitations to students. This contributed to strengthening the connection between GIPE25 and the university environment and provided further opportunities for interaction and dissemination of scientific knowledge.

These open-access events helped raise awareness of international student exchange initiatives, promoted the role of physics students in science outreach, and reinforced the visibility of GIPE25 within the local academic context.

SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

GIPE25 offered a multidisciplinary and immersive academic experience. The event's scientific component was structured around a combination of lectures, institutional visits, lab tours, and interactive activities, distributed across Trieste's major scientific research centers. The program allowed participants to engage with local scientists, explore research environments, and reflect critically on various aspects of physics and scientific communication.

University of Trieste

The event officially began on Tuesday, September 16th, at the University of Trieste, with a "Welcome and Opening Ceremony" open to all students.

Institutional greetings were followed by presentations on the Department of Excellence and a general introduction to the city's scientific network.

After that, representatives of SISSA, CNR-IOM, Area Science Park, Sis FVG, Elettra Sincrotrone and INFN presented the aims and activities of these excellent facilities present in the territory. Also a presentation of the "Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici" was done by one of their member.



Open ceremony

On Wednesday, September 17th, the Department of Physics of the University of Trieste hosted a series of plenary lectures, open to all students, covering diverse topics in contemporary physics. The speakers were:

- Prof. Dr. Luciano Rezzolla on neutron star mergers;
- Prof. Laura Gonella on solid-state detectors;
- Prof. Alberto Imparato on fluctuation theorems;
- Dott. Matteo Marinelli on quantum computing with atoms;
- Prof. Angelo Bassi on the history of quantum mechanics.

These sessions provided students with a comprehensive overview of modern challenges and frontiers in physics.



Seminars in the Physics Department

SISSA – International School for Advanced Studies

On Thursday, September 18th, participants visited SISSA, where they engaged in an interactive activity entitled “How open is open access?”, organized by SISSA Medialab. The session encouraged critical discussion about scientific publishing.



Participants discussing about “How open is open access?” at SISSA

It was followed by presentations on the research areas at SISSA, with particular emphasis on cosmology, theoretical physics, and computational biology.

INAF – Astronomical Observatory of Trieste

A guided visit to the Astronomical Observatory of Trieste located in Basovizza took place in the evening of Wednesday, September 17th. The visit was scheduled after sunset to allow stargazing.



Visit at the Astronomical Observatory

Later, on Friday, September 19th, a full conference morning was hosted at Basevi Castle in Trieste, with lectures by researchers Fabrizio Fiore, Daniele Tavagnacco and Laura Silva. Topics ranged from instrumentation and missions to active galaxies and cosmology.



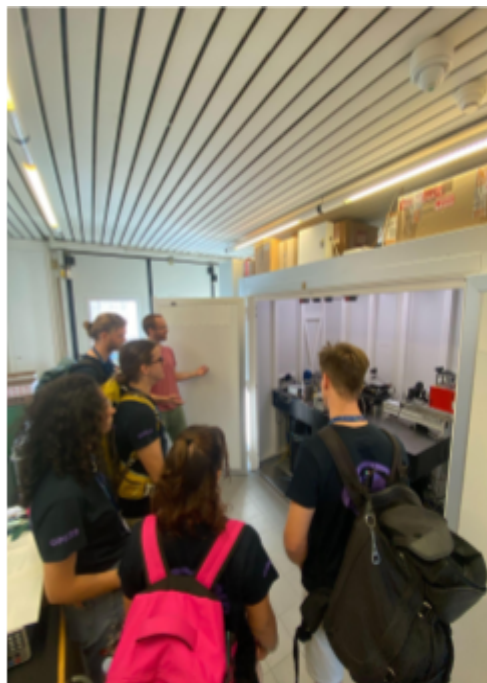
INAF conferences at Basevi castle

Area Science Park and INFN

In the afternoon of Thursday, September 18th, participants moved to Padriciano for a visit to Area Science Park and local INFN labs. The visit began with an institutional introduction to the Area Science Park's mission and its role in fostering technological innovation. The group then split into smaller teams for thematic visits to some laboratories and research facilities.



Area Science Park presentation



Visit of some Area Science Park laboratories

Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste and CNR-IOM

Still on Thursday, participants visited the Elettra and FERMI facilities, where they were introduced to the operation of synchrotron light sources and free-electron lasers. Beamline scientists demonstrated instrumentation and described interdisciplinary applications of these technologies in materials science, chemistry, and life sciences.

The activity also included a visit to CNR-IOM located in Basovizza, where additional instrumentation and techniques were presented.



ELETTRA Sincrotrone
presentation



Visit of some CNR-IOM laboratories

ICTP – International Centre for Theoretical Physics

On Friday afternoon, September 19th, participants visited the ICTP campus in Miramare. The visit began with an institutional presentation outlining ICTP's history and mission, followed by two scientific seminars delivered by researchers Francesco Camilli and Pierluigi Masai.



Group photo at the ICTP

Poster Session and Final Ceremony

On Saturday, September 20th, a poster session was held at the Collegio Universitario Luciano Fonda. The event featured 16 posters, mainly presented by researchers from CNR-IOM, AREA Science Park, Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste, and INFN, together with a few contributions from GIPE participants – mostly PhD or Master’s students – and one poster presented by an ex student of Collegio Fonda, now PhD from ICTP.

The event concluded with a formal closing, followed by optional lunch (not included in the fee/budget) and free time for final networking and goodbyes.



Poster session at Collegio Fonda

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAM

In addition to its scientific value, GIPE25 also offered a rich and well-balanced cultural and social program. These activities were designed to promote intercultural dialogue, foster informal networking, and enhance participants' appreciation of the host city's historical and scientific heritage.

City Tours and Guided Activities

During the event, participants took part in a professional guided tour of Trieste, discovering the city's rich cultural and historical heritage. Divided into two groups, they followed parallel itineraries through some of Trieste's most iconic landmarks – including Piazza Unità d'Italia, the Canal Grande, the James Joyce statue, and the Teatro Romano – while learning about the city's unique blend of Central European and Mediterranean influences.



Guided tour of Trieste

Social Events

Throughout the week, some informal social events were held, strengthening bonds among participants and enhancing the atmosphere of international exchange:

- **Game night at the “Collegio universitario Luciano Fonda”**
The participants were divided into 10 teams and had to answer on Kahoot some questions about physics related to other disciplines. When the quiz ended, whoever wanted had the possibility to play with the quantum games.
- **Visit to Miramare castle and swim in the sea at Barcola**
After the ICTP conferences participants had some free time to spend and we suggested that they should visit the castle and have a swim in the sea.
- **Social dinner at the “Caffè degli Specchi” in the city centre**
Last evening we had the social dinner in an historical caffè in Trieste composed of some starters, a first course and a dessert. After the social dinner we spent the night in the city centre.

All activities were designed to ensure inclusivity, accessibility, and a relaxed environment to complement the academic components of the program.



Social dinner

LOGISTICS AND PARTICIPANTS

Roles and responsibilities of the organizational team

Everyone helped with the logistics and organization during GIPE days.

- Denis Cristian Pal, coordinator of the event, treasurer and IT manager;
- Giulia Forchino, former coordinator (till half of July) she took agreements with the partners of the event;
- Sofia D'Ambrosio, vice coordinator and human resource responsible, coordinated the organising committee, took agreements with some partners and helped with the transportation; during the four days she was in the first line to manage the schedule and the unforeseen events;
- Agata De Maria, logistics responsible, she communicated with the partners and with the participants, was responsible for the accommodations and found out which transportation were needed.
- Carola Ferrari, social media manager, realised most of the instagram graphics and the graphics for gadgets and for the advertising material, she became part of the organizing committee at the half of July, substituting Margherita Fedel.
- Nicholas Pregarc, food & beverage manager and organiser of the game night at Collegio Fonda.
- Davide Podorieszsch, gadgets responsible, requested quotes for the gadgets and communicated with the suppliers.
- Emmanuel Brunetti, he helped in the sponsorship with Rental Sud and INSTM.



Organising committee

Participant Composition

GIPE25 hosted a total of 49 participants, selected through an open call circulated among AISF and jDPG members. The final composition aimed to ensure a balanced representation across nationalities, genders, academic backgrounds, and study levels. The selection criteria included motivation letters, academic interests, and diversity goals.

The selected students were 50 as declared but unfortunately one student from Germany had health problems during the trip that prevented her from attending GIPE.

The participants who took part in the event were distributed as follows:

- 6 students from the University of Trieste, members of AISF (there were 10 reserved seats, but we received fewer requests);
- 24 students from other Italian universities, members of AISF;
- 19 students from German universities, members of jDPG.

Participants came from 26 different universities and covered all academic levels (Bachelor, Master, and PhD), creating a stimulating and diverse environment for scientific and cultural exchange.



Group photo at SISSA

Accommodation and Catering

Participants were hosted in shared rooms at ControVento hostel in the city centre and at Galileo Guesthouse at ICTP, daily breakfast was provided. Both the accommodations were willing to meet the needs of the participants.

Some of the partners of the event offered the catering for coffee breaks and for most of the meals (see the financial overview for more details).

Transportation

All activities took place within the city of Trieste or in nearby research facilities.

Transportation was arranged as follows:

- Private transportation:
Chartered buses were used for visits to the Astronomical Observatory and to the research centers located in the Padriciano and Basovizza areas, as well as to ensure timely arrival at the poster session held at Collegio Fonda.
- Public transportation:
Participants received daily bus tickets to reach activities where strict punctuality was not required and to allow them to move freely throughout the city during their stay.

Travel to and from Trieste was arranged individually by each participant.

COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION

The communication strategy for GIPE25 aimed to reach both national and German audiences within the physics student community, while also engaging local institutions and the general public.

Call for Participants

The call for applications was published on:

- AISF's official channels (website, mailing list, Instagram, Telegram);
- jDPG's communication platforms;
- University of Trieste Physics Department's website.

It included a detailed description of the event, eligibility criteria, participation costs, and instructions for submitting the application form and motivation letter.

The application form was open from 21st July to 1st August, and 107 valid applications were received.

Official Website

A dedicated webpage was hosted on the AISF website: <https://ai-sf.it/gipe>

The website included:

- Event overview and objectives
- Program schedule
- Speaker and institution profiles
- Organizing committee contacts
- Application instructions

The website was regularly updated in the months leading up to the event and served as the main reference point for participants.

Social Media Promotion

GIPE25 was actively promoted through AISF's and GIPE's official social media channels, particularly Instagram ([@gipe2025](https://www.instagram.com/gipe2025)):

- Regular posts introducing speakers, institutions, and activities;
- Event countdown and application reminders;
- Live coverage during the event;
- Post-event highlights and participant testimonials.

Outreach and Institutional Support

The event was also featured on the website and social media pages of partner institutions and was supported by:

- Italian Physical Society (SIF);
- National Interuniversity Consortium of Materials Science and Technology (INSTM);
- Physics Department at the University of Trieste;
- Area Science Park;
- SiS FVG;
- Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste.

Physical posters of the Open ceremony and the Conferences at the Physics Department were distributed among the Physics students from the University of Trieste. Two roll-ups were printed, one with the title of the event and one with the logos of the partners.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The financial structure of GIPE25 relied primarily on in-kind support from scientific institutions in the Trieste research ecosystem, complemented by monetary contributions from national and local partners and by participant fees. This mixed funding model allowed the event to remain financially accessible while providing a rich scientific, cultural, and social programme.

Thanks to this support, GIPE25 closed with a balanced budget and a small positive margin (€50.65), after allocating €300 to an emergency contingency fund.

In-Kind Contributions

In-kind sponsorships represented the largest and most crucial form of support, amounting to an estimated value of **€9,058**.

These contributions covered accommodation, meals, coffee breaks, scientific visits, materials, and logistical support, significantly reducing the financial burden on the organisation.

Key in-kind contributors included:

- ICTP – International Centre for Theoretical Physics
Accommodation for 22 participants, coffee breaks, lunches/dinners.
- SISSA – International School for Advanced Studies
Coffee breaks, lunches, and contributions to scientific activities.
- University of Trieste & Department of Physics
Coffee breaks, materials, poster boards, logistical support.
- CNR-IOM
Support for meals and materials.
- Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste
Support for guided visits and branded gadgets.
- SiS FVG
Catering support and gadgets.
- PromoTurismoFVG
Branded materials and gadgets.

Monetary Contributions

Cash sponsorships amounted to **€1,300**, supporting specifically the expenses that required monetary payment.

The following bodies contributed:

- International Association of Physics Students (IAPS) – €1,000
- Rental Sud – €300

Additionally, contributions subject to reporting amounted to **€5,918**, provided by:

- INFN – Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare – €968
- INAF – Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica – €3,000
- INSTM – National Interuniversity Consortium of Materials Science – €500
- IISG – Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici – €700
- Fondazione CRTrieste – €750

These covered costs such as accommodation, transportation, gadgets, guided tours, and meals.

Participant Fees

Participant fees represented a significant share of the cash income, amounting to a total of **€3,840**, divided as follows:

- €3,600 from participants requiring accommodation (**80 €** per participant)
- €240 from participants without accommodation (**40 €** per local participant)

Fees were deliberately kept low and student-friendly, with the aim of ensuring broad accessibility.

Expense Categories

Total expenditures amounted to **€19,748.35**, distributed across the following categories:

In-kind-funded expenses (€9,058 value)

- Accommodation & breakfasts (ICTP)
- Coffee breaks (ICTP, SISSA, DF)
- Meals (ICTP, SISSA, CNR-IOM, SiS FVG)
- Gadgets (Elettra, PromoTurismoFVG, UniTS, SiS FVG, DF)
- Poster boards (UniTS)
- Accessory expenses (DF)

Reimbursable expenses (€6,132.78)

- Accommodation & breakfasts (INAF)
- Private transportation (INAF, INFN, INSTM)
- Gadgets (Fondazione CRTrieste)
- Guided tours (IISG)
- Dinner (IISG)

Cash-only expenses (€4,557.57)

- Meals
- Public transportation
- Gadgets
- Advertising

- Printing
- Accessory costs

Financial Balance

- Total income: €20,116.00
- Total expenses: €19,748.35
- Emergency fund set aside: €300
- Management fees: €17
- Net remaining balance: €50.65

GIPE25 therefore achieved a positive financial outcome, with all expenses covered.

A full financial table is provided in *Appendix A*.

FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION

To assess the success of the event and gather insights for future editions, a feedback form was distributed to all participants at the end of the week.

Methodology

An anonymous [questionnaire](#) was shared online, consisting of both quantitative (rating the experiences from 1 to 5) and qualitative questions, aimed at evaluating:

- Satisfaction with the scientific content
- Quality of the organizational logistics
- Social and cultural program engagement
- Clarity of communication before and during the event
- Overall experience and areas for improvement

Response Rate

Out of 49 participants, 24 completed the feedback form, resulting in a response rate of 49%.

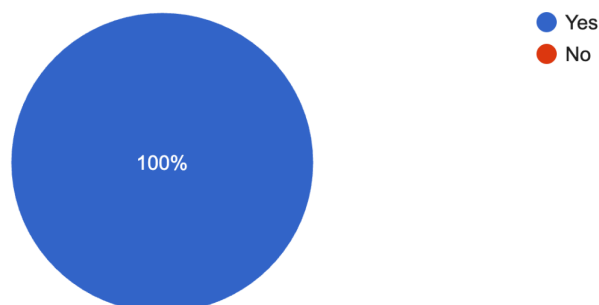
Key Results

Regarding the schedule, many appreciated the balance of activities, especially on Friday, when the program allowed more free time. However, Thursday was described as very intense, with little room for breaks. Several comments suggested that fewer but deeper workshops, combined with longer pauses, would improve the experience. This indicates

that while the scientific content was valued, time management remains an area for refinement.

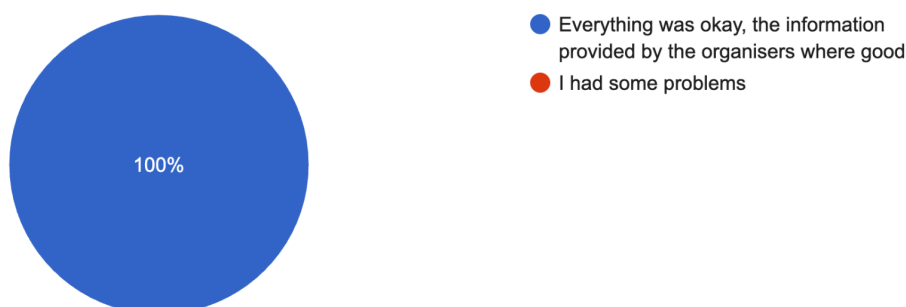
If you had some problems, were we able to help you?

11 risposte



Arrival in Trieste

24 risposte



Activities such as guided visits, coffee breaks, and social dinners received very high ratings, with more than 90% of respondents giving scores of 4 or 5. Some deviations were noted for specific seminars and meals, but the majority of events were well received. Transportation and accommodation were also rated positively, with most participants satisfied.

The most appreciated aspects included the opportunity to explore Trieste's scientific institutions, the chance to interact with peers, and the overall atmosphere of collaboration. The least appreciated elements were mainly related to the packed schedule and, in a few cases, practical issues such as shared facilities in the hostel or low food variety for vegans.

Suggestions for Future Editions

Based on the feedback, the following improvements are suggested:

- 1) *Allow more time for presentations and questions*
Some professors could not finish their talks, and students felt there was little time for discussion. Future editions should ensure longer slots or fewer talks per session to allow proper interaction.

- 2) *Balancing the daily schedule with more breaks*
Thursday was described as very packed and exhausting. Participants suggested fewer but deeper workshops, combined with longer pauses, to improve concentration and reduce fatigue.

- 3) *Provide practical information earlier*
Some students mentioned they would have liked to receive details (e.g., vegan food options, dress code for the social dinner, departure times) a few days in advance rather than the night before.

The GIPE25 organizing team will share this evaluation with future organizers to ensure continuity and growth of the event.

This report was written by the coordinator Denis Cristian Pal with the contribution of the vice-coordinator Sofia D'Ambrosio and under the supervision of Agata De Maria and Carola Ferrari.

It is important to acknowledge that the event was not easy to organize, being managed entirely by students. In July there were also internal changes in the management team, which initially created some difficulties in dividing roles. However, from mid-July onwards, with a clearer definition of responsibilities, the organization settled down and the work proceeded successfully.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the people with whom the organizing committee interacted. Their contribution was indispensable not only on a practical and economic level, but also on a human level in making the event possible. A heartfelt thank you to everyone.