

PRESS RELEASE

New ERC Consolidator Grant to SISSA Professor Alberto Maspero

Funding for the project amounts to 1,440,000 euros.



Trieste, 23 November 2023

SISSA has been awarded another European Research Council (ERC) grant. Professor Alberto Maspero's project, valued at almost one and a half million euros, is set to commence in 2024 and will span five years. Thanks to this result, the number of ERC grants awarded to the School since the ERC was founded in 2007 has risen to 31. SISSA is thus confirmed as one of the Italian institutions with the highest number of ERC grants compared to the number of researchers.

Alberto Maspero, a mathematician, earned his doctoral degree through a joint program between the University of Zurich and the State University of Milan. His project, titled 'Generating unstable dynamics in dispersive Hamiltonian fluids' (GUnDHam), aims to rigorously demonstrate the emergence of instability phenomena in certain dispersive Hamiltonian equations governing the dynamics of fluids on large spatial scales, including water waves and geophysical fluids.



GUnDHam will specifically focus on understanding how energy cascades related to turbulence, modulational instabilities, and rare extreme phenomena, such as the formation of anomalous waves, are generated. “Despite these phenomena being commonly observed in oceans, planetary atmospheres, and replicated in experimental laboratories, their mathematical description is still in its infancy. The goal is to contribute to bridging this knowledge gap by providing a solid theoretical foundation for their mathematical understanding” explains Maspero.

Maspero is among 308 winners of a Consolidator Grant, funding designed to support outstanding scientists at a stage in their careers when they are consolidating their research groups to pursue their most promising scientific ideas. These grants, totalling EUR 627 million, are an integral part of the European Union's Horizon Europe Programme.

Iliana Ivanova, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: “I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the brilliant researchers who have been selected for ERC Consolidator Grants. I'm especially thrilled to note the significant increase in the representation of women among the winners for the third consecutive year in this prestigious grant competition. This positive trend not only reflects the outstanding contributions of women researchers but also highlights the strides we are making towards a more inclusive and diverse scientific community.”

President of the European Research Council Prof. Maria Leptin said: “The new Consolidator Grant winners represent some of the best of European research. It is disappointing that we cannot support every deserving project simply due to budget constraints; around 100 proposals identified as excellent in our rigorous evaluation will be left unfunded. Can Europe afford to let such talent go unrealised? We need to collectively advocate for increased investment in research and innovation. Our shared goal must be to ensure that no brilliant idea goes unfunded in Europe, and no promising career is left unfulfilled.”

The laureates of this grant competition will carry out their projects at universities and research centres in 22 EU Member States and other countries associated with Horizon Europe. There are nationals of 43 countries among the winners of this call, notably Germans (56 researchers), Italians (36) and Dutch (27). The grants will create around 1,800 jobs for postdoctoral fellows, PhD students, and other staff at the host institutions.

The full call results have been announced today and can be found [here](#).

SISSA

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IMAGE

Crediti: Alberto Maspero

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