PRESS RELEASE

SISSA physics and mathematics areas at the top of Italian research

The School will compete for up to 12 million euros for 5 years thanks to its excellent position in the ranking published by MIUR

16 May 2017

The Physics and Mathematics areas of the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) of Trieste are among the best 350 departments in the Italian university system. As a result of this ranking, they will have access to the funding of 180 departments with almost 300 million euros beginning in 2018. The ranking was compiled on the basis of the evaluation of research quality (VQR) released by ANVUR – the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research Systems.

«We are very happy with the results. Assignment of the top positions to our Physics and Mathematics areas confirms the excellent outcome of the VQR and gives us access to substantial funding – up to 6 million Euros for each 5-year project – to develop innovative and interdisciplinary ideas» declares Stefano Ruffo, SISSA director. «We regret however that the Neuroscience area, despite its outstanding achievement in the VQR, was left out of the ranking due to its limited size». 
In the ranking of the so-called schools of excellence (Sant’Anna and the Scuola Normale in Pisa, IUSS in Pavia, IMT in Lucca, GSSI in L’Aquila), only departments with at least 20 faculty members were considered. The SISSA Neuroscience area includes 17 faculty.

«This is our main experimental area and it would have greatly benefited from such funding. It is a fast-growing, young department which includes the winners of four European Research Council (ERC) grants, two Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) grants, and one within the Graphene Flagship Initiative» Ruffo continues. «This support to departments represents an important opportunity for Italian research centers. It is the first significant, merit-based funding to be added to the standard operating budget (known as FFO in Italian). More flexibility is necessary for universities like ours that prioritize research and recruitment quality over the faculty size».

USEFUL LINKS:
Ranking: http://hubmiur.pubblica.istruzione.it/alfresco/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/c0b027de-850c-444a-80d9-cad48bf31dcb/ELENCO_DIP_ECCELLENZA.pdf

IMAGE:
Credits: SISSA

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