

## ***ESOF2020 Trieste* looks at Central and Eastern Europe**

**Today Toulouse passes the baton to Trieste for the organization of the EuroScience Open Forum in two years. The path towards Trieste European City of Science 2020 will focus on the involvement of Central-Eastern region of the Old Continent**

Toulouse, 14 July 2018

The adventure that will lead to *ESOF2020 Trieste* starts today in Toulouse. The organisers of the event aim at establishing Trieste as a scientific and technological crossroad between East and West and strengthening its role in international diplomacy as well as building up a science centre of excellence in Northern Adriatic and creating a science and innovation institute for the Balkans. *ESOF2020* has been presented this morning during a press conference in Toulouse, where the French edition is coming to its end. Under the motto *Freedom for Science, Science for Freedom*, the event will focus in particular on Eastern countries.

### **The goals of a big adventure**

Stefano Fantoni, Champion of *ESOF2020 Trieste*, has clear ideas on what the goals for Trieste are: “Trieste will focus in particular on Central-Eastern countries and the Balkans, a wide region of great interest also for the rest of Europe. We have a unique opportunity to strengthen the existing connections and to foster new initiatives, thus giving value to the strategic position of the city and the scientific and cultural heritage of this important area.”

“Another goal of our project” Fantoni continues “is related to science and scientists. We have to redefine the role of researchers and their status within the current society and to establish a stronger dialogue between science and business for a more sustainable and more inclusive future. Collaborations, meetings and knowledge sharing are keys to science advancements. This is the only true way to make progress and innovate, overcoming borders of all kinds, geographical, political, and historical. Indeed, Trieste, with its pioneering role in Science Diplomacy, has already proven that a dialogue among different people and countries is possible even in difficult circumstances.”

The Champion has also clear ideas on the legacy of *ESOF2020*: “One of the outcomes of our activities will be the creation of a new scientific platform, open to Central and Eastern European countries, and the Balkans in particular, similar to the Santa Fe Institute: independent,

multidisciplinary and no-profit. The platform will foster dialogue among scientists, entrepreneurs, policy makers and citizens to provide new technological solutions to common problems. Another expected legacy of this event will be the creation of a North Adriatic *Science Centre*, where science and innovation will be accessible to the public at large.”

### **Three celebrity endorsements. Porto Vecchio ready to change, a festival open to the large public**

Three celebrity endorsers for ESOF2020 have been announced today: Marica Branchesi (astrophysicist at the GSSI- Gran Sasso Science Institute, named by the Time magazine among the 100 most influential people in the world in 2018), Paolo Giordano (writer) and Massimiliano Fuksas (architect). *ESOF2020 Trieste* will take place from 4 to 10 July 2020 in Porto Vecchio, an area of approximately 65 hectares, ready to change its appearance to offer the city a unique opportunity for a fast economic, social and cultural growth. The Science in the City Festival will take place on the side of the ESOF2020 events and will aim at involving the public at large with activities related to science and technology.

### **What’s happening in Toulouse today?**

Two main events focusing on Trieste are taking place today in Toulouse. A press conference was held in the morning, featuring Stefano Fantoni, President of the Trieste International Foundation for Scientific Progress and Freedom (FIT) and Champion for *ESOF2020*, Michael Matlosz, new president of EuroScience, Roberto Dipiazza, Mayor of Trieste, Alessia Rosolen, Educational and Research Regional Deputy, Pierpaolo Ferrante, *ESOF2020* Technical Director, Paola Rodari, Science in the City Programme Manager, and Sergio Paoletti, President of Area Science Park. In the afternoon, an official ceremony will mark the hand-over from the Champion of Toulouse, Anna Cambon-Thomsen, to the Champion of Trieste, Stefano Fantoni followed by the statements by Massimiliano Fedriga, President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Roberto Dipiazza, Mayor of Trieste, Maurizio Fermeglia, Rector of Trieste University, Alessandra Palumbo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs delegate, and Rodica Toader, romanian mathematician.

## **Press Conference: Speakers' statements**

Here below, please find the statements issued by the featured speakers.

### **Alessia Rosolen**

Educational and Research Regional Deputy

**“ESOF represents an extraordinary opportunity for the future development of the territory, both in the scientific aspect as well as in the touristic and economic one. It will be crucial in defining the role of Trieste in the international arena in the future years.”**

“ESOF represents an extraordinary opportunity for the future development of the territory, both in the scientific aspect as well as in the touristic and economic one. It may be crucial in defining the role of Trieste in the international arena in the future years. Through ESOF, Trieste will further establish itself as a crossroads between the Balkans and Western European countries, creating new opportunities for economic growth and employment.

It is fair and important to remind the existing agreements between the Government of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, University and Research and the Joint Research Centre that already aim at strengthening and fostering the Trieste Science System. This event will therefore further reinforce the international dimension of the regional system. In this historical moment, when Europe, right or wrong, is often perceived as a brake or even, as a problem, supporting these transnational events also has a symbolic meaning. Through ESOF we all have a great opportunity to show that Europe can develop interesting scenarios for all citizens. From here, from ESOF, Trieste can grow. It is up to us to create the conditions not to lose this opportunity. The Trieste Science System can and must boost the development of the Balkanic area.”

### **Roberto Dipiazza**

Mayor of Trieste

**“Science has always been a common ground that has favoured the meeting of cultures beyond borders. ESOF reaffirms the relevance of Trieste in the international scientific arena. An area of 65 hectares in Porto Vecchio, headquarters of ESOF2020 - a place that once was a warehouse of goods and today is a warehouse of ideas - will foster in a few years an economic, social, cultural and demographic growth.”**

“Science, innovation and development are synonyms of ‘Future’. The fact that Trieste, city of which I am proud to be the Mayor for the third time, is being crowned the European City of Science is the validation of its role at the international level. Moreover ESOF represents the way in which the city is moving towards the future with fast and steady steps.”

“Trieste is the city of Umberto Saba, James Joyce and Italo Svevo: culture is everywhere.” The Mayor continued, “It has always been a melting pot and today, thanks to the Municipality in synergy with other institutions, it has started a virtuous process aimed at the requalification of the Porto Vecchio. The headquarters of *ESOF2020* - a place that once was a warehouse of goods and today is a warehouse of ideas - will foster in a few years an economic, social, cultural and demographic growth.”

“As you will see,” Dipiazza said, “Trieste is the capital of a large area of interest for Europe that now is looking more and more towards East. Its port, the biggest for the traffic of goods in Italy, has become for the Northern Adriatic a strategic gateway to the new Silk Road. Science has always been a common ground that has favoured the meeting of cultures beyond borders. As a multiethnic city, Trieste continues to be a fertile ground for one of the strongest scientific research systems in the world. Through the involvement of the Trieste Science System we could also develop a new form of scientific tourism. Thanks to *ESOF2020* the whole city is taking part in a common project aimed at the creation of an innovative Convention Centre in Porto Vecchio. Welcome to Trieste!”

## **Pierpaolo Ferrante**

*ESOF2020* Technical Director

**“A new Convention Centre will be created for ESOF. It will service a vast area within Europe and will be the headquarters for the future Science Centre. ESOF will also be a driving force for the rehabilitation of a vast area near the Porto Vecchio, where a park and a sport city for the Trieste’s soccer team - Triestina - could be created.”**

“ESOF Copenhagen 2014 has been an inspiring moment for me for the proposal of Trieste to *ESOF2020*. As the EuroScience Open Forum was taking place in the wonderful Carlsberg City, within the old industrial area of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, I started to imagine how the Porto Vecchio in Trieste, an old abandoned industrial complex, could one day host the same event,” Ferrante explained.

“The Trieste edition of ESOF will be innovative and will be able to bring together scientists, researchers, journalists and citizens from Central-Eastern Europe. *ESOF2020* will also be an extraordinary adventure for the city and the entire Northeast Italy. It is the main driving force and

incentive for the rehabilitation of the Porto Vecchio, an area of about 60 hectares and its buildings.”

A lot is expected to be done within the *ESOF2020* initiative: “a new Convention Centre – that Trieste has been waiting for many years – that will service a large part of Italy and Europe and that will further give impulse to the touristic sector.” The impact of the initiative will be even deeper, Ferrante said, “ESOF will be an accelerating force for the cultural and economic development of the city and will deepen the citizens’ awareness of living in a city of science. ESOF will furthermore bring together the scientific institutes and the business sector, creating new opportunities for investors in Porto Vecchio. ESOF will be the starting point for the new Science Centre and the rehabilitation of a vast area near the Porto Vecchio, where a park and a sport city for the Trieste’s soccer team - Triestina - could be created”.

How do we expect Trieste to change with this initiative? “Trieste will become a harbour of ideas, a centre for innovation and research for Central-Eastern Europe and even China through the new Silk Road.”

## **Paola Rodari**

*ESOF2020 Trieste Science* in the City Programme Manager

**“Alongside *ESOF2020*, the Science in the City Festival will take place for two weeks all over the City and in the Region, involving a number of different events. Key actors will be citizens of all ages, associations, schools and institutions, to discover science and technology as a shared and common experience.”**

“Alongside *ESOF2020*, the Science in the City Festival will be organised, a big science festival involving the city for two weeks and including many events in the region” Paola Rodari said. “We are already collecting ideas from institutions, associations, schools and citizens, as this festival will be a great chance for everyone to experience science, technology and their contaminations through theatre, music and art. Some of these projects and events will take place before 2020, in order to test them and improve their format when necessary: we call these activities *proESOF* and they are organized in Trieste, in its surrounding areas and abroad.” Next fall, for example, five artists from Romania will be hosted in Trieste for two weeks, thanks to a grant from the Rumanian Ministry of Culture. They will visit scientific institutions in Trieste and render their personal interpretation of them. Their artwork will be exhibited in Trieste and Bucarest. “We hope this collaboration will keep going until 2020 and beyond” Paola Rodari concluded.

**Sergio Paoletti**

President of Area Science Park

**“Area Science Park will contribute to *ESOF2020* in two ways: the enhancement of the local scientific and technological infrastructures and the technological development needed by companies and new spin-offs and startups.”**

“The historic role of Trieste and its geopolitical location, together with the scientific institutions of the so-called Trieste System, are the distinctive elements of the *ESOF2020* adventure and of its opening towards Central-Eastern Europe” Paoletti says. “Area Science Park, an international Institute for scientific research, will contribute to *ESOF2020* in two ways: the enhancement of the local scientific and technological infrastructures and the technological development needed by companies and new-born spin-offs and start-ups. Area is already very active in both these fields, being involved in collaborations with countries from Central and Southern Europe sponsored by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and the Joint Research Centre – JCR from the European Commission.”

**PRESS CONTACTS**

Nico Pitrelli

[nico.pitrelli@esof.eu](mailto:nico.pitrelli@esof.eu)

+39 3391337950

Marina D’Alessandro

[marina.dalessandro@esof.eu](mailto:marina.dalessandro@esof.eu)

+39 3492885935

Donato Ramani

[donato.ramani@esof.eu](mailto:donato.ramani@esof.eu)

+39 3428022237