Annex #1

SCUOLA INTERNAZIONALE SUPERIORE DI STUDI AVANZATI
via Bonomea n. 265, 34136 Trieste (Italy) tel.: 04037871 – telefax: 0403887249

Il Consiglio degli Allievi

Trieste, September 28, 2015

Final report
by Matteo Casati, NED (Studens' representative) at SISSA
Elected in May 2012, in office since July 1, 2012.

Dear President and distinguished fellow representatives,

when some colleagues proposed me to run for the office of Students' representative in the Board of Directors, the Statute had just been enforced: it was the first time that so many students' representatives sat in the government bodies (previously, there were students' representatives in the Board only), and for the first time we were not just having one or two charismatic representatives, but we rather had to build a team which could work together, each of us according to his or her skills and quirks. I got bureaucracy, it goes without saying with little competition.

Together with my colleague representatives, both in the term 2012-14 and in the current one, we tried to interpret the students' voices, that – as you might have noticed, too – are not easy to be drawn together. We deem that the good for our School – that as members of the Board we ought to pursuit – mostly relies on the competence of its students and in the quality of the education. The University may be, as prof. Martinelli said, "not a democracy but rather a meritocratic cooptation", but it is for sure that the merit cannot be evaluated on our glorious past or on the past of our professors, but on our capability to attract the best scholars and students, to propose new projects, to challenge the improper customs of a lot of other universities, criticized by everyone at SISSA, but secretly envied when not followed.

The following are the results we achieved in the last years following our own initiative, namely without keeping into account the ordinary administration and our contributions to proposals by someone else.

- **Research fellowships.** They are short term fellowships awarded to PhD graduates in order to complete their own research, get better results which may help to find a postdoctoral positions. At the beginning, only people less than 30 years old were eligible, thus excluding people with no reason. The threshold has first been raised and then erased at all.

- **Sports court.** The proposal to erase the project, that had existed since the moving of SISSA

to via Bonomea campus, was stopped in July 2013. After a referendum among the students the project has been frozen at the end of 2013, and never erased until today.

- **Room for students' activities.** A1 room was assigned to the Students and put under the responsibility of SISSA Club. In principle it should work as a common room, in practice we can do better to exploit it and to make it a real "students' room"

- **Health Insurance** for students and postdocs from EU, without a coverage from their own country. Together with postdocs' representatives, we allotted a lot of money to pay for the registration to Italian Health Service of people without coverage (for postdoc it is a contribution, for students it should cover all the fee).

- **Ombudsperson** of the students' and of the research personnal. Instituted by the beginning of academic year 2014-15

- **Contribution for Training and Research Expenses** for last year students (the 1000 EUR), instituted from academic year 2014-15

- **Modification of PhD Rules**, in particular to avoid the postponement of the thesis after the end of fourth year without paying the students (and sometimes, making them pay for the compulsory insurance). From Academic year 2015-16.

There are not included the almost daily activity of committees, work groups, direct interaction with the Administration and the Director, more or less technical support to the students who address the representatives, partly because it is difficult to summarize everything and partly because most of these activities are not carried out by the representative in the Board of Directors alone, but by all the Board.

However, it is important to stress that nothing of what we have got in the last years can be considered granted for ever, and at the same time that the past should not stake a claim on the future: it is up to you and to our successors to take different decisions and act *pro tempore et pro re*.

The following two issues have not been completed, and I invite the Council to embrace them in the following months.

The first one is a general remark, upon which I think the effectiveness of our work as representatives is based. It is true that with the new Statute and establishing the Board of the Students' Council the "big reps" are closer to the students, but I think that this distance is still too large. It is crucial for the PhD courses representatives, who are in charge of the particular interests of their colleagues, to facilitate the transmission of information in both the directions, more often that the one we had until now and with all the means that the Council can think of. You should not just be (and it is already a lot I am thankful for) at disposal of all your colleagues, but you may be propositive, look for them if they don't come at you. Moreover, I remind you that at the beginning

of next academic year we have committed ourselves to have PhD courses assemblies.

I would like to leave the second issue as a commitment for the next members of the Board. The welfare contributions we pay from our fellowships have been increasing with the years, and they are getting higher and higher until 2018. From the gross amount of the fellowships, the rate increased from 27.7% in 2012 to today 30% and will reach 33% in 2018: we pay one third of this quota, namely our fellowships have passed from 1134 to 1122 EUR, and will eventually reach 1109 EUR.

Since this reduction affects postdocs, too, in 2015 the Board improved the minimum wage of postdocs in such a way that they get at least 1800 EUR/month net. For the students, we ought to ask for a raise that set the fellowship at least ~ 1120-25 EUR net. We have already addressed this issue to prof. Martinelli, who postponed it to the new director (of course, we must be the ones to raise the topic).

I express my heartfelt thanks to everyone, for your cooperation, the stimuli and the criticism I received. Indeed, I would like to have got more criticisms, because without them I would have not known how to improve, and I could do much better (albeit not much more) than how I did.

Good night, and good luck.

Transparency data

*The attendance fee for each meeting of the BoD is 105,30 EUR **gross** (more or less 90 EUR net)*

2012	
Attendance to the meetings of the BoD	4/4
2013	
Attendance to the meetings of the BoD	8/8
2014	
Attendance to the meetings of the BoD	9/9 + joint Senate and BoD of FVG Universities
Missions	81,00 (Pisa-Trieste to attend BoD Dec meetings)
2015	
Attendance to the meetings of the BoD	6/7

REPORT FROM 150HRS WORK ASSIGNMENT IN SISSA ROOM MANAGEMENT

Matteo Casati, Silvia Corsini, Cristiano De Nobili

Premise

As per the SISSA Director decree Prot. 58/2015 dating February 10th, 2015 (150 hours assignment decree), we performed the ordinary maintenance of the School Space Management Database. The final result of the work has been presented during a meeting with the Director on September 28th, 2015.

The outcome of the survey about the room occupation has to be considered valid as of the beginning of September 2015. Attached to the survey is also a statistical analysis concerning space availability for different categories of academic personnel, and different areas.

The web application

omissis

Ordinary maintenance

In the course of our work, we revised the seat occupation data for 225 rooms, of which 59 are currently assigned to Mathematics Area, 112 to Physics Area, 54 to Neuroscience Area. For the moment, the general survey has not considered the spaces directly managed by the Administration (e.g., the vast majority of the rooms on the second floor of the main building), nor the laboratories (exception for room 355).

As for the four common rooms (322, 422, 522, and 600), they are currently assigned by the Direction to visitors. They are not included in this survey.

omissis (update of database)

Some rooms have been filled with more (and even much more) desks than theoretically advisable. Since this situation is concentrated in some research groups, it emerges immediately in the statistics about the average space available. Reportedly, the rationale behind this kind of choice has been that the more the group members are concentrated into a single room, the easier it is to have a group meeting, or to keep the results of the work in a single area, where constant control is easier. Also, since the room occupants are often engaged in lab activities, the actual presence of people in such "over-dense" offices at any given time in a day has been reported to basically agree with the standards.

omissis (technical information)

We have provided a statistical analysis of the average space available per each category of personnel in every research Area; the data for the area of the rooms (in square meters) are based on planimetric images of SISSA main building, whereas room occupation data have been retrieved from Space Management Database.

To understand the data, it is important to underline that our statistics are made considering the numbers given by the database and not the real number of desks/workstations.

Support to Areas' room management

omissis (information and suggestions how to manage the space)

General analysis of the room occupation

Disclaimer: the following consideration have been carried out from a snapshot of the space database taken at the end of August, 2015. Most of the issues have affected SISSA for the recent years, and can be found in the previous reports; we want to stress some general and a few particular issues, to be hopefully addressed during the next academic year. From the statistics compiled, we are able to compare the changes in the available space in the last year.

The total number of people has increased up to 551 persons, with a relative growth of 6%. Mathematics is the Area which underwent the most significant change, with +10% (11 units, mostly PhD students), followed by Neuroscience and Physics, respectively with +5% and +4% (9). This implied a reduction of the available space for person, in particular it should be noticed that PhD students in Mathematics have fallen under 7 m^2 per person, while in Neuroscience that has been a small overall improvement, thought for Neurobiology and, even more, Genomics the space available is respectively 5 and 4 m^2.

Moreover, we remark that the average space for postdocs (AR, for Assegnisti di Ricerca) in Physics and Neuroscience is, with a few exceptions, the same as the one for PhD students (DT), while in Mathematics postdocs enjoy 40% more space (9.11 vs. 6.44 m^2). This is due to the use of the seventh floor "single offices" (9.89 m^2) which cannot host more than one person and are at the moment used for two Researchers, a retired professor (from Neuroscience Area) and, indeed, several postdocs.

The reader should not be mislead by the number of free workstation as reported in the tables (25 for Mathematics, 15 for Neuroscience, and 144 for Physics). As already remarked, the total number of workstation keeps into account the maximum possible "filling" of the rooms according to the rules prescribed by the Estate office, obtained by considering the size of the room and the possible network and power outlets that are present or can be installed. A straightforward consequence is that the number of the professors using a single office should be removed by the free workstation total, since their offices could theoretically host two persons.

We stress that the average space available to postdocs in and PhD students in Neuroscience is significantly smaller, even on average, to the one for the other Areas. It may still be considered sufficient, also considering that most people in Neuroscience spend a lot of time in the laboratories rather than in the office. The averaged numbers, thought, do not tell the full story. The space available to students of Cognitive Neuroscience is more than satisfactory (and it is an internal average, about which we will comment in the next few lines), while the students and the postdocs in Genomics are (with the important exception of A1 office) squeezed in rooms that could fit a little more than a half of them.

The variance between the space available to people from different groups within Neuroscience and is extremely high. Cognitive Neuroscience has the best average space for PhD students and postdocs, but at the same time it has one of the most overcrowded rooms of the School, that did not undergo any improvement in the past years despite the situation has been repeatedly pointed out, both at central and at Area level.

Concerning the visitors, we remark that in Mathematics Area the number of desks reserved to visitors is much less than for the other Areas. However, Mathematics Area hosts a lot of – more or less short-term – visitors. They are hosted both at the desks temporarily free (by professors, postdocs, and in recent cases even students away for missions) or in the common guest rooms of the Direction. On the contrary, in Physics and Neuroscience there are desks permanently dedicated to recurring visitors, whose actual usage cannot be tracked and may be worthy of a survey.

Detailed analysis

We conclude with a few additional observations concerning some situations where the deviation from the mean value is particularly significant, and which thus may deserve further examination, and possibly new decisions or assignments.

Overcrowded rooms: rooms that host more people than prescribed by the software

Room	Area	Group/Lab	Space avail	Space used	Notes
A-102	Maths	Master Degree	6	7	There are ordinarily six fellowships a year, and a 6 person room is assigned to each year. Situation that will be naturally solved in October 2016, with the graduation.
A-242	Neuro	CNS	4	5	Similar offices at the other wing and floors are sometimes listed as being suitable for 4, sometimes for 5 persons. We deem that 5 persons can easily fit there, but there may arise problems with network and power outlets. In a single case (A-501) the fifth outlets have been added in recent years. We suggest that the Estate office allow for the fifth position both in theory and (if needed) in practice.
A-342	Neuro	CNS	4	5	
A-355	Neuro	Mechatronics, Lab	0	4	Laboratory, not listed. 5 people should be easily able to work there

Room	Area	Group/Lab	Space avail	Space used	Notes
A-401	Phys	CM	4	5	Same situation of rooms A-242 and A-342, but we remark that all the people listed in the room are visitors, most of whom spend regularly a few days a month or a week at SISSA. This makes the room significantly under-used.
A-423	Neuro	NB e SFG, 1st year	10	13	
A-425	Neuro	SFG, Mallamaci's	5	7	
A-442	Neuro	CNS, Zoccolan's	5	8	Remarkable because in Cognitive Neuroscience there is not, on average, a problem of lack of space. This means that there are CNS rooms that could easily accommodate the outnumbered people.
A-521	Phys	AP, APP 1st year	8	9	Max availability contrast with the limit of 10 people for all the similar rooms (48.9 m^2)
A-528	Neuro	SFG, Legname's	5	7	
A-530	Neuro	SFG, Legname's	4	5	Actually as large as A-528
A-545	Neuro	SFG, Legname's	5	8	

Underused rooms: rooms that host two or more less than prescribed by the software. This list is intended to point out the possible amelioration of the current situation by spotting the rooms that, are the moment, are less used that how much it could be done. Some of them are actually used by permanent professors, hence a modification of the usage is not likely.

Room	Area	Group/Lab	Space avail	Space used	Notes
A-232	Neuro	CNS, Language	3	1	Office of prof. Nespor, collaborator.
A-233	Neuro	CNS, Language	5	2	Office of prof. Nicholls and 1 postdoc
A-301	Phys	SBP	5	3	1 postdoc and 2 collaborators/visitors
A-302	Phys	CM	5	3	
A-310	Phys	CM	5	3	
Various	Phys	CM, Democritos			Most of them could host more people
A-320	Phys	SBP	5	3	
A-323	Phys	SBP, 1st year	10	5	One of the free desks has been arranged as a table tennis table
A-324	Neuro	CNS, Diamond's	10	6	According to the surface, a max occupancy of 8 looks more sensible
A-325	Neuro	CNS	5	3	
A-327	Phys	SBP	5	3	
A-332	Phys	SBP	3	1	A postdoc
A-335	Phys	SBP	3	1	A researcher
A-336	Phys	SBP	3	1	A professor
A-412	Phys	CM	4	2	Identical offices have max occupancy of 5
A-418	Phys	SBP	4	1	A single PhD student. Identical offices have max occupancy of 5.

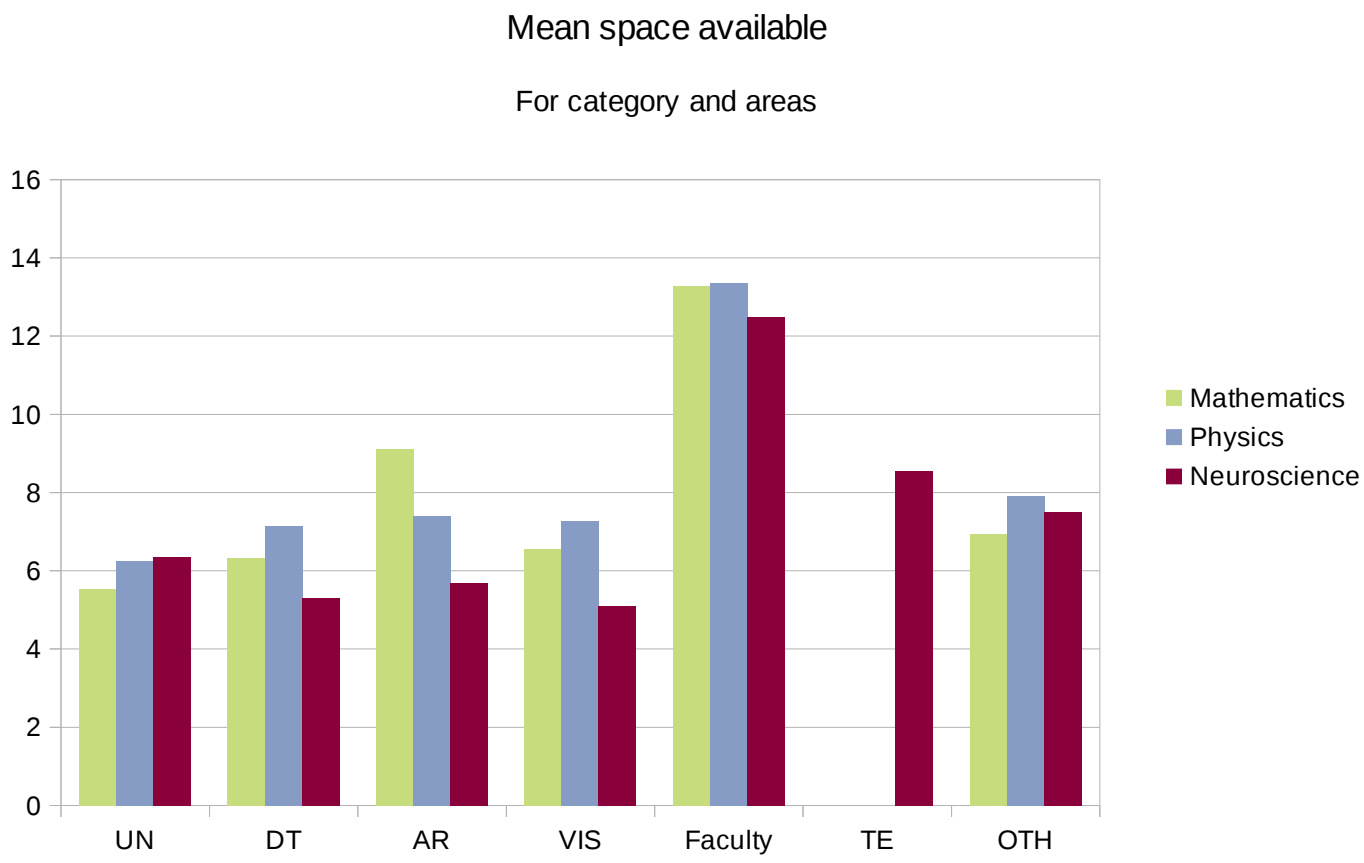
Room	Area	Group/Lab	Space avail	Space used	Notes
A-420	Phys	SBP	5	3	
A-427	Phys	SBP	5	3	
A-431	Phys		4	0	Identical offices have max occupancy of 5.
A-502	Phys	AP	5	3	
A-509	Phys	AP	3	1	A professor
A-510	Phys	AP	4	2	A professor and a collaborator. Identical offices have max occupancy of 5.
A-511	Phys	AP	3	1	A postdoc
A-512	Phys	AP	4	2	Identical offices have max occupancy of 5
A-513	Phys	AP	3	1	A professor
A-537	Phys	APP	5	2	
A-603	Phys	SP	5	3	
From A-626 to A-631	Phys and Maths	Various	3	1	All these are office for professors with a surface < 14 m^2. We regard the maximal occupancy of 3 as not realistic.
A-735	Phys	TPP	3	1	Prof. Gava's office. Seldom used if not used at all.
A2-001	Neuro	SFG	7	4	Used by a PhD student, two undergraduate students, and one visitor. It is the biggest room of our survey (49 m^2), it could easily have a maximum occupancy of 10 people.

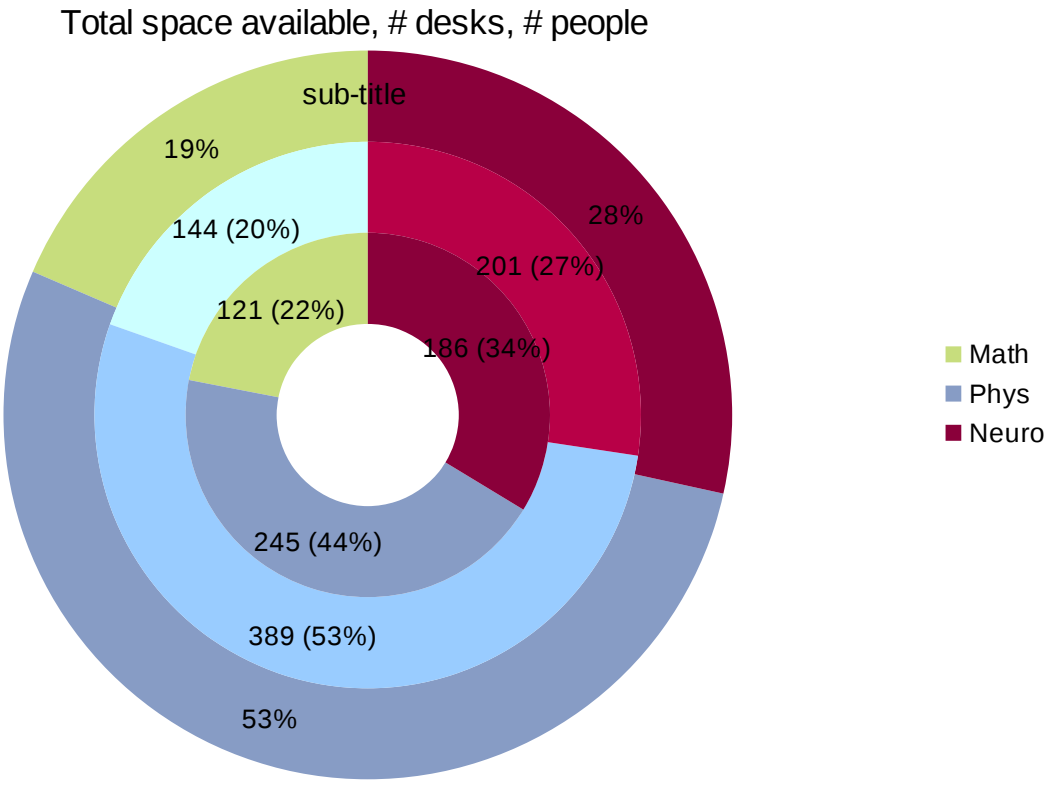
Discrepant maximum occupancy: Some discrepancies about the maximum allowed workstations in several identical offices has been found. Some of them have been remarked in the previous two lists, but several others can be observed in the detailed table. As a rule of thumb, the standard maximum occupancy seems to be (and possibly should be) as in the following table. Some of the offices are of not standard shape, hence the maximum occupancy should be evaluated accordingly.

Surface	**Proposed occupancy**	**Surface**	**Proposed occupancy**
<10 m^2	1	20.71<x<30	5
10<x<14 m^2	2	30<x<35	6
15<x<20	3	36.6 (L-shaped rooms)	5
38.8	8	48.8	10

Trieste, September 28th 2015

ROOM MANAGEMENT STATISTICS, AUGUST 2015



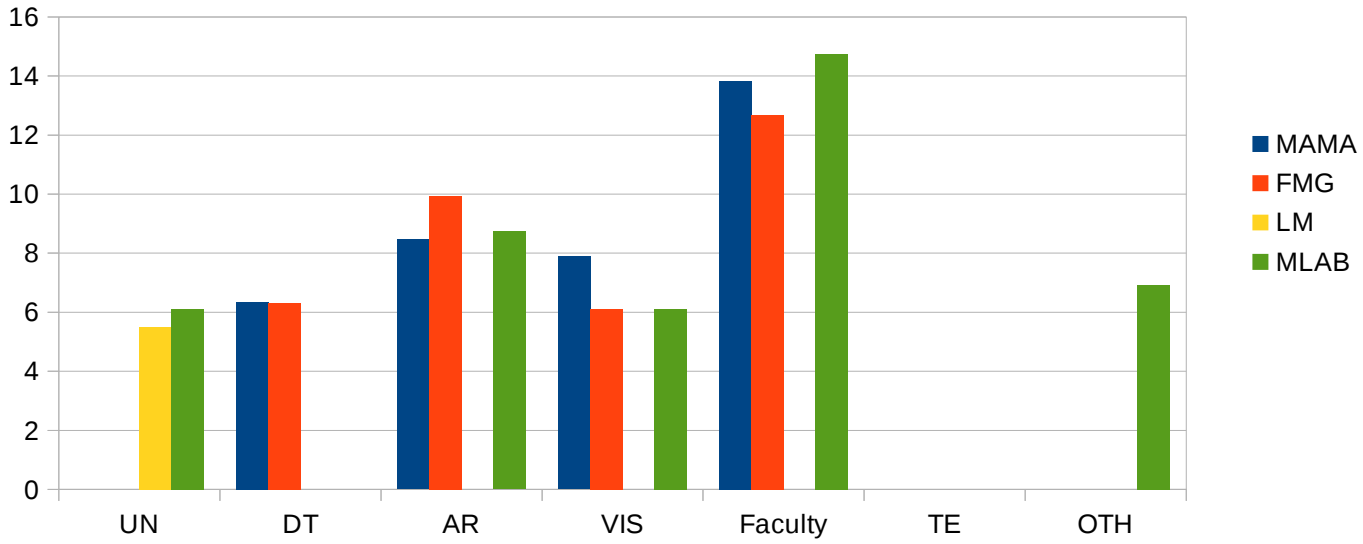


Legend of categories: UN undergraduate, DT PhD student, AR postdoc, VIS visitor, TE technical personnel, OTH other position

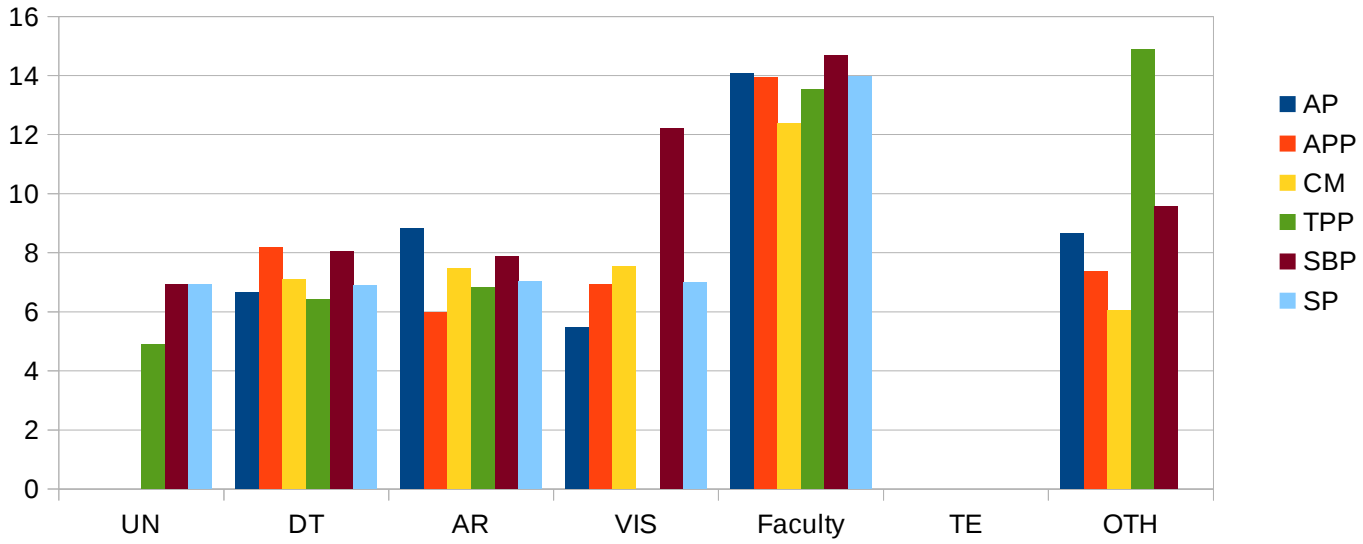
Legend of groups: MAMA Mathematical Analysis, FMG Mathematical Physics and Geometry, LM Master Degree in Maths, MLAB Mathlab, AP Astrophysics, APP Astroparticle, CM Condensed Matter, TPP Theoretical Particle, SBP Biophysics, SP Statistical Physics, CNS Cognitive Neuroscience, NB Neurobiology, SFG Genomics

Mean space available

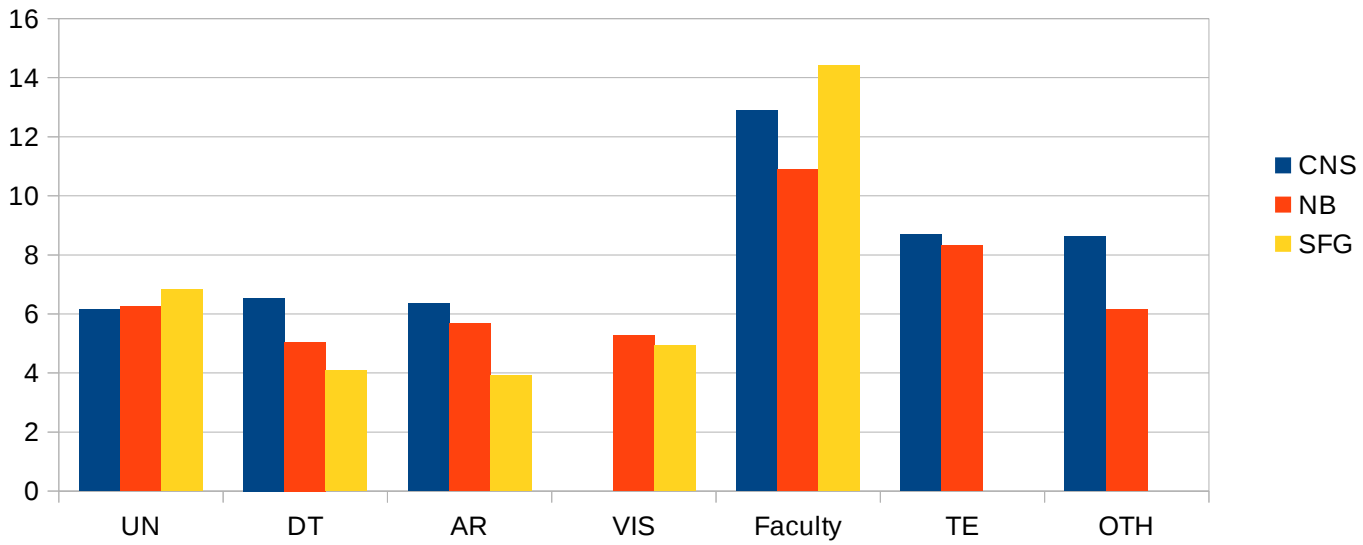
Mathematics, by category and group



Physics, by category and group



Neuroscience, by category and group



Statistiche

	Rooms	People												Workstations		Mean space available									
		UN	DT	AR	VIS	RU	PA	PO	RET	Faculty	TE	OTH	Total	Total	Free	UN	DT	AR	VIS	RU	PA	PO	RET	Faculty	TE	OTH
MAMA		0	33	5	1	2	1	4	0	7	0	0	46			0.00	6.35	8.47	7.89	13.78	14.30	13.74	0.00	13.83	0.00	0.00
FMG		0	29	7	1	2	4	4	1	11	0	0	48			0.00	6.54	9.93	6.11	9.73	14.26	13.76	7.89	12.68	0.00	0.00
LM		12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12			5.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MLAB		1	0	7	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	14			6.11	0.00	8.74	6.11	0.00	15.74	13.75	0.00	14.75	0.00	6.93
Mathematics	*59*	*13*	*62*	*19*	*4*	*4*	*6*	*9*	*1*	*20*	*0*	*2*	*120*	*145*	*25*	*5.54*	*6.44*	*9.11*	*6.55*	*11.75*	*14.51*	*13.75*	*7.89*	*13.29*	*#DIV/0!*	*6.93*
AP		0	21	6	4	2	2	4	0	8	0	2	41			0.00	6.66	8.80	5.48	14.51	14.23	13.79	0.00	14.08	0.00	8.66
APP		0	15	4	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	24			0.00	8.19	5.99	6.93	13.75	14.30	13.75	0.00	13.93	0.00	7.35
CM		0	22	10	10	11	3	4	1	19	0	6	67			0.00	7.08	7.48	7.54	10.84	13.87	14.66	15.74	12.38	0.00	6.06
TPP		1	21	10	0	0	5	5	2	12	0	1	45			4.90	6.40	6.82	0.00	0.00	14.17	13.86	11.09	13.53	0.00	14.87
SBP		1	19	10	1	2	1	2	0	5	0	2	38			6.93	8.04	7.89	12.20	15.23	14.30	14.30	0.00	14.67	0.00	9.56
SP		1	17	8	1	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	30			6.93	6.89	7.02	7.01	0.00	14.05	13.75	0.00	13.95	0.00	0.00
Physics	*112*	*3*	*115*	*48*	*17*	*16*	*14*	*17*	*3*	*50*	*0*	*12*	*245*	*389*	*144*	*6.25*	*7.15*	*7.39*	*7.27*	*12.03*	*14.12*	*14.07*	*12.64*	*13.34*	*#DIV/0!*	*7.92*
CNS		9	28	21	0	1	2	3	3	9	5	6	78			6.15	6.54	6.35	0.00	7.32	14.30	13.69	13.00	12.89	8.69	8.62
NB		4	22	10	9	1	0	4	1	6	3	5	59			6.25	5.10	5.66	5.27	6.70	0.00	12.29	9.57	10.90	8.33	6.16
SFG		5	24	8	9	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	49			6.83	4.07	3.92	4.94	0.00	14.75	13.75	0.00	14.41	0.00	0.00
Neuroscience	*54*	*18*	*74*	*39*	*18*	*2*	*4*	*8*	*4*	*18*	*8*	*11*	*186*	*201*	*15*	*6.36*	*5.31*	*5.68*	*5.10*	*7.01*	*14.52*	*13.00*	*12.14*	*12.48*	*8.56*	*7.50*
TOTAL	***225***	***34***	***251***	***106***	***39***	***22***	***24***	***34***	***8***	***88***	***8***	***25***	***551***	***735***	***184***	***6.04***	***6.43***	***7.07***	***6.19***	***11.52***	***14.28***	***13.73***	***11.80***	***13.15***	***8.56***	***7.10***