

## Report from the Board of Directors meeting of December, 10<sup>th</sup> 2013

### Introduction

During the last meeting of the year, the principal task of the Board of Director is discussing and approving the provisional budget for the next year. We are facing big news in this topic, because from January the law disposes to adopt the so-called Contabilità Economico Patrimoniale rather than the old fashioned (and used-to-be standard for public administration) Contabilità Finanziara. The kind of accounting is not only a technical issue (despite obviously that is the main concern of the administrative offices) but also “forces” the governing bodies to consider different things in making resolutions and steering the School. For instance, the main difference is that - instead of plainly considering the income and the expenses – we now keep into account the value of School's properties (chattels and estate, “mobili ed immobili”), we regard the cost and the endurance of investments, and we split between general and project funding.

Contabilità Economico Patrimoniale, for several reasons, is somehow tailored on private companies and not very easy to be composed with the public administration way of thinking (I may spend money I still didn't get, I can distinguish among priorities and consider some expenses not-so-real expenses....). On the plus side, we are now forced to program investments and expenses – and to make sure we can sustain them – for a three years span, so that the economic condition of the School is clearer.

### Main topics in the agenda

1. Communications
2. Guidelines for SISSA brand identity
3. Budget 2014 and 2014-16
4. Partnership for joint master degree course in Physics of Complex Systems
5. PhD course in Mathematical Physics and Geometry
6. Doctor Europaeus news
7. Plan of building update. Fate of sports court

#### 1. Communications

The term of the Director prof. Martinelli has been extended according to Gelmini law until Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The Deputy Director until the same date will still be prof. Dal Maso

The Central Committee for the promotion of equal opportunities, workers' welfare and not-discrimination (Comitato Unico di Garanzia for short or CUG for shorter) has been appointed. Its members among the professors are proff. Menini and Legname, among the students Alessandro Di Filippo and Silvia Corsini. The task of this committee is organizing, projecting and supervising activities and best practices to enforce the equality and the welfare for workers (in a broad sense) at SISSA. Fun fact: students and professors are not officially representatives of the workers, but rather of the employer.

An official delegation from the Chinese embassy visited SISSA in order to establish a government-managed recruitment policy for Chinese PhD students. They (secretly) interviewed some of our Chinese students and then asked for official information from the School. Apparently, their plan is funding fellowships for Chinese students and letting SISSA provide the additional benefit we grant (Rent and laptop contribution, etc)

#### 2. Guidelines for SISSA brand identity

The brand identity guidelines are a tool adopted by (almost) all the major universities worldwide. The importance of such a way to easily and univocally identify an institution has faced some struggle to impose itself in Italy. There are anyway some examples around (for instance Sapienza, Statale di Milano). The approved guidelines (we actually suggested some improvement for open source which are at the moment completely disregarded) are already online

<https://www.sissa.it/communication-room/for-researchers-and-sissa-staff> (access only for SISSA

users), and should be followed at least for public presentation and events.

### 3. Budget

Everything has been fixed according to the worst-case scenario ever; it looks like we're going to have a net loss of 1.5M € for 2014, but first of all we kept into account more expenses than the actually possible ones, then we didn't consider a lot of not-sure-about-the-amount income. Even in this case, all the already approved programs about hiring, fellowships and improvements are safe in the three years span of the long term budget.

Recall that, among the other issues, last year there has been a big seesaw about regional fundings, there's still no clarity about the amount of the reward funding from the Ministry after the ANVUR results, and for a couple of years now the Ministry has been transferring only 800 out of 1100 € net for the PhD fellowships a month.