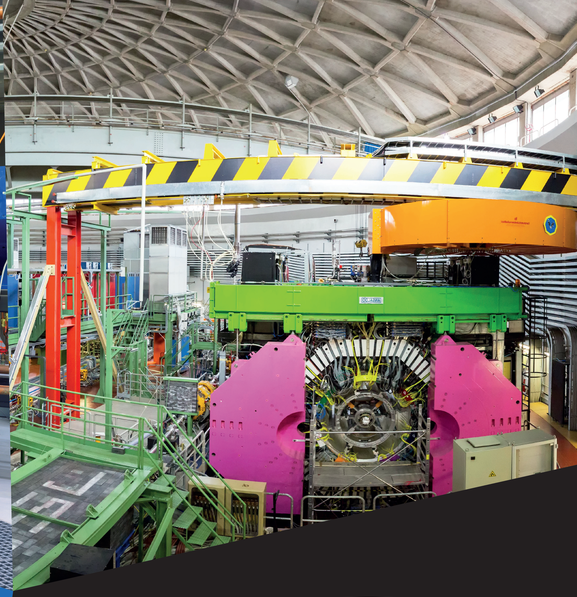




A community making the curiosity-driven research a national excellence

In Italy, basic research in the field of the fundamental constituents of matter and their interactions is conducted by INFN, the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (National Institute for Nuclear Physics): a community of over 6.000 people engaged in the main scientific and technological challenges of frontier physics. Examples of this are the historical achievements of recent years with the Nobel Prize winning discoveries of the Higgs boson and gravitational waves.

The INFN was founded in 1951 with the aim of following up the theoretical and experimental research started in the 1930s by Enrico Fermi and his school, 'I Ragazzi di via Panisperna'.

It is historically present throughout the country: it is, indeed, organised into 20 Divisions based in the university departments of the main universities, it has four National Laboratories, at Legnaro, Gran Sasso, Frascati and in Southern Italy in Catania, and three National Centres, CNAF, GGI and TIFPA. At the same time, it carries out most of its research activities in the main international laboratories within the major international collaborations, both abroad, such as at CERN, and in Italy, where it manages the French-Italian consortium EGO, home to the European gravitational wave experiment Virgo.

To conduct the experiments, the Institute designs and produces, in its own laboratories and in collaboration with industry, cutting-edge technologies. Technologies which, although designed and developed for fundamental research, often lead to useful spin-offs for society.

As an institution working on cutting-edge scientific issues, INFN has a significant impact on the progress of knowledge, on technological development and on the economy and the culture of the country. It is a community that makes the so-called "curiosity-driven" research a national excellence.

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