

Galileo Galilei Institute for Theoretical Physics (GGI) Arcetri, Florence

Purpose of the Institute. The Galileo Galilei Institute for Theoretical Physics (GGI) plans to organize and host small-size advanced workshops in theoretical particle physics in its broadest sense. Each workshop will be devoted to a specific topic at the forefront of current research. During its typical duration of 2-3 months it will host about 10 to 30 participants to be selected among those most active in the field within the international community. The purpose of each workshop will be to foster discussions, confrontation of ideas, and collaborations among participants. As in similar Institutes, the workshops will aim at producing results with a significant impact on the corresponding research field. It is expected that the Institute will have also an important rôle in training young researchers. Various Institutes for Theoretical Physics already work along similar lines, hosting distinguished researchers from all over the world for extended periods. They play an active and important rôle in the development of theoretical physics. An institution focused on the physics of fundamental interactions is however still lacking in Europe and the Galileo Institute is going to fill this gap.

Organization. The Galileo Institute, funded by INFN and sponsored by INFN and University of Florence, is located on the historic hill of Arcetri, near the house where Galileo spent periods of his life and died in 1642, in a building kindly made available by the University of Florence. Its basic referent is the INFN *Scientific Committee for Theoretical Physics* which will give its full support to favour the activities of the Institute. The internationally recognized excellent record of INFN physicists in this domain of theoretical physics will guarantee a profitable and fertile environment. The activity of the Institute will be organized jointly by a Scientific and an Advisory Committee. A “Launching Committee” has been appointed with the task of giving advice about scientific and management structures and of suggesting criteria for the formation of the Scientific and Advisory Committees. The appointed members of the Launching Committee are *David Gross, Giuseppe Marchesini, Alfred Mueller, Giorgio Parisi* and *Gabriele Veneziano* (chair).

Start of GGI activity. The first call for workshop proposals is expected in early 2005. Around September 2005 a Conference, covering the topics of interest for the Institute, will be held in Arcetri to mark the official opening of GGI. The first program will presumably run in the spring of 2006.