

HUMANE SEMINAR

WIEN - 19th/ 20th March 2010



MANAGEMENT OF A SMALL UNIVERSITY: SMALL SIZE = SMALL PROBLEMS?OR NOT?

Fatti non foste per viver come bruti
Ma per seguir virtute e canoscenza

(Dante, Inferno, Canto XXVI)

Giuliana Zotta Vittur



BIG size = BIG problems



SMALL size = SMALL problems

...OR NOT?

Italian Universities: some statistics

(population in Italy: 60.276.000)

- Universities 95
 - Professors 37.185
- Researchers 25.580
- Technical & admin staff 56.600
- Students 1.553.000
- PhD Students 39.300



SISSA's mission

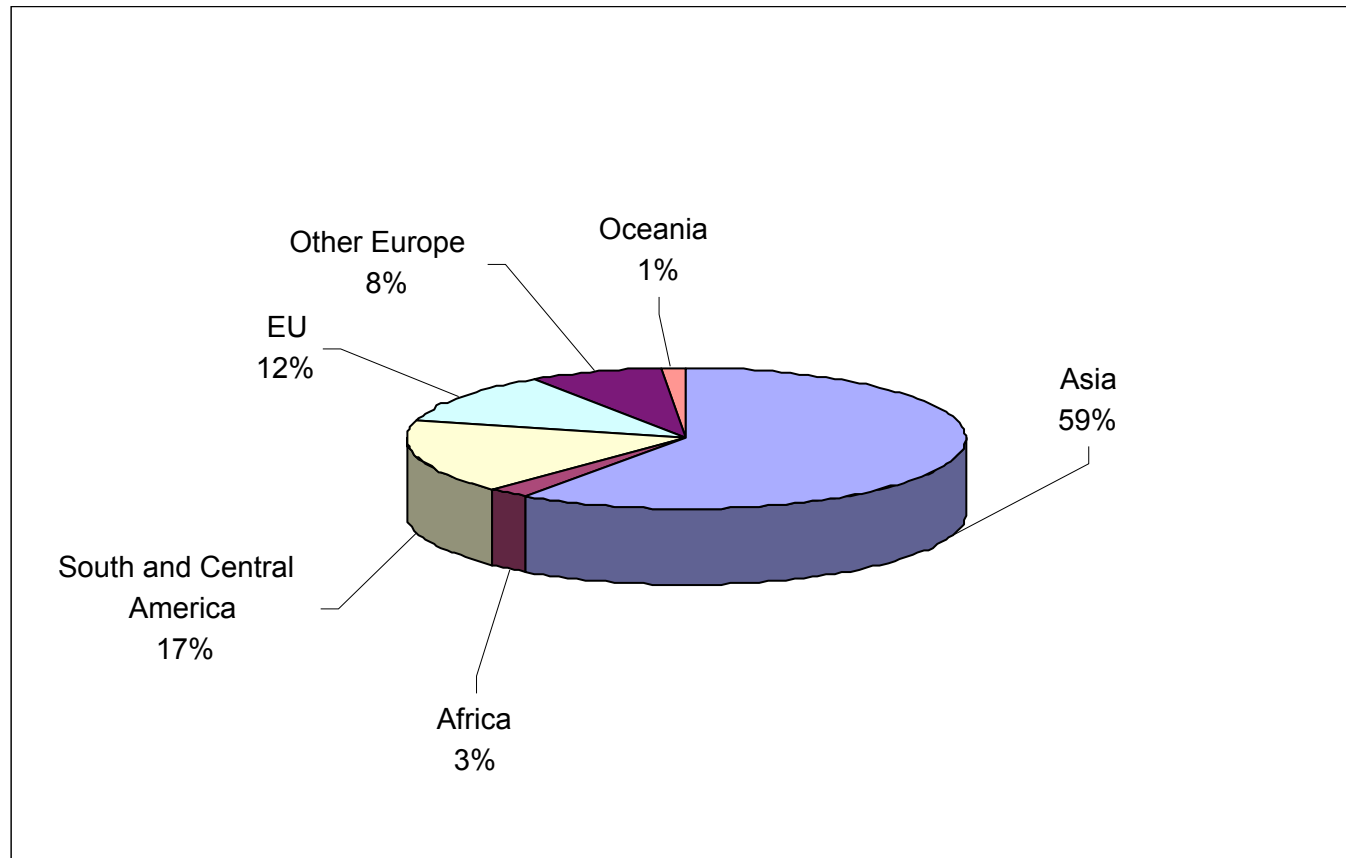
- Strengths of SISSA are advanced postgraduated education and leading – edge research in Physics, Mathematics and Neuroscience.
- Thanks to a small and flexible structure, SISSA is able to continually reshape its teaching and research programs to meet new scientific challenges and to attract substantial private and public research funds.



SISSA's Numbers

	Year 2009	
		foreign %
Budget	€ 27.000.000	
Professors	51	12%
Researchers	20	15%
PhD Students	238	33%
Master Students	35	
Employees	92	2
Buildings	M ² 34.600,00	

Foreign PhD Students Academic Year 2009/2010



SISSA Organization

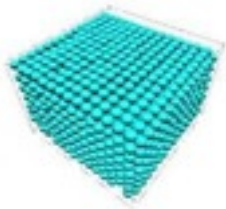
➤ Governance bodies

- The Director
- The Administrative Council
- The School Council
- The Senate

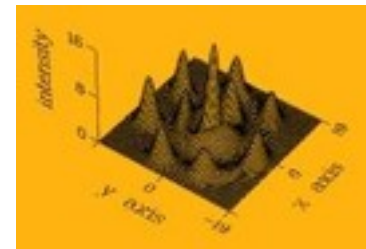
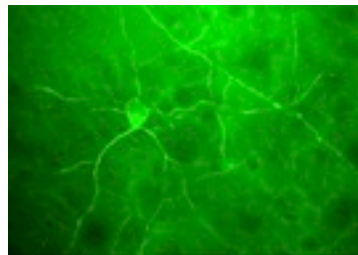
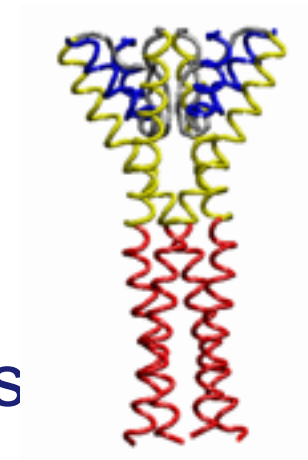
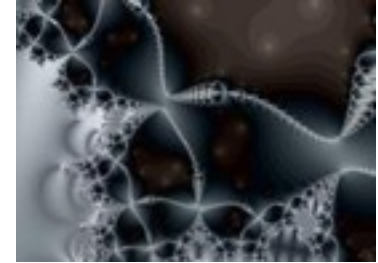
➤ The Structures

- Research Sectors
- Administration
- Computer Centre
- Library
- Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Advanced Studies

Research Sectors



1. Astrophysics
2. Cognitive Neurosciences
3. Condensed Matter Theory
4. Elementary Particle Theory
5. Functional Analysis
6. Mathematical Physics
7. Neurobiology
8. Statistical and Biological Physics



To be Head of Administration of a small University

Type and quantity of problems: certainly
the quantity is a problem in itself

however, even if it seems to be a
paradox, also a small quantity of
problems is still a problem

Some examples...

If, in one year, you have to...

- ✓ Deal with the retirement of two people...
- ✓ File just one patent application...

You have to do it

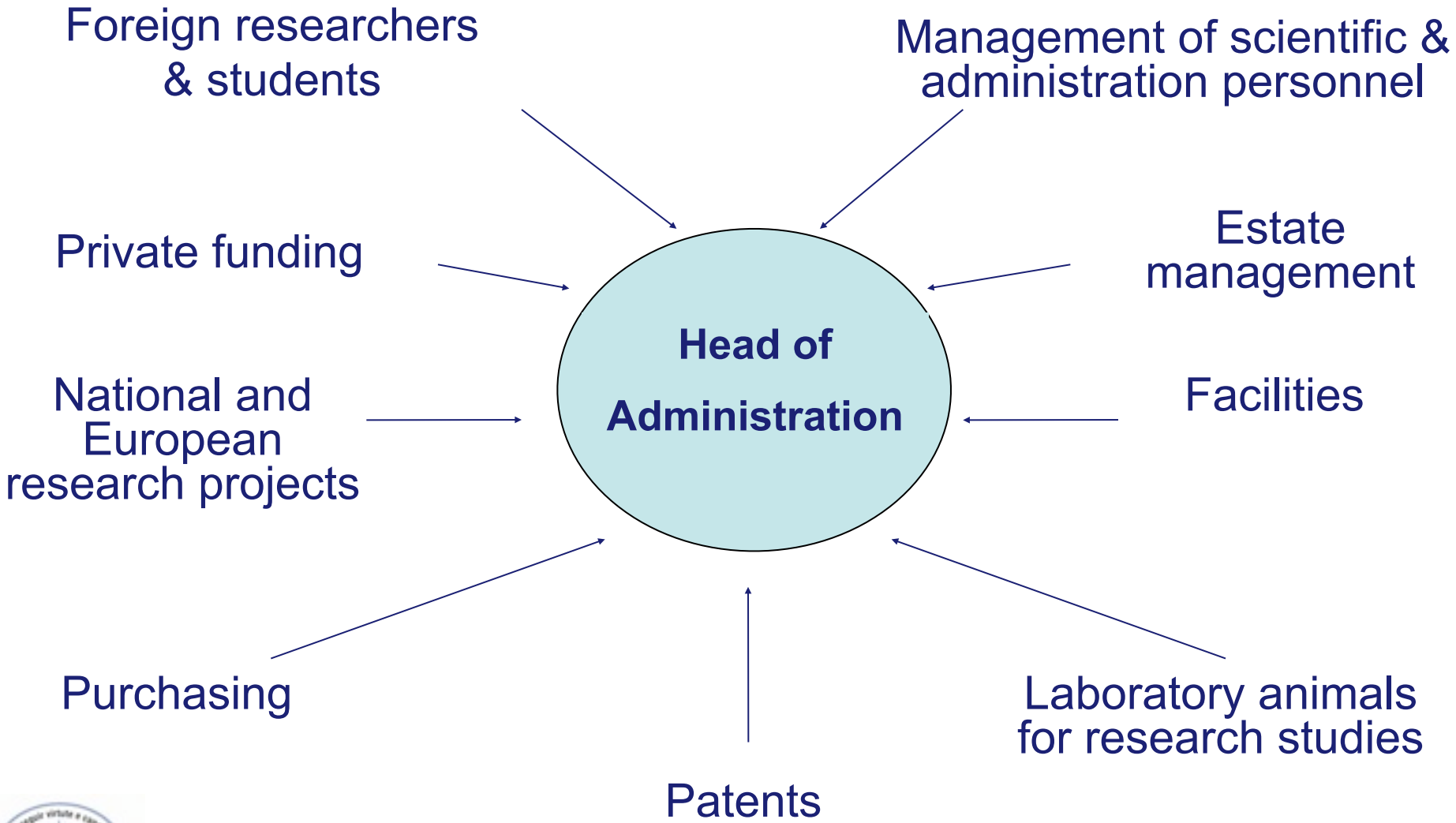
- ✓ Without a specific office or person
- ✓ Without an automatic mechanism or specialized staff

SO....

Any issue must be addressed from the beginning by someone who is currently carrying out many other tasks



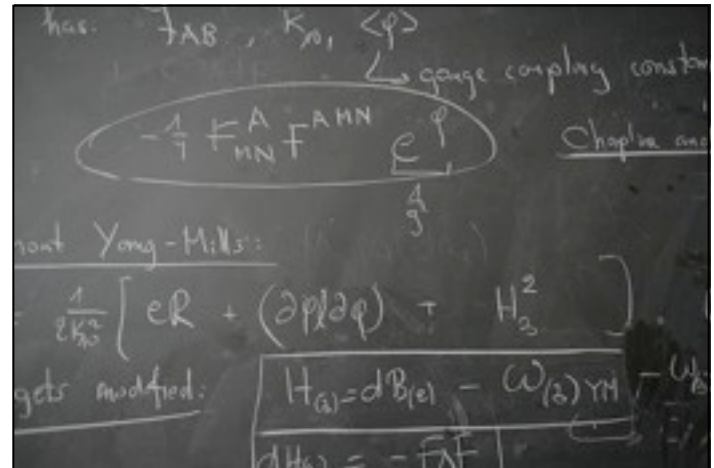
The Head of Administration



NEW CAMPUS



Other examples



Bureaucracy

**Bureaucracy
is a dirty word!!!**



In such a small structure... things can be

EASIER

1. Direct contact with the academic and administrative staff
2. Rapid decision making (no commission, no committees or plethoric organs)
3. Organization is under control
4. SISSA's students are PhD level, so they are all more mature and highly motivated

In such a small structure... things can be

MORE
DIFFICULT

1. No shared responsibilities
2. Immediate answers required
3. Habit to turn to top management for all kinds of questions
4. No sensitivity for administrative problems
5. SISSA's PhD students are more mature, so they consider themselves young researchers (with a job, a PC, a scholarship, etc...)

The most frequent question is

“WHY NOT?”





Final

Big size or small size?
Which is better?

THAT IS THE QUESTION...!

