

Immaginario Scientifico – Science Museum

HISTORY

Immaginario Scientifico was born from an idea of **Paolo Budinich**, the physicist and father of the Trieste Scientific System. When asked to present science in an exhibition, he decided to do so through images. Thus, in 1985, a working group was formed to create *Imaginaire Scientifique*, an innovative multimedia exhibition of scientific images, which premiered at La Villette in Paris in May 1986 as part of an event called "Trouver Trieste".

Translated into Italian, the exhibition traveled from Paris to Naples and Milan. In 1988, Immaginario Scientifico returned to its original city, Trieste, and became the **first interactive science museum in Italy**. Initially, it served as a centre for the dissemination of science, primarily aimed at schools. It organized guided tours of the exhibition, public meetings, and teacher training courses.

Operating under the name "Laboratorio dell'Immaginario Scientifico" and located at the Congress Palace of the Trieste Fair, the center continued its experimentation with new methods of science education, drawing inspiration from the Exploratorium in San Francisco, the first model of a **new way of conceiving science museums**.

In 1998, thanks to an agreement with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Immaginario Scientifico moved to the Adriatic Guesthouse in **Grignano**. By June 1999, it had evolved into a full-fledged science center, dedicated to showing that science can be both fun and exciting.

In 2011, the Immaginario Scientifico opened a second museum in **Pordenone**, inside one of the buildings of the city's former Cotton Mill.

In 2020, the Trieste museum relocated to **Magazzino 26 in the Old Port of Trieste**. The new Immaginario features multimedia, immersive, and engaging museum spaces that blend seamlessly with the recently renovated, prestigious building. This location, deeply tied to the history and culture of the city, houses interactive exhibits that explore not only natural phenomena but also the most innovative applications of science and the research activities of Trieste's scientific institutions.

The **cooperative** that manages the museum kept the original name Laboratorio dell'Immaginario Scientifico (LIS).