

ITALIAN-GERMAN COOPERATION ON SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

SIGN - Scienziati Italiani in Germania Network



SIGN

NETWORK OF ITALIAN SCIENTISTS IN GERMANY

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Berlin, 12.10.2022



Italian scientists in Germany: some facts and figures

- **15,000** students in Germany: 6th largest group (as whole University of Regensburg)
- **3,800** scientists at German universities: 1st largest group (comparable to CERN staff members)
- **1,100** researchers in non-university organizations (eg: Max Planck Society, Leibniz, Helmholtz, Fraunhofer...)
- Large number in industrial research and development
- Major research groups involved in cross-national activities



The “early brain-drain”: some statistical observations

PhD abroad!

- **24%** of Italian PhD population: PhD abroad
- EU average: 7%
- France: 4%
- Germany: 4%



Careers in Germany



- **300** Italian Professors at German universities
- 1st non-DE speaking after Austrians and Swiss
- **10%** of foreign Professors
- Scientists at German universities: #1 group



Awards: many, but abroad: ERC grants

ERC Grants 2008 - 2019:

- 2nd lowest success rates of proposals from Italy: ½ of Germany and France
- #6 in total grants, but #16 in grants/population

ERC Starting Grants 2021:

- 58 awards for Italians / 28 hosted in Italy (2 by non-Italians)
- More than **51% performed abroad**
- Germany: 67 awards / 72 hosted
- UK: 12 awards / 46 hosted



SIGN: Our mission



- Recognize, foster, celebrate research and technology **excellence by Italian scientists in Germany and DACH researchers in Italy**
- “Give back” **expertise** and **best practices** to the Italian science system
- Help the **brain (re-)gain** of Italy by promoting cooperative science
- **Cooperate cross-nationally** with other similar organizations worldwide



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