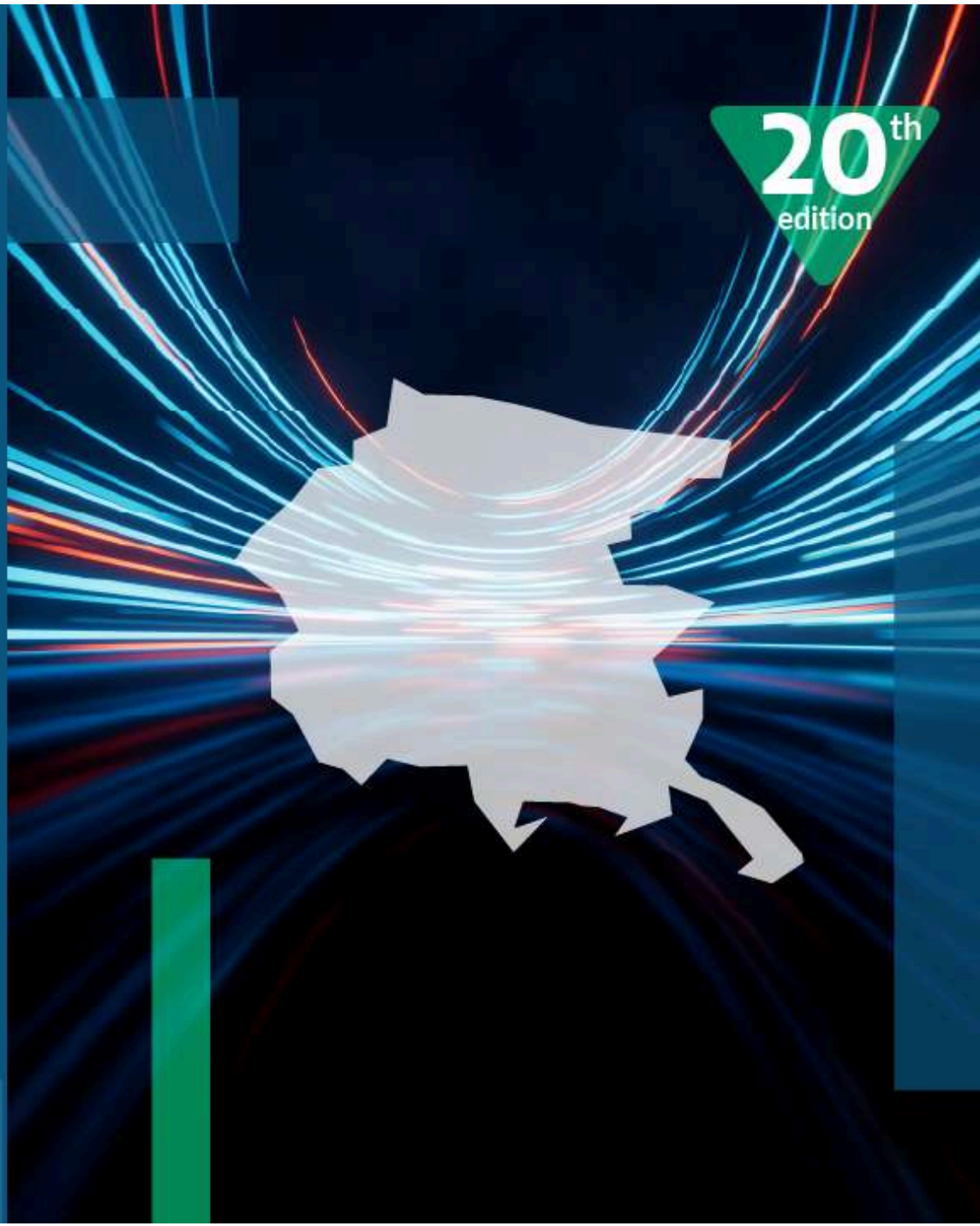


Mobility of Knowledge Survey 2025

20th
edition



Introduction

The “Mobility of Knowledge” is an annual survey conducted by Area Science Park since 2005 that collects primary data on students, researchers and teaching staff at the partner research institutions in the SiS FVG network. The survey gathers data on the number of foreign researchers and students at partner research institutions, universities and music colleges, on incoming and outgoing mobility flows, gender differences, research interests and countries of origin.

The 2025 edition present data on the 2023/2024 academic year for students and the 2024 calendar year for researchers and teaching personnel. Overall, in the past four years — that is, the post-pandemic period — there has been a steady increase in the presence of foreign students, researchers, and lecturers. This target group is made up of enrolled students, researchers, and lecturers from the institutions, as well as incoming users, meaning foreign individuals who have come to the region for a period of study or research, even brief. In the 2021 edition, there were 4,407, whereas now they have reached 9,859.

Scientific and Innovation System of Friuli Venezia Giulia

SiS FVG – Scientific and Innovation System represents a point of contact for 17 research institutions based in Friuli Venezia Giulia. This region in Italy acts as a hub for science and technology, thanks to the presence of international research facilities and high-level scientific competencies brought here by researchers from all over the world who choose this region as their ideal place to carry out research projects.

SiS FVG is supported by:

- > Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- > Ministry of University and Research (MUR)
- > Regional Authority of Friuli Venezia Giulia

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Universities and music colleges:

University of Trieste

University of Udine

SISSA - International School for Advanced Studies

Academy of Music "G. Tartini" – Trieste

Conservatory of Music "Jacopo Tomadini" - Udine

National research institutions:

Area Science Park

Elettra - Sincrotrone Trieste S.C.p.A.

National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics – OGS

CNR - IC Institute of Crystallography, IOM Materials Foundry Institute,

ISM Institute of Structure of Matter, ISMAR Marine Sciences Institute

INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Trieste

INFN - National Institute of Nuclear Physics, Trieste

International research institutes:

ICGEB - International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)

TWAS-The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries

The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP)

Science and technology parks:

TEC4I FVG | Friuli Innovazione scarl

Polo Tecnologico Alto Adriatico Andrea Galvani S.C.P.A Technology Park

Other institutions within the network:

CISM - International Centre for Mechanical Sciences

Italian Liver Foundation

The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World - OWSD

ENROLLED STUDENTS AND RESEARCH STAFF

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN UNIVERSITIES AND MUSIC COLLEGES

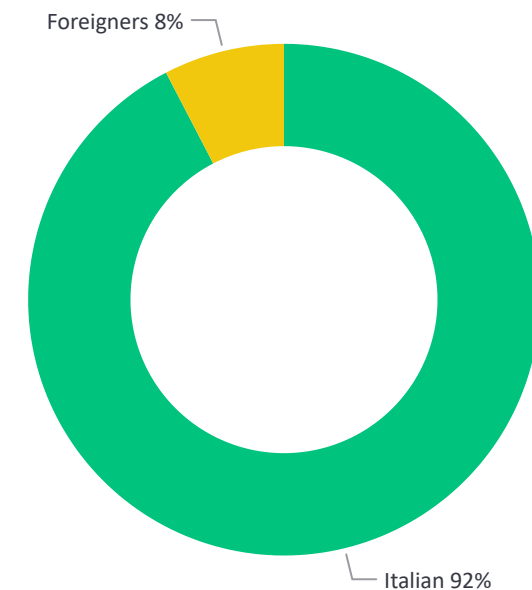


No. of displayed students

38.071

Overall, enrollments in university and conservatory courses in Friuli Venezia Giulia for the 2023/2024 academic year show an increase of about 1,100 students compared to the previous year, reaching a total of 38,071. The number of enrolled international students is also growing, now totaling 2,900 and accounting for 8% of the overall student population.

Students enrolled in universities and music colleges by nationality



ENROLLED STUDENTS AND RESEARCH STAFF

RESEARCHERS AND LECTURERS AT INSTITUTIONS IN THE NETWORK

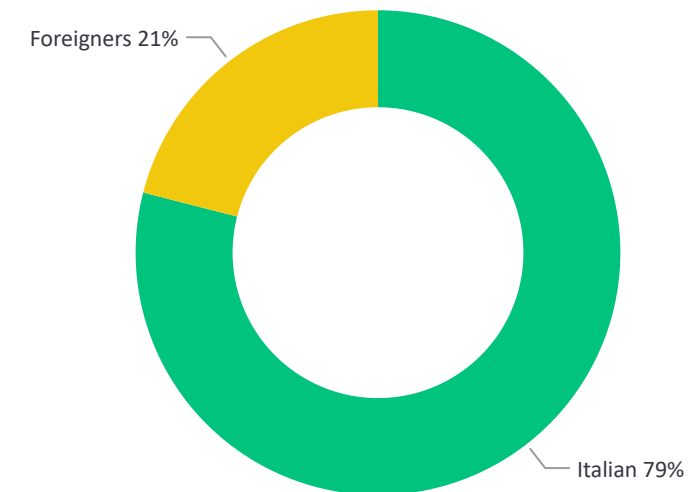


No. of displayed researchers
and lecturers

3813

Researchers & lecturers at institutions in the network by nationality

The overall presence of both Italian and international lecturers and researchers increased again in 2024, rising from 3,641 to 3,813. However, this figure still falls short of the 6,960 recorded in 2019, before the pandemic. The number of international staff remains stable compared to last year, at 800.



SCIENTIFIC AREAS

STUDENTS ENROLLED

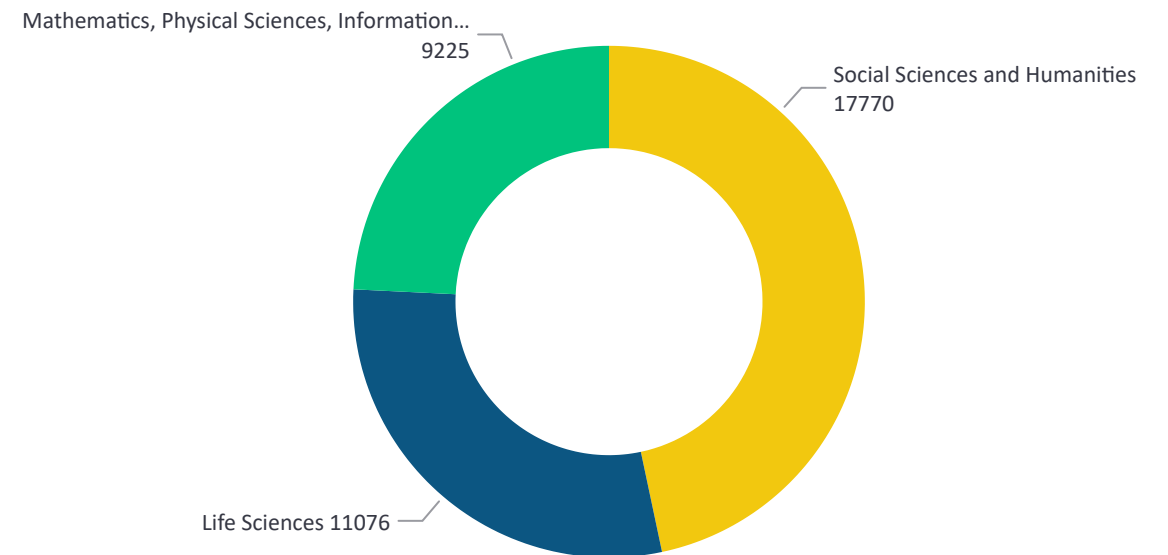


No. of displayed students

38.071

Also in the 2023/2024 academic year, nearly half of the students enrolled in the region — 47% — are attending courses in Social Science and Humanities. They are followed by Life Sciences (29%) and the broad area that includes Mathematics, Physical Sciences, information and Communication, Engineering, Universe and Health Sciences (24%).

Students by scientific area



SCIENTIFIC AREAS

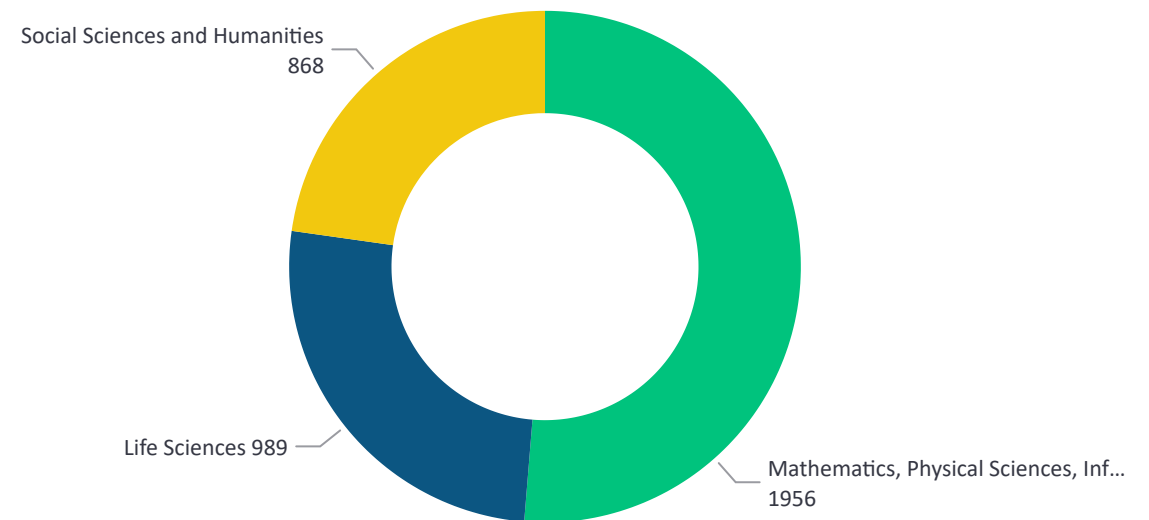
RESEARCHERS AND LECTURERS AT INSTITUTIONS IN THE NETWORK



No. of displayed researchers and lecturers
3.813

About half of the researchers and lecturers working in institutions within the Regional Scientific and Innovation System belong to the area of Mathematics, Physical Sciences, information and Communication, Engineering, Universe and Health Sciences (51%). The other half is divided between the Life Sciences, with 26%, and Social Science and Humanities, with 23%.

Researchers & lecturers by scientific area



GENDER

GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF ENROLLED STUDENTS



No. of displayed students

38.071

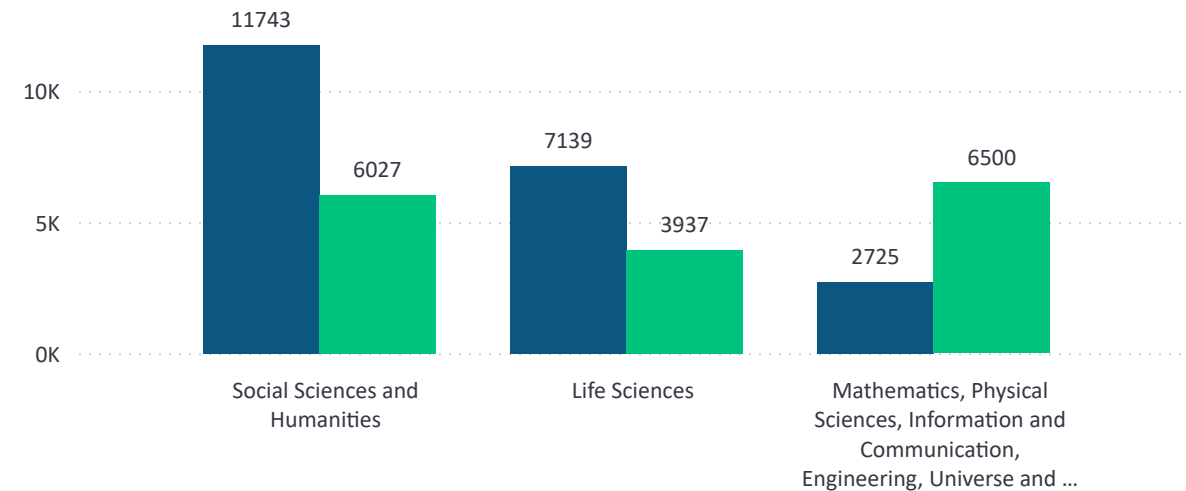
The percentage of female students enrolled in universities and conservatories in the region remains stable compared to previous years, standing at 57%. When comparing the chosen academic fields, it is clear that the Social Sciences and Humanities continue to be characterized by a strong female presence.

The situation remains largely unchanged in the scientific area that includes Mathematics, physical sciences, information and communication, engineering, universe and earth sciences, where male students still outnumber female students by more than two to one. In contrast, in the Life Sciences, female students account for 64% of enrollments.

Students by gender

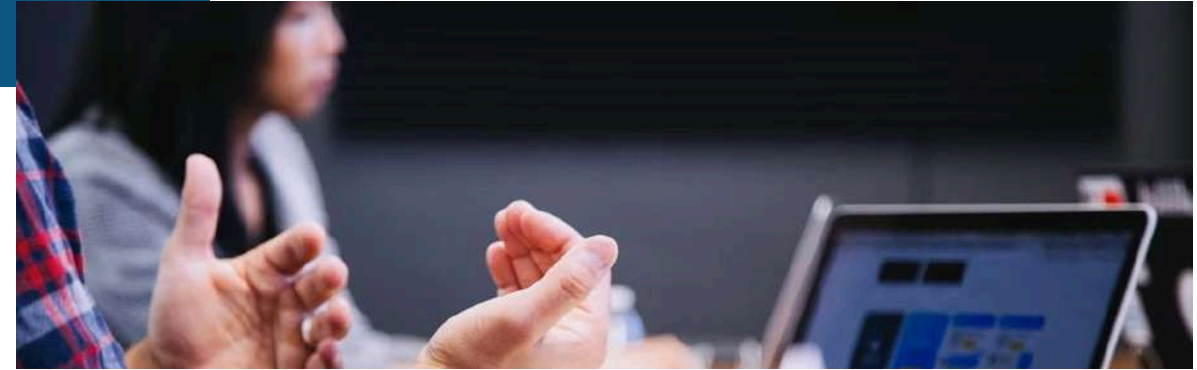


Students by scientific area and gender



GENDER

GENDER OF RESEARCHERS AND TECHING STAFF AT INSTITUTIONS IN THE NETWORK



No. of displayed researchers and lecturers
3.813

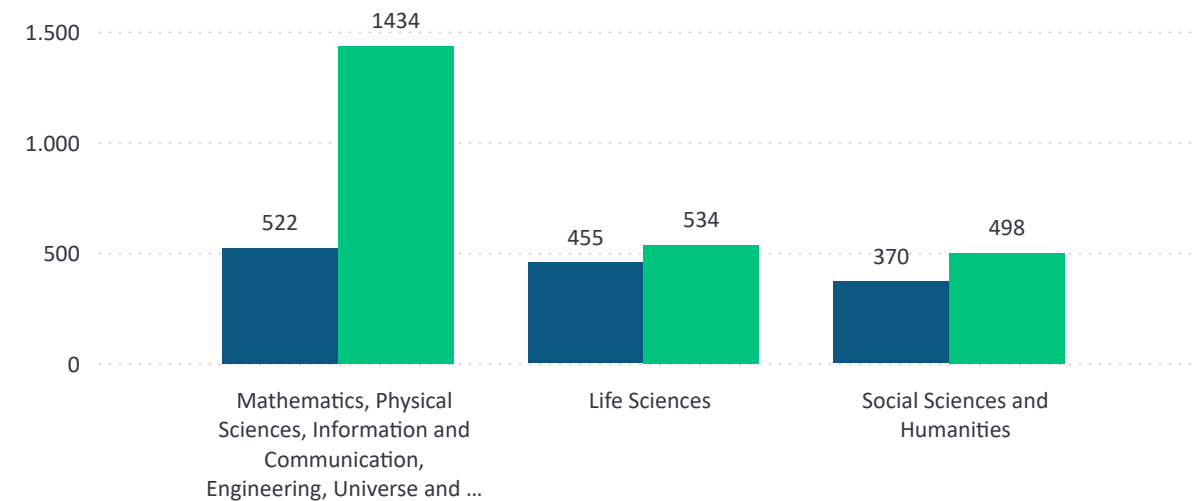
While the overall number of researchers and lecturers in regional institutions has increased compared to the previous year, the gender ratio has remained unchanged. Women still represent only 35% of the total.

When cross-referencing gender data with scientific fields within the Scientific and Innovation System of Friuli Venezia Giulia, the area that includes Mathematics, physical sciences, information and communication, engineering, universe and earth sciences continues to be dominated by male presence.

Researchers and Lecturers by Gender



Researchers and lecturers of the institutions by gender



INCOMING MOBILITY

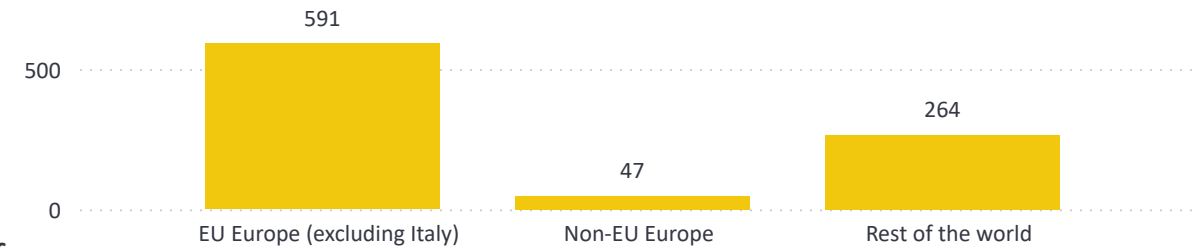
INCOMING FOREIGN STUDENTS



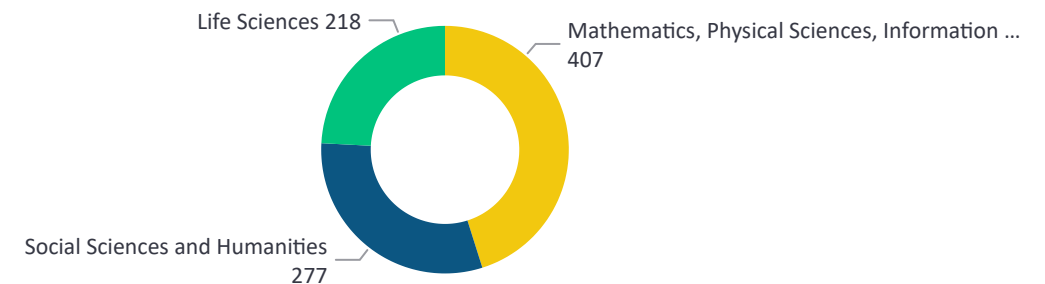
The number of international students who spent a study period in the region during the 2023/2024 academic year continues to rise. In fact, their number increased from 707 to 902, surpassing even pre-pandemic levels. Female students represent 54% of this group.

There have also been some changes in the percentages regarding the origin of incoming students. European citizens have decreased from 75% to 66%, mainly in favor of students from other parts of the world. The distribution across academic fields remains stable, with nearly half of the group — 45% — enrolled in Mathematics, physical sciences, information and communication, engineering, universe and earth sciences. They are followed by the Social Sciences and Humanities (31%) and the Life Sciences (24%).

Citizenship of incoming students



Scientific areas of incoming students



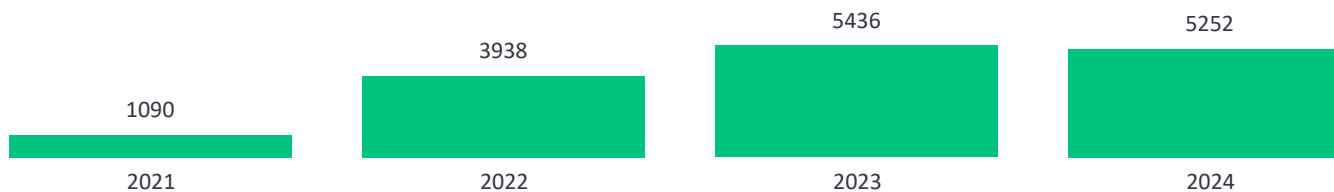
INCOMING MOBILITY

FOREIGN RESEARCHERS AND LECTURERS HOSTED BY SIS FVG INSTITUTIONS

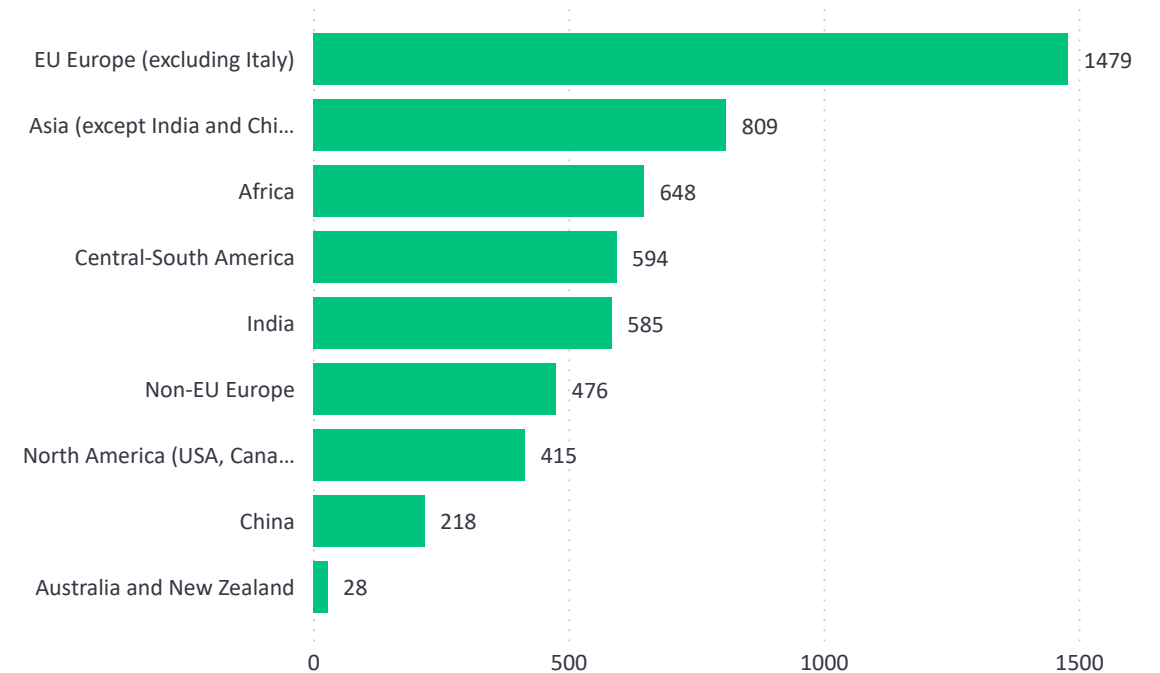


In 2024, the incoming mobility of international researchers and lecturers — those who come to the region for a study or research period, even a short one, at institutions within the FVG Scientific and Innovation System — exceeded 5,000. However, this represents a decrease of just under 200 compared to the previous year. The decline was mainly among incoming lecturers, with around 120 fewer than the year before. The vast majority of this group (89%) belongs to the scientific area that includes Mathematics, physical sciences, information and communication, engineering, universe and earth sciences .

Foreign researchers and lecturers hosted by the institutions of the SiS FVG by year



Citizenship of incoming researchers and lecturers



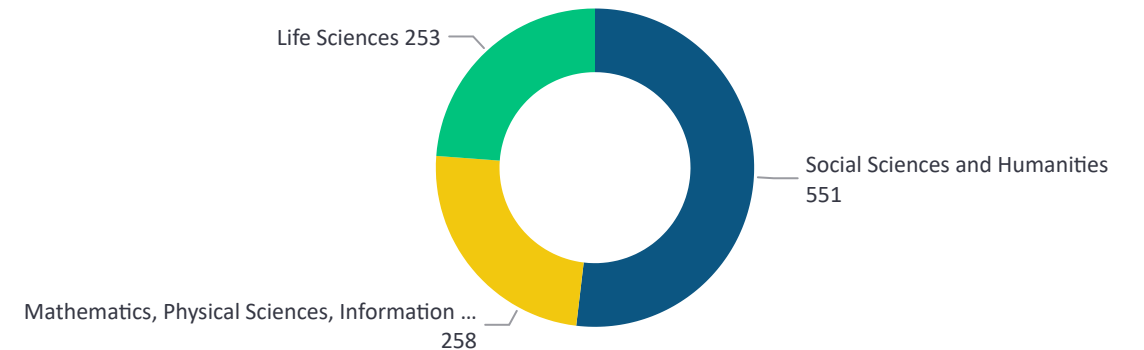
OUTGOING MOBILITY

OUTGOING STUDENTS



The outgoing mobility of enrolled students remains stable compared to the previous edition, with 1,062 students. EU countries continue to be the destination for 94% of them, and Social Sciences and Humanities remains the academic field of origin for half of the outgoing students — 52%.

Scientific areas of students who went abroad



Student destinations

- EU Europe (excluding Italy)
- Rest of the world
- Non-EU Europe



OUTGOING MOBILITY

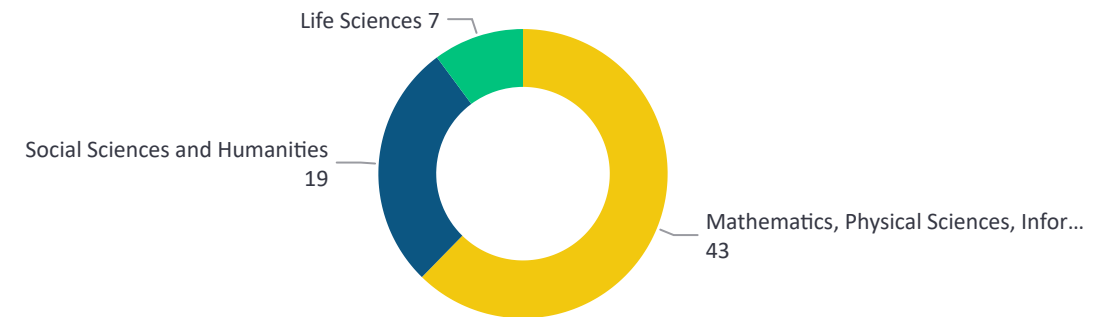
OUTGOING RESEARCHERS AND TEACHING STAFF



The outgoing mobility of researchers and lecturers remains stable, with 72 trips abroad. EU countries continue to be the main destination (46%), followed by North America (17%), while Asian countries — excluding India and China — drop to third place (13%).

More than half of the outgoing researchers and lecturers (62%) belong to the area that includes Mathematics, physical sciences, information and communication, engineering, universe and earth sciences. They are followed by Social Sciences and Humanities (28%) and the Life Sciences (10%).

Scientific areas of researchers and lecturers who went abroad



Destinations and travel frequency

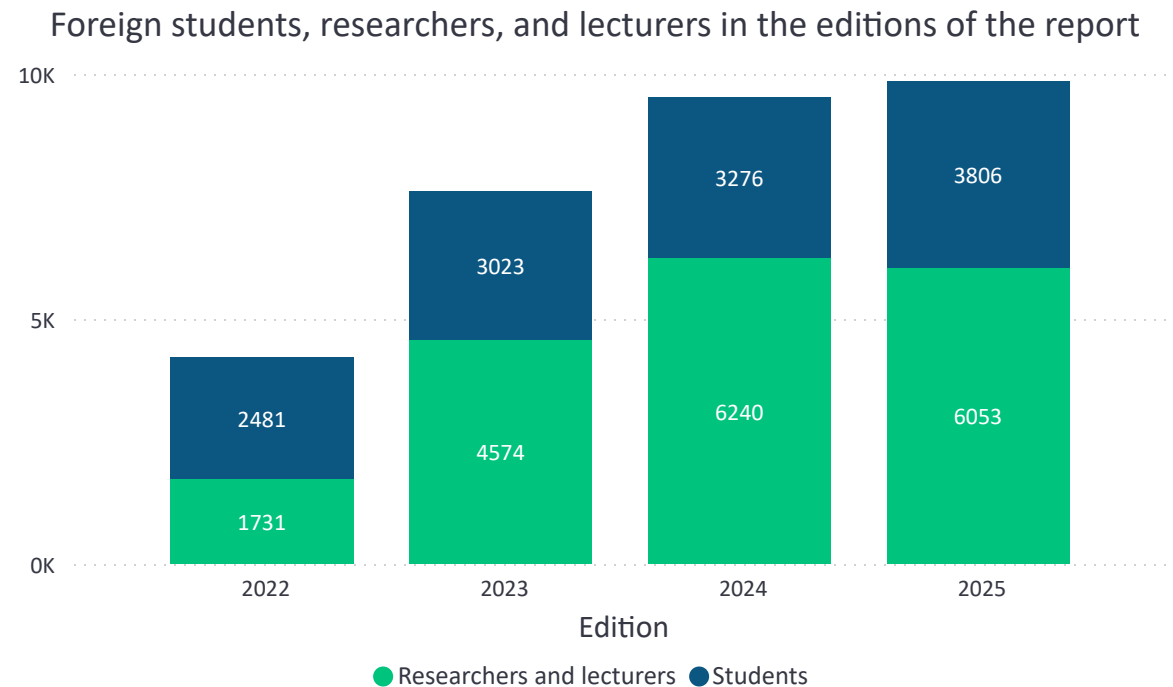


FOREIGN PRESENCE: THE POSITIVE TREND CONTINUES



The total number of foreigners present in institutions within the Friuli Venezia Giulia Scientific and Innovation System — including enrolled students, researchers and lecturers, as well as incoming mobility participants who came to the region for a study or research period, even a short one — continues to grow slightly, with an increase of just over 300 compared to the previous year, reaching 9,859.

Compared to four years ago, the number of foreigners has more than doubled and could once again exceed 10,000 starting from the next survey.



CONCLUSIONS

In this edition, student numbers increased both in terms of total enrollments — which rose by around 1,100 to reach 38,071 — and international enrollments, which grew from 7% to 8% of the total, amounting to 2,900 students. Incoming student mobility also saw an increase of about 200, reaching a total of 902 students, while outgoing mobility remained relatively stable at 1,062, with a slight decrease of around 40.

As for researchers and lecturers, staff numbers in the institutions grew by approximately 170, reaching a total of 3,813. However, incoming international presence declined by about 180, settling at 5,252, while outgoing mobility remained unchanged, with 72 trips carried out during 2024.

Overall, in the past four years — that is, the post-pandemic period — there has been a continuous increase in the number of international students, researchers, and lecturers. In the 2021 edition, there were 4,407, whereas now the figure has reached 9,859.

Participation of international students and researchers in short-term activities such as courses, seminars, or summer schools continues to be present, even in virtual format. This is particularly true for initiatives organized by the “Abdus Salam” International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), and to some extent also by CISM - International Centre for Mechanical Sciences in Udine.

