

10 years of IBSA Foundation for scientific research



Activity report 2012-2022



“Foundations have the great opportunity to work on broader scopes than companies, and so they can have a greater impact on cultural issues and social transformation”.

Combining scientific culture with the humanities. Communicating scientific topics in language that is as simple and appealing as possible, while maintaining a rigorous, fact-checked basis.

Using a crossover of different languages, like comics, to present biomedical research. Studying how cultural activities and arts can have a concrete, measurable and therapeutic effect on health.

IBSA Foundation for scientific research has been focusing on these issues since its inception in 2012, and during ten years of activity it has developed partnerships with important institutions, like USI (Università della Svizzera italiana), the City of Lugano Cultural Division, MASI (Museo d’arte della Svizzera italiana), LAC (Lugano Art and Culture), MUST (National Museum of Science and Technology “Leonardo da Vinci” of Milan) and MUSE (Science Museum of Trento).

Every year our Foundation also offers six grants of 30,000 euros each to six researchers under the age of 40 working in biomedical research areas that are traditionally poorly funded. The Foundation also supports students of the USI Master of Medicine, by helping pay tuition fees for all those enrolled on the course.

We will continue these activities with dedication, aiming to put the idea of social responsibility – the ethical duty towards the community that we are all required to respect (especially a large company like IBSA) – into practice as much as possible.

In the coming months, we will be inspired by our new, historically significant location: Carlo Cattaneo's House in Castagnola (Lugano), where the philosopher, humanist, man of science and political expert lived for twenty years. In the mid-19th century Cattaneo advocated for a blend of cultures, to advance society and give the future new prospects. This message is still extremely important today and it is one that we intend to continue.

Silvia Misiti

Director of IBSA Foundation





“We are proud to say that we have achieved some very important results. The credit goes to our director, Silvia Misiti and all our people, who are our most important asset. They have allowed me to turn what was only a dream, a fantasy, in the beginning, into reality.”

At the core of IBSA Foundation for scientific research’s philosophy is a very simple concept, of which I am firmly convinced: those who have gained much from life must give back, to the people and the world around them, part of what they have received.

I think this concept is perfectly expressed in the *Parable of the Talents*, which has become increasingly relevant to me over the years.

The parable tells of a man who gives three of his servants a sum of money (talents), each according to their skills. The first two manage to double the money while the third hides the money he received. Predictably, the master appreciates the work of the first two servants and criticizes the behaviour of the third.

Personally, I agree. What is the point of having talents – not only physical assets but also skills and expertise – if we don’t use them?

This is the philosophy that I based IBSA Foundation for scientific research on when I started in 2012, in order to support young researchers, but also to spread ideas and explore unique crossovers between science and the humanities.

In the first 10 years of its life, IBSA Foundation has become a key player in the arts in the Canton of Ticino and has established a large network of partners and projects at a Swiss and European level.


And this *philosophy of talents* – if I can call it that – not only permeates the activities of IBSA Foundation but underpins the activities of the entire IBSA Group. IBSA has done and continues to do its part, creating thousands of jobs, prosperity and new possibilities in the areas where operate.

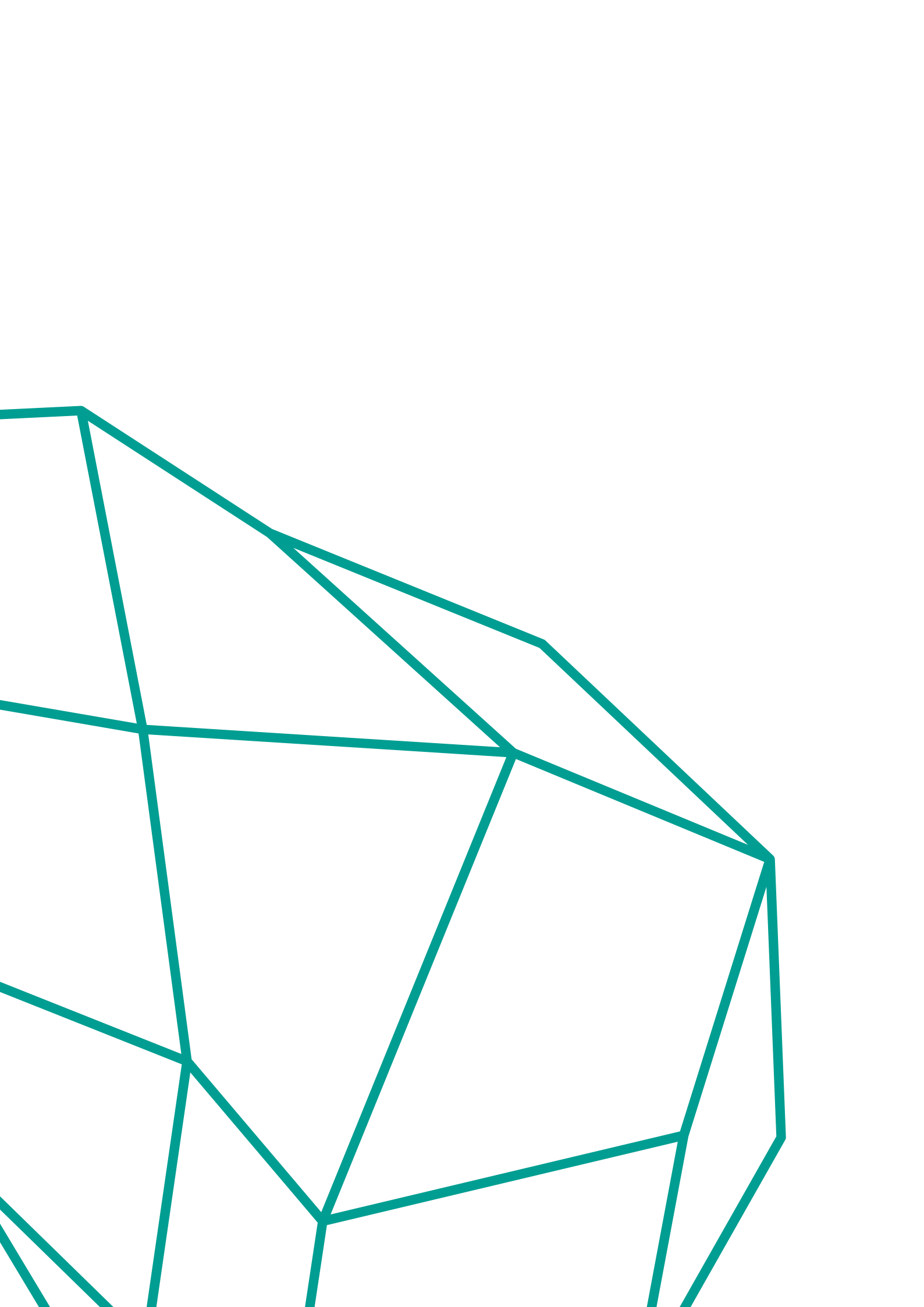
When our adventure with IBSA began in 1985, we had virtually nothing, but we have grown ceaselessly, with a continual series of new initiatives, meaning that we are now present in over 90 countries on 5 continents. It was difficult – indeed extremely difficult – to start, and then we accompanied our business over the years, like you do with a child who goes to school, and then grows up and learns to fend for themselves.

The company and the Foundation are also ‘grown up’ by now and can act confidently on their own. But if that’s still not enough, I will come up with something else... because I have been doing that all my life. It’s a fantasy to start with, then it needs to become something concrete.

Arturo Licenziati

President and CEO of IBSA Group





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Carlo Cattaneo House

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“The most mature and perfect form of our thought is scientific contemplation – the contemplation of the universal order, of order in nature and humanity.”

C. Cattaneo





2022

IBSA Foundation for scientific research was established in 2012 in Lugano by the pharmaceutical company IBSA (Institut Biochimique SA) and is the main promoter of IBSA Group's corporate social responsibility activities.

Our Vision

Combining scientific culture with humanities
to “go beyond treatment”

12

Our Mission

To promote authoritative scientific culture that is accessible to everyone

Promoting Science

We communicate scientific topics in the simplest and most engaging way possible, while maintaining a rigorous and fact-checked basis.

A Science Network

We contribute to international debate by organising public forums on the latest results from research in science and the arts.

Supporting Research and Education

We offer annual Fellowships to young researchers in various fields of basic and clinical research, and we encourage academic study by offering scholarships for undergraduate students.



From left to right: Antonio Melli, Arturo Licenziati,
Jacopo Crespi, Silvia Misiti and Sara Comodo.





The polyhedron was chosen by IBSA Foundation to celebrate its 10 years of activity, as a distinctive element of its ability to develop projects in various ways and forms, but with a single aim: to promote science.

Building Upon Success

10 years of IBSA Foundation

IBSA Foundation was founded in 2012 with the aim of discussing science in a broader context: that of a **'unifying' culture** that goes beyond the often harmful and unnatural distinctions between humanist and technical subjects.

IBSA Foundation draws on the **know how of two Boards made up of experts in the arts, academia and science**, that help to create projects, partnerships and events:

- An **Advisory Board**, made up of influential figures in the world of academia and the arts.
- A **Scientific Board**, made up of internationally known figures from the world of science.

In **2022** IBSA Foundation **celebrated its 10th anniversary**. 10 years of promoting the arts and science, 10 years of synergies with partners and institutions, 10 years of education and information, 10 years of debates, networking and developing talent. 10 years of research, of supporting young people, but above all the community, in the name of a user-friendly and accessible knowledge for all.

IBSA Foundation is born

Under the leadership of Silvia Misiti, a doctor and researcher, with a mission to promote the results of knowledge – scientific knowledge – often rendered inaccessible.

2012



FUTURE

2013

The Fellowship Project

The first call of the IBSA Foundation Fellowships is launched.

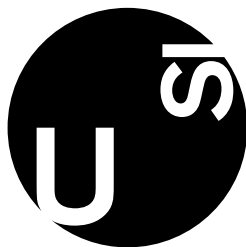
These grants are aimed at innovative research by those under 40.

18

The Parole Fertili (Fertile Words) project begins

A digital story sharing project set up in 2016 to help people experiencing difficulties in conceiving to share their stories and read about others' experiences.

2016



2017

The launch of the new USI Faculty of Biomedical Sciences

IBSA Foundation helped launch the new Faculty of Biomedical Sciences at USI (Università della Svizzera italiana), guaranteeing support for Bachelor's and Master's students degree on a ten-year basis.

Scienza a regola d'Arte

The first in a series of conversations between scientists and artists to promote dialogue between seemingly far-removed subjects like art and science.



2017



Let's Science!

Let's Science! began in Milan on 10th January. This creative pathway aims to offer correct scientific information in a language suitable for young people and others.

2018

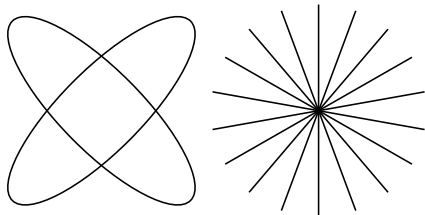
Ticino Scienza

Ticino Scienza is born. This online journal aims to provide information on the intense research activity (both public and private) in the Canton of Ticino.

2019



19



2020

Cultura e Salute (Culture and Health)

The Cultura e Salute (Culture and Health) project is officially presented in Lugano. It aims to show that the arts and culture can act as real treatments in certain areas.

10-year anniversary

IBSA Foundation celebrates its 10th anniversary in promoting the arts and science, as well as greater integration between different areas of knowledge.

2022



10 years in numbers

The Bilingual Blog



Fellowships



+1,000,000€

The total value of fellowships awarded to young researchers from all over the world

20

La Scienza a regola d'Arte



+1,000

Participants

10 Dialogues

20 International Speakers

Cultura e Salute Culture and Health



1st 

1st University Course in Switzerland and in Europe

Let's Science!



02 

A blog in two languages

08 

New articles written per month

+350

Articles published online

40 

Grants awarded

938

Scientific projects received

40 

Countries involved

Forum



162 

International scientific speakers

19 

Scientific forums held

02 

Book series

21 

Volumes produced

06 Exhibitions

04 Languages available



Forum culturaesal

FUT'S SCIENCE

Digitale
CONSAPEVOLE

La Scienza
Stefano
Massimo Ben
Associazione

ICE MELTING ICE

IBSA Foundation Projects and Activities

Since its inception, IBSA Foundation has been committed to creating a range of activities in the science and arts fields.

An even more virtuous pathway through synergies and partnerships developed with the worlds of education, the arts and medicine.

This is how IBSA Foundation transmits **scientific knowledge** and promotes the use of **accessible language** so everyone can approach topics related to science and health. IBSA Foundation carries out a wide range of different projects and activities, but they all have one goal: to promote and foster the communication of scientific knowledge.

Just like a **polyhedron** with a thousand faces, which individually appear different, but when taken as a whole, offer a unified image.

23

This is the philosophy of IBSA Foundation, which has chosen the polyhedron as its distinctive element for its 10th anniversary, representing its ability to develop projects in different ways and forms, that have the same common goal: to **promote science**.



Promoting Science

Involving the community begins with language, and with clear and accessible communication, which makes scientific knowledge not only educational, but also participatory.

Blog

The IBSA Foundation blog (on www.ibsafoundation.org website) in Italian and English, offers insights that make the world of science and health more accessible and interesting, discussing various issues in science, culture, technology and art.

Science Beyond Frontiers collection features the latest discoveries in the medical and scientific field, focusing on the latest technologies, surprising newly-published studies, projects and discoveries from all over the world.

Cultura e Salute (Culture and Health) is the section of the blog that includes experiences, interesting case studies and new and stimulating discoveries related to the 'biopsychosocial' aspect of health are collected, and you can explore how arts activities, socialising, the relationship with the environment and emotions affect a person's quality of life.

The aim is to shed light on these two worlds – culture and health – which until now have only had a weak connection but are increasingly becoming an essential element in prevention and treatment strategies and in promoting well-being.

The articles in the **Art and Science** section, on the other hand, are aimed at revealing the synergies between the worlds of art and science.

The **Comics** section is a collection of all the articles that feature the exciting and adventurous world of comic strips: what they are, their script, the birth of the idea and their inspiration. Comics play a leading role in a complex project to promote science that reaches out to both adults and children, with the contribution of professionals in the field, as well as experts and scientists in various subject areas.





02

A blog in two
languages

08

New articles
per month

+350

Scientific articles
published online

Cultura e Salute

Culture and Health

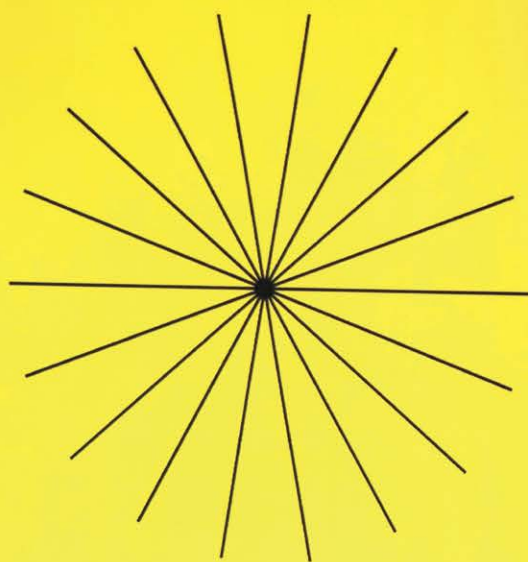
The project, created in 2020 in partnership with the **City of Lugano Cultural Division**, is based on a growing body of scientific and clinical evidence, published in the report *“What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and well-being? A scoping review”* by the WHO.

Cultura e Salute (Culture and Health) aims to show how **the arts and culture** can be considered **real treatments** according to scientific criteria. The project aims to become a European centre of reference in this field through www.culturaesalute.ch, by promoting university courses, research projects and conferences on the theme.

28



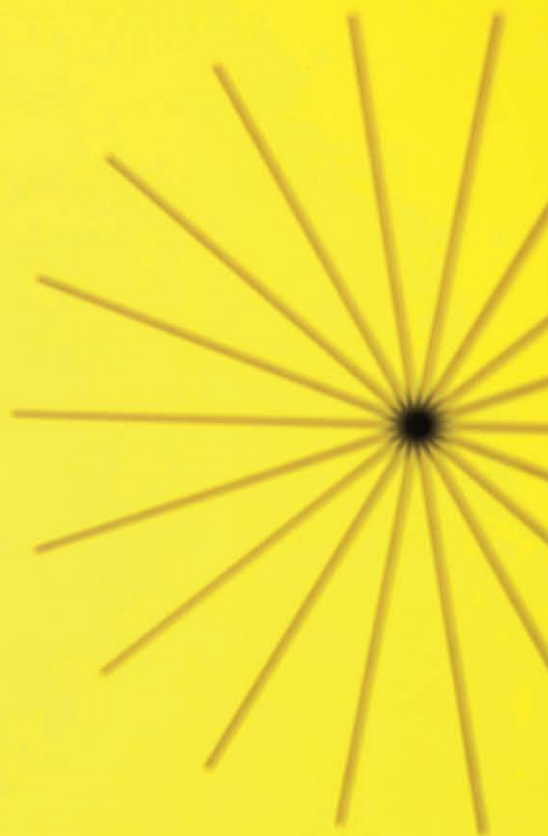
Forum culturaesalu



Venerdì
26 novembre
ore 15:00
Teatro di
Mendrisio



Forum cultura





30





The University Course

The first academic course in Switzerland in Culture and Health, introduced in the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences at USI in 2021, opens up a **new**, highly topical and concrete **area of education**, designed to investigate the connection between the benefits that come from 'experiencing' the arts and a person's health.

The aim of the course, coordinated by Professor Enzo Grossi, is to explore the role that the arts and cultural participation in general play in the physical and mental well-being of an individual and a community.

Different **themed lectures** every year, **open to the public**, students and doctoral students at the USI Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, are at the heart of the sessions, which feature personalities from the world of science and experts in an ongoing debate on themes that link art, culture and medicine to people's wellbeing.

With the support of local authorities, partners and exceptional speakers, the aim is to offer medical students and others a useful tool to fully understand the sphere they are working in and to **spread awareness that art**, in all its forms, can be a **real treatment**.

The course has been held twice to date. The first, entitled '**Cultura e Salute**' (*Culture and Health*), was held during the 2021-2022 academic year and offered a general overview of the influence of the arts on health.

The second, entitled '**Healing Through Music**', was held during the 2022-2023 academic year and provided key to interpreting the role played by music in the individual and social well-being. The Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana was a partner in the second edition of the course.





1st

1st University Course
in Switzerland and in Europe



34





Forum Cultura e Salute

Culture and Health

The activities of the Cultura e Salute (Culture and Health) project also include organising **forums and conferences open to the public**, to present scientific evidence and best practices at a national and international level, with the participation of experts on culture and health.

The first Swiss forum of Cultura e Salute (Culture and Health) took place in Mendrisio and Lugano in 2021. The two-day event focused on humanising healthcare and care settings and the beneficial effects of arts and culture in preventing disease and promoting health.

36



IBSA FOUNDATION *for scientific research*

1st

Swiss forum

15

Speakers

+200

Participants

Forum
culturaesalute.ch

Alleanza per un futuro
sostenibile



38

Forum
culturaesalute.ch

Alleanza per un futuro
sostenibile

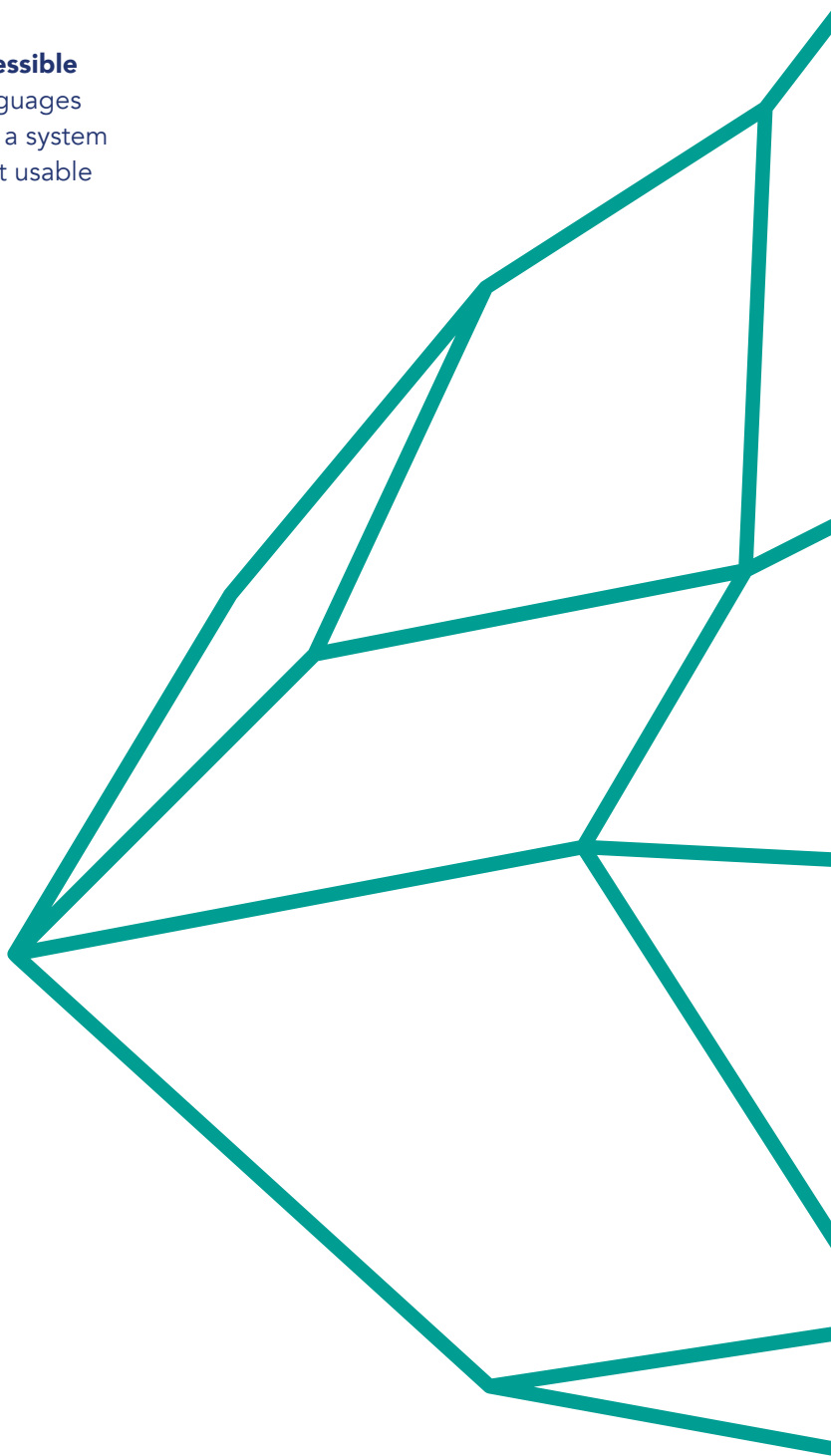




The website

The www.culturaesalute.ch web portal is designed to become the **website of reference** on the subject of Culture and Health and highlights research, practices and arts and cultural projects created for the well-being of people and communities.

The website has been designed to make it **as accessible as possible for the user**. It is available in four languages (Italian, French, German and English) and features a system that eliminates 'IT architectural barriers', to make it usable even for those with visual or cognitive issues.

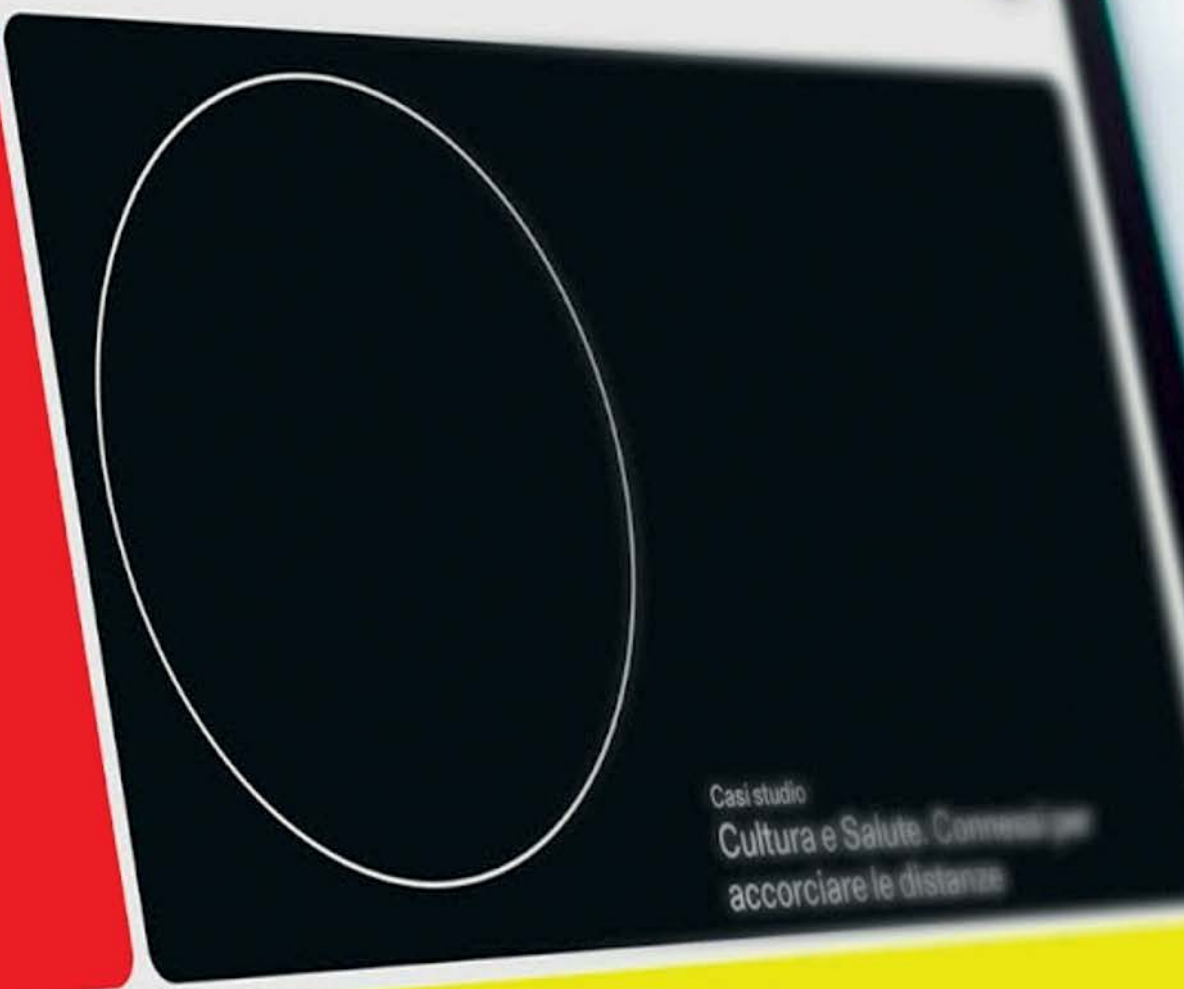


Pratiche

Area geografica

Cosa stai cercando?

Cerca



Parole fertili

Fertile Words

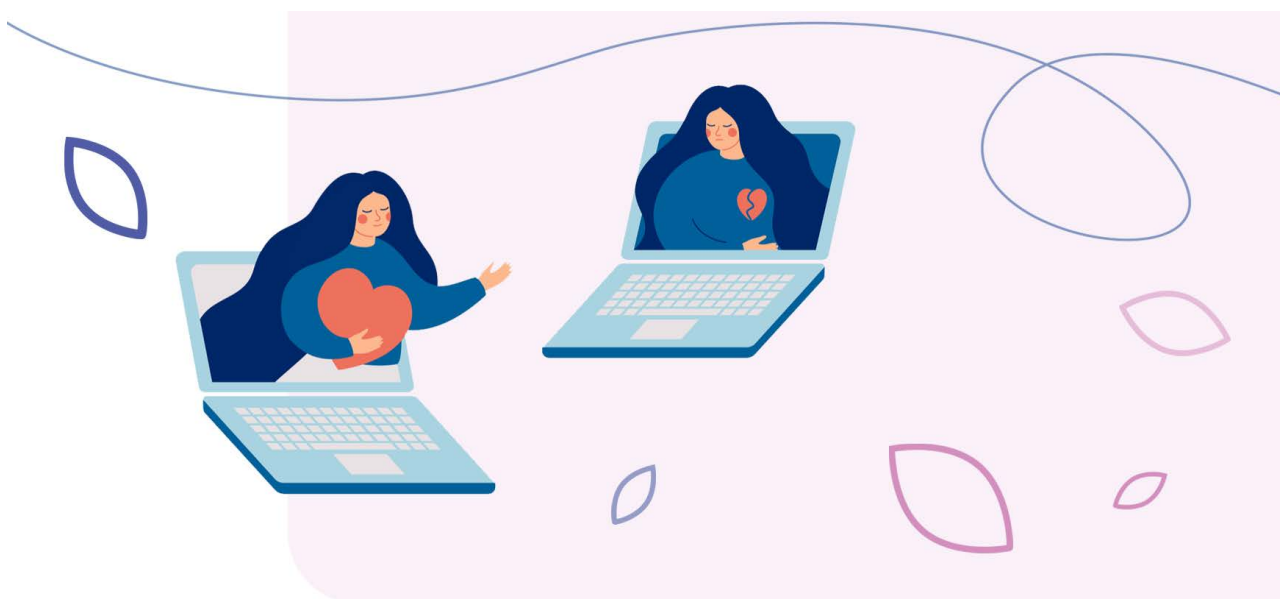
Parole Fertili (Fertile Words) is a narrative **digital story sharing** project that began in 2016, to enable people experiencing difficulties with conceiving to share their stories and read about others' experiences. The project began as a blog on the website www.parolefertili.it and as a digital community on Facebook.

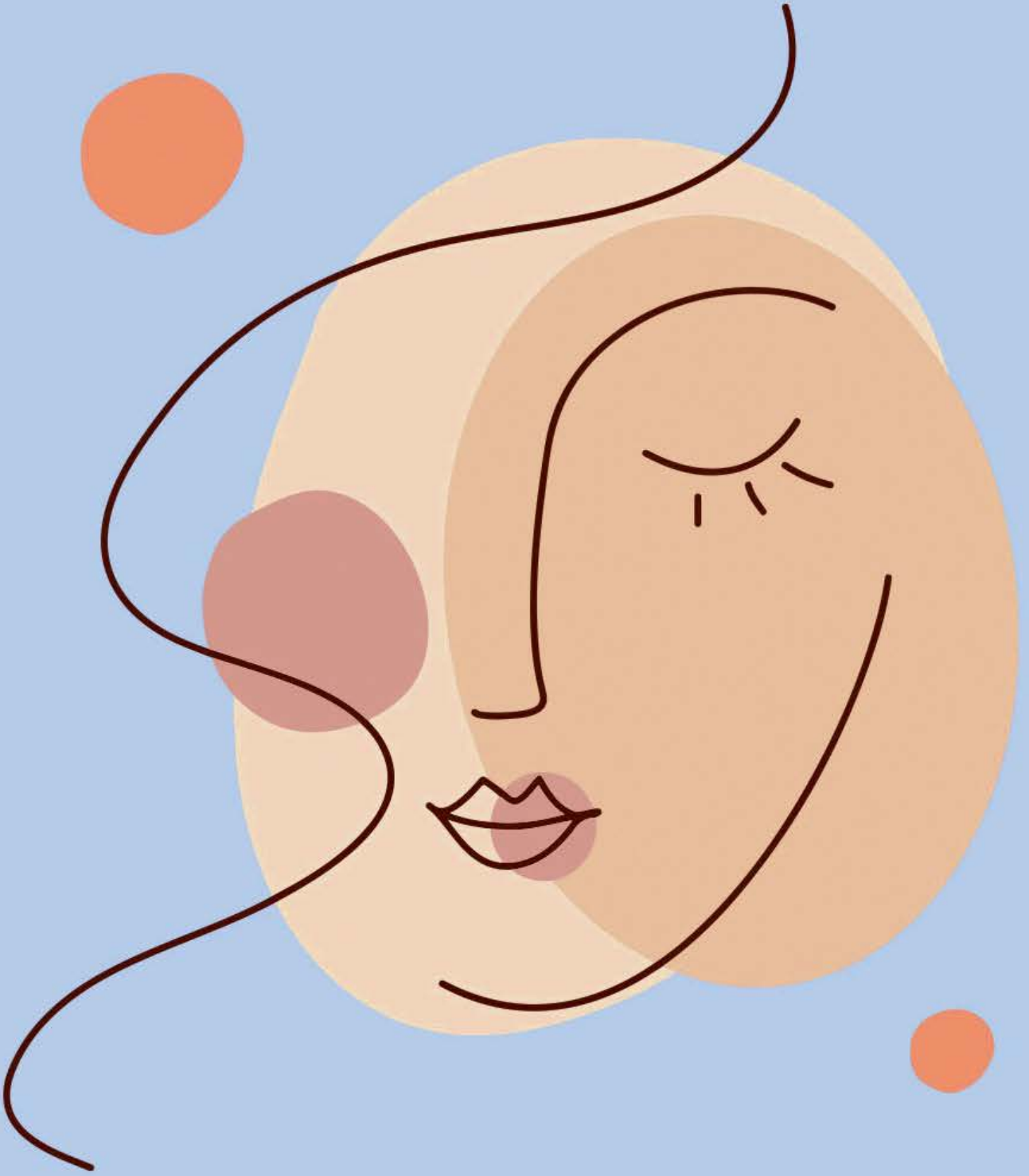
Three short films were made and a **book** was published by Mondadori Electa in 2018.

In 2019 the stories inspired the **theatre production** '*Quasi Genitori*' (Almost Parents) and, in 2021, Parole Fertili (Fertile Words) became part of the treatment pathway with **digitally integrated drama therapy** in a medically assisted reproduction centre.

42

Parole Fertili (Fertile Words) is on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.





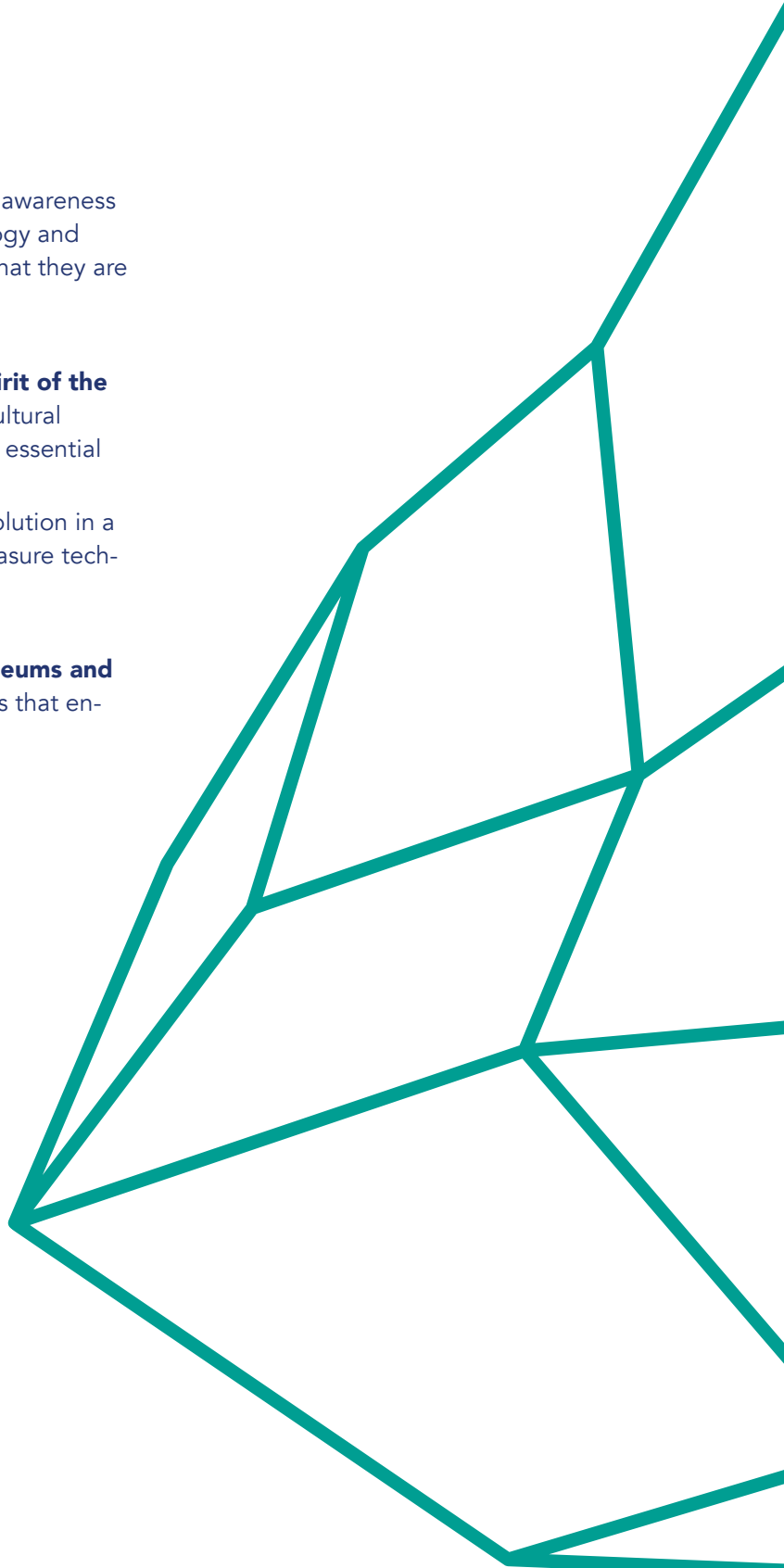
SciArt

The **Art and Science** projects aim to raise public awareness of the relationship between art, science, technology and research, realities that are now so closely linked that they are often inseparable.

Almost in unison, art and science capture the '**spirit of the age**' and reinforce it. Art, in its most social and cultural sense, represents a strong part of identity and an essential element in the life of a human being.

Science, on the other hand, is the measure of evolution in a society: by developing scientific solutions we measure technological progress in the world in which we live.

In this regard IBSA Foundation partners with **museums and arts institutions** to organise events and meetings that encourage public participation.





La Scienza a regola d'Arte

The 'La Scienza a regola d'Arte' project in partnership with **MASI Lugano** (Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana), **has brought together artists and scientists** to discuss themes of public interest, creating an innovative vision of two worlds that are traditionally considered far-separated.

Between 2017 and 2022, **10 talks** were organised, with 20 international speakers and over 1,000 attendees.



A large, charred tree trunk stands in a forest of living trees, with fire burning at its base. The tree is the central focus, its dark, skeletal branches reaching upwards. The background is a misty forest of green conifers. The foreground shows a fire burning at the base of the charred tree, with flames and smoke rising. The overall atmosphere is somber and dramatic.

10

Dialogues

20

International
Speakers

+1,000

Participants



48









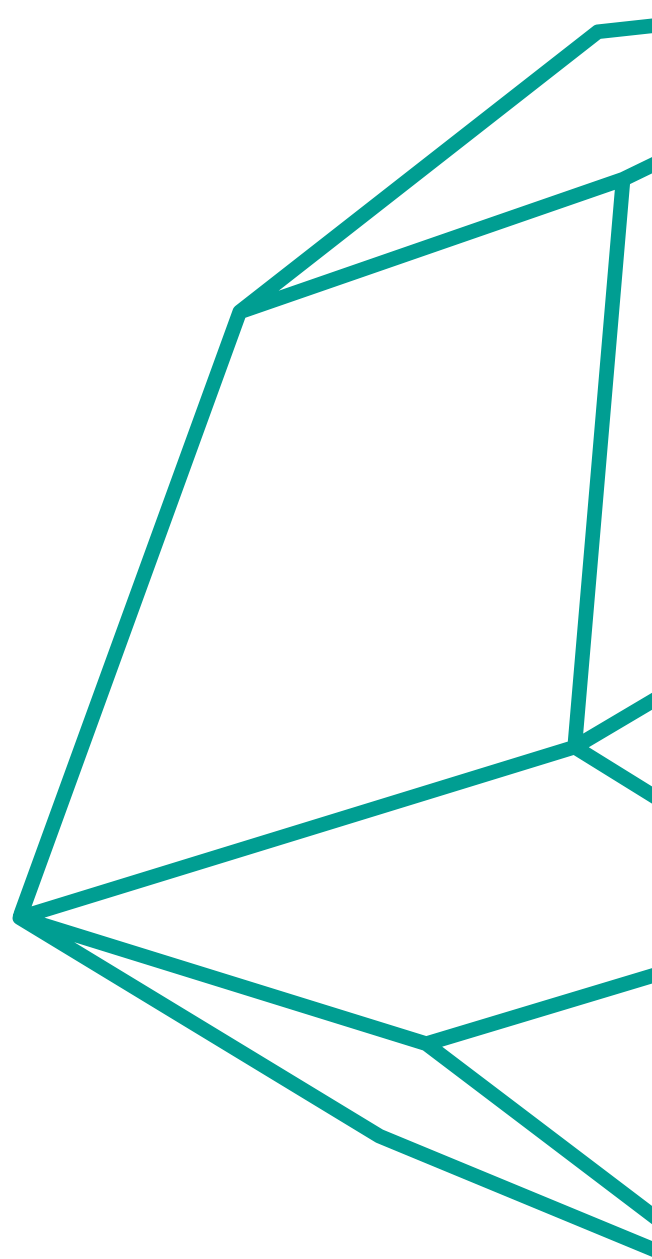
Digital Aesthetics

The project, created in partnership with the National Museum of Science and Technology “Leonardo da Vinci” (**MUST**) of Milan, with which IBSA Foundation has been a partner since 2019, offers a permanent programme of **digital art installations**.

IBSA Foundation, through its Digital Aesthetics project and with the works **Chromata** by Michael Bromley, **Robotic Voice Activated Word Kicking Machine** by Neil Mendoza and **La Gabbia** (The Cage) by auroraMeccanica, aims to make people reflect on new digital languages and explore the relationship with artificial intelligence and the connections between high-tech innovations and artistic creative processes.

52

Since 2021 IBSA Foundation has also been the first Mission Partner of MUST in supporting arts and educational activities.



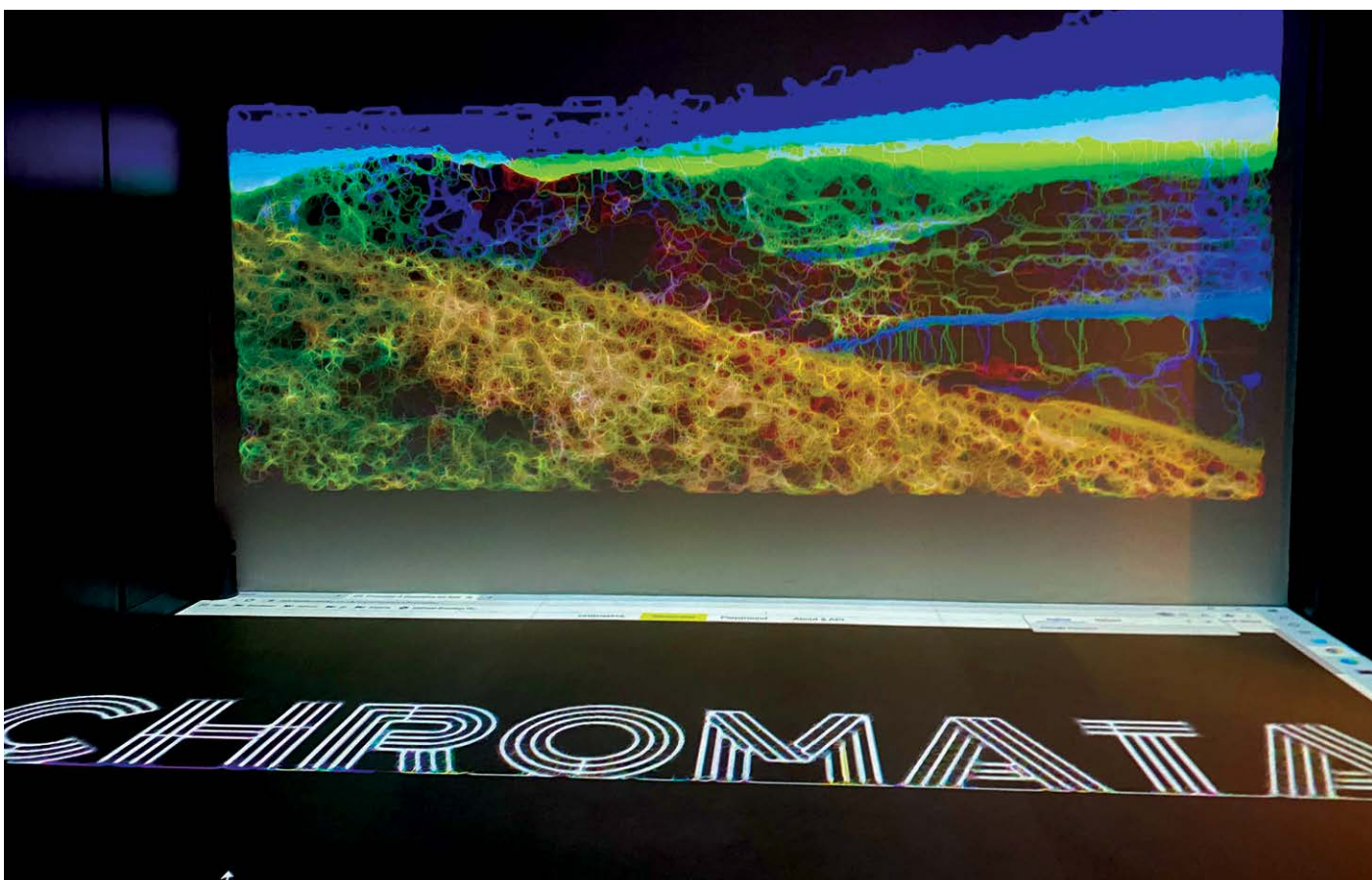
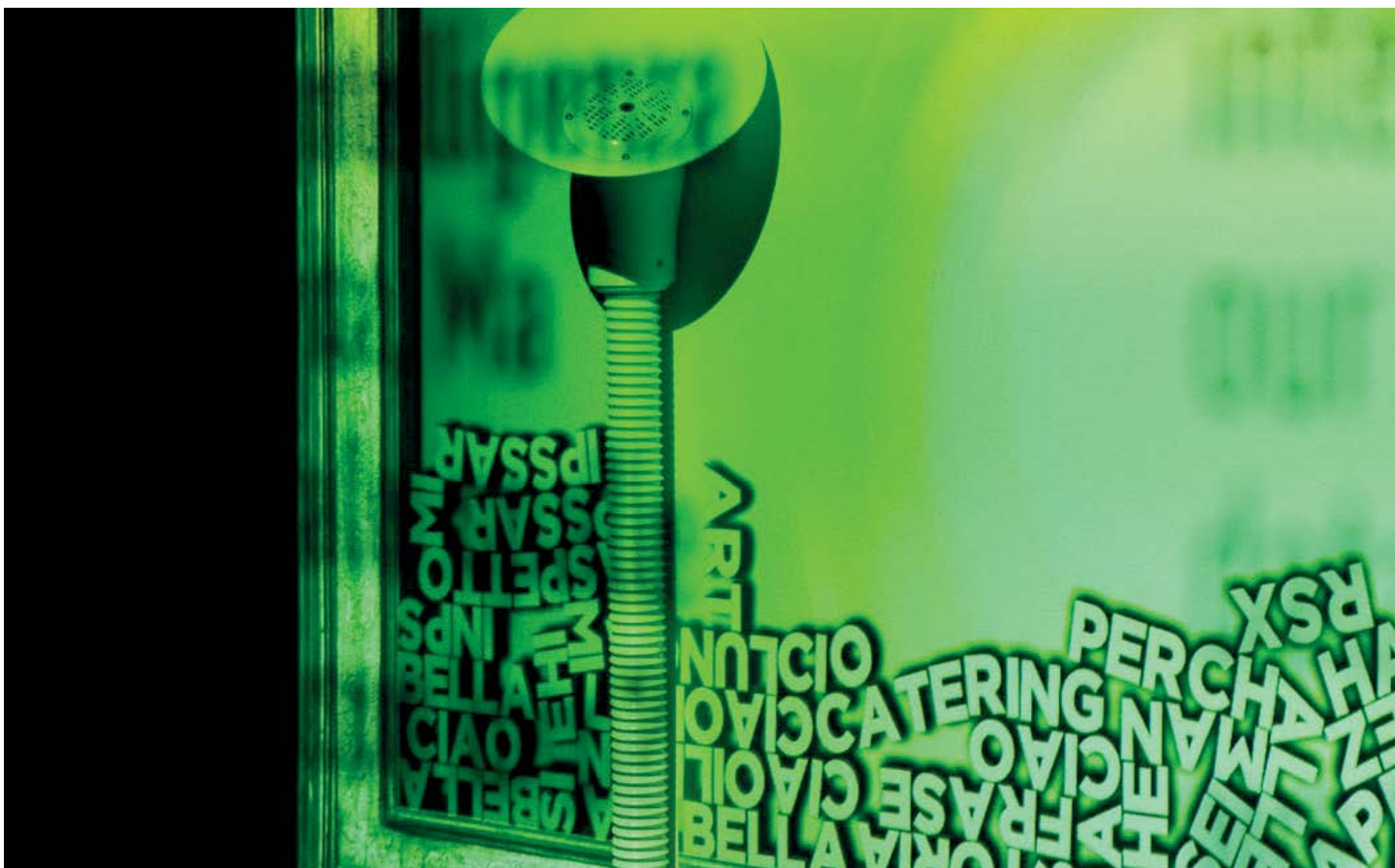
DOVREBBE
TANTO
INGNI
QUIND



ORA COME
HANNO
LA
ONNAN
RSX
PERCH
VEZH
CHER
ALL
HAPPY
ROMPERE
FABRE
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DA
PROV



54





Let's Science!

Let's Science! is a **creative journey** born in 2018 that dialogues with schools and institutions on health issues through comic books, experiential workshops and exhibitions dedicated to the very young.

Let's Science! aims to provide young students with **scientific information** that has an **appealing approach**, even to most difficult topics. The project offers the opportunity to learn more about science and the work of doctors and researchers. It becomes a useful tool for learning but also for orienting the future professional choices of girls and boys.

This project included **two series** of books that present scientific topics in an innovative way, promoting science in a **comic strip**.

Book Series

The story and script were devised by two middle school classes and then transformed into comics by professionals from the the Scuola Romana dei Fumetti (Rome Comics School).

- **I ragazzi di Pasteur** (The Pasteur Kids), 11 volumes created in partnership with the Italian Pasteur Institute.
- **Let's Science!**, 10 volumes created in partnership with Department of education, culture and sport of Canton Ticino (DECS) available in 4 languages (Italian, English, German and French).





02

Book Series

21

Volumes produced

06

Exhibitions

04

Languages





58







60





61



Ticino Scienza

Ticino Scienza, available in Italian and German, is the only **online website** devoted to the intense scientific research and promotion activity in the Canton of Ticino.

This innovative online journal aims to make the **flourishing scientific research scene in Ticino**, which has not yet been fully exploited, known to the general public, by encouraging partnerships between various institutes in the local area and in the rest of Switzerland and by giving a voice to those who work in science.

Ticino Scienza also wants to be a space that focuses on **activities to promote science**, which are increasingly being organised in the Canton. Developments linked to science are a fundamental part of our lives and make a vital contribution to our future.

In 2022, Ticino Scienza formed a partnership with **laRegione**, one of the leading newspapers in the Canton of Ticino. This led to the creation of the *Ticino Scienza* column, published every month in the print newspaper and in a special section on the website.



STUDI CLINICI

Cure complesse, migliore assistenza: in crescita la ricerca infermieristica EOC

⌚ circa 3 minuti di lettura

Dal 2018 a oggi si è passati da 67 a 133 pubblicazioni l'anno. I risultati presentati alla Giornata dell'Innovazione e della Ricerca Infermieristica, che ha riunito quasi 200 professionisti al Campus Est di Lugano



ELISA BUSON
Giornalista scientifica


PIAN SCAIROLO

Al via "cosmos", una fabbrica innovativa e sostenibile che guarda alla bellezza

⌚ circa 6 minuti di lettura

Inaugurato lo stabilimento più grande del gruppo farmaceutico IBSA, nel quartiere CorPharma. Attrezzature di alta tecnologia, con un'attenzione particolare per ridurre l'impatto sull'ambiente


FACOLTÀ DI SCIENZE BIOMEDICHE

Ticino-Zurigo: funziona la collaborazione scientifica fra l'USI e il Politecnico

⌚ circa 7 minuti di lettura

Allo studio una nuova scuola di dottorato congiunta con percorsi di "MD/PhD Joint Degree", che prevedono il normale iter di formazione medica ma anche l'avvio verso un'attività di ricerca

FONDAZIONE SASSO CORBARO

Empatia, coinvolgimento: da Bellinzona uno studio contro la "violenza ostetrica"

⌚ circa 5 minuti di lettura

Iniziativa in collaborazione con la George Washington University (USA). I ricercatori valuteranno in modo globale la gravidanza, per capire di cosa hanno davvero bisogno le madri

SCHWEIZERISCHE NATIONALFONDS

Nuove regole del Fondo nazionale: più attenzione alle mamme ricercatrici

⌚ circa 6 minuti di lettura

L'opinione

“

Malattie rare, sfida che si può vincere solo se si lavora in rete



Attualmente si sa che nel mondo vi sono tra 6'000 e 8'000 malattie rare conosciute e che [...] *Continua a leggere...*

Fabrizio Barazzoni

Cultura e Salute


Musica come cura, lezione 4 Christian Gold: dati contrastanti sulla terapia dell'autismo

Pubblicazioni scientifiche

Safety and Outcome of Revascularization Treatment in Patients With Acute Ischemic Stroke and COVID-19: The Global COVID-19 Stroke Registry

Neurology, 9 novembre 2022

Carlo W. Cereda, Stroke Center, Neurocentro della Svizzera italiana, EOC, Lugano

Giovanni Bianco, Stroke Center, Neurocentro della Svizzera italiana, EOC, Lugano

Tick-Talk: Parental online discourse about TBE vaccination

Vaccine, 5 novembre 2022

Marta Fadda, Istituto di salute pubblica, Università





An International Scientific Network

Old and new generations of researchers, scientists, and experts in the field come together for lively scientific debate and research. It is a concrete and authoritative network of knowledge and expertise.

Forum

IBSA Foundation organises annual science and health **days** open to the public **to promote** an accessible culture of science. During these forums, internationally renowned scientists and experts discuss the **new frontiers of scientific research**.

IBSA Foundation has organised around **twenty scientific forums** since 2013, with speakers from all over the world to explore a wide variety of subjects: from ageing to nutrition, immunotherapy and artificial intelligence.

For every forum, IBSA Foundation publishes a **collection of abstracts** of the talks online, which allow participants to access information presented by the speakers.





162

International
science experts

19

Scientifics
forums held



68





69









Supporting Research and Education

Research means investing in the future.
IBSA Foundation is at the forefront of supporting today's
researchers and tomorrow's scientists.

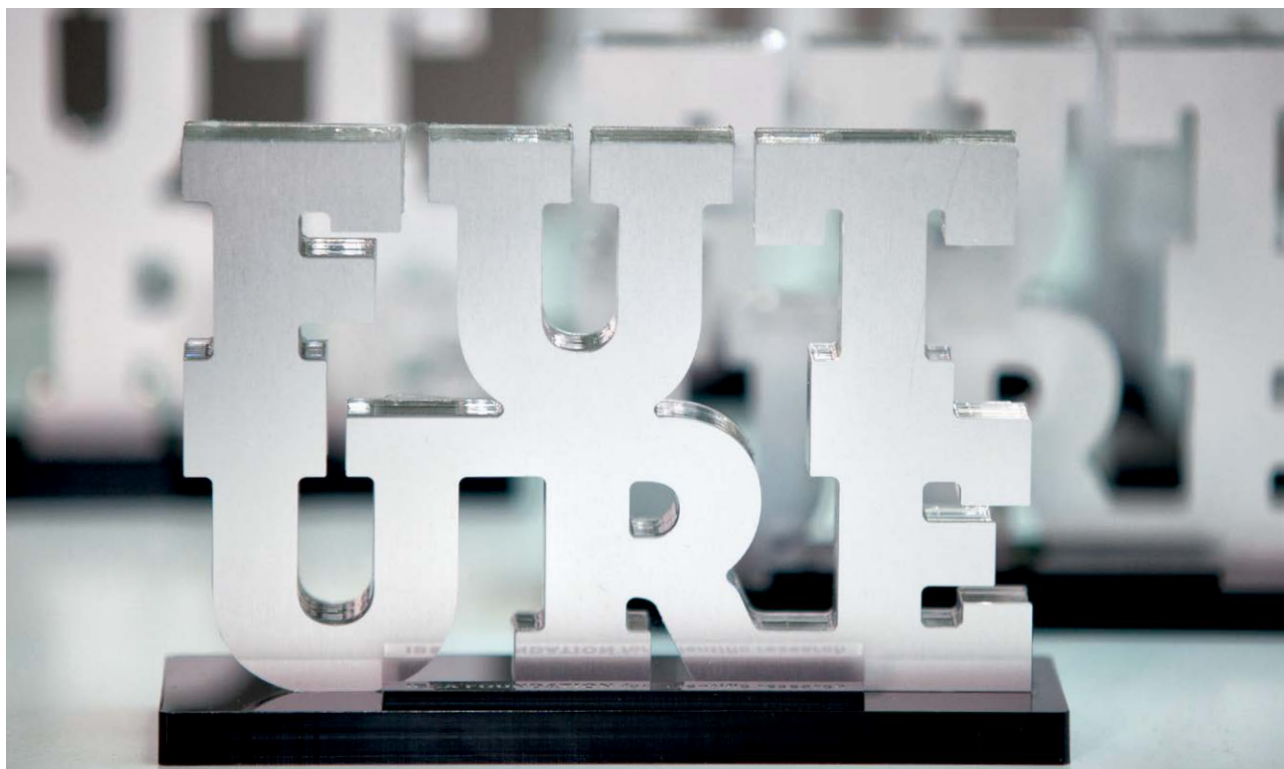
Fellowships

The IBSA Foundation Fellowship project offers an annual award of several **grants**, each worth €30,000, to researchers under the age of 40 from universities and institutes worldwide.

With this project IBSA Foundation aims to support **talented researchers and relevant projects** that could change the treatment of diseases in the future.

Winners are chosen by a panel of experts who evaluate research submitted according to pre-set criteria.

Since 2013, when the project was first launched, IBSA Foundation has awarded **40 grants** for a total of over €1 Million, with 938 projects submitted from 40 different countries.



A close-up, blue-tinted photograph of a microscope. The objective lens is in sharp focus, pointing towards the bottom right. The eyepiece and other parts of the microscope are blurred in the background. The overall tone is a deep, monochromatic blue.

40

Grants

938

Science projects
received

40

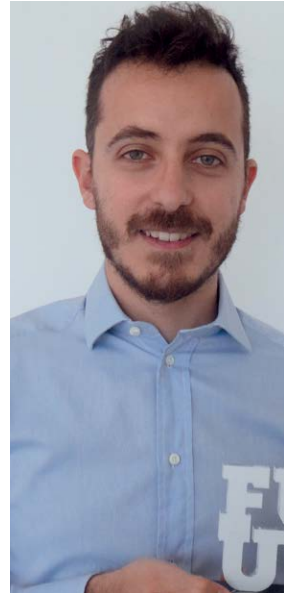
Countries

+€1 Million

Total value of grants given out









Scholarships

IBSA Foundation encourages academic study by supporting Bachelor's and Master's **students** at the **USI** (Università della Svizzera italiana) **Faculty of Biomedical Sciences** each year.

The project began in 2017 with the aim of helping train **future doctors** and, at the same time, contributing to the growth of the faculty and development in the local area.

80





2017-2027

Project timeline

361

Students

+€1 Million

Total value of grants given out



82







84





A new home for IBSA Foundation: Carlo Cattaneo House

“...(I am) convinced that sooner or later every more speculative science must produce some unexpected fruit for human society, even from its driest branches”.

C. Cattaneo

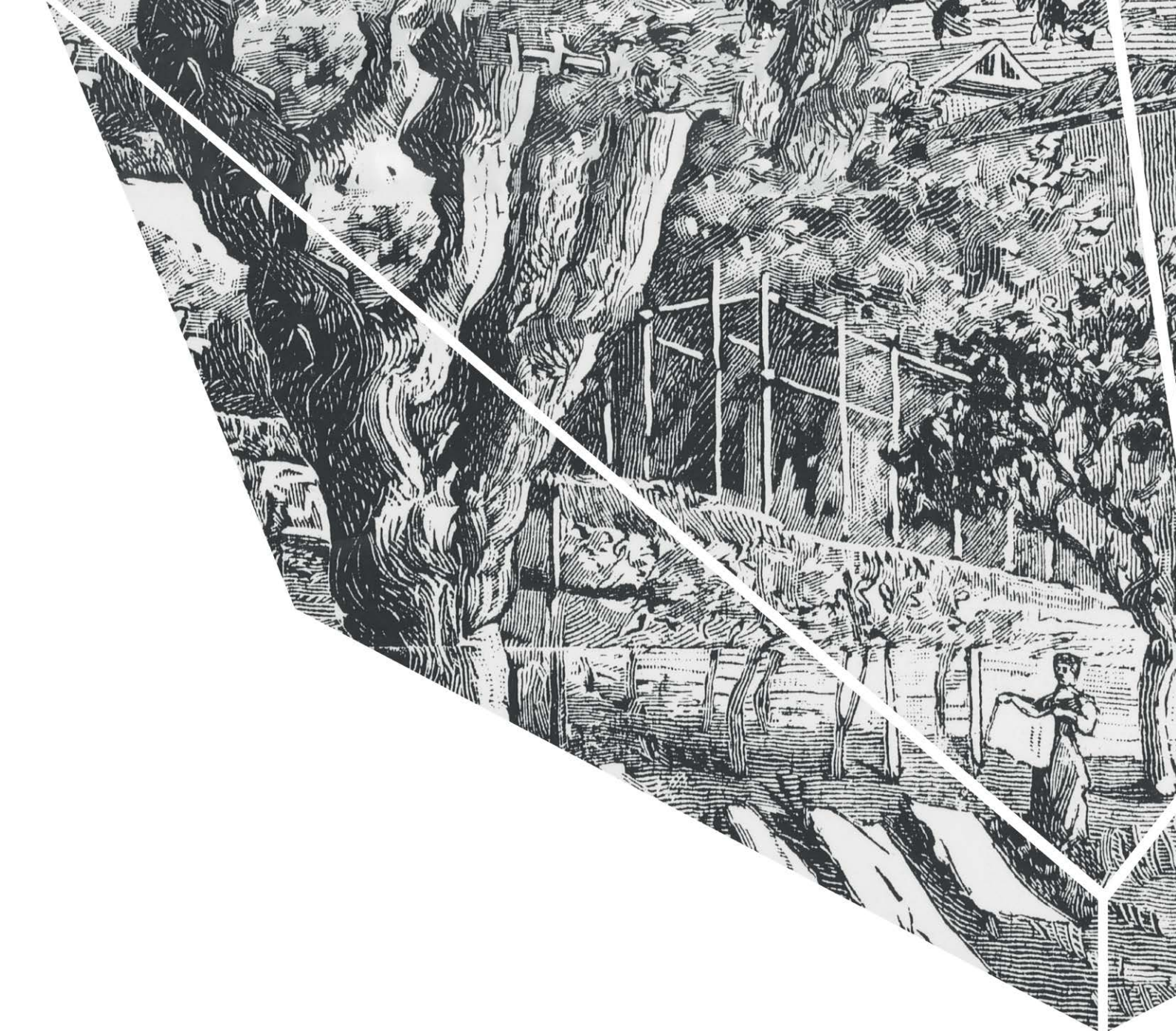
86

The Carlo Cattaneo House in Castagnola is a historic place full of meaning, which IBSA Foundation would like to restore to its function as a **laboratory for thought** and a driving force in **the convergence between science and the arts**, with the aim of promoting – as Carlo Cattaneo strongly maintained – technical, but also civic progress for communities.

Following Cattaneo’s own teachings, IBSA Foundation wants to become a new **reference point** for science culture in Lugano. The aim is to dedicate the spaces mainly to projects open to the public, schools and activities by researchers and students.







**IBSA Foundation
for scientific research**

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