



LA LiNGUA MADRE

#ItalianoTrapassatoFuturo

21 February 2022 | TEATRINO DI PALAZZO GRASSI | Venice

Live streaming

lalinguamadre.com/diretta-streaming
www.youtube.com/user/Interpretiaiic

*Under the High Patronage
of the President of the Republic*

Under the Patronage of the



*In cooperation with
the European Commission
Representation in Italy*



*A project designed
and produced by*



03.00 pm - 06.30 pm

MANIFESTO

Our Mother Tongue. The element that unifies a community of speakers, the one true document that accompanies us everywhere.

The only organic and dynamic system that contains us completely: a tacit contract that applies to everyone but where everyone has a clause of their own. **A unique code that identifies us fully and that no one can take away from us.** It is so for those who are forced or choose to emigrate, for the academic or the researcher who moves in pursuit of better career opportunities, for those who have studied abroad, for the many who will. Language is baggage that cannot be left unattended.

The vital use of a language, apart from the cultural element, is a vehicle of democracy and social inclusion. It is indispensable for honest and transparent public communication and as such, the use of Italian ought to be addressed by dedicated policies.

The Italian language, like all mother tongues, is a resource of equal dignity as the artistic, landscape, cultural and gastronomic heritage. That's why rediscovering a modern, natural love for our language, enhancing it as an all-round common asset, is both a cultural necessity and a national economic interest.

The Italian language itself is doing fine, but it is used in a limiting and limited manner. We have a Ferrari but we leave it in the garage, and the risk is that sooner or later it will no longer start.

If it is true that **words are the mirror of the evolution of thought**, then the use of an Italian language intoxicated in all sectors and registers is symptomatic of inertia and lack of trust in its ability to keep pace with the changing world. Mirror of the inertia and the lack of confidence that prevents the country from achieving its great potential.

There is no concept that cannot be translated into Italian. Languages also evolve by borrowing and adopting from other languages, but the ability to make the concepts their own is a creative exercise which ensures that a language retains its status of means of communication and instrument of knowledge. **No longer feeding and maintaining our mother tongue is tantamount to no longer taking care of our monuments and our seas, to not paving our streets and not ensuring that bridges stay up. Neglecting our mother tongue causes economic damage and a democratic deficit.**

In a society whose ambition is to remain vibrant a renewed ownership of our mother tongue requires the commitment of the whole community because language is the unstoppable result of the lexicon that develops in the family, in the media, of the personal, generational, political, institutional, economic, academic, popular, and collective lexicon.

Our call is for a shared endeavour to reclaim the Italian language in a modern, creative and natural manner. Not an academic exercise, of conservation, or restoration, but an ethical, aesthetic, democratic and economic operation.

FORMAT

LaLinguaMadre is a pop festival in digital and physical format.
The theatre and the studio, in compliance with the rules on distancing, will welcome guests and students.

The entire event, broadcast via live streaming, is orchestrated dynamically, alternating between live and recorded content.

The presenters will take it in turns to steer the line-up, which consists of a continuous dialogue between different and at times contrasting perspectives.

Alternating between live and remote studio interviews, individual and group contributions, recorded video talks, interactive phases, short editorial contributions.



PRESENTERS



Paolo Di Paolo

Paolo Di Paolo is the author of novels and essays, editor of anthologies and interview-based books. His novel *Dove eravate tutti*, in 2011, won the Mondello Prize and the Vittorini Prize, while his *Mandami tanta vita* was a finalist for the Premio Strega in 2014. He collaborates with *La Repubblica* and *L'Espresso*. Since 2006, he has been hosting the *Lezioni di Storia* (History Lessons) at the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome and has appeared as an author on various cultural programmes. From 12 January 2020, he has been the host of the weekly radio programme 'La lingua batte' on Radio 3 RAI.



Vera Gheno

Vera Gheno Vera Gheno is a sociolinguist. She was born in Hungary in 1975. She holds a degree and a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Florence and is specialised in computer-mediated communication. She teaches at the University of Florence (Laboratory of Written Italian), at the Università per Stranieri in Siena (Computer applications for the Humanities) and at Middlebury College, Florence Campus (Sociolinguistics). She collaborated extensively with the Accademia della Crusca. She currently collaborates on a permanent basis with the Zanichelli publishing house.

GUESTS 1/3

Our Mother Tongue belongs to everyone. That's why the guests of **LaLinguaMadre** hail from different walks of life: university, research, pop music, theatre, culture. But also communication, journalism, news reporting, institutions, politics, the web and YouTube.



Corrado Augias

Writer, journalist, TV host.



Cyril Aslanov

Professor of Linguistics at Aix-Marseille Université;
member of the Institut Universitaire de France;
member of the Academy of the Hebrew language (Jerusalem).



Dacia Maraini

Writer, poet and essayist.



Luisa Bienati

Vice Rector for Teaching and Education,
Ca' Foscari University of Venice.



Marco Cerase

Parliamentary official,
author of the book *In italiano please! Istigazione all'uso della nostra lingua all'università*.

GUESTS 2/3



Igiaba Scego

Writer.
She contributes to Corriere della Sera's La Lettura.



Alberto Toso Fei

Expert in secret history and mystery, journalist, writer, and essayist.



Marco Cavaleri

Pharmacologist, Head of Vaccines and Therapeutic Products for Covid-19 at the European Medicines Agency (EMA)



Stefano Vassere

Professor of Linguistics at the University of Milan and member of the Steering Committee of Forum Helveticum.



Francesco "Kento" Carlo

Rapper and writer. Holds writing and poetry workshops for at-risk children and adolescents in school and juvenile correctional facilities.

GUESTS 3/3



Gabriele Giacomini

Researcher at the University of Udine and the Centre for Advanced Studies Southeast Europe in Rijeka.



Elti Cattaruzza

Physicist and Researcher in Molecular Sciences and Nanosystems, he is Professor of Fundamental Physics at Ca' Foscari University in Venice, where he is also Vice-Rector for the Right to Study and Student Services.



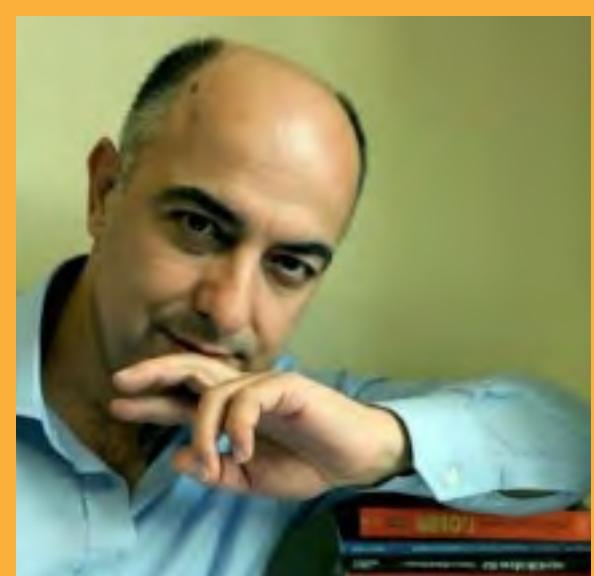
Beatrice Cristalli

School publishing consultant, trainer and linguist. She collaborates with Focus Scuola and Treccani.it, for whom she has been writing articles on the evolution of contemporary languages for many years.



Daniele Mazzacani

Economist specialised in the economic impact of language proficiency and the development of language-specific technical jargons for the purpose of communication.



Rando Devole

Sociologist, translator and interpreter, expert on migrations.



Daniele Baglioni

Linguist at Cà Foscari University, Venice. Coordinator of the Doctorate Programme in Italian Studies.

Director's NOTES 1/2

LaLinguaMadre is a fluid format, designed to take place within a 3-hour event, with several sessions and different forms of interaction.

Lectio Magistralis **Linguaccia mia** *Dirty little mouth of mine*

LaLinguaMadre assigns to a brilliant multilingual linguist the task of determining whether it is the Italian language that is in bad shape or those who speak it.

Vi abbiamo reccato *You have been RECd*

Surprise interviews carried out by students from the Universities of Cagliari and Ca' Foscari - Campus of Treviso, who spent the day as special LaLinguaMadre agents armed with mobile phones: do we all really understand the anglicisms we use?

A ognuno il suo *To each his own*

The vitality of a language depends on those who use it and those who disseminate it: interview with a leading Italian editorialist on the responsibility journalists have towards their mother tongue.

Articolo 34 *Article 34*

Does offering education exclusively in English propel young people into the future or does it violate a right enshrined in the Constitution? A Constitution expert and a Vice Rector challenge each other on the rough terrain of education and the right to study in the age of globalisation.

Estremitaliani *Italian extremes*

Beloved, studied and promoted as a guarantee of constitutional democracy in one country, left to its fate in another. A true love in one case, a lost opportunity in the other. The opposite fortunes of the Italian language in Switzerland, Albania, via Italy.

Director's NOTES 1/2

SciallaquiSciallallà *Chillax*

There are areas where Italian travels light, grows, changes, creates, manages to express everything, even the most caustic concepts, where it is the standard-bearer of an identity with no limits, because this is the duty of a language, and the true pass to an inclusive tomorrow.

La mia bella convenienza *Put your money where your mouth is*

What if it is not true that translating is a cost? A young economist and a young political theorist might help us discover that on the contrary, using our mother tongue can be a source of moral and material well-being.

Sconcerto ai piani alti *Dismay in high places*

Video snippets to show that, sometimes, even the High and Mighty get annoyed by anglicisms used just for the sake of it.

Maraini Anticlassica *Maraini counterclassic*

The untameable tongue of an indomitable woman. The most read Italian writer in the world.

Per favore non rompete gli argini *Please do not burst the banks*

Technical, scientific, and economic language is becoming increasingly distant from Italian, even when it is essential to speak clearly in order to inform and educate. **LaLinguaMadre** has invited two speakers who embody this ambition.

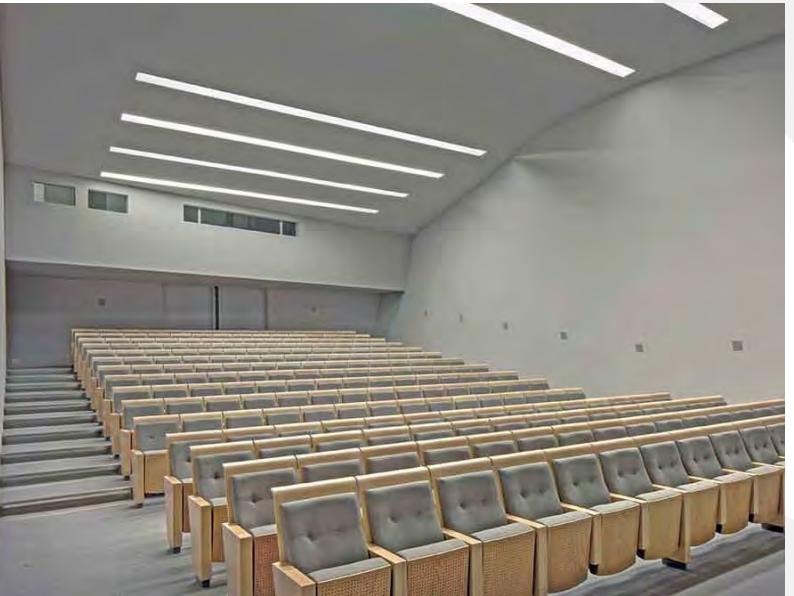
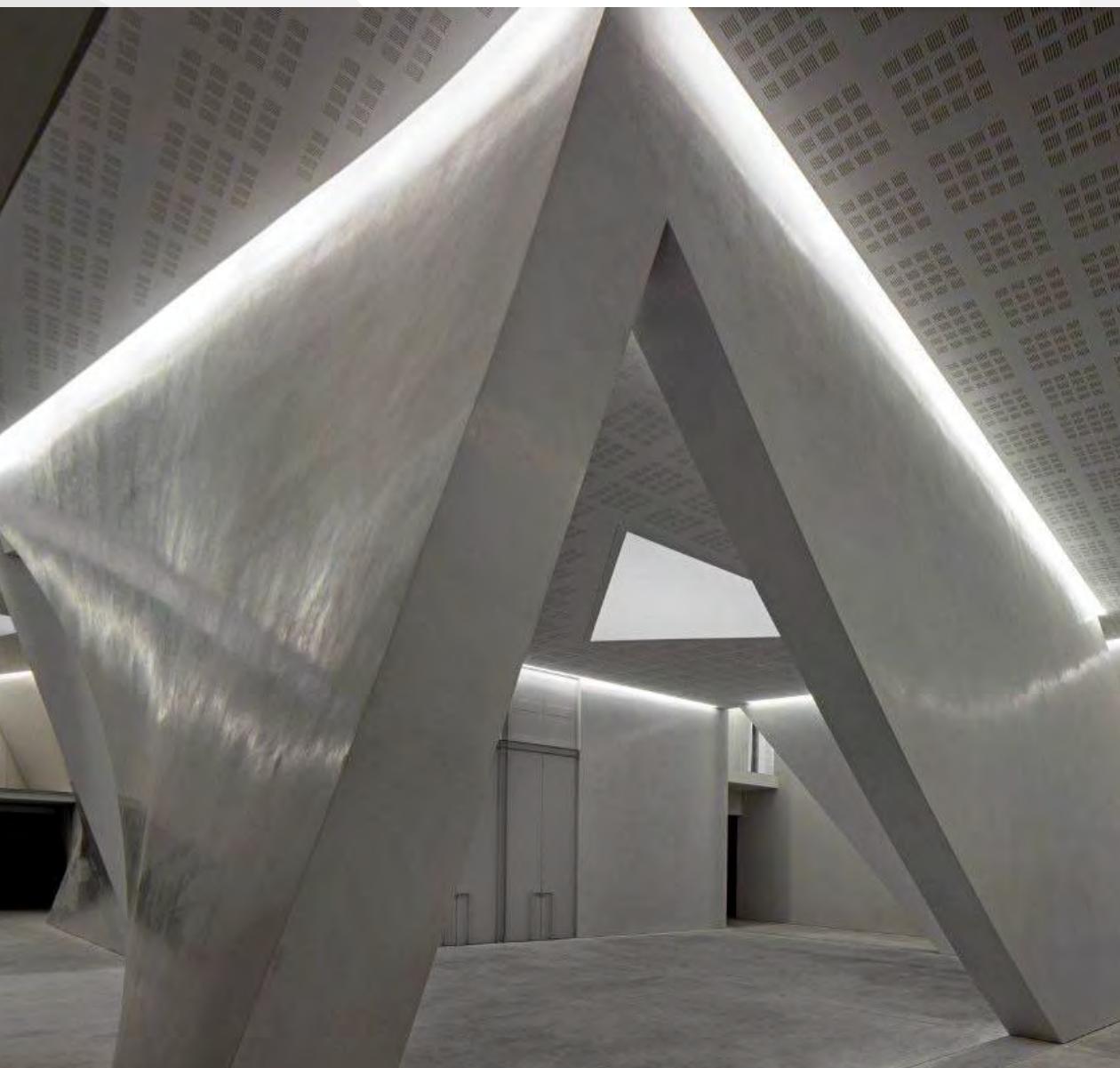
Ci-hao

Alberto Toso Fei tells the story of the Italian word that left Venice to travel the world over (as well as some other Venetian words).

LALINGUAMÀPRE Where? 1/2

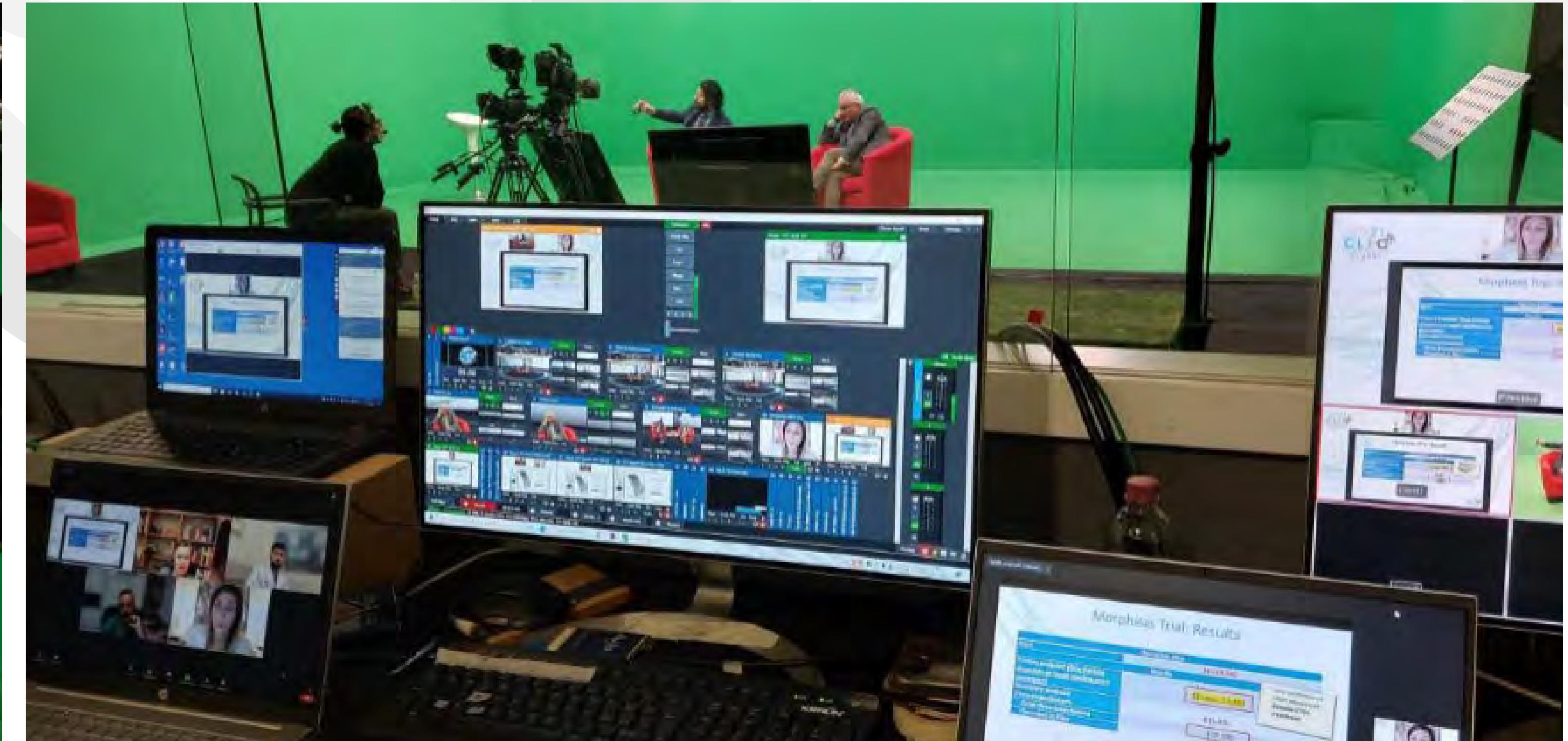
Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi Venice

This event will take place in a very special location:
the Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi in Venice.
There will be guests present in the theatre and
guests connected remotely.



LAL INGUAMÀPRE Where? 2/2

Our multifunctional studio



Original idea and Production by AIIC Italia



European and global institutions and is the main reference partner of the private market, which is in constant cultural and technological evolution. Its natural vocation is to protect and support multilingualism. AIIC members operate in the most sensitive fields such as justice, economy, health, politics and finance, technology and culture and since 1953 they have never stopped interpreting the world. <https://aiic-italia.it/>

In collaboration with
Ca' Foscari University Venice
- Treviso Campus



Ca' Foscari University of Venice is a prestigious public institution for the pursuit of free scientific research and higher education. Striving for excellence in its various fields of study, the University promotes, guarantees and coordinates the free research activity of its faculty, providing them with the appropriate tools and incentives. It also contributes to the civil, cultural and scientific development of the local, national and international communities by publicly sharing the scientific results achieved and by providing opportunities for the free exchange of ideas. Ca' Foscari fosters and promotes quality in all its activities. It involves students and staff in the management and improvement of University activities, even if only by reporting problems, critical issues or cases of non-compliance. It engages all stakeholders in the continuous improvement of the quality of its teaching, research and multifaceted contribution to local communities, through initiatives, meetings and the dissemination of documents and data.
<https://www.unive.it/>



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*We thank
the students of the University of Cagliari
and Ca' Foscari University – Treviso Campus
for the video interviews*



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