



**«ETTORE MAJORANA» FOUNDATION AND CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC CULTURE**  
**ETTORE MAJORANA CENTENARY**

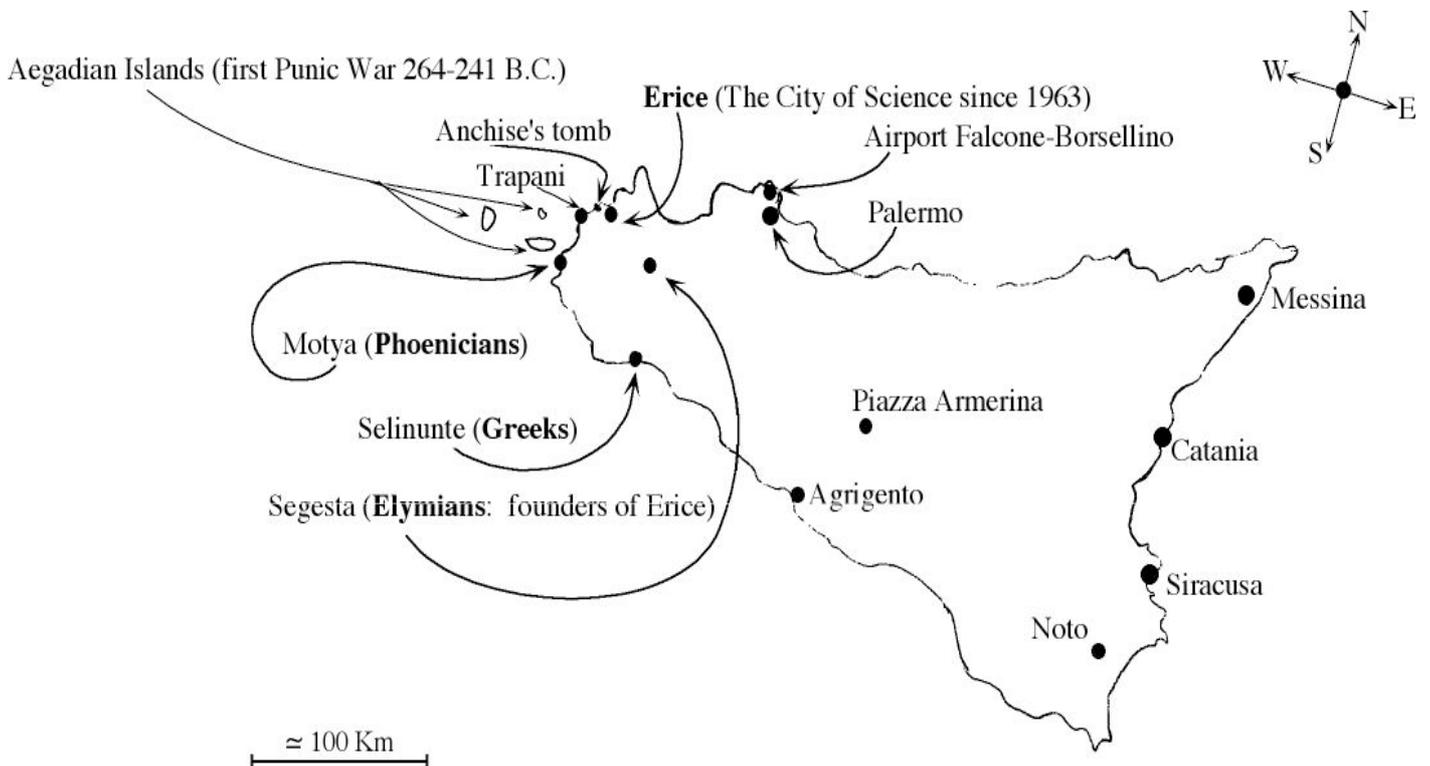
**A. ZICHICHI – PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR**

# ***INFORMATION BULLETIN***

***for PARTICIPANTS to the***

***INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF GEOPHYSICS***  
***26h Workshop: Earthquake and Shaking Probabilities:***  
***Helping Society to Make the Right Choice***

***Erice, 18 – 24 October 2006***



## 1 — INSTITUTES AND LECTURE HALLS

The “Ettore Majorana” Foundation and International Centre for Scientific Culture is named after an outstanding Italian physicist. Born in Sicily in 1906, Ettore Majorana’s breadth of vision and exceptional contributions to theoretical nuclear physics moved Enrico Fermi to the following comment: *«There are many categories of scientists, people of second and third rank, who do their best, but do not go very far. There are also people of first-class rank, who make great discoveries, fundamental to the development of science. But then there are the geniuses, like Galilei and Newton. Well, Ettore Majorana was one of them».*

Embracing 114 Schools, covering all branches of Science, the Centre is situated in the old pre-mediaeval city of Erice where three restored monasteries (one of which was the residence of the Viceroy of Sicily during the XIV and XV Centuries) provide an appropriate setting for high intellectual endeavour. These ancient buildings are now named after great scientists and strong supporters of the “Ettore Majorana” Centre.

The San Francesco Monastery (former Viceroy’s residence) is now the **Eugene P. Wigner Institute** with the **“Enrico Fermi” Lecture Hall**.

The San Domenico Monastery is now the **Patrick M.S. Blackett Institute** with the **“Paul A.M. Dirac” Lecture Hall**.

The San Rocco Monastery is now the **Isidor I. Rabi Institute** with the **“Richard P. Feynman” Lecture Hall**, the Directorate and the main Secretariat of the Centre.

There are living quarters in all three Institutes for people attending the Courses at the Centre.

The Erice Station of the World Laboratory Seismological Network is located in the I.I. Rabi Institute. The **“Daniel Chalonge”** and the **“Paul A.M. Dirac” Museums** are situated at the Patrick M.S. Blackett Institute.

## 2 — ADDRESS FOR ALL SCIENTIFIC CULTURE ACTIVITIES

Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture  
Via Guarnotta, 26  
I-91016 ERICE, Italy

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## 3 — AN IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATION

The EMFCSC’s activities cover very many fields and only a modern Alexandrian Library could satisfy the participants in each given field. Such a library would be our dream but for the time being we do not have it, and therefore **participants should bring with them copies of journal articles or pre-prints that they believe they will need during the course.**

## 4 — PAYMENT OF FEES

The **fee** can be paid in Erice, upon registration:

- i) in cash;      ii) with travellers cheques;      iii) with Eurocheques,

or, alternatively, by bank transfer into the following account:

FEMCCS  
Banco di Sicilia  
Agenzia di Erice  
91016 ERICE, Italy  
Account number: 13358  
Bank code: ABI 01020 - CAB 81850  
IBAN: IT08T0102081850 0000000 13358  
BIC e SWIFT: BSICITRRTPN  
Reference: International School Geophysics

If the last method of payment is used, please be sure that your name appears on the receipt which you will be requested to present upon your arrival in Erice.

## 5 — HOW TO REACH ERICE

- (i) **By Air.** There are many flights from Rome to Palermo or Trapani, a few from Milan apart from the international connections. Our bus will be available at Palermo airport on the afternoon of your arrival day, **until 17.00**, to drive you to Erice.
- (ii) **By Train.** Via Milan-Rome, you can reach Trapani directly. From Trapani, to reach Erice comfortably, a taxi is suggested. Confirm the price before taking the taxi.
- (iii) **By Road.** There are two possibilities:
  - a) Drive along the Autostrada del Sole via Milan-Bologna-Florence-Rome-Naples-Villa San Giovanni (Reggio Calabria); then take a ferry-boat from Villa San Giovanni to Messina and drive on to Erice (350 km from Messina).
  - b) Take the ferry-boat either from Genoa or Naples to Palermo, and then drive on to Erice (100 km from Palermo). The places on the ferry-boat must be booked in advance.

## 6 — ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Participants must communicate their arrival and departure times and flight numbers well in advance of their arrival.

As mentioned in § 5, on the official arrival day, transportation from Palermo or Trapani airport to Erice will be provided by the Ettore Majorana Centre.

Participants arriving at Palermo airport should look for the Ettore Majorana meeting point inside the terminal at the arrival gate where the Ettore Majorana Centre driver will be waiting.

Participants should register upon arrival at the Centre Secretariat (I.I. Rabi Institute). There will be no lectures on either the arrival or departure days of the Course.

On the official day of departure, transport to Palermo airport will be provided by the Centre.

## 7 — ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES

- It is a deliberate policy of the EMFCSC to help the local economy. The expansion of our living quarters has been accordingly tuned: thus often it happens that participants are also lodged in hotels, either because a course is too numerous or because there are parallel activities encouraged in order to establish interdisciplinary links. Young participants are kindly requested to share rooms.
- There is a “**coffee room**” in the I.I. Rabi Institute (in the back of the courtyard on the right-hand side under the staircase) where coffee, tea, mineral water and snacks are available (free) at any time. This “**coffee room**” is also used for breakfast (see § 8).
- There is a “**piano room**” (the small central room under the arches at the back of the courtyard at the I.I. Rabi Institute) with a keg of Marsala wine (free). This “**piano room**” can also be used for working parties (see also § 9). The “**piano room**” must be closed before midnight.
- The Centre has two washing machines and two dryers for use by the participants (at the rear of the courtyard at the I.I. Rabi Institute).
- The computer room is located off the left-hand side of the I.I. Rabi courtyard.

## 8 — OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

### *BADGE*

No doubt you are a world-renowned scientist, but nevertheless it is necessary for all participants, as well as for accompanying persons, to wear their identification badge at all times.

### *HOUSING*

The locations of all housing facilities (Centre, Institutes and Hotels) are shown on the Erice map included in your documents.

### ***BREAKFAST***

Residents in the I.I. Rabi, Eugene P. Wigner and Patrick M.S. Blackett Institutes will have breakfast on a self-service basis in the “**coffee room**” in the I.I. Rabi Institute (in the back of the courtyard on the right-hand side under the staircase).

Participants housed in the hotels will have breakfast at their hotels.

### ***SNACKS***

Coffee, tea, milk, mineral water, fruit and sandwiches are available (free of charge) in the “**coffee room**” at the I.I. Rabi Institute at any time.

### ***LUNCH AND DINNER***

A selected list of recommended restaurants is displayed in the entrance hall of the I.I. Rabi Institute. The closing day of each restaurant is given in the list.

The restaurant owner will ask the participants to sign a form where the appropriate activity is indicated (Course, Seminar etc.) in order to keep a record. Please sign legibly; accompanying members must sign too.

At lunch and dinner, it is advisable for participants to distribute themselves in small groups in order to avoid too many people crowding into the same restaurant, and in order to have faster service. Please wear your badge.

### ***MINERAL WATER***

The local tap water is drinkable, however, you will find bottles of mineral water in your room (unless you are staying in one of the hotels). Empty bottles will be replaced by the room maid, free of charge. More bottles are available for all participants in the storage room at the I.I. Rabi Institute.

### ***LAUNDRY***

Self-service washing machines (and dryers) are available in the storage room at the back of the courtyard in the I.I. Rabi Institute.

### ***TELEPHONE***

The public telephone (and an automatic magnetic telephone-card dispenser) in the I.I. Rabi Institute is located on the 1st floor at the back of the courtyard.

There is also a public telephone in the Eugene P. Wigner Institute (ground floor).

Public telephones are also available at the “Tabacchi” shops in Piazza Umberto I and in Via Generale G. Salerno not far from the Elimo Hotel. Magnetic telephone cards can also be purchased at the “Tabacchi” shops.

### ***POST AND BANK OFFICES***

Pigeon holes for incoming mail are located in the entrance hall of the I.I. Rabi Institute.

The Post Office is in Via Guarnotta, 100 metres away from the I.I. Rabi Institute’s entrance (on the way to the Eugene P. Wigner Institute).

The Bank is in the main square (Piazza Umberto I) facing the Nuovo Edelweiss restaurant. Bank hours are from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Change can also be obtained at the Post Office (until 1:00 pm).

### ***SHOPS***

The shops in Erice are open from 9:00 am (or 10:00 am) to 1:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm. We recommend those which allow a discount to the participants: please ask before paying.

The Pharmacy is in Via Cordici off the main square (Piazza Umberto I).

There are no foreign language newspaper shops.

## **ACCOMPANYING PERSONS**

It is necessary for those participants who would like to be accompanied by members of their families to contact the Secretariat well in advance of their arrival. Accommodation is limited and priority will be given to the first-comers.

The names of the accompanying persons must be communicated to the Centre Secretariat well in advance of the beginning of the activity which the participant is interested to.

### **9 — EXCURSION AND SOCIAL EVENTS**

There is no charge for the social events or any Excursion programmed by the Centre.

For the Excursion, the bus pick-up/drop-off point will be Viale Pepoli (Porta Trapani).

On the arrival day there will be an informal welcome party in the “**piano room**” after dinner; Sicilian sweets and Marsala wine will be offered starting at 9:00 pm.

A keg of free Marsala wine is in the “**piano room**” which may be used for informal meetings after dinner.

**All activities at the I.I. Rabi Institute must stop before midnight.**

### **10 — WEATHER**

As Erice is situated on top of a mountain at an altitude of 750 metres, it is much cooler than at sea level. Therefore, we would advise you to bring some warm clothing, and a windbreaker or anorak, even in the Summer. The weather is rather unpredictable in Erice and the temperature can suddenly change. Persons interested in visiting the nearby beaches are advised to bring some suntan lotion.

### **11 — HISTORICAL AND POETIC TOUCH**

According to legend, Erice, son of Venus and Neptune, founded a small town on top of a mountain (750 metres above sea level) more than three thousand years ago. The founder of modern history — i.e. the recording of events in a methodic and chronological sequence as they really happened without reference to mythical causes — the great Thucydides (~500 B.C.), writing about events connected with the conquest of Troy (1183 B.C.) said: *«After the fall of Troy some Trojans on their escape from the Achaei arrived in Sicily by boat and as they settled near the border with the Sicanians all together they were named Elymi: their towns were Segesta and Erice.»* This inspired Virgil to describe the arrival of the Trojan royal family in Erice and the burial of Anchise, by his son Enea, on the coast below Erice. Homer (~1000 B.C.), Theocritus (~300 B.C.), Polybius (~200 B.C.), Virgil (~50 B.C.), Horace (~20 B.C.), and others have celebrated this magnificent spot in Sicily in their poems. During seven centuries (XIII-XIX) the town of Erice was under the leadership of a local oligarchy, whose wisdom assured a long period of cultural development and economic prosperity which in turn gave rise to the many churches, monasteries and private palaces which you see today.

In Erice you can admire the Castle of Venus, the Cyclopean Walls (~800 B.C.) and the Gothic Cathedral (~1300 A.D.). Erice is at present a mixture of ancient and medieval architecture. Other masterpieces of ancient civilization are to be found in the neighbourhood: at Motya (Phoenician), Segesta (Elymian), and Selinunte (Greek). On the Aegadian Islands — theatre of the decisive naval battle of the first Punic War (264-241 B.C.) — suggestive neolithic and paleolithic vestiges are still visible: the grottoes of Favignana, the carvings and murals of Levanzo.

Splendid beaches are to be found at San Vito Lo Capo, Scopello, and Cornino, and a wild and rocky coast around Monte Cofano: all at less than one hour's drive from Erice.

