



# FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA REGION (Italy)

## At the heart of the new Europe

Friuli-Venezia Giulia is the north-easternmost Region in Italy - 7,840 square km between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea, and between Austria, Slovenia and the Region of Veneto. It has approximately 1,200,000 inhabitants (on 1st January 1999, approx. 570,000 males and 620,000 females), resident in the four Provinces: Trieste, the regional capital, with 218,000 inhabitants, Udine (95,000), Pordenone (49,000) and Gorizia (37,000). The average regional population density is 151 inhabitants per square km. Friuli-Venezia Giulia is naturally cross-border orientated. Its role as an international intermediary has become more relevant in the last few years. Owing to the current geo-political situation this Region has become an important point of economic connection between North and South and East and West and, at the same time, a logistical trade platform with Central and Eastern European countries. It is no coincidence that this Region is the meeting point of significant production flows between Central and Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle and Far East, and between the Danube-Balkan countries and the European Union, which is now broadening its horizons to the East.

### A developing industrial system

In its evolution from an agricultural economy (in particular in the Provinces of Udine and Pordenone) to an industrial economy, Friuli-Venezia Giulia has established itself at an international level with large companies in a varied range of sectors (from household appliances to shipbuilding and steel) accompanied by a lively fabric of small and medium-sized enterprises and a rich network of craft firms. Over the years the Region's scientific and technological expertise has flourished. Today it can count on approximately a hundred pure and applied research centres, bodies and institutions, many of which are now internationally recognised for their excellence.



### "Borderless" tourism from the mountains to the sea

The beaches of Grado and Lignano and the Trieste Coast have always attracted tourists from the rest of Italy and in particular from Austria and Germany and, over the last few years, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. Mountains and the sea - and now the "Borderless" candidature to host the winter Olympic Games (jointly with Slovenia and Carinthia) has contributed to increasing the visibility and improving the quality of tourism offered in the Region for over a decade. In fact, if the summer is ideal for the beach and the mountains in Carnia and the Province of Pordenone, winter is the season for high-quality skiing in the five major ski resorts (Piancavallo, Tarvisio-Lussari, Sella Nevea, Ravascletto-Zoncolan, Forni di Sopra-Varmost) and in the many attractive smaller winter resorts scattered in the Provinces of Udine and Pordenone. In 1998 a total of 1.7 million tourists, of which over 700,000 were from abroad, stayed in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia tourist structures (hotels and others). There were over 9 million people (3.8 millions foreigners).



### Special autonomy at the basis of growth

From the administrative point of view, Friuli-Venezia Giulia enjoys special autonomy on the basis of the statute approved under constitutional law in 1963.

With this statute, granted by reason of its position, the Region has obtained legislative powers in many sectors, including industry, tourism, agriculture and forestry, trade, spatial planning and organisation of local bodies. At the same time the Regional Administration has been able to devolve a number of specific powers to Town and Provincial Administrations.

## The contribution to the national gross domestic product

According to 1996 data, the gross domestic product (GDP) of Friuli-Venezia Giulia exceeded 47,000 billion lire, which is 1.9% of the national GDP. The added value per inhabitant is 37.5 million lire (44.5 billion in total), while the national average is 33 million, which puts Friuli-Venezia Giulia in a privileged position among the most advanced Italian regions.



### One of the most advanced EU regions

Considering the 1996 GDP values per inhabitant in the European Union, if the EU average is 100, Friuli-Venezia has 126 units of purchasing power, as against 59 units in the poorest regions and the 192 in the most advanced ones. With these data, this Region ranks 19th among the wealthiest regions of the 15 Member States, while as recently as 1993 it only ranked 25th.

### Closely integrated in the Northern Italian economic area

The current economic situation in Friuli-Venezia Giulia is the result of the general growth and structural transformation process which characterised the evolution of the entire region in the 1970s and 1980s. The development achieved at that time (in particular during the reconstruction of Friuli after the 1976 earthquake) has enabled the local production system to reduce its historical gap with the most advanced areas of Northern Italy, with which it is now closely integrated. In the 1980s and 1990s Friuli-Venezia Giulia participated in the economic and entrepreneurial boom of north-eastern Italy, still unmatched in the western world.

## Wealth indicators

According to 1998 data, the values of wealth indicators for Friuli-Venezia Giulia are generally higher than the national average, sometimes even higher than those for northern Italy. For example, the per capita electricity consumption is 7,077 kW/h as against the Italian average of 4,715 kW/h.

There are 587 cars in circulation per thousand inhabitants, distinctly higher than the Italian average of 539. In addition to that, non-mobile telephone contracts total 495 per thousand inhabitants (approximately 45 units more than the national average), while television contracts are 342 (as against the national figure of 281). Lastly, in 1997 the average bank account in the region contained 19.1 million lire per inhabitant, as against the 16.5 million lire nationally.

## Labour force

The labour force in Friuli-Venezia Giulia totals 502,000 and the employment rate is 45% as against the national figure of 41.8%. This labour force is composed of 59% males and 41% females. According to 1998 data, the annual average total unemployment rate fell to 5.8%, as against the national figure of 12.3%. It is worth underlining that 10% of the regional unemployed have a university degree (national average 7%) and 38% a secondary school diploma (national average 39%). 18.9% have completed secondary school, and 3.4% also University.



At the end of the 1997-1998 academic year, in the Universities of Trieste and Udine there were over 43,000 undergraduates and 2,600 graduate students.

## Vocational training



The work carried out by vocational training and specialisation institutes to connect the labour force with the regional productive system is proving increasingly fundamental for growth and development in Friuli-Venezia Giulia. Almost 30,000 people participate in over 2,600 specialised courses, mostly professional upgrading and refresher courses for adult workers, while 2,500 people are involved in first training activities for young people.

Apart from basic vocational and technical training in Friuli-Venezia Giulia there are also two post-graduate specialisation schools, real examples of training in excellence at European level. In the scientific sector, in particular in physics, biophysics and mathematics, there is the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA), which provides a master's degree comparable to a PhD. In the managerial sector as of 1998 there is the MIB Consortium-International Business Master, a management school recognised by ASFOR (Association for Company Management Training) and the EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development).

## The productive system

With 286,000 workers (1998 data), the service and public administration sectors account for almost 62% of regional employment, as against 60% of national employment. As regards saleable services, transport and communications and technical and financial services to enterprises are more significant than the national average, while traditional services are less prominent. In the region 166,000 people work in industry, 23,000 in agriculture, 79,000 in trade and 278,000 in the other sectors.



### Small and medium-sized enterprises at the centre of the productive system

The industrial system in Friuli-Venezia Giulia is characterised by a significant core of large firms, operating with full capacity and competitiveness on the European and world markets in the production of capital goods (steel, industrial plants, machine tools) and consumer durables (household appliances, furniture etc). Besides large firms, there are many small and medium-sized firms in the region operating in a variety of productive activities and a wide network of craft firms, some of which are concentrated in integrated export-orientated areas specialised in the production of consumer goods.

### Main agricultural production and favourable export data



In Friuli-Venezia Giulia the original rural culture has not been lost. It is reflected in prestigious and often incomparable viticulture and wine production appreciated all over the world, and in refined ham production, with approximately thirty firms under the umbrella of the San Daniele del Friuli Consortium. In the agricultural sector, the reduction of small firms is counterbalanced by a constant consolidation of family-run medium-sized companies run directly by farmers. In Friuli-Venezia Giulia today approximately 23,000 people work in agriculture, which is 4.9 per cent of the total of employed people in the region (the national average is 6.7%). The products of livestock-breeding (meat and milk), cereal cultivation (maize, wheat and barley), orchard-growing (wine, apples and kiwi fruit) and industrial crops (soy and sugar beet) contribute to determining the sector's added value (in 1998 over 1,200 billion lire in the region, as against 57,000 billion lire in the whole country). Wine (over 10% of the marketable gross agricultural production) is at the forefront of high-quality production and contributes, in terms of both quality and quantity, to regional exports, which register regular annual surpluses. The value of the exports has in fact been growing since the second half of the 1980s, exceeding 13,000 billion lire just before the end of the millennium. This means that the export orientation of Friuli-Venezia Giulia has strengthened over the years, thanks in particular to the opportunities that the region's companies have been able to grasp as they carve out a position for themselves in the international market.

## The main productive realities

Trieste and Gorizia are the oldest industrialised area of the region. In Trieste there is the largest industrial zone in the region, and one of the largest in Europe (over 400 companies in 1,200 hectares with a labour force of 8,500 people). It hosts, among others, the head office and the headquarters of Cruise Ship and Merchant Ship Business Units of the Fincantieri group, whose production value in 1998 amounted to 3,910 billion lire and which has 9,700 employees, approximately 2,000 of which in the Monfalcone shipyards. In Trieste there are also the former Grandi Motori, now Wartsila Nsd Italia Spa (one of the major motor factories in Italy) whose sales in 1997, still under the old name, reached almost 360 billion lire.

Other medium-sized enterprises in Trieste have succeeded in imposing themselves on the market, and they rank first in the relevant Italian sectors - one is the Duino-Aurisina plant of the Burgo paper factories, with 671 employees and a turnover of 577 billion in 1998. In 1998, the total turnover of the group, which includes 14 mills and employs 4,475 people, amounted to 2,751 billion lire. Another plant worth mentioning is the steelworks of Servola Spa, controlled by the Bolmat-Lucchini group, which in 1998 employed 708 people and had a turnover of 236 billion lire. Other examples are Illycaffè (210 billion, 228 workers) and Telit Mobile Terminals Spa (324 billion and 362 workers). In the province of Gorizia, apart from the Fincantieri shipyards (which now have a well-established reputation as builders of the most luxurious cruise liners in the world), significant results have been achieved by Adriaplast in Monfalcone, in the design and production of semi-finished plastic products (turnover: 133 billion lire), and Manifattura Goriziana Spa, in Gorizia (103 billion).



## The massive presence of services in Trieste



Trieste is also the area with the highest number of service companies. In the shipping sector pride of place goes to the Evergreen group company Lloyd Triestino, the Italian pioneer in international shipping, which in 1998 had a turnover of 532 billion and 498 workers. It is followed by the Pacorini (124 billion, 309 workers) and Francesco Parisi groups (116 billion in 1997), both specialised in the shipping abroad, warehousing and handling of goods. Important service companies include Insiel, a publicly financed company in the IT sector (107 billion in 1998, 611 workers). BIC - Business Innovation Centre Friuli-Venezia Giulia has been for some time now an important incubator for new innovative companies and has three offices: Trieste, Gorizia and Spilimbergo. Hitherto BIC has started approximately 80 small and medium-sized enterprises with 700 workers.

## The large insurance groups

The particular orientation of the local production system towards services for enterprises is confirmed by the presence in Trieste of the head offices of some of the most prestigious insurance companies, born and developed in Trieste. First and foremost are the Assicurazioni Generali group and Lloyd Adriatico.

Generali is the biggest in Italy, third in Europe and among the world's top thirty insurance companies in terms of premiums collected. Lloyd Adriatico, currently controlled by the German Allianz, ranks among the first ten in Italy.

### Specialised production in the system areas



The presence of Friuli-Venezia Giulia in the national and foreign markets is also characterised by specialised production, concentrated in a number of areas. The most significant include what is known as the Chair Triangle (in Manzano, San Giovanni al Natisone and Corno di Rosazzo, in the province of Udine) where approximately 1,200 companies with 14,000 workers are concentrated and which produces almost 30% of the world production in this sector. In addition to that, there is the Furniture System in the Province of Pordenone (in particular in Brugnera, Prata and Pasiano) with approximately 1,000 industrial and craft firms, over 11,000 workers and a total turnover of approximately 3,000 billion lire. In Maniago, in the province of Pordenone, there is the knife industry, with 200 firms, 1,000 workers and a turnover of approximately 100 billion lire: it accounts for 50% of national production and 60% of it goes abroad. These specialised areas have what it takes to become real industrial districts, in order to upgrade their productive peculiarities. Last but not least, there are the industrial centres concentrated in ten regional areas, grouped under ten consortia distributed in the region.

### The development of regional enterprises over the last two decades

In the last thirty years, partly as a result of the social and economic impulse given by the disastrous earthquake of 1976, the western area of Friuli-Venezia Giulia - that is the Provinces of Udine and Pordenone - has witnessed a radical transformation of its production system, with the birth and development of new characteristic industrial companies. Pordenone is in fact the capital of the Electrolux-Zanussi group, world leader in household appliances but also active in the sectors of industrial plant, electronics and metallurgy. With 20 production units in Italy and abroad, the group employs 13,500 people in Italy alone and its turnover exceeds 4,000 billion lire. In Pordenone there is also Savio, producer of machines for the textile industry, with an annual turnover in 1998 of 184 billion and 680 workers. In addition, in the sector of steel pipes there is SIT, with two plants in Sesto al Reghena (in 1998 Tanga and Ispadue had a turnover of 382 billion lire) with 240 workers. In agriculture, food production and frozen food there is the Roncadin group in Meduno - 1,112 workers in Europe and a total group turnover of 360 billion according to 1999 data. Then there is the textile sector, with Sunfil in Maniago and the Inghirami group in Montereale Valcellina, which continues the century-old textile tradition in the region. The industrial leader in the province of Udine is the Danieli group, well-established at world level in the construction of plant and machinery for the production of special steels (turnover in 1999: 1,607 billion and 3,007 workers). Then there is Ferriere Nord (406 billion and 654 workers), for years first national producer of structural steel. Ferriere Nord belong to the Pittini group, with an annual turnover of 700 billion. Other highly significant companies are the Accaierie Bertoli Safau steel plants (439 billion, 521 workers), the Fantoni group (in 1999 271 billion and 554 workers) specialised in the production of office furniture and Rizzani De Eccher, large-scale building construction, with a group turnover in 1998 of 372 billion and 1,940 workers.



## Energy resources

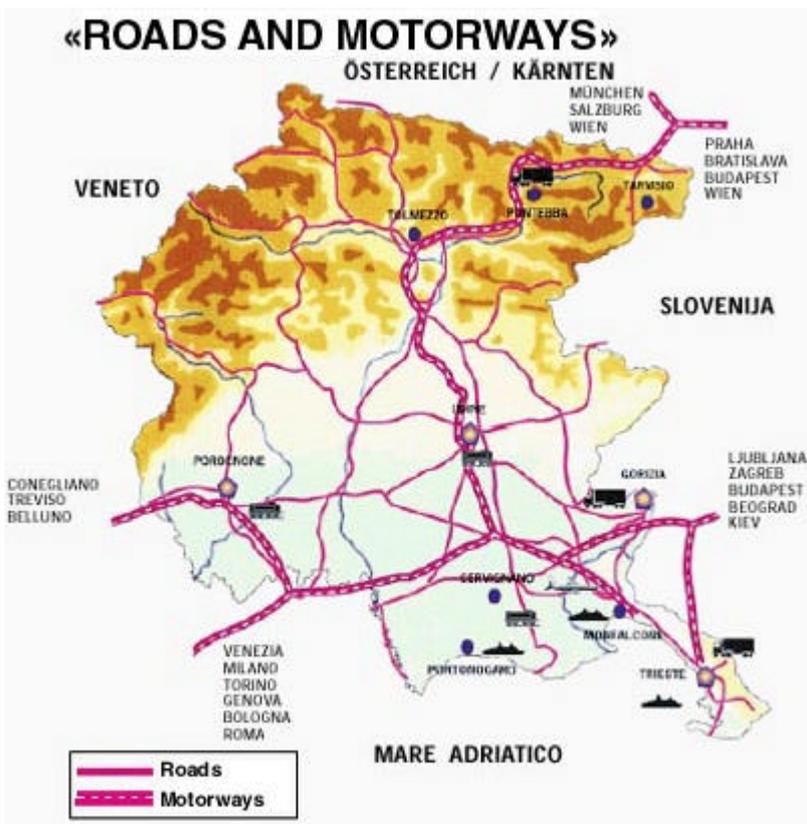
The 1998 net electric power production in Friuli-Venezia Giulia - provided by Enel and others - amounted to 8,320 million kWh, as against a regional demand of 8,719 GWh, 65.5% of which came from industry. Demand therefore exceeds supply, with a deficit of 399 million kWh (4.6%). Factories consume most electric power, the rest is equally divided between the service sector (17.7%) and home consumption (15.6%), while agriculture only consumes 1.2%. An important part of regional energy requirements is met by the natural gas network which extends over more than 865 Km and supplies most of the 219 towns in the region and 97% of the entire resident population.

### « ENERGY POLES »



## Transport infrastructures

By reason of its particular position Friuli-Venezia Giulia can be considered an intermodal "logistical platform" for trade from Italy towards Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Croatia and, in general, Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans. This region is the meeting point between the East-West Southern European railway section (from Barcelona to Trieste, through Lyon, Turin, Milan, Verona and Venice), pan-European Corridor No. 5 (from Trieste to Moscow, through Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Ukraine) and the South-North axis represented by the Adriatic seaway and then over the Alps with a well-equipped road and rail network. Trieste is the point of arrival in Italy of the East-West motorway connection, the A4 from Turin-Milan-Verona-(Bologna)-Venice. From Trieste it is now possible to continue towards Ljubljana, in Slovenia, without leaving the motorway. In the North-South direction, the A4 reaches Udine and then becomes A23 Alpe Adria towards Austria-Germany (Vienna, Salzburg and Munich). In total, the motorway system extends for over 200 Km in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and there is 1,200 km of trunk roads and approximately 5,000 of regional and minor roads. The railway network is very similar to the road network. The Venice-Trieste and Trieste-Udine-Tarvisio lines (the latter connected to the Austrian network towards Vienna and then Munich, in Germany) have double tracks, which enables trains (220 a day) to reach very high speeds (200 km/h). Other minor railway lines connect smaller towns in the region, bringing the rail network in Friuli-Venezia Giulia to a total of 510 km of track.



#### Border transit

The presence of two international borders has made it necessary to create a system of auto ports at the borders (Trieste/Ferretti, Gorizia/Sant'Andrea, Tarvisio/Pontebba) and some multifunctional goods centres with intermodal services in Udine, Pordenone and Cervignano. The latter, next to the new marshalling yards and covering approximately a million square meters, can handle over 350,000 tons of goods per year. According to 1997 data, 275,000 wagons carrying a total of 8 million tons of goods crossed the regional railway borders. As regards road haulage, approximately a million and a half goods vehicles crossed the borders with Austria and Slovenia in 1998.

### Trieste, a port in international service

The most important port of Friuli-Venezia Giulia is Trieste which, when it was the only commercial seaport in the Austro-Hungarian empire, became the driving force of the city economy. Today the port of Trieste, mainly handling foreign goods, is connected with all the major ports of the Mediterranean basin, Africa, America, Australia, the Gulf, India and the Far East. The only free port in the Mediterranean Sea, the port of Trieste is divided into five separate free zones, three of which are for commercial activities (Old Free Zone, New Free Zone and the Timber Yard) and two for industry (Mineral Oil Free Zone and the Free port of the Zaule Channel). The port of Trieste (covering 2,304,000 square metres, of which 1,765,000 is Free Zones, over 12 Km of quays with 47 operational berths, almost a million square meters of warehouses and storage areas, half a million covered - a record in Italy) can load, unload, store, sell and re-export goods without any customs limitation. The free port legislation - dating back to 1719 - enables goods brought by land from Italy or the European Community to be considered definitively exported. Similarly, goods coming from non-EU countries are treated as foreign goods in transit. Goods coming by sea from abroad, on the other hand, can be freely re-shipped in transit towards their destinations outside Italy. As regards goods for export, in conformity with a special law on customs credit, the payment of duties and taxes can be deferred up to six months, at a significantly reduced annual interest rate. The customs-free status of the port enables operators to carry out commercial operations also on goods stored under the foreign goods regimen. Re-packaging and re-labelling are also possible.

### The regional port service

In 1998 47,432,430 tons of goods, of which over 36 million tons was oil and its derivatives, passed through the port of Trieste. Traffic in the port increases by the year. In 1996, for example, total traffic amounted to just over 40 million tons, significantly more than in 1995. Again in 1998, TEU traffic reached 174,080 units, trucks on ferries and Ro-Ro 124,846 units and passenger traffic 179,079 units. In the same year, commercial traffic reached 8,168,874 tons, of which over two million tons was coal in transit to the power stations in the North Adriatic (Monfalcone and Venice). The average annual division of commercial traffic by origin/destination shows that 57% of traffic comes from or goes to Northern Italy and 43% to Central Europe. Of this traffic, excluding the ferry sector, 69% is transported by rail, thus making Trieste one of the most rail-connected ports in Southern Europe. In Europe, the major users of the port of Trieste are (1998 data) Northern Italy, (1,123,207 tons), Austria (403,205), Croatia and Slovenia (242,461), Hungary (92,997), Switzerland (16,059), Bavaria (16,400), the Czech Republic and Slovakia (6,501). Friuli-Venezia Giulia can also count on the ports of Monfalcone and the Port Nogaro. The port of Monfalcone, in the Province of Gorizia, with its 350,000 square metres of yards, stockyards and warehouses, handles over three million tons of goods. Together with the Port of Trieste and Port Nogaro (Province of Udine), Monfalcone is one of the northernmost ports of the Mediterranean, almost compulsory passages for goods between Central and Eastern Europe and Southern countries.



### Air links

The main airport of Friuli-Venezia Giulia is the international airport of Trieste/Ronchi dei Legionari, 30 km from Trieste, 20 from Gorizia, 40 from Udine and 80 from Pordenone. Since 1998 it has been connected with the motorway and it has recently been enlarged and completely restructured. It is now qualified for the landing and departure of any aircraft. In 1998, over 600,000 passengers passed through Ronchi dei Legionari and this number is continuously growing as air services expand. From Trieste airport, which serves the whole region, there are direct scheduled national flights to and from Rome Fiumicino, Milan Malpensa, Cagliari, Naples and Genoa and international flights to and from London, Munich, Salzburg and Dresden. In the summer there are also scheduled flights to Olbia, Arbatax/Tortoli and charter flights to the main tourist destinations in the Mediterranean (Crete, Rhodes, Djerba, Ibiza, Palma de Majorca and Tel Aviv).

Since 1997 Ronchi dei Legionari airport has been managed by Aeroporto Friuli-Venezia Giulia Spa, which has decided to invest in other activities in the sector, such as General Aviation (executive flights, aero-taxis, etc.) and cargo flights. The new cargo complex, with modern equipment, ensures easy goods handling. Connections to Turin, Budapest, Vienna, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Moscow and Minsk are under study. From Friuli - Venezia Giulia the airports of Venice (120 km from Ronchi), Ljubljana in Slovenia and Klagenfurt in Austria can be reached in an hour's drive for other national and international destinations.

## Education, research and culture



In Friuli-Venezia Giulia there are the Universities of Trieste and Udine, with detached branches in Pordenone and Gorizia. Trieste University is over 70 years old - it was set up in 1924 - and currently hosts eleven faculties with 25,000 students and over 1,000 teachers. Between 1,000 and 1,500 students graduate every year at this University and enter the labour market all over Italy and abroad. The University of Udine is definitely "younger" - just over 20 years old (1978) but it already has seven faculties and over 12,000 registered students, with on average 7-8,000 graduates a year.

### International research centres in Trieste



The Trieste - and now Udine - university tradition in the sectors of science, engineering and medicine have fostered the establishment of important international scientific institutions and pure and applied research centres at world level. As early as 1964 the International Centre of Theoretical Physics, promoted by UNESCO and the Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, became operational and for many years it was directed by the Physics Nobel-prize winner Abdus Salam. The Centre, which deals mainly with training in physics and mathematics for researchers from developing countries, organises courses, seminars and workshops which are attended by over thirty thousand scientists from Asia, South America and Africa every year.



### The Area Science Park

The Area Science Park is one of the main multisector science parks in Europe. The Italian Government included AREA among its national research centres, also providing it with the function of spatial resource for the whole region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia. The main objective of the park is to support scientific research and use its results for applications which can improve the quality of life, through the development of new technologies and products, the transformation of knowledge into economic and productive resources, and the promotion of international scientific partnerships. Today

AREA extends over two adjacent campuses on the Carso plateau, in Padriciano and Basovizza, where approximately 1,200 people work in over 50 companies and laboratories in the following sectors: Biotechnology, Physics and Aerospace, Environment, Telecommunications, Automation, Optics, Electronics, IT, Multimedia, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Diagnostics and Specialised Services. AREA hosts, among others, the International Centre of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and the Synchrotron Light Laboratory "Elettra".



### The Synchrotron light machine



"Elettra" is an international project (whose realisation was directed by the Physics Nobel-prize winner Carlo Rubbia) developed at the beginning of the 1990s. "Elettra" became operational in 1994 and produces very high-quality soft X-rays that can be used to study the structure of matter and chemical reactions, and to produce micro-devices in the sector of nano-technology.

The network of national and international scientific research centres also includes the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics-OGS (unique in Italy - it has research and promotion tasks, and it coordinates national and international projects), the Astronomy Observatory, the Marine Biology Laboratory and the

### Culture

Religion, art, history and tradition - a result of the meeting of the Latin, German and Slave cultures, which have always been intertwined - have produced and keep alive a cultural ferment not only in the four main cities but also in many other small and large towns in the Region. This trend is confirmed by the index of newspaper reading, among the highest in Italy, even though the lion's share goes to the three local papers: the Gazzettino of Udine and Pordenone, the Messaggero Veneto of Udine, Pordenone and Gorizia, Il Piccolo of Trieste and Gorizia. Also the percentages of book-reading are among the highest in Italy, with peaks of interest in historical-social topics.



The concert, opera and theatre seasons are rich and eventful. They find their highest expression at the Teatro Giuseppe Verdi in Trieste and the Teatro Nuovo Giovanni in Udine. The activity of the Teatro Stabile del Friuli-Venezia Giulia, the regional drama company, is intense. Many of the events organised in the Region have an international flavour, such as the Mittelfest in Cividale del Friuli (theatre, music, dance, poetry and puppet-theatre from Mitteleuropa), the Puppet Festival in Gorizia, the Silent Film Festival in Pordenone, the Festival of Light Opera in Trieste, the Rodolfo Lipizer International Competition in Gorizia, for young violinists from all over the world. Lastly, there is a wide range of museums in the whole region, starting from the permanent museum of the famous Miramare Castle in Trieste.

## Top - level sport

First division football has been played for years at the Friuli stadium in Udine. Udinese have been in the Italian First Division since the 1995-96 season and have also made headway in the European Cups. There is a brand-new football stadium in Trieste, but here pride of place goes to basketball (A1 division) and handball (A division, 14 times Italian champions). Top-level cycling can be seen in the summer with the professional Tour of Friuli, a spectacular sailing regatta is held in Trieste in October with the Barcolana, which has now the highest number of participants in Europe (almost 1,900 participants in 1999).

