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UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES  
FEDERICO II

**KEEPING MEN HEALTHY:  
LET'S ASSEMBLE THE PUZZLE.  
EVIDENCE FROM BASIC, TRASLATIONAL  
AND CLINICAL RESEARCH**

**NAPLES, JUNE 19–20, 2015**



The event on June 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 “KEEPING MEN HEALTHY: LET’S ASSEMBLE THE PUZZLE. Evidence from basic, translational and clinical research” promoted by Fondazione Menarini will take place in the Aula Magna of the University Federico II in via Parthenope in Naples.

The imposing structure was the ancient Istituto Superiore di Scienze Economiche Commerciali built in 1928 that later became the Faculty of Economics and Commerce until it moved to the Monte Sant’Angelo Campus. It houses today rooms of the Federico II University Congress Centre that counts many spaces spread out among historical palaces in the city.

The location of the venue is in the central city district of San Ferdinando, exactly in the fishermen’s quarter of Santa Lucia that takes its name from the parish sanctuary of Santa Lucia a Mare which presence is attested since the IX century. It is said that Lucia, the niece of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, erected it. The original building was on the seafront river, in front of the bay, and it has been reconstructed several times becoming nowadays a Papal Basilica.



The entire quarter was built at the end of the XIX century for the fishermen and to create the promenade of via Partenope filling the seafront river with debris of flow material.

Santa Lucia is a picturesque huddle of narrow stepped lanes with small artisan’s workshops, little cafés and anglers at work singing the traditional Neapolitan song *Santa Lucia* by Teodoro Cottrau (1827-1879) also sung even in Sweden. The lyric celebrates the waterfront district facing the Gulf of Naples in the invitation of a boatman to board his boat to better enjoy the cool of the evening and admire the view of the city:

*Sul mare luccica l'astro d'argento.  
Placida è l'onda, prospero è il vento.  
Venite all'agile barchetta mia,  
Di Santa Lucia! Di Santa Lucia!*

Via Partenope and via Caracciolo are the main waterfront pedestrian charming promenades running along the bay of Naples. They offer a great view of the islands of Capri and Ischia, the hills of Vomero and Posillipo, the coast and the volcano Vesuvius. At one end, you can find the small Borgo Marinari and the Castel dell’Ovo, an old seaside castle located on the former small tuff island of Megaride, an old natural spur of Mount Echia. This strategically area was first colonized by the Greeks, who founded the town Parthenope in IX century BC which later, in 475 AD, became the first original nucleus of Neapolis (new city) thanks to the Greek inhabitants of Cuma.

Castel dell’Ovo is the oldest standing fortification in Napoli built around 1128. It stands on the hump-backed bridge connecting two rocks. After taking control of the Ducato of Napoli, the Norman king Ruggero d’Altavilla converted it in a real castle and later, with the French Angevins Carlo d’Angiò, it became a Royal residence. With Federico II Hohenstaufen it turned into the seat of the Royal Treasury, then state prison and, after being fortified and destroyed by French and Spanish forces, in 1503 the Spanish finally restored it in the today’s form.



Its name is linked to the legend of the magic egg, which originated in the Middle Ages. The poet Virgil was supposed to have hidden the first egg laid by a hen in some secret place in the castle, preserved in a glass jar placed inside a metal cage suspended from a beam braced against the walls of a small secret chamber. Thus the unusual name, the Castel dell’Ovo, or "Egg Castle".

It is said, this egg was capable of protecting the city and its people from disaster or danger.

The fate of the city was linked to the egg: if it ever got broken, disaster would have struck the entire city.

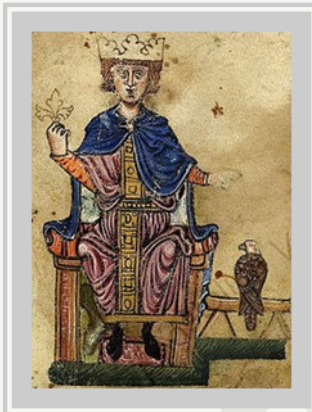
In 1370, a violent tsunami rocked the foundations of the castle, causing serious damage to the weight-bearing walls and made the towers collapse. The Queen Giovanna I of Anjou had to intervene, pledging to replace the egg with a much more powerful one and reassuring her people that the city would have been protected again.



## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES FEDERICO II



It represents one of the best Universities in Italy, it is the most ancient lay and state supported institution of higher education and research in the world. It was not founded by any intellectual or student corporations but by a sovereign measure, independent from the papal power.



It is the third University in Italy by number of students enrolled and has just celebrated its 791<sup>th</sup> anniversary on last June 5<sup>th</sup> with great celebrations.

Its foundation, in fact, dates back to the Middle Age, in 1224, established for the will of Federico II Hohenstaufen – duke of Swabia, Holy Roman Emperor, King of Sicily (included Naples), King of Germany and King of Jerusalem.

The Athenaeum bears the name of its founder with the decree of 7 September 1987.

The king established the Neapolitan State Studium emitting the Imperial Charter *generalis lictera*, a public document written in Syracuse



on June 5<sup>th</sup> 1224. Although Palermo was once the capital of his Reign, he chose the city of Napoli to develop the culture. Napoli was then important for cultural reason, i.e. to prepare the kingdom's ministries and governing apparatus to draft laws and administer justice, for geographical reason, thanks to the strategic position of the city in the Reign, and for economic reasons due to the intense ship traffic arriving and departing to and from the city.

The Studium was organized into four Faculties: the Arts (the humanistic of the *trivium* - grammar, dialectic, rhetoric - and the scientific of the *quadrivium* - arithmetic, geometry, music, astronomy - This was the first stage of the academic career to become Masters of the Arts and gain access to higher courses), Law, Medicine and Theology. The teaching of Theology was held in the Convent of San Domenico Maggiore where Tommaso D'Aquino had a chair as professor from 1271 to 1274. The Faculty was then suppressed in 1873. All lessons were spoken in Latin, the language of the culture, and attended by students coming from everywhere in the Reign eager to learn from famous professors. The Emperor himself hired the professors, who would become royal employees paid through royal funds, examined candidates and conferred degrees.



After Federico's death, the University lost most of its splendour and faced a period of severe instability being shut and re-founded by the successive rulers. It reopened in 1507 in the Convent of San Domenico Maggiore, which became the official headquarter of the Athenaeum up to the end of 1500. During the Spanish domination, the University continued to operate, along with several Academics and religious and private schools; in 1616 it was moved to the Palazzo degli Studi (it presently hosts the National Archaeological Museum), where it will stay until 1777.

There was an upsurge in academic activity during the short Austrian period (1707-1734) and then under the Charles III of Bourbon, who confirmed the University in its function as the only centre of higher education in the peninsular south of Italy with its prestigious professors as the philosopher, jurist and historian Giambattista Vico.

In 1735, the first University chair in Italy of Astronomy and Nautical sciences was established in Napoli with Professor Pietro De Martino (1707-1746) and in 1754 arrived the first world's chair of Economy thanks to the philosopher and economist Antonio Genovesi (1713-1769). The first Professor of comparative anatomy in Italy, Giosuè Sangiovanni (1775-1849), founded then the first Italian Faculty of zoology.

Despite these excellences, the private schools played a considerable role in the cultural development of South Italy starting from the Restoration right up to the unification of Italy in 1861.

From 1860 to 1878 the Neapolitan professor of comparative literature Francesco de Sanctis (1817-1883), general director and minister of the public instruction, introduced substantial modifications to the Statute of the University and its staff and began working on educational reform. He brought the University of Napoli up to the levels of European standards and transformed it in an excellence in Europe.

The Casati law passed in 1859 when the country was forthcoming to be unified. It reformed the entire national Education system. The universities became state institutions and were enriched with new Faculties: Letters, Philosophy, Mathematics, Physics, Natural Sciences and the School for Engineers.

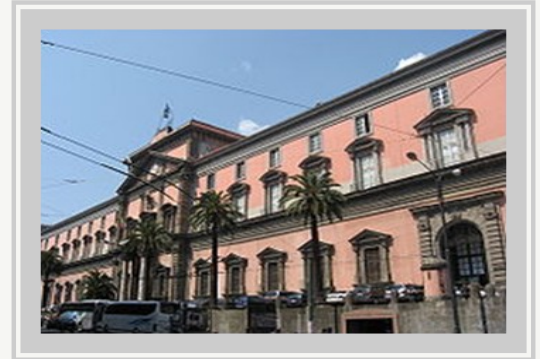
In 1912, the main University building of Corso Umberto I was finished and became the seat of the Faculties of Law and Arts (it hosts today the Senate House and part of the School of Law). The seats of the Institutes of Chemistry and Physics were also erected in this period. The old S. Marcellino convent, adjacent to the Cortile del Salvatore became the seat of the scientific institutions. The structure is today the University Library. To overcome the space problem the Faculties were spread out in different areas and around the city.

Starting from 1899 to 1907 the first Polyclinic Hospital was built with six buildings for the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and located on the hill of Vomero by the "Società per il Risanamento". Today it is called the "old Polyclinic" and hosts the first Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. During the 20's and 30's in the area raised the Cardarelli and the Monaldi hospitals.

During the II World War, some University buildings went under severe damages after being bombarded and set fire to by German troops and others were occupied for some time by Anglo-American garrisons. Despite these events, in 1943 the University of Naples became the second largest Universities in the country with twelve Faculties.

In 1972 the second and "new Polyclinic" was built and is the actual seat of the School of Medicine and Pharmacy which offers many degree courses and 45 specialisations.

The Federico II University of Naples today is made up of 3 divisions called *Poli Universitari*,





87 departments, 13 Faculties, 168 Degree Courses and 97.000 students. A cluster of 14 highly specialised Museums covering a wide range of fields and 2 botanical gardens hosting unique species.

In 1991, due to overcrowding of students, the Federico II University spun off in a second Institution: the SUN – the second University of Naples - organized into 19 departments, Specialist Schools and the second Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. Administrative seat is in the city of Caserta, next to Napoli.

Napoli hosts 7 Universities:



The University of Naples Federico II  
(87 departments)



The Second University of Naples (S.U.N.)  
(19 departments)



University of Naples L'Orientale  
(Languages, the European oldest school of Sinology and Oriental Studies)



University of Naples Parthenope  
(Economics, Sport Science, Technology, Navigation)



University Suor Orsola Benincasa of Naples  
(Education, Law, Letters)



Pegaso Telematic University  
(Distance and fully online learning)



Academy of Fine Arts of Naples  
(Art school)

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