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History of SISFA

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The Italian Gruppo Nazionale di Storia della Fisica (GNSF), later (1999) Società Italiana degli Storici della Fisica e dell'Astronomia (SISFA), was born in 1981, with the organization of two conferences (in April and October) at the Collegio Ghislieri in Pavia. Since then, the Italian Society of the Historians of Physics and Astronomy has produced over 1500 contributions, published in the proceedings of the uninterrupted series of its yearly national congresses. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the SISFA, I here briefly recount how the scientific, cultural and institutional experience of the history of physics has developed in Italy, along with its origins, and a discussion is presented of its relationships with the community of physicists.

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