The event, jointly organized by the University of Padova and by the European Research Council (ERC), will discuss the role of frontier research, such as the one funded by the ERC, in providing solutions to the societal challenges and in promoting innovation. It will be attended by members of the ERC Scientific Council and by leading figures in the Italian landscape of academia, research, industry, foundations, politics, media. After some short presentations by a few keynote speakers, who will introduce the subject from their different perspectives, ample time will be left for the discussion, which will involve members of the selected audience and the keynote speakers.

14:00 welcome
Rosario Rizzuto - Rector, University of Padova
Opening speech Paolo Gentiloni - Italian Prime Minister (t.b.c.)

14:20 introductory talks
Jean Pierre Bourguignon - ERC President
The impact of the ERC after its first 10 years
Patrick Aebischer - Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Frontier research and innovation: the EPFL story
Valentina Cauda - ERC Grantee, Politecnico di Torino
Frontier research and health: Trojananohorse
Mario Monti - Chairman of EU High Level Group on Own Resources (t.b.c.)
Frontier research in the EU budget
Vincenzo Boccia - President Confindustria, The perspective of industry and investors (t.b.c.)

15:35 discussion
moderated by Luca De Biase - Nova24:
· how to assess the societal impact of frontier research
· the role of frontier research in social sciences and humanities
· how to coordinate national and European policies for frontier research
· how to bridge the gap between frontier research and marketable innovation

16:50 concluding remarks
Rosario Rizzuto - Rector, University of Padova
Jean Pierre Bourguignon - ERC President