



6th Italian Business Forum

Knowledge and Productivity Growth

The Role of Science and Innovation in Sustaining Economic Growth and Social Prosperity

Jožef Stefan Institute, Tuesday, 13th February 2018

Programme and detailed information at: www.ibf.si

[Please register at: ibf@ijs.si](mailto:ibf@ijs.si)

Knowledge and Productivity Growth

The Role of Science and Innovation in Sustaining Economic Growth and Social Prosperity

Introduction and event concept of the 6th Italian Business Forum

Jožef Stefan Institute, Tuesday, 13th February 2018

The sixth edition of the Italian Business Forum (IBF), entitled **Knowledge and Productivity Growth – the Role of Science and Innovation in Sustaining Economic Growth and Social Prosperity**, is here. Our regular annual event is the result of a fruitful ongoing partnership between the Embassy of Italy, the Italian Trade Agency - ICE, the Jožef Stefan Institute and the Italian-Slovenian Forum, and this year it is taking place in Ljubljana on Tuesday, 13th February at the Jožef Štefan Institute.

This year's event highlights the challenge of the sustainability of the restored economic growth across the European Union and, particularly, in Italy and Slovenia. A decade of economic crisis and slowdown has in many ways widened the gap between the EU member states, particularly the capacity of their respective economies and societies at large to re-create prosperous, innovation-orientated environments. This is reflected in even wider differences between European countries in their capacity to invest in science and R&D at governmental and private levels, than the current differences in key economic indicators, such as growth rates, employment or overall levels of investment activity. As a consequence, economically weaker countries are typically facing insufficient budgeting capacity in both the public and private spheres, as well as lacking policy mechanisms and industry activities to sustain economic growth through innovation. In other words, innovation capacity at the corporate, industry and general levels have become a critical category for progress, cohesion within the EU and the well-being of its citizens.

This event brings together excellent speakers from Italy and Slovenia, allowing for the exchange of views and best practices on a challenging aspect of our respective societies, which tackles issues related to

fundamental transitions in almost all key industries, relevant across the entire Continent. The challenge of productivity growth in relation to science and innovation actually represents a starting point for long-term progress, fundamental as a vehicle for the improvement of social cohesiveness, job creation and social innovation. The aspect of productivity becomes even more crucial when we assume the context of sustainable development, which is inevitably becoming a paramount issue of the emerging global governance system, in which the European Union wants to play a leading role.

This is not the first time that the IBF has addressed the issue of innovation, but perhaps this time the event concept contains the most ambitious of its many aspects. Knowing that innovation is a comprehensive multi-layer process, we are looking forward to contributions from the representatives of the Governments of both countries, who will present the current challenges, legislative framework and targets on the horizon. A number of examples of best practice in the programme will depict the innovation landscape. All this serves the purpose of IBF: to bring the best practice of Italy and Slovenia closer together, exposing it to engage wider audiences, helping them to learn from each other and creating the conditions for even tighter cooperation between governments, experts, businesses and individuals from both countries, and all those engaged in the relationships between these two European neighbours.



Jurij Giacominelli
President
Italian-Slovenian Forum
(Italijansko-slovenski Forum italo-sloveno)

Supporting partners

