



## 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

## Introduction and the event concept

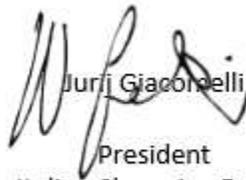
The Sixth Edition of the Italian Business Forum (IBF), titled: **Knowledge and productivity growth - The role of science and innovation in sustaining economic growth and social prosperity** is nearing. Our yearly event is a result of a fruitful ongoing partnership between the Embassy of Italy, Italian Trade Agency - ICE, Jožef Stefan Institute and Italian-Slovenian Forum. It is going to take place in Ljubljana on Tuesday, 13rd February at Institut Jožef Štefan in Ljubljana.

**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 in many ways widened the gap between EU member states, particularly their capacity of their respective economies and societies at large to re-create prosperous innovation-orientated environments. This is reflected in even wider differences among European countries in their capacity to invest in science and R&D at governmental and private levels compared to current differences in key economic indicators, such as growth rates, employment or overall levels of investment activity. As a consequence, economically weaker countries typically face insufficient budgeting capacity in the public and private sphere as well as lacking policy mechanisms and industry activities to sustain economic growth through innovation. In other words, innovation capacity at corporate, industry and general levels becomes a critical category for progress, cohesion within the EU and well-being of its citizens.

The event brings together excellent speakers from Italy and Slovenia, allowing for the exchange of views and best practices from a challenging aspect for 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 with science and innovation actually represents a starting point for a long-term progress, fundamental as a vehicle of the improvement of social cohesiveness, job creation and social innovation. Even more so the aspect of productivity becomes crucial when we assume the context of sustainable development, which is inevitably becoming a paramount issue of an emerging global governance system, in which the European Union wants to play a leading role.

**This is not the first time that the IBF addresses the issue of innovation, but perhaps this time the event concepts contains the most ambitious of its many aspects.** Knowing that innovation is a comprehensive multi-layer process, we are happy to welcome representatives of the governments of both countries will present the current challenges, legislative framework and targets on the horizon. A number of examples of best practice collected in the programme of the 2017 edition of IBF will depict the panorama of social innovation in both countries. 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 an even tighter cooperation between governments, experts, businesses and individuals from both countries, and all those engaged in the relationships between these two European neighbours.



President  
Italian-Slovenian Forum

(Italijansko-slovenski Forum italo-sloveno)

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## Tentative Programme

### Introduction to the programme: Institutional framework and experience shared

- 8.30 Arrival of participants, registration, coffee
- 9.00 Welcome and introduction to the programme Jurij Giacomelli, President, Italijansko-slovenski Forum italo-sloveno  
Prof dr. Jadran Lenarčič, Director, Jožef Stefan Institute
- 9.10 Productivity and innovation: companions in sustaining the economic growth H. E. Paolo Trichilo, Italian Ambassador to Slovenia
- 9.20 Italian innovation framework Teresa Bellanova, Vice-Minister, Ministry for Economic Development, Italy, (*Tbc*)
- 9.35 Slovenian innovation framework Eva Štravs Podlogar, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Slovenia (*Tbc*)

### Knowledge for growth: the role of science

- 9.50 Investment, innovation and European economic development: a view from Italy Dr. Andrea Goldstein, Chief Economist, Nomisma  
Keynote Speech
- 10.10 Challenges of research institutes in Slovenia - a comparative approach Prof. dr. Jadran Lenarčič, Director, Jožef Stefan Institute
- 10.25 The role of distributed science in Italy Prof. dr. Maurizio Fermeglia, Dean, University of Trieste
- 11.40 Q&A
- 11.50 Coffee Break

## Knowledge absorption and transformation in best practices: experience shared

12.10	<u>Robotics, productivity and the future of work and job creation</u>	<u>Prof. dr. Tjaša Redek and prof. dr. Matjaž Koman</u> , Faculty of Economics, Ljubljana University
12.30	Productivity growth and finance	<u>Giancarlo Miranda</u> , Intesa Sanpaolo Group ( <i>Tbc</i> )
12.45	Pipistrel's experience shared	<u>Ivo Boscarol</u> , Founder and CEO, Pipistrel
12.55	CECOMP's experience shared	<u>Corrado Pistolesi</u> , CEO, CECOMP ( <i>Tbc</i> )
13.05	The case of sustainability and productivity growth in Salonit	<u>Julijan Fortunat</u> , CEO, Salonit ( <i>Tbc</i> )
13.15	Panel: Best Practices in Innovation absorption	<u>Introduction and moderated by:</u> Elisa Scelsa, director, ITA - Ice, Ljubljana
	Panellists (tbc)	Alessandro Pontoglio, Unicredit Bank, Slovenia Livio Marziani, Eni Adriaplin, Corrado Pistolesi, Julijan Fortunat ( <i>Tbc</i> ), Giancarlo Miranda, Ivo Boscarol, Mitja Feri, Generali
	Q&A	
13.55	Conclusions and closing	Jadran Lenarčič, Director, Jožef Stefan Institute Jurij Giacomelli, President, Italian-Slovenian Forum

## Lunch and Networking



## The Italian-Slovenian Forum (Italijansko-slovenski Forum italo-sloveno)

**The Italian-Slovenian Forum - “Italijansko-slovenski Forum italo-sloveno”** is a voluntary, independent, impartial and non-political association that connects individuals involved in the development of bilateral relations between Italy and Slovenia in the fields of culture, science, economy and tourism. It was created through the integration of the aspirations and interests of individuals who desired to contribute new content to the living space of these two European neighbours. The Forum reinforces dialogue, exchange of best practice and examples of excellence from both Italy and Slovenia. Members of the Forum cultivate friendship and support existing initiatives of collaboration between the two countries, as well as inspiring new ones.

The Forum was established in 2012 and is headquartered in Ljubljana.

H. E. Paolo Trichilo, the Italian Ambassador to Slovenia, is the Honorary President of the Forum.

Jurij Giacomelli is President of the Forum.

The Italian-Slovenian Forum aims to hold the space for those individuals and institutions who contribute new content to the cooperation between Italy and Slovenia: two European neighbours and partners. By doing this, we continue to pursue our motto: From cohabitation to sharing – **Dalla convivenza alla condivisione – Od sobivanja k sožitju.**

You can find out more information about the Forum on: <http://www.italoforum.org/> and <http://www.italoforum.org/it/>.

Please also see [www.ibf.si](http://www.ibf.si) for more information on the Italian Business Forum, the annual conference co-organised by the Italian Embassy in Ljubljana, the Italian trade agency (ITA-Ice), the Jožef Stefan Institute and the Italian-Slovenian Forum.