



## **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](http://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)

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# Knowledge and Productivity Growth

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

### 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. Jadran Lenarčič, Director, Jožef Stefan Institute
- 9.10 Productivity and innovation: companions in sustaining economic growth H. E. Paolo Trichilo, Italian Ambassador to Slovenia
- 9.20 Employment, innovation and growth: the Italian experience Giuliano Poletti, Minister for Labour and Social Policies, Italy
- 9.35 An overview of the Slovenian innovation framework Tadej Slapnik, State Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister, Slovenia
- 9.45 Structural challenges in the Slovenian labour market, skills for innovation and future of work Peter Pogačar, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

#### Knowledge for Growth: the Role of Science

- 10.00 Investment, innovation and European economic development: a view from Italy  
Keynote Speech Dr. Andrea Goldstein, Chief Economist, Nomisma
- 10.20 Short Break
- 10.35 Challenges of research institutes in Slovenia – a comparative approach Prof. Jadran Lenarčič, Director, Jožef Stefan Institute
- 10.50 The role of distributed science in Italy Prof. Maurizio Fermeglia, Dean, University of Trieste

11.05 Q&A Session with Dr. Andrea Goldstein, Prof. Jadran Lenarčič and Prof. Maurizio Fermeglia

### Knowledge Absorption and Transformation in Best Practice: Experience Shared

11.15 Robotics, productivity and the future of work and job creation Prof. Tjaša Redek and Prof. Matjaž Koman, Faculty of Economics, Ljubljana University

11.35 Productivity growth and finance Giancarlo Miranda, Intesa Sanpaolo Group

11.50 Q&A Session with Prof. Tjaša Redek, Prof. Matjaž Koman and Giancarlo Miranda

12.05 Short Break

12.15 Pipistrel's experience shared Ivo Boscarol, Founder and CEO, Pipistrel

12.30 The case of sustainability and productivity growth in Salonit Julijan Fortunat, CEO, Salonit Anhovo

12.45 Panel: Best Practices in Innovation Absorption Introduction and moderated discussion

Panellists  
Alessandro Pontoglio, Unicredit Bank, Slovenia,  
Mitja Feri, Generali Slovenia  
Julijan Fortunat  
Giancarlo Miranda  
Ivo Boscarol

13.15 Q&A

13.30 Conclusion and closing remarks  
Jadran Lenarčič, Director, Jožef Stefan Institute  
Jurij Giacomelli, President, Italian-Slovenian Forum

### Lunch and Networking

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