

Successful German-Italian Innovation and Investment Forum



On 29 November 2017 the German-Italian Innovation and Investment Forum took place in Berlin. Around 90 first-class speakers from Germany and Italy, and 300 participants gathered at the ITKAM event which had been organized for the first time together with two partners: the Italian Embassy in Berlin and the "ICE - Italian Trade Agency".

Conference topics covered a broad range and provided information on many aspects of industry 4.0 and digital transformation. One focus was on the cross-border cooperation of Germany and Italy.

In their opening speeches the chairs of the three organizing institutions -- H.E. Pietro Benassi (Italy's ambassador to Germany), Fabio Casciotti (director of the Italian Trade Agency) and Emanuele Gatti (president of the Italian Chamber of Commerce) -- emphasized the increasing significance of the German-Italian conference.

Speakers came from large and small enterprises, from research organisations and institutions, bringing together specialists from all kinds of industries. Our partner **Dr Claudio G. Chirco** had the honour of moderating a breakout session on "Fintechs and Financial Innovation: Ready for the digital wallet?" He discussed the challenges of the digitalisation of the German and Italian financial sector with renowned experts, for example Professor Andrea Beltratti, Associate Dean, Corporate and Financial Institutions Division, SDA Bocconi School of Management, Valeria Cipollone, Policy Officer and Fintech Expert, Minister's Office, Italian Ministry of Finance, Pietro Sella, CEO, Sella Group, Matteo Concas, General Manager Italy, N26 GmbH, Flavio De Laurentis, Managing Director Italy, Barzahlen GmbH, Romano Stasi, Secretary General, ABI LAB, as well as Savino Damico, Head of Digital Payments and Biometrics, Intesa Sanpaolo.

A representative of the organisational team of the Italian Embassy summarizes this part of the evening as follows:

"We thank Dr. Chirco for having so effectively moderated the Breakout Session IV of the first German-Italian Innovation and Investment Forum "Investing in Italian Innovation: Digital

BB Short News

Solutions and the challenge of Industry 4.0", last Wednesday 29th November in the Italian Embassy in Berlin. His leadership in running the panel was highly appreciated and allowed a fruitful exchange on the common challenges and shared interests for the Fourth Industrial Revolution among the two leading European manufacturers, Italy and Germany. We were enthusiast about the conference's outcomes.

All participants agreed about the disruption created by the adoption of the new ICT technologies in the banking sector. The client and her needs are set at center stage as main drivers for the success of the new business models, thus radically changing the approach to financial intermediation. Technological progress enables today the new players to offer solutions unimaginable just 5 years ago."

