



*Ambasciata d'Italia
Ljubiana*



**Institut "Jožef Stefan"
Ljubljana, Slovenija**

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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND TECHNOLOGY

5th Italian Business Forum

From social enterprise to social innovation

Institut Jožef Stefan, Monday, February 13th, 2017



ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY
ICE - Italian Trade Commission
Trade Promotion Office of the Italian Embassy



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Introduction and Concept

To cite a guru of innovation and design, Josephine Green, **modern societies** have been living a profound process of 'changing of age'. In this comprehensive and unpredictable process, old social paradigms are clashing with the growing impact of the absolute scarcity of resources and fragility of the human living environment, the growing human population across the planet and its increased mobility and aging, the technology shift in the form of digitalisation, and the switch to renewable energy resources. All this is having an unprecedented impact on the dynamics of our societies. They have become increasingly interconnected and interrelated between themselves, while transiting towards the unknown. At the same time as suffering from a higher degree of uncertainty, societies are also enjoying some of the most outstanding achievements in science and arts, resulting in unprecedented milestones of human civilisation. New forms of hierarchies and collaboration, learning and, knowledge sharing have been emerging as a response to these new dynamics.

Social entrepreneurs have traditionally been the ones able to cushion uncertainty and undesired effects on our societies caused by the particularism of individual interests, a lack of resources, and imbalances and market failures. Moreover, they have been a much-needed interface between new ideas with social impact on the one hand and their implementation, commercialisation and scaling on the other. **Today, they are becoming the undergrowth of new forms of collaboration, innovation, new jobs creation, and even new forms of work, creative and industrial relationships.** It has become clear that social enterprise as such, and many forms of collaboration and design for social innovation, represent a valuable transforming canvas in the process of the shaping of modern societies.

The 5th Italian Business Forum will focus on the passage from **social enterprise** as an organisational form with a significant tradition and impact in Italy – less so in Slovenia due to historic interruptions and deviations – **to platforms of social innovation**, which contribute to the future of work collaboration and design for social innovation.

Social innovation is a comprehensive multi-layer process. 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.



Jurij Giacconelli
President

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



The Italian-Slovenian Forum (Italijsko-slovenski Forum italo-sloveno)

The Italian-Slovenian Forum - “Italijsko-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 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.