

*Press Release*

## **Big Science Business Forum: Handover from Trieste to Maastricht**

*Great success for the third edition of BSBF 2024 in Trieste, which concluded today with a recruitment day for over 2000 young people, a keynote from Andrea Illy, and a plenary session on gender equality in Big Science*

**Trieste, October 4, 2024, Italy.** The third edition of the **Big Science Business Forum**, hosted by the **Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia** at the Generali Convention Center in Porto Vecchio, Trieste, concluded with a symbolic handover led by women. **Alessia Rosolen**, Regional Minister for Labor, Education, Research, University, and Family for **Friuli Venezia Giulia**, passed the baton to **Jetske Verkerk**, Deputy Director of the Directorate for Innovation and Knowledge at the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, and **Marleentje Verstreken**, Representative for FIT, the Belgian Regional Agency for International Trade.

Among the emotional images from the four intense days and the call for a female-led future in **Big Science**, the impressive numbers of this Italian edition emerged. The event is Europe's most important intersection of science, technology, and business, promoted by ten leading European [Big Science Business Forum](#) (BSOs): **CERN, ESA, ESO, ESS, ESRF, European XFEL, FAIR, F4E, ILL, and SKAO**.

*"Over 1,300 delegates from 500 organizations were welcomed in the Trieste exhibition space, with 163 stands featuring 245 exhibitors and 14 national pavilions. Thirty-two countries were represented, including Italy, and 2040 applications from young students and researchers under 40 were submitted on the EURES platform in the section dedicated to Big Science, gathered from across Europe,"* noted Regional Minister **Rosolen**.

The last day of BSBF was dedicated not only to the younger generation but also to the presence of women in Big Science. The plenary session featured speakers such as **Ana Aricha** from the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation, and University; **Agnes Auledas**, Senior Engineer, Atkins Realis; **Lars Börjesson**, CESAER envoy for S&T infrastructures, Chalmers/CESAER; **Raffaella Geometrante**, Managing Director of Kyma SpA and Kyma Tehnologija doo; **Federica Mantovani**, Head of Research Infrastructures, Area Science Park; and Lucy Van Der Tas, Talent Acquisition Lead, ESA. *"The Big Science Project has enormous potential not only for technological development but also for cultural and social growth, respecting gender equality,"* said **Francesca Fantini**, coordinator of the **Women in Big Science Business Forum** group and an engineer at F4Energy.

**Andrea Illy** addressed the young audience, encouraging future leaders in research, science, and business to embrace the need for cultural and social regeneration. A concrete example on stage at **BSBF 2024** was the **Audace Sailing Team**, a project launched by a group of Engineering and Economics students from the University of Trieste.

**Paolo Acunzo**, Director of BSBF 2024, concluded: *"With the end of BSBF 2024, we have completed a journey that lasted two and a half years, which took us far and firmly established the presence of Big Science in*

Host Organisers BSBF Trieste 2024

*Trieste and Italy, destined to continue over time."*

**BSBF, following previous editions in Copenhagen and Granada, will be hosted in Maastricht in 2026, in 2024 is hosted by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region** in collaboration with **ILO Network Italia**, comprising representatives from **CNR, ENEA, INAF, and INFN**, with **Area Science Park** in Trieste, **PromoTurismo FVG**, and promoted by the ten leading European **Big Science Organisations** (BSOs), including **CERN, ESA, ESO, ESS, ESRF, European XFEL, FAIR, F4E, ILL, and SKAO**, with support from **PERIIA**, the pan-European network of **Industry Liaison Officers** (ILOs). Italy's bid to host BSBF 2024 received the backing of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**, the **Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy**, the **Ministry of Environment and Energy Security**, and the **Ministry of Universities and Research**, along with the **City of Trieste**, the **University of Trieste**, the **Venezia Giulia Chamber of Commerce (Gorizia-Trieste)**, and the **Central European Initiative**.

The event was hosted by the **Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia** in collaboration with **ILO Network Italy**, consisting of representatives from **CNR, ENEA, INAF, and INFN**, as well as **Area Science Park in Trieste, PromoTurismo FVG**, and promoted by ten leading European Big Science Organisations (BSOs), including **CERN, ESA, ESO, ESS, ESRF, European XFEL, FAIR, F4E, ILL, and SKAO**, with the support of **PERIIA**, the pan-European network of national ILO - Industry Liaison Officers. The Italian bid to host BSBF 2024 was supported by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**; the **Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy**; the **Ministry of Environment and Energy Security**; and the **Ministry of University and Research**, as well as the city of Trieste, the **University of Trieste**, the **Venezia Giulia Gorizia Trieste Chamber of Commerce**, and the **Central European Initiative**.

### **Sponsors**

The **Gold Sponsors** of the event are **AVS Added Value Solutions, DANIELI, Fincantieri S.p.A.**, and **illycaffè S.p.A.** The **Silver Sponsors** are **CADINOX, S.A.** and **GLP Intellectual Property Office**, while the **Bronze Sponsors** are **DELTA-TI IMPIANTI S.P.A., Serco Italia SpA, T-Systems International GmbH** and **Generali S.p.A.**, with **Confindustria Alto Adriatico, V.A.T. and Leonardo**.

For the **BSBF 2024 Press Office**

**Rosy Battaglia**

[pressBSBF2024@theoffice.it](mailto:pressBSBF2024@theoffice.it)

Host organizers of BSBF Trieste 2024

