

W.IN.

Women INnovation Speed Dating Forum

Tuesday, December 10th, 2024



On December 10th, 2024 Bari hosts the W.IN. Innovation Speed Dating Forum, a dynamic platform for women innovators in aerospace to showcase their solutions, gain visibility and access mentorship and funding opportunities.

Supported by Regione Puglia, ARTI, the U.S. Mission to Italy, Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), the National Foundation for Technological Innovation COTEC and Materias, this significant event aims to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in Southern Italy while fostering strong connections with the United States.

Structured as an open innovation event, the forum employs a unique speed-dating format focused on promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and leadership among women in the aerospace sector.

The first part is devoted to networking among W.IN. startups candidates, selected through an open call, with W.IN. Students, W.IN. Leaders and W.IN. Investors and takes place at Spazio Murat, Piazza del Ferrarese, 1. The **second plenary part – open to the public participation** – takes place at Kursaal Santalucia Theatre, Largo Adua, 5, from 3.30pm to 7.30pm, for talks, elevator pitches and the awards ceremony, where a jury of experts from Italy and the United States, coordinated by the President of the Scientific Committee of the U.S. Consulate General in Naples, will recognize the top three startups.

Throughout the event, thought-provoking speeches will challenge conventional thinking and inspire attendees to envision a future where innovation drives both technological advancements and broader societal change. Roundtable discussions will explore entrepreneurship, investment opportunities, and collaboration between public and private sectors.

The W.IN. Innovation Speed Dating Forum is a project created and led by Valentina Battista, the only Italian recipient of the prestigious International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Impact Award 2024 conferred by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and implemented by the Meridian International Center.

The initiative is realized within the Regione Puglia and ARTI "Future4Puglia" project.

Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs with Meridian International Center as the implementing partner.

Morning Program

08.15 – 14.30

Spazio Murat, Piazza del Ferrarese, 1, Bari
Participation by invitation only

- 8.15 Registration and Welcome Kit
- 9.00 - 9.30 Institutional Greetings
Antonio Maria Vasile President Aeroporti di Puglia Sp.A
Giovanni Di Antonio Director Technological Innovation (DIT) – ENAC
Luigi Riggio Colonel Italian Air Force, President of the Scientific Committee Criptaliae Spaceport Association - ENAC
Vito Leccese Mayor of Bari
Gianna Elisa Berlingiero Director of the Economic Development Department of the Apulia Region

Moderator

Professor Gianluigi De Gennaro from the University of Bari

- 9.30 - 10.00 W.IN. Talks
Daniela Iasillo Strategic Development Manager Copernicus (Planetek Italia), WIA Rome RN Committee member
James Reginald Colimon Deputy Director of Global Affairs for the City of Boston

- 10.00 – 10.10 W.IN. Talk
Luigi Nicolais President of the COTEC Foundation for Technological Innovation

- 10.10 – 10.15 Rules of the Game & Startup Showcase
Valentina Battista IVLP alumna, W.IN. Project Leader, Institutional Relations Manager, Materias

- 10.15 – 11.00 The selected Innovative Startups present their projects on stage
Each startup will pitch their project in 4 minutes, highlighting their innovative solutions and business models.
Astradyne, B-ME Biobased Materials for Energy, Flying DEMON, G20 Computing, IZZ2IZZ, Manta Group, MILL-TURN TECHNOLOGIES, SpaceVerse, Titan4, WOMAT

- 11.00 – 11.15 W.IN. Meets
Stela Tkatchova EIC (European Innovation Council) Programme Manager for Space systems & technologies, European Commission
Professor Antonio Marco Pantaleo from the University of Bari

- 11.15 – 11.55 Speed Dating Session 1 (Pre-Launch Phase). Networking between Women Startupper and W.IN. Investors
This session will be coordinated by ARTI - Agency for Technology and Innovation of Apulia Region
Valeria Gangemi Hr Director ANGEL4WOMEN
Fabiana Martone Senior Investment Analyst VERTIS
Lucilla Mazzeo Dealflow & Scouting Specialist, Scientifica Venture Capital
Arianna Tibuzzi Partner Obloo Ventures
Chiara Pertosa CEO Sitael Spa (Angel Holding)
Anne Staines Founder and President of Sagent, Sacramento
Mariella Pappalepore CFO and President of CDA, Planetek Italia
Kevin Bifulco Private Equity Associate at AVM
Giovanni De Caro CEO Volano, Venture Capital and PE Principals
James Reginald Colimon Deputy Director of Global Affairs for the City of Boston
Mauro Amoruso Head of Foreign Business, Exprivia

- 11.55 – 12.40 Speed Dating Session 2 (Launch Phase). Networking between Women Startupper and W.IN. Leaders
This session will be coordinated by
Daniela Terracciano IVLP alumna, Italy Lead Coordinator Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), Professor from University of Naples Federico II
Sabrina Fiorentino Founder and CEO Sestre, Co-Founder Apulia Women Lead and Ambassador GammaDonna
Ada Ranieri Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC)
Daniela Iasillo Strategic Development Manager Copernicus (Planetek Italia), WIA Rome RN Committee member
Chiara Romano IVLP alumna, Cofounder & head of internationalization dept. Spici Srl
Filomena Tucci IVLP alumna, Cofounder Ingreen, Professor from the University of Suor Orsola Benincasa in Naples
Rachel Des Rochers CEO the Gratitude Collective, Founder Power to Pursue
Anna Bruno IT Business Manager, Board Member associazione Donne 4.0
Anna Ressa Project Manager, Tecnopolis
Sonia Elicio Chief of Growth and Tech Lead Sestre, Co-Founder Puglia Women Lead
Giulia Casarano R&D Strategy Manager, Strategy Consultant & Startup Co-founder
Cristina Leone President of the National Aerospace Technology Cluster (CTNA)
Ambra Avenia Evaluation Specialist at Independent Evaluation Department (IED) and at Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- 12.40 – 13.30 Speed Dating Session 3 (Boost Phase). Networking between Women Startupper and W.IN. Students
This session will be coordinated by
Professor Francesco Giordano from the University of Bari
Professor Giuseppe Quaranta from the Polytechnic University of Milano
Patrizio Guido Altieri Senior Startup Manager at Binp
Professor Francesco Topputo from the Polytechnic University of Milano
Professor Annalisa Mastroserio from the University of Foggia
Professor Marco Savorgnan AD LUM Strategy Innovation
Professor Giulio Avanzini from University of Salento
Professor Antonio Ficarella President of the ITS Aerospace Foundation

- 13.30 – 14.00 W.IN. Talks
Anne Staines President & CEO at Sagent, National Association of Women Business Owners, Sacramento
Ada Ranieri Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC)
Sofia Marzo Cybersecurity Analyst for EO Data Services, ESA and Ambassador Donne 4.0

- 14.00 – 14.30 Finalist Selection and Announcement
Announcement of the finalists by
Gianna Elisa Berlingiero Director of the Economic Development Department of the Apulia Region

Afternoon Program

15.30 – 19.30

Kursaal Santalucia Theatre, Largo Adua, 5, Bari
Plenary part open to the public participation
Registration is available at <https://www.mymeeetinc.it/win/>

- 15.30 – 16.00 Institutional Greetings
Gianna Elisa Berlingiero Director of the Economic Development Department of the Apulia Region
Tracy Roberts-Pounds U.S. Consul General in Naples
Alessandro Delli Noci Councilor for economic development of the Apulia Region
Michele Emiliano President of Apulia Region

Moderators

Maria Liuzzi Journalist
Valentina Battista IVLP alumna, W.IN. Project Leader, Institutional Relations Manager, Materias

Introductory remarks

Valentina Battista IVLP alumna, W.IN. Project Leader, Institutional Relations Manager, Materias

- 16.00 – 16.45 W.IN. TALKS
Chiara Pertosa CEO Sitael Spa, EY Entrepreneur of The Year Award
Rachel des Rochers Serial entrepreneur, Founder of Power to Pursue, Cincinnati
Cristina Leone President of the National Aerospace Technology Cluster (CTNA)

- 16.45 – 17.30 Roundtable: The Overview Effect: From STEM to STARTups
Giuseppe Acierno President and General Director of the Aerospace Technological District (DTA), Head of ESA BIC Brindisi
Augusto Cramarossa Head of Strategist Area at Italian Space Agency (ASI)
Arianna Tibuzzi Partner Obloo Ventures
Stefania Vigna Head of Innovation Intelligence - Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center

- 17.30 – 17.50 Elevator Pitch Session
Finalists Present Their Four-Minute Pitches
The five selected startups will take the stage to pitch their ideas

- 17.50 – 18.10 W.IN. TALKS
Generale Roberto Vittori Brigadier General, Astronaut and Professor of the Polytechnic University of Bari

- 18.10 – 18.50 Roundtable: USA-Italy Bridge: A Pathway for Growth
James Reginald Colimon Director of Global Affairs for the City of Boston
Luigi Giuseppe Decollanz AmCham Puglia
Paolo Gaudenzi Science Attaché at the General Consulate of Italy in Boston, Full Professor of Aerospace structures and constructions
Massimo Carnelos Head of Technological Innovation and Startups, Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Andrea Merli Head of Startup Ecosystem, European House Ambrosetti
Mariella Pappalepore President Planetek

- 18.50 – 19.00 W.IN. TALKS
Anne Staines President & CEO at Sagent, National Association of Women Business Owners, Sacramento

- 19.00 – 19.15 Awards Ceremony
- Selection of the top three startups by a jury of experts from both countries, coordinated by **Giuseppe Palmieri** Economic and Commercial Specialist at the U.S. Consulate General in Naples
- Special mentions awarded from the **Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE)** by **Beatrice Sarah Pelli** Strategic Content Coordinator – U.S. Department of State and **Daniela Terracciano** Italy Lead Coordinator AWE and Professor from University of Naples Federico II
Announcement of the winner presented by **Tracy Roberts-Pounds**, the Consul General in Naples.
The top three startups will also receive dedicated mentorship sessions with leading women entrepreneurs and investors from Italy and the United States.

- 19.15 Networking cocktail

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