

Sustainable finance: it's time for Italy

A richer and broader calendar for the fourth edition of the Italian SRI Week, (from 5 to 18 November): eleven events with the involvement of high level representatives of the Italian financial market.

Milan, September 21st 2015

Press release

It's called SRI Week (*Sustainable and responsible investment*), but it's all "made in Italy": the initiative, promoted by the Italian Sustainable Investment Forum (Forum per la Finanza Sostenibile or FFS), has now become a "must to go" for both finance practitioners, academics, media and the SRI community in general.

This year, the programme is particularly rich, featuring eleven events scheduled from November 5th to 18th – all public and free admission – with the participation of partners and promoters of the main financial groups at both national and international level, such as NN Investment Partners, Candriam, Etica SGR, Vigeo and Unipol Group.

The 2015 events calendar demonstrates how SRI has already become a mature and "mainstream" investment strategy, applicable across all asset classes; also, it can be a key factor to promote sustainable growth within the Italian economy.

The SRI Week will start on november 5th in Rome, with an high profile policy event involving both FFS members and the representatives or the major financial institutions in Italy in a reflection on how to promote sustainability within in the Italian financial market. The Italian Minister of Economy Pier Carlo Padoan will attend the conference, together with the members of the Sustainable Finance Inter-Parliamentary Group.

Then a **conference on sustainable private equity** will be held in Milan on November 10th, featuring the presentation of a Guideline developed by a working group promoted by FFS with AIFI (the Italian private equity and venture capital association) and supported by five GPs mainly investing in the Italian market (APE SGR, Mandarin CP, PAI Partners, Quadrivio SGR and Wise SGR).

Another important event highlights the importance of social responsibility for listed companies, a prominent topic of discussion also at European level: a handbook on engagement, developed by FFS with CSR Manager Network involving business players such as Terna, is going to be presented on November 12th at the Italian Stock Exchange in Milan.

The SRI Week is going to end up in Rome on November 18th with an event aimed to address another key player in the Italian market: institutional investors. The event is featuring the presentation of the first benchmark on SRI and pension plans in Italy, developed by FFS with MEFOP (the Italian agency for the development of the pension funds' market) using as a model the Dutch Pension Funds' Benchmark, a well-established and very appreciated research developed by VBDO (the NL Sustainable Investment Forum).

"The SRI Week is always challenging" states Davide Dal Maso, FFS' Secretary General "This year, in addition to our rich and well-conceived programme, we are also working on a series of cultural events, to promote sustainable finance to a wider audience through artistic languages such as music, cinema and theatre.

The events calendar is online on www.settimanasri.it

The SRI Week 2015 obtained the patronage of the **Ministry of the Environment** and of the **Ministry of the Work and Social Policies**. Confirmed media and network partners are **ETicaNews, Mondo Institutional, La Mia Finanza Green, Morningstar, Professione Finanza, Il Punto** and **Vita**.

Sustainable and Responsible Investment

“Sustainable and Responsible Investment is a medium to long term investment strategy which, in the evaluation of companies and institutions, combines the financial analysis with a robust environmental, social and governance (ESG) analysis, with the aim to create value to the benefit of investors and the society as a whole”

(FFS Official position on SRI, as of February 2014. [Download full document - Italian](#))

Forum per la Finanza Sostenibile

The Italian Sustainable Investment Forum (Forum per la Finanza Sostenibile or FFS) is a non-profit and multistakeholder organization, founded in 2001. The Association is governed by a nine members Board, all elected by the Assembly, and is managed by a General Secretariat.

FFS's mission is to *“promote a culture of social responsibility in the asset management practice in Italy”*. In particular, the FFS promotes the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria in the policies and processes adopted by the investors.

Web: www.finanzasostenibile.it, www.settimanasri.it, www.investiresponsabilmente.it

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ItaSIF>

FFS is a founding member of Eurosif (The *European Sustainable and Responsible Investment Forum*), a pan-European network whose mission is to *“develop sustainability through European Financial Markets”*. Eurosif act as a partnership of 8 National Sustainable Investment Forums and counts more than 90 Affiliate Members.

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