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AGORÀ DEL FUTURO

STAY FINTECH STAY TECH

THE NEW SPACE AT IL SALONE DEI PAGAMENTI DEDICATED TO INTERNATIONALISATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

AGENDA 2026

Supported by

Fintech District

MILAN ALLIANZ MICO
SOUTH WING
24, 25, 26 NOVEMBER 2026

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IL SALONE DEI PAGAMENTI
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AGENDA 2026

Within the **Agorà del Futuro, ABIServizi**, supported by **Fintech District**, is launching the inaugural edition of **Stay Fintech, Stay Tech**: a new space dedicated to innovative technologies, internationalization, and the connections between financial and technological ecosystems.
It is a space where **fintech evolves beyond the narrow concept of "finance," and technology becomes accessible to everyone**.

The format combines:

- An **international stage featuring 14 sessions in English**, exploring how fintech is transcending the boundaries of traditional finance to become an enabling infrastructure and a catalyst for transformation across all economic sectors.
- A **new exhibition area** with dedicated corners and desks for fintech and techfin companies, investors, and innovators.
- A **hub for meetings and networking**, where content, business, and professional relationships create tangible opportunities.

"S**tay Fintech**, **Stay Tech**" aims to support the **fintech and techfin ecosystem**, positioning **Italy** as a **European benchmark for financial innovation**—and beyond. It fosters **dialogue between national and international ecosystems**, attracts **investment** and talent, encourages new collaborative models, and creates an **environment where technological innovation and business growth converge**.

SESSIONS

November 24, 14.00 - 15.00

1. **How Companies are supporting the "Stay Fintech" world**
   Chair: *currently being finalized.*

   Innovation is moving far beyond the boundaries of traditional R&D departments. Across industries, companies are adopting structured approaches to identify emerging technologies, attract talent, and explore new business models. Corporate Venture Capital funds, accelerators, incubators, innovation hubs, and open innovation programs have become strategic tools for driving growth and strengthening long-term competitiveness.
   This opening session brings together leaders from non financial sectors to discuss how organizations are investing in innovation ecosystems, partnering with startups and scaleups, and creating the conditions to turn emerging ideas into tangible business opportunities. A cross-industry conversation exploring which models are delivering results, what impact they generate, and why ecosystem building has become a key driver of innovation and growth.

   Panel:
   Federico De Martini, Magnolab
   Elena Lavezzi, CEO **ZNEXT**

   Other speakers to be defined.

   Thematic tracks: **The State of Play**

☞To attend for free click here

November 24, 15.05 - 15.55

2. **Towards AI-centric innovation ecosystems in financial services (and beyond)**
   Chair: **Clelia Tosi**, Head **Fintech District**

Artificial intelligence is quickly becoming a defining force in financial services. The key question is no longer whether institutions should adopt AI, but how they can do so effectively, responsibly, and at scale.
Introducing the research "Towards AI-Centric Innovation Ecosystems in Financial Services (and Beyond)" for the first time, this session examines how collaboration can accelerate AI-driven innovation, drawing on insights from the Fintech District ecosystem, fintech survey data, and industry perspectives.

Keynote speech:
Emanuele Fabbiani, Head AI **Xtream**

Panel:
Valentina Cianci, Co-Head Consumer Finance Division **Finomnia**
Ermanno Ciarrocchi, Chief Growth Officier **Cleverchain**
Anna Shpak, CEO **Generation Impact Global**
Clelia Tosi, Head **Fintech District**

Thematic tracks: **The State of Play**

☞To attend for free click here

November 24, 16.00-16.20

3. **Off the agenda, not off the planet – A founder against the current**
   Chair: **Chiara Padua**, Deputy Head **Fintech District**

What happens when sustainability suddenly falls off the political and financial agenda, while the challenges it was meant to address remain very much part of our reality?
In this keynote, Stefania Di Bartolomeo shares the personal and professional journey that led her to build a company around a simple ambition: making investment impact more transparent, measurable and understandable at a time when the country around her began moving in the opposite direction.
Her story becomes a reflection on what it means to stay the course when priorities shift, narratives change and sustainability is pushed further down the agenda. Because being off the agenda does not mean being off the planet. Climate change, social inequalities and the real-world consequences of investment decisions do not disappear simply because we stop talking about them.

Keynote Speech:
Stefania Di Bartolomeo, CEO & Founder **Physis Investments**

Thematic tracks: **The State of Play**

November 24, 16.25 – 16.55

4. **The future of money and financial infrastructure is being redesigned: where do fintechs fit in the age of Stablecoins and the Digital Euro?**
   Chair: **Paola Agnese Bongini**, Full Professor of Banking and Finance **Università di Milano-Bicocca**

Stablecoins are rapidly gaining traction in payments, treasury management and cross-border transactions, while the Digital Euro is emerging as Europe's public digital money infrastructure. At the same time, tokenization is moving beyond experimentation and into the realm of real market infrastructure. As money and assets become programmable, the implications extend far beyond faster payments.
For fintechs, the question is no longer whether these innovations will arrive, but how will they reshape products, customer journeys and business models?

Panel:
Mico Curatolo, Chief of Staff **Qivalis**
Michele Mandelli, Managing Partner **CheckSig**
Alberto Mussinatto, CPO **Fabrick**

Tag Panel: **The State of Play**

☞To attend for free click here

November 24, 17.00 – 17.30

5. **The Italian fintech model: why collaboration beats competition**
   Chair: **Chiara Padua**, Deputy Head **Fintech District**

While many fintech ecosystems are measured by the number of unicorns they produce, Italy has built a different success story.
In the Italian market, growth is often driven by collaboration rather than disruption alone. Fintechs work together to create complementary solutions, while partnerships between startups, banks, insurers, and large corporates have become a powerful engine for innovation. These collaborations frequently evolve into strategic investments, mergers, and acquisitions, creating a more connected and sustainable ecosystem.
This distinctive approach has also made Italy increasingly attractive to international players looking for growth opportunities in Europe. Through initiatives such as the Soft Landing Program, more than 300 international companies have explored the Italian market over the past four years, discovering a unique environment where access to clients, partners, institutions, and investors is often facilitated by collaboration rather than competition.

Panel:
Andrea Guffanti, General Manager **Coverflex**
Marco Ramundo, Head of Sales **Treezor**
Francesca Zadro, Senior Official **ICE - Italian Trade Agency**

Thematic tracks: **The State of Play**

☞To attend for free click here

November 25, 10.00 – 10.45

6. **Founders and inventors, 18 months later: has the italian fintech funding gap started to close?**
   Chair: **Clelia Tosi**, Head **Fintech District**

In 2025, Founders vs Investors report, developed by Fintech District and EY, explored the Italian fintech and techfin fundraising landscape through a dual perspective: founders on one side, investors on the other. The report was based on insights from over 90 innovative companies and 50 investors, highlighting challenges, opportunities and mismatches in expectations shaping the future of the ecosystem.
Eighteen months later, this panel brings the conversation back to the people who shape the market every day: the entrepreneurs and the investors. The goal is not only to revisit the findings of the research, but to understand what has actually changed: whether fundraising has become easier or more selective, whether investor expectations have evolved, and whether Italian fintech and techfin companies are now better equipped to scale locally and internationally.

Panel:
Giovanni Calabrese, Head of Direct Investments **Sella Direct Ventures**
Alberto Dell'Acqua, Professore Ordinario di Finanza Aziendale, Director - Milano Hub **Luiss Business School**
Andrea Ferretti, Partner **EY**
Giovanni Fusaro, Ufficio Studi e Ricerche AIFI e Direttore VeM - Venture Capital Monitor **AIFI**
Simone Martinelli, CEO & Founder **Volume Pay**

Thematic tracks: **Ecosystem&Investments**

☞To attend for free click here

November 25, 10.50 – 11.45

7. **Italian pitch and demo session: do you want to fintech with us?**
   Session powered by ITA – Italian Trade Agency
   Chair: **Giovanni Caccavello**, Country Manager **Fintech District**

Innovation is not just about ideas. It is about execution. In this fast-paced session, a selection of innovative Italian fintech and techfin companies will take the stage to showcase their solutions through live pitches and product demos. Discover the technologies, business models, and entrepreneurial visions that are transforming financial services, meet the founders behind them, and explore new opportunities for collaboration, investment, and growth within one of Europe's most vibrant fintech ecosystems.

Panel:
Stefano Andreani, CEO & Founder **OpenTech**
Antonio Chiarello, CEO & Founder **Weltix**
Diego Dal Cero, CEO & Founder **CoreFi**
Maria Vittoria Dalla Rosa Prati, CEO & Founder **Beep**
Giuseppe Ettore, CEO & Founder **Alomana**
Dariush Haghighi Tajvar, CEO & Founder **Recivu**
Federico Pacilli, CEO & Founder **Finbooks**
Andrea Silvi, Founder & CEO **NoPos**

Martino Testa, Co-founder, Strategy & Investment Manager **Weltix**
Thematic tracks: **Ecosystem&Investments**

☞To attend for free click here

November 25, 11.50 – 12.25

8. **International pitch and demo session: do you want to fintech with us?**
   Chair: **Francesco Gavanna**, Relationship Manager **Fintech District**

Get ready for a fast-paced session featuring some of the most innovative international fintech and techfin companies. Through live pitches and product demos, they will showcase the technologies, business models, and entrepreneurial visions shaping the future of financial services. Meet the founders behind the solutions and discover new opportunities for collaboration.

Panel:
Gabriel José Alaya Paoli, Director of API – Banks & Fintech solutions **Bit2me**
Scarlette De Gregorio, Co-Founder & CMO **Fluum**
Sharlote Leikuma, Neumetria
Chris Richmond N'zi, Founder **Prospéra**
Petr Zahradník, Co-Founder, leads SoftPOS and payment security Tapaya

Other speakers to be defined.

Thematic tracks: **Ecosystem&Investments**

☞To attend for free click here

November 25, 12.35 – 13.00

9. **Everyone loves Unicorns**
   Chair: *currently being finalized*

Everyone loves unicorns.
They're colourful, pretty, represent innovation, ambition, rapid growth and the dream of building a billion-dollar company. Yet behind every success story lies a far more complex reality, made of difficult decisions, fundraising setbacks, leadership challenges, market uncertainty and constant pressure to deliver results.
In this candid conversation, a fintech unicorn will go beyond the headlines and share what it really takes to scale a company from startup to global player. From securing funding and entering new markets to navigating regulation, competition, technology shifts and organizational growing pains, the discussion will explore both the milestones worth celebrating and the moments that tested their resilience. Rather than focusing only on valuations, this session will uncover the often untold side of the scaling journey: the mistakes, pivots, difficult choices and lessons learned along the way. Attendees will gain an authentic perspective on what it means to build a category-defining company in financial services today, and why the path to becoming a unicorn is rarely as glamorous as it looks from the outside.
Because while everyone loves the unicorn story, very few get to hear what happens behind the scenes.

Fireside chat:
Alex Prot, CEO **Qonto**

Other speakers to be defined.

Thematic tracks: **Ecosystem&Investments**

☞To attend for free click here

November 25, 14.15 – 15.15

10. **Funders and Bankers: a collaboration tale?**
    Chair: **ABI LAB**, **Chiara Padua**, Deputy Head **Fintech District**

As for the increasing pressure to innovate, collaboration is often presented as a strategic imperative. Yet turning initial conversations, pilots, and proof-of-concepts into scalable and sustainable partnerships remains a complex challenge.
This session offers an exclusive preview of the findings from the Founders & Bankers research initiative, developed by ABI Lab and Fintech District, which will be fully released in March 2027.
Starting from selected insights emerging from the survey, the discussion will bring together representatives from both sides of the ecosystem: banks and fintech/techfin companies that have successfully built partnerships, as well as organizations that have experienced obstacles, delays, or unsuccessful collaboration attempts.

Panel:
Doris Messina, CEO & Founder **Tot**
Giorgio Seveso, Founder **Tundr**
Iccrea Banca
Emil Banca
Banca Mediolanum

Other speakers to be defined.

Thematic tracks: **Ecosystem&Investments**

☞To attend for free click here

November 26, 9.45 – 10.20

11. **Longer and smart life**
    Chair: **Maria Imbesi,** Investor **Step Venture - Italian Tech Alliance**

We do everything we can to live longer: we follow a healthy diet, exercise regularly, take supplements, keep our minds active, and monitor our blood markers. And indeed, life expectancy has increased. At the same time, artificial intelligence, digital health technologies, and new financial tools are transforming how we work, make decisions, manage our wealth, and plan for the future.
As longevity becomes one of the defining trends of the coming decades, traditional financial models are being challenged. How should individuals save, invest and prepare for careers that may last 50 years? How can AI-powered financial coaching, behavioural science and preventive health technologies help people make better long-term decisions? And, as sooner or later, aging still catches up with us, and many people become dependent on others for daily care, are we ready to provide the necessary support when that happens, both in terms of human and financial resources?

Panel:
Edwin D. Colella, Founder & CMO **Wallife**
Edlira Dashi, Project Manager **Fast Forward Foundation**
Valentina Mancuso, Founder **Metis**, Adjunct Professor **Università degli Studi di Milano**
Thematic tracks: **The Next Trends**

☞To attend for free click here

November 26, 10.25 – 11.00

12. **Agentic Finance: when artificial intelligence starts acting for you**
    Chair: **Giulia Bottaro**, Efitor in Chief **Pagamenti.it**

For decades, financial services have helped people make decisions. The next frontier is very different: financial services that can make decisions and take actions on their behalf.
Agentic Finance is emerging as one of the most transformative trends at the intersection of AI, payments and financial services. Intelligent agents are evolving from simple assistants into autonomous systems capable of analyzing information, executing tasks and continuously optimizing financial outcomes based on individual goals and preferences. The session will also bring a hands-on perspective from those working directly with banks to develop AI agents for managing customer interactions and relationships, sharing practical experience of how these solutions are being designed and implemented.
As AI agents become active participants in the financial ecosystem, the key question is no longer whether they will support financial decisions, but how much of the financial journey they will eventually manage on our behalf.

Panel:
Gianluca Maruzzella, CEO **Indigo.ai**
Mattia Nanetti, Co-Founder & COO **Fairmind**
Serena Torielli, CEO & Founder **Wealthype.ai**

Thematic tracks: **The Next Trends**

☞To attend for free click here

November 26, 11.05 – 11.50

13. **Dear future, we have questions: can fintech and techfin provide the answers?**
    Chair: *currently being finalized*

For younger generations, uncertainty is no longer an exception. Economic volatility, geopolitical tensions, rapid technological change, evolving career paths, housing affordability, and concerns about financial wellbeing are shaping the way students and young professionals look at their future.
In this highly interactive session, two students from two different universities will take center stage to share their biggest concerns about the future. The two students will explore, respectively, declining birth rates and an ageing population, with a particular focus on the economic consequences for younger generations, and the impact of artificial intelligence on work and society, looking closely at the transformations AI is bringing to professional settings and society at large.
Their questions will spark a dialogue with a diverse panel of fintech and techfin founders, industry professionals, academics, and innovators, who will respond with concrete solutions, new ideas, and practical

initiatives designed to help younger generations navigate uncertainty with greater confidence.

Panel:
Federico Caiafa, Student **Liuc**
Carlo Mancosu, CMO & Co-Founder **Bflows**
Federico Piras, Studente Corso di Laurea in Economia delle Banche, delle Assicurazioni e degli Intermediari Finanziari **UniBicocca**
Odile Robotti, Co-Founder **La Carica delle 101**
Alberta Trombetta, CEO & Founder **JustSolve**

Other speakers to be defined.

Thematic tracks: **The Next Trends**

☞To attend for free click here

November 26, 11.55 – 12.35

14. Stay Beyond

Every year, a new generation of companies emerges at the intersection of technology and financial services. Built on AI, data, automation, digital identity, cybersecurity, and other enabling technologies, these businesses are not just reshaping finance, but creating new opportunities across industries. As the boundaries between sectors continue to blur, many of the most exciting innovations are being developed by companies whose impact extends far beyond traditional fintech.
In this panel, we will identify the trends and business models that could define the next generation of technology-driven innovation.

Panel:
Virginia Debernardi, Founder **Kalipso.ai**
Giovanni Piazza, CEO & Founder **BonusX**
Ekaterina Polyakova, CEO & Co-Founder **G2Q Computing**
Marzio Schena, CEO & Founder **A-Note Music**

Thematic tracks: **The Next Trends**

☞To attend for free click here

November 26, 12.40 – 13.00

15. The Human KPI of Innovation
Chair: **Chiara Padua**, Deputy Head **Fintech District**

How do we measure innovation? And how do we measure the mental well-being of the people who are expected to make that innovation happen?
Innovating means living with uncertainty, constantly seeing the rules of the game change, questioning what worked until yesterday, and always staying one step ahead, while still looking back to make sure that organizations, colleagues, and customers can keep up.
We end up with a serious case of emotional whiplash.

Keynote speech:
Danila De Stefano, CEO & Founder **UnoBravo**

Thematic tracks: **The Next Trends**

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