



National Award for Innovation - PNI 2021

The most important Business Plan Competition in Italy

From research to business for a sustainable future



“TOR VERGATA” UNIVERSITY OF ROME

November, 30th December, 3rd

Online platform
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Program

Tor Vergata University of Rome, in collaboration with the National Association PNICube, is organizing the 19th National Award for Innovation – PNI (Premio Nazionale per l’Innovazione) 2021, which will take place, for the first time, in Rome on **November 30th** and **December 3rd**.

PNI is the most important Business Plan Competition in Italy related to innovative startup projects born from research. The initiative is promoted by the PNICube network, the only one of its kind in Italy, which includes 51 universities and academic incubators, involving 16 Italian regions, in order to foster the development of territories and the Country, through the regional Start Cup-Business Plan Competitions.

PNI represents the final stage of the competitions organized by the regional Start Cups. Since the first event, held in 2003, PNI has selected and accompanied 899 startups to the market. It represents an important factor of change in Italy. The innovative business projects that are the winners of the 15 currently active regional Start Cups – involving 16 regions in the country – are participating in the PNI 2021.

Brand new in the PNI 2021 is the institution of two **Special Awards** promoted by Tor Vergata University of Rome, namely: **Best innovative social startup** and **Best innovative young startup**.

The PNI 2021 dates of November 30th and December 3rd are scheduled into pitch sessions (held in English) that see innovative startup projects challenge each other according to the following innovation tracks: **“Cleantech & Energy”**, **“Life Sciences-MED Tech”**, **“ICT”**, and **“Industrial”**.

Moreover, a **virtual Expo area** is also set up in order to provide opportunities for business matches between competing startups, investors, industrial, and financial organizations. During the two-days of PNI 2021, panels that focus on the role played by the university in the transition "from research to business" within the new social and economic context related to the Covid-19 pandemic are planned. The panels’ contents fall within the framework of the objectives of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR): *i*) strengthening the research and encouraging the dissemination of innovative models for basic and applied research, conducted in synergy between universities and firms; *ii*) supporting processes for innovation and technology transfer; and *iii*) enhancing research infrastructures, capital, and skills to support innovation.

PNI 2021, therefore, constitutes an ideal context for exchanging ideas and formulating concrete proposals on how to support innovation and entrepreneurship to advance the process of sustainability and the resilient relaunch of Italy, thanks to the participation of leading representatives from the world of institutions, as well as of leaders of industrial and financial organizations.

Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

10:00 AM

Online platform unitorvergata-pni2021.ibrida.io

10:00 Institutional greetings and opening session

Orazio Schillaci, Provost of Tor Vergata University
Alessandro Grandi, President of PNICube
Roberto Gualtieri, Mayor of Rome Municipality (*to be confirmed*)
Nicola Tasco, President of Lazio Innova
Paola Paniccia, Coordinator of Start Cup Lazio, Tor Vergata University

10:30 Pitch session “Cleantech & Energy”

Introduction by: Enrico Pochettino, Head of Innovation, Iren

11:45 Panel “Social Innovation: creating business for recovery and resilience”

Marco Girardo, Chief Editor Economy, Avvenire
Vincenzo Antonetti, Sviluppo Network, Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center
Alessandro Mechelli, Director of the Department of Management and Law, Tor Vergata University
Leonardo Becchetti, Scientific Director of Next-Nuova Economia
Maria Cristina Finucci, President of Garbage Patch State

12:00 Pitch session “Life sciences-MED Tech”

Introduction by: **Emiliano Schena**, Rector’s delegate to the Third Mission, Campus Bio-Medico University

13:00 Break

14:00 Pitch session “ICT”

Introduction by: **Francesco Scafarto**, Professor of Entrepreneurship, Tor Vergata University

15:00 Panel “Research, startup and open innovation for a sustainable recovery”

Vincenzo Tagliaferri, Vice Provost for Technology Transfer, Tor Vergata University
Raffaele Trapasso, Head, Entrepreneurship Education and Skills Unit, OCSE
Luigi Campitelli, Director of Spazio Attivo and Open Innovation, Lazio Innova
Ernestina Cianca, Vice Coordinator of CTIF Tor Vergata University
Alberto Silvani, Policy, Research and Innovation Expert

15:30 Pitch session “Industrial”

Introduction by: **Astorre Modena**, founder and managing partner of Terra Venture

16:30 Panel “Student entrepreneurship: the challenges for youth and female startups”

Sara Poggesi and **Michela Mari**, Scientific Observatory on Female Firms, Tor Vergata University
Federico Palmieri, AD BizPlace, Unindustria Young Entrepreneurs Group
Riccardo Fini and **Maurizio Sobrero**, University of Bologna
Barbara Aquilani, University of Tuscia
Francesco Ferrante, Imprendilab, University of Cassino and Southern Lazio
Carlo Alberto Pratesi, Dock 3, Roma Tre University
Gianmarco Carnovale, President of Roma Startup

17:30 Announcement of the finalist startups

Alessandro Grandi, President of PNICube

Moderators: *Cosmano Lombardo*, CEO Search On Media Group
Silvia Baiocco, Research Fellow of Management, Tor Vergata University

10:00-17:30 EXPO

Innovation area – Participating startups' stands

Sponsor area and Partners' stands

Business matching

Friday, December 3rd, 2021

9:30 AM

Tor Vergata University of Rome

on site and live streaming



8:30 **Registration of participants & Welcome coffee**

9:30 **Institutional greetings**

Orazio Schillaci, Provost of Tor Vergata University

Alessandro Grandi, President of PNICube

Maria Cristina Messa, Minister of Education, University and Research

Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, Deputy Minister for Economic Development

Enrico Giovannini, Minister of Sustainable Infrastructure and Mobility (*to be confirmed*)

Nicola Zingaretti, President of Lazio Region (*to be confirmed*)

10:15 **Opening session**

Paola Paniccia, Coordinator of Start Cup Lazio, Tor Vergata University

Lorenzo Tagliavanti, President of Rome Chamber of Commerce

10:30 **16 finalist startups' pitches**

12:00 **Panel “Research and innovative startups: challenges and policies for recovery”**

Alessandro Grandi, President of PNICube

Pietro Sebastiani, Ambassador of Italy to the Holy See

Representative, Embassy of Israel to Italy

Representative of Confindustria (*to be confirmed*)

Emilio Fortunato Campana, Director of the Department of Engineering, ICT and technologies for energy and transportation, CNR

Marcella Mallen, President of ASviS

Luigi Paganetto, Emeritus Professor of Political Economy, Tor Vergata University

Alberto Tripi, President of Almaviva Group

Michelangelo Simonelli, Senior Government Affairs Director, Gilead Sciences

13:30 **Awards ceremony and concluding remarks**

Alessandro Grandi, President of PNICube

Vincenzo Tagliaferri, Vice Rector for Technology Transfer, Tor Vergata University

Pierluigi Monceri, General Manager of Lazio and Abruzzo, Intesa Sanpaolo

Corrado Savoriti, President of Unindustria Young Entrepreneurs Group

Moderator: **Riccardo Luna**, Director of Italian Tech (Publishing Group Gedi)

The pitch competition is presented by: **Cosmano Lombardo**, CEO Search On Media Group

14:00 **Light Lunch**

10:00-13:30 EXPO

Innovation Area – Participating startups' stands

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Business matching