

**The startup and scaleup world will meet from June 16th to 18th
at Rimini Fiera for the WMF2022.**

The call for the International Startup Competition is now open

Within the WMF2022, a 3 days-event full of events dedicated to startups and scaleups from all over the world, a major event called World Startup Fest. Waiting for the 10th edition of the largest International Startup Competition in Italy and the International delegations of startups and investors - coming from the G20 countries. The WMF includes the Startup District with B2B activities and meetings with investors and representatives of international corporates, the Startup Stage with 36 selected startups. Finally, space for the latest news of the Startup Weekend, a marathon promoted by Techstars.

Bologna, March 10th 2022

The call for the 10th edition of the **International Startup Competition** has officially started, one of the several initiatives of the [WMF](#) - the Digital and Social Innovation Festival - dedicated to the world of startups and scaleups, which will be held at the Rimini fair from **June 16th to 18th**. The finals of the biggest startup competition in Italy will feature technological and digital projects from all over the world. Among the novelties for startups, the chance to present how their business idea can contribute to addressing one or more of the **12 challenges of the future**, from the future of Cities & Communities to that of Learning & Education, going through the topics of Health, Work, Culture & Travel, Food & Agriculture, Retail & Customer Experience, Marketing, Media & Entertainment, Sport & Events, Finance & Insurance, and finally Life On Planet Earth. Furthermore, in their application, startups will also be able to report their contribution to one or more of the **17 Sustainable Development Goals** indicated by the **UN 2030 Agenda**.

The Startup Competition, which has now become an unmissable event for the Italian and International innovative ecosystem, aims to promote the development of an innovation ecosystem - the **Italian Innovation Valley**. The call is open to startups and companies - Italian and International - that propose innovative business projects and ideas. The call will remain open until next May 12th 2022. Innovative technological and digital startups from all over the world will be selected - **already more than 250**

applications received - which will compete in front of an audience made up of Italian and foreign investors, companies and incubators. Also in the audience, **Delegations of foreign investors and companies** - thanks to the collaboration with ICE - the Agency for the promotion abroad and the internationalization of Italian companies - from G20 countries such as France, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Turkey, Israel, Spain. Investors, corporate and international representatives ready for B2B meetings and to support new business ideas with WMF companies and startups. Delegations also from Croatia, Serbia and Greece, the result of the WMF International Roadshow Events project.

Pitch competition, prizes and investors

The finals of the Startup Competition, with the pitch competition, will be held - as usual - on the **WMF Mainstage**. After more than **3,300 nominations** during the previous editions and **over 2 million euros in prizes**, on June 16th, 17th and 18th 2022, the best six selected international startups will take to the main stage of the Festival and will bring their innovative project in front of a jury of investors, corporate partners, incubators and venture capital.

The 6 finalist startups will therefore be voted by both the public and the jury of stakeholders and venture capital of the Italian innovative ecosystem. Thanks to **over 250 investors**, jurors and partners, this year there will be **2 main prizes**, too. The first one awarded by the public and the other one by the jury - as well as a series of special prizes with respect to the challenges for the future. Partners of past editions include Amazon AWS, Arter, Cariplo Factory, Digital Magics, DPixel, Engineering, Fondazione Golinelli, Hubspot, H-Farm, IAG, Lazio Innova, LVenture Group, Mediaset Infinity, OVHcloud, Plug and Play, Pranaventures, RDS, Tim WCap, United Ventures, Unicredit Start Lab.

World Startup Fest: Startup District, the Startup Stage, Scale Up for Future, B2B meetings with investors and initiatives that bring together investors, corporates and international representatives

Not only Startup Competition. At Rimini fair, startups, scaleups and investors will be the protagonists of the 3 days-event. The [World Startup Fest](#) will be the largest collector of events entirely dedicated to the sector, that will make WMF - on a global level - the central and main hub of the startup universe and that will catch future innovation trends.

Sustainable development, social innovation, artificial intelligence and robotics applied to everyday life: these will be just some of the topics that will also be dealt with on the **Startup Stage**. The stage where 36 innovative startups, selected by the competition - Italian and foreign - will alternate during the 3 days, presenting their projects and their business idea in front of investors, companies, incubators and professionals, who will reward them with many awards and incubation courses.

After last year's success, the **WMF Startup District** is also back: an exhibition area reserved to innovative projects and the latest technological innovations. **More than 100 startups** from all over the world are expected, including those selected from the stages of the **WMF International Roadshow**, the initiative that aims to create an international network of startups and an innovative and sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem on a global level.

"WMF has always been an accelerator of innovation, an engine that focuses on the country and the construction of a better future together with all the participants in public life. The last few years have made us realize, this time perhaps more than ever, that cooperation, networking and dialectical exchange of ideas and projects are the pillars to solve great global challenges, looking to the future with confidence" explained Cosmano Lombardo, CEO of Search On and creator of WMF. *"For this reason, the WMF - and the World Startup Fest - wants to be both a reference point for Italian and international entrepreneurship, and a collector of events dedicated to the world of startups and scaleups, to promote the spread and the growth of innovative ideas and social entrepreneurship"*.

The **Speed Meeting** between startups and investors is also back: an informal opportunity to encourage networking. The Scaleup for Future, too: last year it saw the protagonists of Revolut, Patch AI, Bidroom, FoodPanda, an initiative dedicated to the Italian and international scaleup world. At Rimini fair, also the **Startup Weekend**: a 54 hour 2-marathon, promoted by Techstars, that will involve 80 aspiring entrepreneurs in the co-planning of concrete answers to the innovation needs of local communities.

Useful Link

- [Startup Competition](#)
- [Video Startup Competition](#)
- [World Startup Fest](#)
- [Startup District](#)

- [Scaleup for future](#)

WMF - We Make Future

On June 16th, 17th and 18th 2022, the appointment with the International Fair dedicated to the world of innovation returns: the WMF2022, scheduled at Rimini fair, will bring together - once again- professionals, sector player companies, startups, universities, NPOs and institutions for a 3 days-event entirely dedicated to digital and social innovation. With over 24,000 participants in 2021, 100 events in 3 days, more than 600 speakers from all over the world and over 500 exhibitors and sponsors in an Exhibition Area that also welcomed Ministries, Regions, Municipalities, Public Bodies and more than 700 startups and investors. The WMF - conceived and produced by Search On Media Group - is the largest Festival on Digital and Social Innovation.

Search On Media Group

Since 2004, the company has the goal of spreading digital culture by managing communities, supporting the sharing of activities and carrying out strategic and operational consultancy, with the Search On Consulting department, in the Digital Marketing and Digital Transformation sector for large companies. The Education Business Unit - which organizes the WMF and other training events - and the hybrid.io platform - which manages online, hybrid and offline events, are then born from the experience and professionalism of Search On Media Group, in a customizable and flexible way.

More information

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