



In cooperation with



CEPS - CDP Policy workshop

5 November 2025 – 12:00-15:00

@CEPS - Place du Congrès, 1 – 1000 Brussels

Leveraging EU Funds to boost investment and competitiveness: Insights from Italy

As negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) get underway, attention is turning to the Commission's proposal—and within it, to the role of post-2027 EU funds in driving investment and strengthening competitiveness. As Member States begin to define their positions, national experiences can offer valuable insights into how EU funding can be deployed strategically to support growth and competitiveness.

This event will bring together EU policymakers, national representatives, and economic experts to exchange perspectives and experiences. The first roundtable will examine how Member States and the European Parliament are shaping their stances, while the Commission reflects on implementation mechanisms. The second roundtable will explore how EU financial instruments can more effectively address competitiveness challenges, drawing on Italy's experience—from businesses and intermediaries to implementing partners- and serve as a springboard for exploring best practices, bottlenecks, and opportunities.

Participants will consider lessons learned, identify gaps in the current approach, and exchange ideas on designing mechanisms that deliver tangible benefits for businesses and citizens.

11.30-12:00	Registration
1st Roundtable: The role of the next MFF in supporting investment and competitiveness	
12:00-12:05	Introduction Cinzia Alcidì, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS
12:05-13:00	Introductory statements and open discussion <i>Speakers will share brief remarks to frame the debate, followed by reactions and contributions from participants</i> - Evdokia Agaliano, European Commission, Directorate-General for Budget - Luca Barana, Senior Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) - Giovanni Crosetto, Member of the European Parliament - Daniel Gros, Director of the Institute for European Policymaking, Bocconi University - Alexandr Hobza, Cabinet Expert, Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné
13:00-14:00	Networking lunch
2nd Roundtable: EU Financial Instruments for Competitiveness — Lessons from Italy	
14:00-14:05	Introduction: Cinzia Alcidì, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS
14:05-15:00	Introductory statements and open discussion <i>Speakers will share brief remarks to frame the debate, followed by reactions and contributions from participants</i> - Stefania Ascione, Head of Advisory R&D and EU Funding - Francesca Brunori, Director of Financial Affairs, Confindustria - Martina Colombo, Head of European Affairs, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti - European Investment Fund (TBC) - Irene Pastorino, Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU