



MINISTERS' MEETING ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

10 - 11 JULY 2024
Bologna - Forlì

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ABOUT THE G7

The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal forum that brings together Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The European Union also participates in the Group and is represented at the summits by the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.

The Group was established as a platform for economic and financial cooperation in response to the 1973 energy crisis. The first Summit of Heads of State and Government was held in 1975 in Rambouillet, France.

Over the years G7 has progressively expanded its focus. From an *ad-hoc* gathering to discuss financial challenges, it has become a more formal, prominent venue to address major global issues. This evolution became even more evident at the beginning of the new millennium, as the G7 recognized the need for more technical and detailed discussions on these complex issues. Consequently, it initiated the first thematic Ministerial Meetings, to delve deeper into specific topics and bring more nuanced insights into the G7's deliberations.

Compared to an international organization, the G7 does not have a permanent administrative structure. Each year, starting from the 1st of January, one of the Member States takes over the leadership of the Group on a rotating basis. The Nation holding the Presidency serves as a temporary secretariat and hosts the Group work and the Leaders' Summit. Most importantly, the Presidency plays a key role in setting the agenda and identifying key priorities.

The Summit, the G7 Presidency's centerpiece, is attended by the Heads of State and Government of the seven Member States, representatives of the European Union, as well as States and International Organizations invited by the Presidency.

ITALIAN G7 PRESIDENCY 2024

On the 1st of January 2024, Italy assumed, for the seventh time, the Presidency of the G7: the group that brings together Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The G7, in which the European Union also participates, is united by common values and principles and plays an invaluable role in defending freedom and democracy and addressing global challenges.

The Italian Presidency will last until 31 December 2024, and will feature a dense programme of technical meetings and institutional events throughout the country.

A key focus of the Italian Presidency will be the defence of the rules-based international system. Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine has undermined its principles and triggered growing instability, with multiple crises unfolding worldwide. The G7 will give equal importance to the conflict in the Middle East, with its consequences for the global agenda.

The relationship with developing Nations and emerging economies will be central. The engagement with Africa will be a key priority. We will work to build a cooperation model based on mutually beneficial partnerships, away from paternalistic or predatory logics. Particular attention will also be paid to the Indo-Pacific region.

Italy will ensure great attention to migration, together with some of the greatest challenges of our time, including the climate-energy nexus and food security. The G7 has the responsibility and duty to identify, together with its global partners, innovative solutions.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) will also feature in the Italian programme. This technology can generate great opportunities but also enormous risks, affecting geopolitical balances. It is necessary to develop governance mechanisms and ensure that AI remains human-centered and human-controlled, giving concrete applications to the concept of algoethics.

The G7 Summit

The Summit of G7 Heads of State and Government under the Italian Presidency will be held in Borgo Egnazia, in Apulia, on June 13-15, 2024.

With its natural and artistic beauties and an innate vocation for hospitality, Apulia is a highly representative place of Italian culture and attractiveness. Moreover, it historically plays a bridging role between the East and the West of the world and over the centuries has welcomed different peoples, cultures and religions, which have left a profound legacy, still visible today on its territory and in the habits of its people.

MINISTERS' MEETINGS

In addition to the Summit, during 2024 Italy will host 22 Ministerial Meetings. The meetings will take place in various Italian cities, as part of a logistical effort that includes a leading role of the local institutions. Dates and details of the events may be subject to possible changes.

| THEME | DATE | CITY |
|--|--------------------|--|
| INDUSTRY, TECH AND DIGITAL | 13-14-15 March | Verona e Trento |
| TRANSPORT | 11-12-13 April | Milano |
| FOREIGN AFFAIRS | 17-18-19 April | Capri |
| CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT | 28-29-30 April | Torino |
| JUSTICE | 9-10 May | Venezia |
| FINANCE | 23-24-25 May | Stresa |
| EDUCATION | 27-28-29 June | Trieste |
| SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | 9-10-11 July | Bologna e Forlì |
| TRADE | 16-17 July | Villa S. Giovanni e Reggio Calabria |
| LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT | 11-12-13 September | Cagliari |
| CULTURE | 19-20-21 September | Napoli |
| AGRICULTURE | 26-27-28 September | Siracusa |
| INTERIOR | 2-3-4 October | Mirabella Eclano (AV) |
| GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT | 4-5-6 October | Matera |
| HEALTH | 9-10-11 October | Ancona |
| INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION | 10 October | Roma |
| INCLUSION AND DISABILITY | 14-15-16 October | Assisi e Perugia |
| DEFENCE | 18-19-20 October | Napoli |
| DEVELOPMENT | 24-25 October | Pescara |
| URBAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | 3-4-5 November | Genova |
| TOURISM | 13-14-15 November | Firenze |
| FOREIGN AFFAIRS | (date tbc) | Fiuggi |

MINISTERS' MEETING ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The G7 Ministers' Meeting on Science and Technology, chaired by the Minister of Universities and Research, Anna Maria Bernini, will take place in Bologna and Forlì from July 9th to 11th, 2024. Ministers and Heads of Delegation from Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union will gather to discuss the pivotal role of science and research in ensuring a more equitable and sustainable future, and to explore possible shared initiatives to achieve this goal.

The agenda of the meeting, hosted at the Bologna Technopole, includes multiple sessions, each focusing on one of the priority themes identified by the Italian Presidency: research security and integrity, open science and science communication; large research infrastructures; research and innovation cooperation with Africa; research on new and emerging technologies, nuclear energy and space; seas, ocean, and their biodiversity.

Three high-level representatives - Maria Leptin, President of the European Research Council; Fabiola Gianotti, Director-General of CERN; and Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University and UN Under-Secretary-General - will deliver a speech before the opening of three of the five ministerial working sessions which will then follow in a closed-door format. The Speakers will provide expert insights on the following priority themes: research security and integrity, large research infrastructures, and new and emerging technologies.

The African Union - represented by the Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Mohamed Belhocine - and UNESCO - represented by its Assistant Director-General for Education Stefania Giannini - will join the G7 Ministers and Heads of Delegation for the session on research and innovation cooperation with Africa, as invited international organizations.

The programme of the ministerial meeting also includes a quantum technology demonstration showcasing the potential of these emerging technologies, as well as visits to key infrastructures and sites in the Data Valley, and social events in iconic locations in Bologna and Forlì, such as a visit to the Ducati Museum and the concert performed by the National Symphony Orchestra of Italian Conservatories, conducted by Gianna Fratta.

The Italian Presidency of the Science and Technology track has also organized four side events focusing on four of its priority themes. The first on July 11th is the "Conference on Mediterranean and Atlantic Ocean Health and Coastal Resilience" to be held at the Bologna Technopole at the end of the Ministers' Meeting, in a location close by. On October 2nd, 2024, the "G7 Conference on Research and Capacity Building with African Countries" will take place in Trieste, Area Science Park, on the sidelines of the Big Science Business Forum in Trieste. Also in October, from the 29th to the 30th, the "G7 Conference on Large Research Infrastructures" will be held in Sardinia, in Su Gologone, and will feature a visit to Sos Enattos, the site proposed by Italy for the ESFRI "Einstein Telescope" project. Finally, on December 5th, 2024, the "G7 Conference on Security and Integrity of the Global Research Ecosystem" will be hosted by the Polytechnic University of Bari.

HOST CITY BOLOGNA



Bologna is one of the Italian cities where history, culture, and innovation blend perfectly. It preserves traces of past civilizations and the splendor of medieval times, while also embracing a vision for the future.

The city is famous for its leaning towers, Asinelli and Garisenda, set within an extraordinary historic centre, one of the largest in the country, and for its ensemble of porticoes, the longest in the world. Covering a stretch of 40 Kilometres, the porticoes are part of Bologna's urban identity and have recently been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Bologna is home to the Alma Mater Studiorum, founded in 1088, which is considered to be the oldest university in the Western world. It hosts numerous students, including many from abroad, who contribute to the city's vibrant cultural and social life. Bologna is also home to the Technopole - an Italian centre of excellence for research and the development of innovative solutions and a key driver of the Region's economic growth - chosen as the location for the G7 Ministers' Meeting on Science and Technology. The Technopole also hosts one of the world's most powerful supercomputers Leonardo; the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF); and soon the United Nations University for artificial intelligence and big data. The city embodies culture and innovation, serving as a crossroads of ideas. Its university, museums, and libraries are inexhaustible sources of knowledge; its streets, squares, and markets are witnesses to its vibrant social and cultural life. Bologna is also renowned worldwide for its culinary tradition and its distinctive red-brick buildings. Here, the past and future intertwine harmoniously, inspiring the world with its rich history, passion for art, and excellence in higher education. Bologna, with its unique blend of tradition and modernity, continues to inspire and provide opportunities towards a brighter and more promising future.

HOST CITY FORLÌ



Forlì is nestled along the Via Emilia, positioned between the Adriatic Riviera and the Apennine ridges. The city is known for the magnificent Piazza Saffi and for its historical sites evoking its thousand-year history, such as the Abbey of San Mercuriale and the Fortress of Caterina Sforza. The city's contemporary architectural heritage showcases examples of Italian Rationalism around Piazzale della Vittoria, including the soon-to-be Music Auditorium (formerly the Gil Building) and the Monument to the Fallen.

Forlì is a dynamic city that attracts talent, largely due to its connection with the University of Bologna Alma Mater Studiorum. The modern, vibrant university campus in the city centre offers 22 degree programs, including Medicine, Political Science, Economics, Nautical Engineering, and the Department of Languages for Interpreters and Translators. The Luigi Ridolfi airport serves as a hub at European level and is home to the Aeronautical and Aerospace Tech Pole, hosting the Department of Engineering and the ENAV Academy. The city's economic sector is vibrant, supported by a network of small and medium-sized enterprises excelling in agri-food, commerce, industry, and nautical industries.

Forlì is also celebrated for its art scene, with major exhibitions at the San Domenico Museums in collaboration with the Foundation *Cassa dei Risparmi di Forlì*, including prized collections like Antonio Canova's "Ebe." Renowned for its culinary excellence, Forlì boasts a tradition rooted in local produce and culinary practices.

Forlì is a welcoming and inclusive city, with a lively cultural scene including theatre, music, entertainment, and sports. The city benefits from numerous green areas and spaces for social activities. Following the devastating flood in May 2023, Forlì demonstrated resilience, solidarity, and teamwork, reflecting the indomitable spirit of the Romagna region.

AGENDA

10-11 JULY 2024

10 JULY 2024

09:00 **Arrival of the Heads of Delegations and Official Welcome by the Minister of Universities and Research Anna Maria Bernini**

Bologna Technopole- Official Family Photo
Host Broadcaster + Official photographers and videomakers + Photographers/Cameramen

09:30 **Opening remarks by the Italian G7 Presidency**

Session I – Research Security and Integrity, Open Science and Science Communication

Bologna Technopole – Tour de Table
Host Broadcaster + Official photographers and videomakers

11:00 **Session II – Large Research Infrastructures**

Bologna Technopole – Tour de Table
Host Broadcaster + Official photographers and videomakers

12:00 **Visit to the Leonardo Pre-exascale Supercomputer**

Bologna Technopole
Host broadcaster + Official photographers and videomakers

14:00 **Session III – Research and Innovation Cooperation with Africa**

Bologna Technopole – Tour de table
Host broadcaster + Official photographers and videomakers

19:00 **Concert by the National Symphony Orchestra of Italian Music Conservatoires**

San Mercuriale Abbey, Forlì
Official photographers and videomakers + Photographers/Cameramen



11 JULY 2024

9:15

Session IV – Research on new and emerging technologies, nuclear energy and space

Bologna Technopole – Tour de Table

Host Broadcaster + Official photographers and videomakers

10:45

Session V – Seas, Ocean and their Biodiversity

Bologna Technopole – Tour de Table

Host Broadcaster + Official photographers and videomakers

12:15

Press Conference of the Italian G7 Presidency

Bologna Technopole

Host Broadcaster + Official photographers and videomakers + Journalists + Photographers/Cameramen

MEDIA PROGRAMME: INFORMATION

Journalists and photojournalists interested in covering in-person the media program, the Final Press Conference and access to the Media Center are requested to register through the G7 Portal <https://www.g7-2024.it/> from **June 26 2024** until **8 p.m. on July 3, 2024**.

For first-time registration applicants must fill in the form providing the required details and upload a copy of the following documents (PDF or JPEG format, max 2MB):

- Valid passport or ID card (mandatory)
- Photo (exclusively JPEG format, max. 2MB)
- Letter of assignment on official letterhead (mandatory also for freelance journalist)
- Press card

Early accreditation of journalists, photographers and interested media operators is mandatory. Media already accredited to previous meetings of G7 Ministers, need specific accreditation for this Ministers' Meeting.

Please note that press representatives from some countries must obtain a visa to enter Italy. Information on visa procedures must be checked in advance by accessing the [Il visto per l'Italia \(esteri.it\)](https://www.esteri.it/). The visa requirements must be met before arrival in Italy.

Following approval of the registration, accreditation badges will be provided to media representatives at the **Accreditation Centre** located at UNA HOTELS Bologna Fiera, Piazza della Costituzione 1 – 40128 Bologna.

According to the following times:

- **July 8:** from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- **July 9:** from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **July 10:** from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- **July 11:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The **Media Center** is located at Tecnopolo, via Stalingrado 86 - 40128 Bologna.

According to the following times:

- **July 10:** from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- **July 11:** from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



The final Press Conference of the Minister of University and Research, Anna Maria Bernini, will be held at the Bologna Technopole beginning at **12:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2024.**

It will be held in Italian, with simultaneous translation provided in English and it will be broadcasted live in English on the [YouTube channel](#) of the Italian G7 Presidency

A selection of the photos and videos produced by the official operators, including the family photo, will be available on the [Ministry of University and Research website](#) and on the Italian G7 Presidency website.

CONTACTS

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