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XIX SUMMIT COTEC EUROPE

# Rethinking work in the age of AI:

**Transformation, Opportunity,  
Governance.**

June  
16th and 17th  
2026  
Venice  
Italy

## Concept note

On June 17th, 2026 the XIX International Summit of the three COTEC organizations from Italy, Portugal, and Spain will be held on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore, in Venice. This edition will focus on the theme “Rethinking work in the age of AI: Transformation, Opportunity, Governance.”

In recent years, it has become clear that artificial intelligence is not only a rapidly evolving cutting-edge technology but also a disruptive paradigm that forces companies and public administrations to rethink the world of work, the synergies between human capital and digital technologies, staff training, the management of organizational and production processes, and, ultimately, social relations. The Summit is designed as a forum to consolidate the alliance among the three COTEC organizations and identify shared strategies for governing the new landscape of the world of work in an ethical, effective, and sustainable manner.

At the heart of this revolution are the human being and their resilience. What kind of world will take shape in the coming years? The number of jobs directly or indirectly affected by new technologies is on the rise but the consequences for work and workers have not been fully assessed and are considered the most controversial and problematic. On the one hand, there is an ever-increasing need for more qualified and specialized professionals; on the other, there is the risk of a mismatch between available skills and required skills, which could generate social friction even in the face of technological progress. In other words, this is a phenomenon that permeates our lives and raises questions about how to manage it, promoting its collective benefits while mitigating potential social costs. Transformation, opportunity, and governance are therefore the three pillars upon which the Summit will focus.

Much of the future evolution of technology in the world of work will depend on the role played by institutions, particularly schools and universities, and by the social partners. Europe already has the skills, infrastructure, and creative capacity to be a global leader.

The Summit will be an opportunity for COTEC Europe to promote a shared strategy through concrete joint initiatives on skills development, AI innovation policies, ethical governance of AI, the integration of people and technology, and innovation in organizational models.

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### Thanks to



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June 16th and 17th 2026 / Venice / Italy

## June 16th / Programme

Teatro La Fenice. Campo San Fantin 1965, San Marco

18.30 / Arrival and registration

19.00 / Live musical performance

19.20 / Networking & cocktail

## June 17th / Programme

Fondazione Giorgio Cini. Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore

Master of Ceremony: *Massimo Cerofolini*

08.00 / Arrival and registration

Welcome Coffee

09.00 / Prelude

*Fabiola Gianotti*, President, COTEC Italy

*Gianfelice Rocca*, President, Fondazione Giorgio Cini

*Alberto Stefani*, President, Regione Veneto

*Simone Venturini*, Mayor of Venezia

09.15 / Welcome words

*Jorge Barrero*, General Manager, COTEC Spain

*Jorge Portugal*, General Manager, COTEC Portugal

*Melissa Ridolfi*, Manager, COTEC Italy

09.30 / SESSION 1

**Risks and Opportunities**

*Carolina Rodriguez*, CEO, Enisa - Empresa Nacional de Innovación, Spain

*Francisco Correia dos Santos*, Vice Rector, University of Lisbon, Full Professor at IST, Portugal

*Alessandra Fidanzi*, Head of Data, AI & HPC Center of Excellence, Eni, Italy

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**10.10 / SESSION 2**

**Governance Aspects**

*Gloria Andrada*, Expert in philosophy of mind and cognitive sciences, CSIC, Spain

*João Barros*, President, AI<sup>2</sup> - National Research and Innovation Agency, Portugal

*Gian Maria Gros-Pietro*, President, Intesa Sanpaolo and *Francesca Nieddu*, Chief Compliance Officer Intesa Sanpaolo, Italy

**10.50 / SESSION 3**

**Technological Transformations**

*Emma Antolin*, President, Antolin, Spain

*Maria João Carioca*, Co-CEO, GALP, Portugal

*Valeria Sandei*, Global AI Director, Gruppo Almaviva, Italy

**11.30 / SESSION 4**

**The vision of Young Generations**

*Cecilia Mangisch*, Innovation Project Manager, AI Strategy & Adoption, Mediaset, Spain

*António Rocha*, Co-founder & CTO Smartex.ai, Portugal

*Gloria Beraldo*, Researcher in AI and robotics, CNR-ISTC, Italy

Q&A

**12.00 / Coffee break**

**12.30 / Musical interlude**

**12.45 / Final remarks**

*Fabiola Gianotti*, President, COTEC Italy

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**12.50 / COTEC meets Christine Lagarde**

**Keynote speech**

*Christine Lagarde*, President of the European Central Bank

**13.10 / Closing speeches**

H.M The King of Spain, *Felipe VI*

H.E. The President of the Portuguese Republic, *António José Seguro*

H.E. The President of the Italian Republic, *Sergio Mattarella*

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