

PRESS RELEASE

MPI Italia Chapter ANNOUNCES ITS NEW BOARD AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2026

Continuity, global vision, sustainability, and active engagement at the core of the new mandate

MPI Italia Chapter, the national and international benchmark for meetings & events professionals, announces the appointment of its **2026 Board**, continuing a growth path built over previous years while further strengthening its **strategic mission**.

The new mandate focuses on **active community engagement across events, education & training, cross-sector collaboration, and measurable impact**—core elements for responding to the challenges of a rapidly evolving market, fully aligned with the global community’s enduring promise: **“When We Meet, We Change the World.”**

The New MPI Italia Chapter Board

The new Board brings together **multigenerational professionals** with **complementary expertise** and roles, representing the full spectrum of the industry, and integrating a national perspective with an **international outlook**:

President: Ileana Coiana – Ilda Events & Tourism

President Elect: Mauro Bernardini – ALL Star Agency

Immediate Past President: Luisa Bianco – AIM Group

VP Communication: Olimpia Ponno – Olimpia Ponno Consultancy

VP Education: Maria Rosaria Broggi – JP Morgan Chase

VP Finance: Martina Gatti – My Italian Guide

VP Membership: Claudia Conte – BWH Hotels

VP Special Projects: Simonetta Pili – MIC-dmc

VP Sustainability: Laura Favaretti – Fondazione Turismo Padova, Terme e Colli Euganei

VP Student: Dionisia Saccogna – Triumph Italy

Secretary: Matilde Ciardelli

Communication Specialist: Emiliano Scentoni – Experience Lab

“It is a privilege for me - states the President Ileana Coiana - to lead a team that continues a strong legacy. We aim to consolidate the growth and positive results of recent years while reinforcing internal and external communication, expanding international relationships, and developing sustainable projects throughout Italy—highlighting authentic destinations alongside established metropolitan hubs.

The new Board will adopt a collaborative, cross-functional, and inclusive governance approach, encouraging member involvement and focusing on skills development, education, and shared value creation for the wider M.I.C.E. community, both nationally and internationally. This vision is grounded in a major achievement: MPI Italia has become the leading European Chapter in terms of membership and recognition, underscoring the solid foundation laid by previous leadership

A 2026 Calendar with an International Focus

The first two months of 2026 reaffirm MPI Italia **Chapter's international vocation**. From **January 23 to 28**, a delegation of MPI Italia members will travel to **Oman** to explore new business opportunities, leveraging the **strategic partnership between MPI Italia and the Oman Convention Bureau – MICE Department of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism**, aimed at strengthening collaboration between the two countries in the events and tourism sectors.

On **February 11**, MPI Italia will host an international education session at BIT Milan, at the Veneto Region stand, titled **"MPI Italia Chapter Presents: BACKSTAGE OF CHANGE – Designing Olympic Ceremonies with the Event Canvas™"**, led by **Roel Frissen** (Co-Founder of Event Design Collective) in collaboration with **Luca Vernengo** (Event Design Collective Italy). This initiative highlights the Chapter's commitment to delivering high-level content and a global perspective to the Italian market.

From February 21 to 24, MPI Italia will participate in **EMEC** (European Meetings & Events Conference) in **Barcelona**, **MPI's flagship European event**. The conference features three days of education, international networking, and hands-on learning, providing participants with practical tools to enhance their business and generate measurable return on investment.

MPI Italia Chapter

Founded in 1991, MPI Italia Chapter is the Italian Chapter of Meeting Professionals International (MPI), the leading global association and community for meeting, events, and convention professionals. MPI Italia brings together and represents key players across the industry value chain, promoting education, professional certifications, networking, innovation, and career development, with the aim of enhancing the events industry in Italy and supporting its growth and impact abroad. www.mpiweb.it

MPI – Meeting Professionals International (Global)

Meeting Professionals International (MPI) is the largest and most influential global association-community for meeting and event professionals. Founded in 1972, MPI operates worldwide through a network of Chapters and members in over 75 countries, offering advanced education, research, certifications, and networking opportunities, with a mission to support excellence and innovation in the meetings and events industry, investing in young talent and emerging professional roles. www.mpiweb.it

**#MPIItalia #MPITA @MPI_Italia #MeetingProfs #MPI #EventProfs
#MPIGlobal #MeetingProfessionalsInternational #MeetingsMatter
#EventIndustry #MeetingIndustry #EventLeadership #MPICommunity**

Contacts

VP Communication Olimpia Ponso
+39 335 1019494 - info@olimpiaponno.com

Media relation press@mpiweb.it

Segreteria info@mpiweb.it