



# **Iran-Italy cooperation in the field of technology development and innovation**

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Italy is among the top trading partner of Iran.

Italy has maintained active diplomatic channels with Tehran even in periods of heightened tensions between European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In 2015, during an interview with RAI, President Rouhani said that Italy was the first trade partner among European Union states for several years before the international sanctions and that Iran regards Italy as the most important country for trade and economic cooperation.

Italy and Iran also share long historical background and cultural similarities that can often ease the process of contentious political and economic negotiations.

**Trading ties between the two countries, however, have remained mostly at the surface in the form of providing goods and services.**

Iran-Italy Innovation Dialogue is an attempt to explore opportunities and mutual interest for expanding the bilateral cooperation into promising new areas.

## Why Italy:

Italy has a **long tradition in science and technology**, going back to the Renaissance and the Roman era.

Italy's economy ranks as the **third-largest in the Eurozone** and the eighth-largest in the world.

The country is well known for its **creative and innovative business**, a large and competitive agricultural, and for its influential and high-quality automobile, machinery, food, design and fashion industry.

Italy is the world's sixth largest manufacturing country, characterized by a smaller number of global multinational corporations and **a large number of dynamic small and medium-sized enterprises**.

## Why Iran:

Iran's economy has high development potential.

Iran has made considerable advances in science and technology through education and training, despite international sanctions in almost all aspects of research during the past 30 years.

Iran's university population swelled from 100,000 in 1979 to more than 4 million. In 2016, Iran ranked second in the percentage of graduates in science and engineering in the Global Innovation Index.

Iran's scientific progress is reported to be one of the fastest in the world.

**Thank you**