**Debut of the first European network of CSR professionals:**

**the groups in Italy, France, Germany, Spain and UK**

**launch a European initiative open to all countries**

*Milan, 4 October 2016* – [The Salone of CSR and Social Innovation](http://www.csreinnovazionesociale.it/index.php/programma/4-ottobre/item/533-una-prospettiva-europea-per-i-professionisti-della-sostenibilita)  in Milan is the venue for the **first meeting** of a **new network bringing together the leading European organisations representing CSR professionals**: the aim of the **European Network of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Professionals** is to pool experiences in order to promote sustainability as a driver for development.

The new platform is promoted by [CSR Manager Network](http://www.csrmanagernetwork.it), the association active in **Italy** for the past ten years, with more than one hundred professionals working on socio-environmental and sustainability strategies and projects; so far, four other countries have joined: **France,** with the [Collège des Directeurs du Développement Durable](http://www.cddd.fr/) **(C3D),** **Germany** with [Verband für Nachhaltigkeits- und Umweltmanagement](http://www.vnu-ev.de/) (VNU)**, Spain** with the [Asociación Española de Directivos de RS](http://www.dirse.es/) **(DIRSE)** and **Great Britain** with the [Institute of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability](https://icrs.info/) **(ICRS).**

The new network is open to all comparable organisations in Europe: the associations that represent sustainability practitioners at local level have many points of contact, even though certain parameters may differ (legal form, size of membership, priorities given to different issues, etc.).

With increasing numbers of initiatives and input coming from **European policymakers**, CSR professionals in the various nations need to network in order to respond appropriately.

**Exchanges** of information and good practices, **collaboration** on specific projects**, sharing** of results of activities with a wider audience: all this, structured in a platform without borders, can help specialists work with institutions.

*“In the past 10 years, CSR Manager Network members have come to realise and, I think, develop a growing appreciation of the importance of pooling their experiences,” -* said **Fulvio Rossi, President of CSR Manager Network.** -*“This is why we want to promote a network that reproduces this collaborative approach at an international level.”*

A wide-ranging **program** of activities is being drawn up to be agreed in a letter of intent signed by the end of 2016: regular meetings and webinars among organisations, an annual European-wide survey on key CSR issues, the creation of a Manifesto for the CSR profession, and much else besides.

So the date for the first [meeting **“A European Perspective for Sustainability Professionals”**](http://www.csreinnovazionesociale.it/index.php/programma/4-ottobre/item/533-una-prospettiva-europea-per-i-professionisti-della-sostenibilita)is **4 October,** at **4.30 p.m., at the Bocconi University in Milan,** during the **CSR and Social Innovation Show,** of which CSR Manager Network is one of the promoters.

To register: <http://www.csreinnovazionesociale.it/>

The meeting will be led by **Fulvio Rossi**, President CSR Manager Network and CSR Manager at Terna, **Davide Dal Maso** from Avanzi, a director of CSR Manager Network and promoter of the project, together with **Marina Migliorato**, Vice-Chair CSREurope, and the first European members:[Institute of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability](https://icrs.info/), [Asociación Española de Directivos de RS](http://www.dirse.es/), [Verband für Nachhaltigkeits- und Umweltmanagement](http://www.vnu-ev.de/) and [Collège des Directeurs du Développement Durable](http://www.cddd.fr/).

***CSR Manager Network*** *is the leading Italian organization with the largest network of sustainability professionals, working in over 100 associated companies and with a broad range of stakeholders from business, government, academia, and the non-profit sector. CSR Manager Network plays a key role in driving business leadership on sustainable development, in order to promote the profession and professionalism of people involved in CSR and sustainability topics with two main goals: increase sense of responsibility and business competitiveness; contribute to sustainable development at country level.*

*CSR Manager Network has strong relationships with Italian and foreign institutions and since 2016 represents Italy in the* [*World Business Council for Sustainable Development*](http://www.wbcsd.org/home.aspx) *(WBCSD)* [*Global Network*](http://www.wbcsd.org/global-network.aspx)*.*

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***Salone della CSR e dell’IS, October4-5, Milan***

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