



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

#coopera2026

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3^a CONFERENZA NAZIONALE
DELLA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO
2026

26-27
MAGGIO
ROMA

**Auditorium
della
Conciliazione**
**Corsie
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European Cooperation Agencies Partnerships, Investments, and Sustainable Development for the Future: 10 Years of AICS in a Changing World

Date: May 26th, 2026 – From 13:30 to 15:00 (CEST)
Location: Corsie Sistine, Borgo Santo Spirito 1 - ROME

Context and Rationale of the Event

Rising geopolitical tensions, interconnected global crises and accelerating innovation are transforming international development cooperation. Official Development Assistance is still understood as a strategic tool to promote global stability, economic resilience and shared prosperity, yet its effectiveness, public value and relationship with national and partner-country priorities are increasingly debated.

This shift requires stronger engagement with the private sector and the use of innovative financial instruments such as blended finance. Initiatives like the Global Gateway and the Mattei Plan aim to mobilise broader financial ecosystems and adopt more integrated institutional approaches. The key challenge is to strengthen the catalytic role of development agencies while ensuring alignment with development objectives, public value and partner country ownership.

Within this framework, ten years after its establishment, AICS aims at to foster a high-level dialogue on how European development agencies can contribute to renewing development cooperation, combining public action, partnerships and sustainable investment in support of shared development objectives.

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PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO



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Specific Objectives and Added Value of Participation in the Event

The event provides an opportunity to consolidate partnerships with leading European development agencies and EU institutions. For participating agencies, the panel offers a space to exchange views on their role in implementing European initiatives such as Global Gateway and Team Europe, and to explore innovative ways of collaboration with development finance institutions and the private sector.

The event also promotes a shared perspective on the growing role of businesses in development cooperation and on the tools needed to foster sustainable partnerships focused on skills development and local employment.

Against this background, the discussion could address a number of key questions:

- How can ODA and private sector engagement be combined in a complementary way, ensuring that public and private resources reinforce each other?
- In which sectors does ODA remain essential to enable effective and sustainable private investment, for instance through capacity building, regulatory support and the provision of public goods?
- Can hybrid approaches, such as the Global Gateway and the Mattei Plan, offer a renewed framework for development cooperation, balancing investment, public value and partner country ownership?
- How can national private sector engagement tools be better coordinated at European level, in order to avoid fragmentation or competition among Member States in partner countries?

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Event Structure

The panel will bring together Directors of leading European development cooperation agencies, in particular those with which AICS is currently partnering to implement EU delegated cooperation development initiatives.

The aim is to discuss how to translate EU and Member States priorities into concrete partnerships with partner countries, while strengthening coordination within the frameworks of Team Europe, the Global Gateway and the Practitioners' Network. The discussion will focus on the role of agencies in facilitating partnerships among the public sector, development finance institutions and businesses, including through innovative financial tools.

It will also examine how strategic initiatives such as the Global Gateway and the Mattei Plan can help mobilise sustainable investment and promote inclusive growth models. Finally, the panel may identify synergies, new forms of collaboration and replicable best practices, highlighting national and European coordination models.

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Agenda

Institutional Greetings (10 min):

- Edmondo Cirielli, Deputy Minister for Development Cooperation
- Marco Riccardo Rusconi, AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation), Director

Keynote Speech (10 min):

- Stefano Manservigi, Former DG Devco/Intpa at the European Commission and Chair of GCERF (Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund)

Panel Discussion (45 min)

- Marco Riccardo Rusconi, AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation), Director
- Antón Leis García, AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation), CEO
- Florbela Paraíba, Camões I.P. (Portuguese Agency for International Development Cooperation), CEO
- Jean Van Wetter, Enabel (Belgian Agency for Development Cooperation), CEO
- Jérémie Pellet, Expertise France (French Agency for Development Cooperation), CEO
- Ina Hommers, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), Director General for Client Liaison & Business Development
- Dominik Stillhart, SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), Ambassador, Deputy Director

Open floor (15 min)

Conclusions (10 min)

Moderator: Marilù Lucrezio, RAI Correspondent in Brussels

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