Press Release

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OVER 160 COMPANIES IN BERGAMO FOR THE DEBUT OF FSB FORUM ITALY: KOELNMESSE BRINGS THE FUTURE OF SPORTS FACILITIES TO ITALY

FSB Forum Italy inaugurates its first edition on November 11 at Fiera di Bergamo, under the patronage of AIS - Associazione Impianti Sportivi and with the support of Technical and Cultural Partner Move City Sport.

FSB Forum Italy
The Networking Event in Italy for Sport, Recreation Facilities, and Public Spaces
11.11-12.11.2026
www.fsb-forum.com

Your contact:
Amina Piciotti
Tel.
+39 02 86 96 13-1
E-mail
amina.piciotti@koelnmesse.it

Kickstarting the event were Gerald Böse, CEO of Koelnmesse GmbH, and Thomas Rosolia, Managing Director of Koelnmesse Italia, who conceived and promoted the project in our country.

Gerald Böse, CEO of Koelnmesse GmbH, commented: "*The long history of FSB Cologne has taught us how important it is to create dedicated forums for discussion on sports facilities. That is why I am pleased to be in Bergamo for the opening of an event born from the experience gained in Germany. For over fifty years, FSB has brought together international expertise and driven forward a dialogue involving professionals and institutions from many countries. The Italian edition fits right into this path: a concrete opportunity to share ideas and solutions useful for the development of the sector.*"

Thomas Rosolia, Managing Director of Koelnmesse Italia, added: "*The opening of FSB Forum Italy confirms how central the topic of sports facilities has become at an international level. Cities around the world are rethinking their public spaces and the role that sport can play in improving quality of life. This event was created with a very clear objective: to establish in Italy a place where the entire sports infrastructure value chain can meet, exchange ideas and create new opportunities. A place where companies can showcase innovation and solutions, where designers and industry professionals can discover new technologies, and where public administrations, institutions, federations, sports clubs and facility operators can find the expertise and tools they need to design, develop and redevelop the sports facilities of the future.*"

Ezio Ferrari, President of AIS - Associazione Impianti Sportivi, also commented: "In *2022, we conceived and launched Move City Sport with the aim of creating an event dedicated to the world of sport and, in particular, to sports facilities, bringing together institutions, public*

authorities, designers, companies, facility managers and industry operators around the same table. It was a challenge, but above all the realization of a dream. Today, that project is taking another significant step forward. With FSB Forum Italy, the journey that began with Move City Sport is evolving and gaining an international dimension, thanks to the experience and strength of an event such as FSB, the international benchmark for sports facilities and leisure spaces."

The inaugural ceremony also featured the participation and contribution of an institutional panel with speeches by **Federica Picchi**, Undersecretary for Sport and Youth of the Lombardy Region; **Claudia Maria Terzi**, Regional Minister for Infrastructure and Public Works of the Lombardy Region and **Marcella Messina**, Municipal Councilor for Social Policy, Longevity, Health, and Sport of the City of Bergamo.

The first day saw the arrival of over **160 exhibitors from 17 countries**, a figure that confirms international interest in a sector that today intersects **sport, urban policy, public health, and social inclusion**. Sports facility infrastructure, traditionally linked to competitive or recreational practice, is taking on a broader role: courts, gyms, playgrounds, and equipped areas are increasingly viewed as social **hubs—places capable of generating well-being**, community gathering, and opportunities for communities of all sizes.

FSB Forum Italy, scheduled for **November 11 and 12**, was created precisely to respond to this transformation. The first day opened a dialogue among **administrations, designers, managers, companies, and associations**, called to discuss the most pressing challenges of the sport & leisure system: facility redevelopment, energy sustainability, universal accessibility, new management models, safety, maintenance, and the integration of sports spaces into urban strategies.

FSB Forum Italy presents a **programme of conferences and workshops** dedicated to sports facilities, urban design, and landscape architecture, offering opportunities for professional development and discussion for professionals, public administrations, and companies. The conferences, created in collaboration with Move City Sport, Topscape Paysage, Seimedia, and AIS, offer analysis, strategic visions, and case studies on facility redevelopment, sustainability, technological innovation, and urban regeneration. The workshops complement the programme with practical and applied sessions designed to transfer technical skills and operational methodologies. The full schedule of events is completed by networking and matchmaking activities, fostering connections and collaboration opportunities across the entire supply chain.

The complete programme of conferences and workshops can be consulted at the following link: https://www.fsb-forum.com/it/eventi-e-convegni/convegni-e-workshop/

Numerous **Event Areas** were created at the fair in collaboration with the 6 partners: the **pickleball area** by Didattica Sport, the pump track area in collaboration with PARKITECT and Mysticfreeride ASD, the **parkour area** by GeoGym, the functional assessment area by OPES Bergamo APS, the

football pitch in collaboration with CSI Bergamo, and the **basketball court** supported by Joker Floors and Artisport.

The Event Areas, set up for demonstration purposes, attracted the attention of visitors and industry operators, showing firsthand how sports practices are influencing the design of public spaces by introducing technical solutions that require specialized expertise and a broader vision of contemporary facility design. The presence of these areas highlighted the event's aim to provide not only theoretical insights, but also concrete experiences and real-world applications.

One of the most significant elements of this first edition was the **direct dialogue** between **companies, institutions, and public administration**. FSB Forum Italy offers a structured interaction model, designed to foster the sharing of expertise, the definition of common priorities, and the creation of joint projects. It is an event that confirms the importance of a long-term reference platform, essential for supporting local organisations in their transition toward play and sports environments that are better integrated into the social fabric.

The project gathered **49 endorsements** from **associations, federations, and sports organisations,** a figure that demonstrates the industry's desire to recognise and support a dedicated platform. The diversity of the entities involved, including federations, sports promotion agencies, technical associations, and local organisations, confirms the cross-cutting nature of sports facilities, which today represent a convergence point for sport, urban planning, welfare, and youth policies.

The inaugural day confirmed the need for a stable platform dedicated to the future of sports facilities and public spaces, marking a significant step for the entire sector. Indeed, the launch of FSB Forum Italy opens a new perspective for the industry, offering a space for discussion that will help define strategies, priorities, and development models for the cities and communities of the coming years.

Koelnmesse – Global Inspiration for Living, Contract and Public Spaces

Koelnmesse is the world's largest trade fair organiser for the Living, Contract, and Public Spaces sectors. Major international trade fairs such as ORGATEC, interzum, FSB, aquanale, and spoga+gafa take place at the Cologne exhibition center, becoming renowned and established meeting points for the industry. This solid portfolio is further enriched by imm cologne and idd cologne, both of which are also held in Cologne. These trade fairs comprehensively represent the interior and design segments, furniture and interior subcontracting, the world of kitchens, all topics related to modern working environments, garden lifestyle, as well as public spaces, sports and recreational facilities, and the sauna, swimming pool, and wellness center sectors.

In addition to this, Koelnmesse is strategically expanding its portfolio in growing international markets. The imm brand family now includes imm India and IFFINA+ powered by imm cologne in Indonesia. The ORGATEC brand has consolidated a global presence with ORGATEC Tokyo, ORGATEC India, and ORGATEC WORKSPACE Saudi Arabia. The international presence of the interzum brand extends to

interzum Guangzhou, interzum Bogotá, interzum Jakarta, and interzum forum italy. The FSB brand is also active internationally, with FSB Sports Show Riyadh and FSB Forum Italy in Bergamo. Furthermore, the portfolio includes La Feria De Diseño Medellín powered by idd cologne in Colombia.

Upcoming events:

FSB Sport and Show Riyadh, June 13–15, 2027

FSB, Cologne, October 26–29, 2027

Further press information will soon be available online at www.fsb-forum.com

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For further information:
Amina Piciotti
Ufficio Stampa
Tel. +39 339 6541776
amina.piciotti@koelnmesse.it