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Italy's tech ecosystem value reaches nearly $140 billion as VC investment hits $652 million in H1 2026

- Italy raised $652 million in venture capital during H1 2026, up 29% on H1 2025, while the country's tech ecosystem grew to $139.9 billion in enterprise value
- Europe recorded its strongest first half for venture investment since 2022, with $44.2 billion invested and AI funding already surpassing the whole of 2025
- Wave by Vento returns to Turin this October, with new speakers including Revolut’s Nik Storonski, joining Bending Spoons’ Luca Ferrari and others

Turin, Italy, XX August 2026: Italy's startup ecosystem continued to strengthen during the first half of 2026, raising $652 million in venture capital, according to new Dealroom data released by Wave by Vento, one of Europe's leading technology conferences.

The figures build on Italy's second-strongest year for venture investment on record in 2025 and come as the country's technology ecosystem continues to reach new milestones, including Bending Spoons' $25 billion public market debut in early July, highlighting the growing scale and international relevance of Italian technology companies.

Since 2022, the enterprise value of Italian tech companies has more than doubled from $63 billion to $139.9 billion, while the country's unicorn ecosystem has grown to $57.3 billion.

European momentum

Italy's progress comes as venture investment across Europe gathers pace. The continent’s startups raised $44.2 billion during the first half of 2026, with Q2 alone reaching $25.2 billion, Europe’s strongest quarter since 2022. In particular, European AI companies attracted $24.5 billion in investment during H1, already exceeding the $21.1 billion invested in 2025, showcasing a record six-month period. The continent is now also home to 717 unicorns with a combined value of

$2.8 trillion, as companies such as Revolut and Bending Spoons demonstrate Europe’s growing ability to build globally competitive technology businesses.

Italy's AI ecosystem is also continuing to mature. AI companies attracted $204 million during H1 2026, while the sector's enterprise value has grown to $8.2 billion — almost tripling since 2022 — and now supports around 25,000 jobs.

Among the largest Italian funding rounds during the first half of the year were WeRoad ($58 million), D-Orbit (€53 million), Smartness (€47 million), Lexroom (€42.9 million), Niulinx ($38 million), Subbyx (€30 million), MDOTM ($27 million), Webidoo ($25 million) and Dronus (€15 million), demonstrating growing strength across sectors including travel, AI, enterprise software, autonomous driving, space and advanced manufacturing.

Diyala D'Aveni, CEO of Vento, said: "Italy's startup ecosystem continues to move in the right direction. We are seeing more ambitious founders, more companies reaching meaningful scale and an ecosystem that is creating lasting value across an increasingly diverse range of sectors. Just look at the success of Bending Spoons, the largest European tech IPO in recent years, which will have a major impact on the flywheel, further widening the ecosystem. Wave by Vento exists to ensure Italian and European founders are part of the global innovation economy by connecting them with the world’s investors, operators and talent who can help them build category-defining companies."

Europe's next generation of tech leaders

Wave by Vento reflects this new phase in European technology, bringing together the founders and investors who are building the continent's next generation of globally significant companies. Formerly Italian Tech Week, the platform has evolved into a global meeting point for founders, investors and leaders shaping the future of technology. Built by Vento, Italy's most active private early-stage venture fund, Wave by Vento plays a central role in connecting Italian and European founders with global capital, helping accelerate the next generation of innovation.

This year's event will take place in Turin from 7 to 9 October and marks a new phase in scale and global relevance. Reflecting Europe’s growing ability to produce

globally significant technology companies, newly announced speaker Nik Storonski has built Revolut into one of the continent's most valuable startups and joins fellow European success stories including Luca Ferrari (Bending Spoons), alongside speakers including John Elkann (Exor, Stellantis & Ferrari), Jony Ive (LoveFrom), Antonio Filosa (Stellantis), Linda Rottenberg (Endeavor), Roxanne Varza (Station F), Kitty Mayo (Project Europe), Joe Tsai (Alibaba Group) and Luana Lara Lopes (Kalshi).

The programme has continued to expand, with newly announced speakers including Tim Berners-Lee (World Wide Web), Alex Kendall (Wayve), alongside leaders from funds and companies including Miro, Replit, Dealroom, Airwallex, Moon Surgical, General Catalyst, Accel and Morgan Stanley.

This follows a record-breaking 2025 edition that welcomed more than 15,000 attendees, including Jeff Bezos and Ursula von der Leyen, and continues to grow as a platform where Europe meets the world.

Demand for the 2026 programme is high, with the super early bird tickets already sold out. Attendees are encouraged to secure their passes soon. More details on the 2026 programme and speakers will be announced in the coming weeks. For passes and updates, visit: https://wavebyvento.com/getyourpass

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About Wave by Vento

Since 2018, Wave by Vento (formerly Italian Tech Week) has established itself as one of Europe's most influential tech conferences, bringing together founders, investors, operators and policymakers from across Europe and beyond. Each year, the event hosts global technology leaders and entrepreneurs to debate the most pressing questions shaping the future of innovation, from AI and company building to geopolitics and the physical economy.

Held annually in Turin and organised by Vento, Wave has welcomed speakers including Jeff Bezos (Amazon), Ursula von der Leyen (European Commission), Sam Altman (OpenAI), Patrick Collinson (Stripe), Reid Hoffman (LinkedIn), Daniel Ek

(Spotify) and Brian Chesky (Airbnb). The event has become a key meeting point where Europe's growing startup ecosystem connects with the global tech community.

For more information, visit https://wavebyvento.com/ and follow Wave by Vento on LinkedIn, Instagram, X, and YouTube.

About Vento

Vento is a venture capital firm backing early-stage startups with at least one Italian founder as they build globally. With its second €75M fund launched in January 2025 and fully backed by Exor, Vento has backed 190+ companies to date, becoming Italy's most active private early-stage fund. Headquartered in Turin, Vento is chaired by John Elkann.

Beyond investing, Vento supports the ecosystem through Reef, a five-month venture-building program in Turin that brings together 40 talented individuals each year to form teams and launch new startups, and Wave (formerly Italian Tech Week), its flagship event gathering 15,000+ people annually.

For more information, visit https://www.vento.ventures/