

16 January 2026

Banca d'Italia and Central Bank of Ireland launch first joint Innovation Data Challenge

Banca d'Italia and Central Bank of Ireland are launching the Innovation Data Challenge 2026, a joint initiative designed to foster cutting-edge research and innovation in the retail payments sector.

The Challenge reflects the shared commitment of the two Institutions to promoting applied research, international collaboration, and the responsible use of data and technology to shape the future of payments.

The initiative brings together leading Italian and Irish universities, including Università commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Politecnico di Milano, Università degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope, University College Dublin, University College Cork, University of Galway, and University of Limerick.

Students will work with both synthetic and real-world financial datasets accessed through a secure data platform, enabling them to develop innovative, data-driven research while meeting the highest standards of data protection.

At the conclusion of the Challenge, selected research projects will be presented to an international panel of experts, providing participants with valuable opportunity to explore the transformative role of technology and data in retail payments.

Through the Innovation Data Challenge 2026, Banca d'Italia and Central Bank of Ireland reaffirm their commitment to supporting academic excellence and applied research, while encouraging new perspectives on shaping the future of payments.