

In my role as Innovation expert at the Banking Supervision of the Bank of Italy, I had the chance to attend a workshop in the context of “FINTECH HO-2020, FINTECH RISK MANAGEMENT”, the initiative promoted by the EC aiming at developing an EU platform composed by authorities, universities, fintech experts and fintech firms in order to establish a “place” where knowledge, skills and competences, research and results are exchanged, and new ideas flourish.

Namely, I attended the suptech workshop “Blockchain and Risk Management”, held in Paris on 19 March 2019. The main elements I’d like to share with you are the following:

- 1) The workshop offered a very wide perspective of the controversial Fintech topics in EU. The format of the FINTECH HO 2020 initiative fits perfectly the objective to overcome the criticalities at national level thanks to coordination and integration of information. In fact, the speeches was both high level and deeply technical, in order to open the discussion to general topics but also give the chance to specialized people to exchange on statistical or mathematical details. Besides, thanks to the network sessions, the workshop was a perfect occasion to exchange views with peers, ask questions to academics and experts, building network in the FINECH world.
- 2) The speakers were of the utmost profile and the topics discussed were mixed, both in terms of disciplines (statistics, tree forest theory, legal, regulation) as well as of profoundness and technicalities, so that all participants could interact irrespectively of their personal background.
- 3) The chance to establish a network of high-level fintech experts is definitely key. The FINTECH HO 2020 workshop helps participant to build a huge number of professional fruitful relationships in order to foster bilateral exchanges but also develop further initiatives with partners pertaining to prominent EU and overseas universities, legal firms specialized in data privacy and GDPR, supervisory authorities.
- 1) Once the core topics of the FINTECH – algorithm, suptech, regtech – would be clearer, the same FINTECH2020 format could be adopted for further investigations in many different directions. For example, the Covid-19 tracing apps. Or assessment of legal (data privacy and confidentiality; ownerships of data) and regulatory aspects (entry of non-regulated operators into the banking and financial market, new risks brought by the PSD2 into the system).
- 4) In terms of whole organization, the FINTECH HO 2020 program can undoubtedly be defined as effective and efficient. Information on the workshop program, agenda and speakers were disseminated very well in advance. The information on the content of the workshop was fully consistent with the effective presentations and the final take away of participants.
- 5) Full support to participants were provided by the organization.