

Doing business in Italy

With a population of 60 million and a GDP of €1,548.816bn billion in 2010 Italy has established political, defence and trade relationships with UK and is one of the UK's largest markets.

Introduction

Italy is one of one of the top world's exporters and ranks among the world's eight largest economies. Thanks to its geographical position it is a gateway to the whole Mediterranean and a crossway between North and South. It is a market with a population of about 60 million which appreciates British technologies and professional services, but also upper market consumer goods. An experienced local UKTI team can help you explore trade opportunities in various sectors.

Italy is one of one of the top world's exporters and ranks among the world's eight largest economies. UK exports in goods to Italy in 2011 were valued at 9.888 billion pounds, a 12% increase on 2010.

What are the Opportunities?

Key opportunities include clothing and footwear, construction, creative & media, defence & security, environment, finance, food & drink, ICT and healthcare. In addition there will be opportunities for UK companies in the large infrastructure projects planned for the World Expo to be held in Milan in 2015.

Biotechnology sector in Italy

Healthcare in Italy is supported by active networks of biotechnology, biomedical and pharmaceutical companies.

Biotechnology

The Italian biotechnology sector is young and dynamic. According to the latest data (2011), there are 394 biotech companies and Italy is the third European country for the number of pure biotech companies (248), after Germany and the UK. The sector employs 52,000 staff with a turnover of €7bn, +4% compared to the previous year. The innovation capacity has been steadily increasing: at present 319 products for therapeutic purposes are under development, focusing mainly at oncology and neurology. Of these, 138 are included in the pure biotech area.

Biomedical

The biomedical sector comprises instruments, diagnostics (IVD, laboratory, self monitoring, allergy therapies etc.), medical /biomedical devices (orthopedics, dialysis, cardio, sutures, incontinence, anesthesiology, breast prosthesis, wound care, urology etc.), telemedicine, e-health products and services. According to data provided by the Italian trade association Assobiomedica, in Italy there are more than 200 companies active in the biomedical sector with a total turnover in 2010 of €7bn and 16,000 staff. This sector is characterized by strong import activities from foreign markets, also because of the general demand for better quality services and products.

Pharmaceutical

The Italian pharmaceutical sector is a key area for the Italian economy and for the hi-tech sector. It counts 334 companies (of which 95 active in the raw material pharmaceutical sector), employs 66,700 people (of which 6,050 R&D employees) and has a total production value of €25bn (56% for exports). Italy is third in the EU (after Germany and France) for number of companies, output value, employment and SME presence. The Italian pharmaceutical sector shows a strong presence of foreign companies and multinationals carrying out R&D activities. This is due to the widely recognized quality of researchers and research activities.

Source: UK Trade & Investment (<http://www.ukti.gov.uk>)

View content: <http://bit.ly/1925Khg>, <http://bit.ly/19XKKYf>

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