

Open banking: partnership between Nexi and Microsoft

Microsoft Italia joins Nexi Open, the ecosystem of services launched by Nexi Cloud, artificial intelligence and big data for the creation of new digital solutions that banks will be able to offer their customers

Milan, 6 May 2020 - **Nexi** and **Microsoft Italia** announce a strategic partnership with the aim of supporting banks and companies in taking advantage of the business opportunities offered by **open banking**.

Microsoft is joining **Nexi Open**, the open banking ecosystem recently launched by **Nexi** which, in addition to offering the PayTech firm's digital services, partners with the most innovative companies in the technology and fintech sectors, accelerators, start-up incubators, consulting companies and research centres.

The primary objective of the partnership is to exploit the opportunities for the creation of new products and services offered by the cloud, artificial intelligence and big data: all elements that offer great development potential in open banking and in financial services in general.

The partnership with Microsoft comes in addition to the enormous investments that Nexi has already made to form a team of more than 60 professionals specialised in artificial intelligence and advanced analytics tasked with creating highly advanced products, such as the Nexi Business app.

Nexi and Microsoft will work together to accelerate the development of digital skills, leveraging the content provided by **Microsoft's e-learning** platforms. Finally, the two companies will strengthen their collaboration with the **Microsoft for Startups** programme, an initiative that will allow Nexi to accelerate the growth of innovative fintech companies with technical and business support from Microsoft, in synergy with its role as co-founder of the Fintech Hub in Milan (in partnership with Plug and Play).

The distinctive assets provided by Microsoft will thus be of great importance: these include the collaboration with Microsoft for Startups, the acceleration programme to support startups, digital resources and skills for innovation in financial services and events, workshops and joint meetings to identify and support innovative ideas. In particular, it will provide access to the content of the platforms Microsoft Learn and Microsoft AI Business School in various joint training initiatives dedicated to the topics of digital and artificial Intelligence, technologies underpinning innovative services, by also drawing on the company's extensive ecosystem of partners.

Microsoft's inclusion in Nexi Open allows Nexi to offer its partner banks an opportunity to further accelerate their technological transformation, to acquire digital skills and to offer increasingly personalised, high-value products and services to their customers, be they companies or individuals.

*“The partnership with Microsoft allows us to welcome to Nexi Open one of the leading global technology players,” commented **Roberto Catanzaro, Business Development Director at Nexi.** “The agreement is not only a testament to the international perspective that characterises the ecosystem that we have created in the open banking sector, but also a demonstration that we offer our partner banks concrete solutions that allow the development of diverse, distinctive services to expand the scope of their ranges.”*

*“The banking services sector is undergoing a phase of profound transformation, enabled by new models of digital interaction,” said **Barbara Cominelli, Chief Operating Officer Microsoft Italy.** “Thanks to this partnership with Nexi, we can accelerate innovation in this market, bring new value to consumers and investors with an open approach that involves various market players, from established firms to startups and new business ideas, joining forces on the subjects of training and the digital skills needed to create innovative financial services.”*

Nexi is a PayTech firm serving banks listed on Borsa Italiana’s MTA market, a digital payments leader in Italy with consolidated partnerships with about 150 banking institutions representing 80% of the number of branches of the banking system in Italy. Through its technology it connects banks, merchants and citizens, enabling digital payments. Nexi's mission is to make every payment digital and facilitate the development of the digitalisation of Italy. Nexi operates in three market segments: Merchant Services & Solutions, Cards & Digital Payments and Digital Banking Services.

Founded in 1975, **Microsoft** is a world leader in software, services and Internet technologies for managing the information of individuals and businesses. It offers a complete range of products and services to enable everyone to improve the results of their activities thanks to its software, at any time, in any place and with any device. Full information regarding Microsoft is available at <https://www.microsoft.com/it-it/>.

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