



**WOMEN ECONOMIC FORUM
THE MEDITERRANEAN
CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION, BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE**

**PALERMO, OCTOBER 30th - NOVEMBER 1st 2025
VILLA ZITO, FONDAZIONE SICILIA**





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HAMIDA AMAN

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Honored with France's highest civilian award "Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur"

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CEO, Fahimeh Robiollé Consulting & Training

Honored with France's highest civilian award "Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur"

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UNF and recipient of WEF's Woman of the Decade Award*

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President, Make Mothers Matter

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President, Sicily Foundation

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CARLA BASSU

*Full Professor of Comparative Public Law,
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sassari*

F. ALBERTO CARRARA

President, International Institute of Neurobioethics – IINBE

SHARON CITTONE

*G100 Global Chair Food Systems and Resilience, Founder & CEO Edible Planet Ventures,
CEO Milan Longevity Summit, Council Member World Agriculture Forum, Affiliate Professor EIS*

CHIARA CORAZZA

*President CCC, French Representative G20 EMPOWER,
Member G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, Affiliate Professor, ESCP Business School*

AMBASSADOR STAFFAN DE MISTURA

*Professor, SciencesPo, UN Under-Secretary-General
Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara*

ELENA GRIFONI WINTERS

Professor of Space Policy and Governance, Gran Sasso Science Institute

VALERIA TERMINI

*Full Professor of Economics, Roma Tre University
UN High level dialogue on Energy, SDG Action*

ERSILIA VAUDO

*Astrophysicist, European Space Agency,
President of the Association Il Cielo Itinerante*



Why Sicily? Why Palermo?

Sicily is the beating heart of the Mediterranean – a crossroads of peoples, cultures, and ideas since the dawn of history. Here, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East meet, not as borders but as bridges.

Palermo, with its Arab-Norman splendor, Greek and Spanish echoes, and deeply Italian soul, embodies the essence of dialogue and coexistence. It is a city that has always known how to transform diversity into richness, difference into beauty.

Choosing Palermo for the Women Economic Forum for the Mediterranean means celebrating this legacy of openness and exchange – and reminding ourselves that the future of this region depends on rediscovering what unites us: cooperation, inclusion, and shared humanity.

From this island that has always looked both to the sea and beyond it, we look ahead – to a new era of understanding, innovation, and peace across the Mediterranean.



Marilena Citelli Francese

President, Women Economic Forum, Italy



Palermo, a Mediterranean Crossroad of Culture and Future

The Women Economic Forum. The Mediterranean is a remarkable opportunity to rediscover the deep cultural and human connections that unite our region – a true crossroads of civilizations, knowledge, and creativity.

In Palermo, a city that has embodied for centuries the dialogue among peoples and faiths, the Forum reminds us that the Mediterranean is not merely a sea dividing continents, but a living space of exchange, inclusion, and shared destiny.

By bringing together women and men from academia, institutions, business, and the arts, the WEF reaffirms the power of knowledge and collaboration as essential tools to address the great challenges of our time – from climate change to social justice, from education to peace.

It is a true honor to be part of this journey, which places the human being – and especially women – at the heart of sustainable progress and renewed hope for the future.



Prof. Maria Concetta Di Natale
President, Sicily Foundation







PROGRAM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

10:30 am **Welcome Remarks**

Roberto Lagalla, Mayor of City of Palermo

Maria Concetta Di Natale, President, Sicily Foundation

Massimo Midiri, Dean, University of Palermo

Laura Mattarella, Honorary Committee President, Women Economic Forum, Italy

Marilena Citelli Francese, President, Women Economic Forum, Italy

11:30 am **Pioneering Women: Redefining Contemporary Leadership**

President: Chiara Corazza, President CCC, French Representative G20 EMPOWER, Member G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, Affiliate Professor, ESCP Business School

Lunch

2:30 pm **Feeding the Future: Innovation & Strategies for a Resilient Food System**

President: Sharon Cittone, G100 Global Chair Food Systems and Resilience, Founder & CEO Edible Planet Ventures, CEO Milan Longevity Summit, Council Member World Agriculture Forum, Affiliate Professor EIIIS

4:30 pm **Climate-Ready Cities: Bridging Sea, Infrastructure, and Innovation**

President: Valeria Termini, Full Professor of Economics, Roma Tre University, UN High level dialogue on Energy, SDG Action

8:00 pm **Private dinner at Osteria Ballarò**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

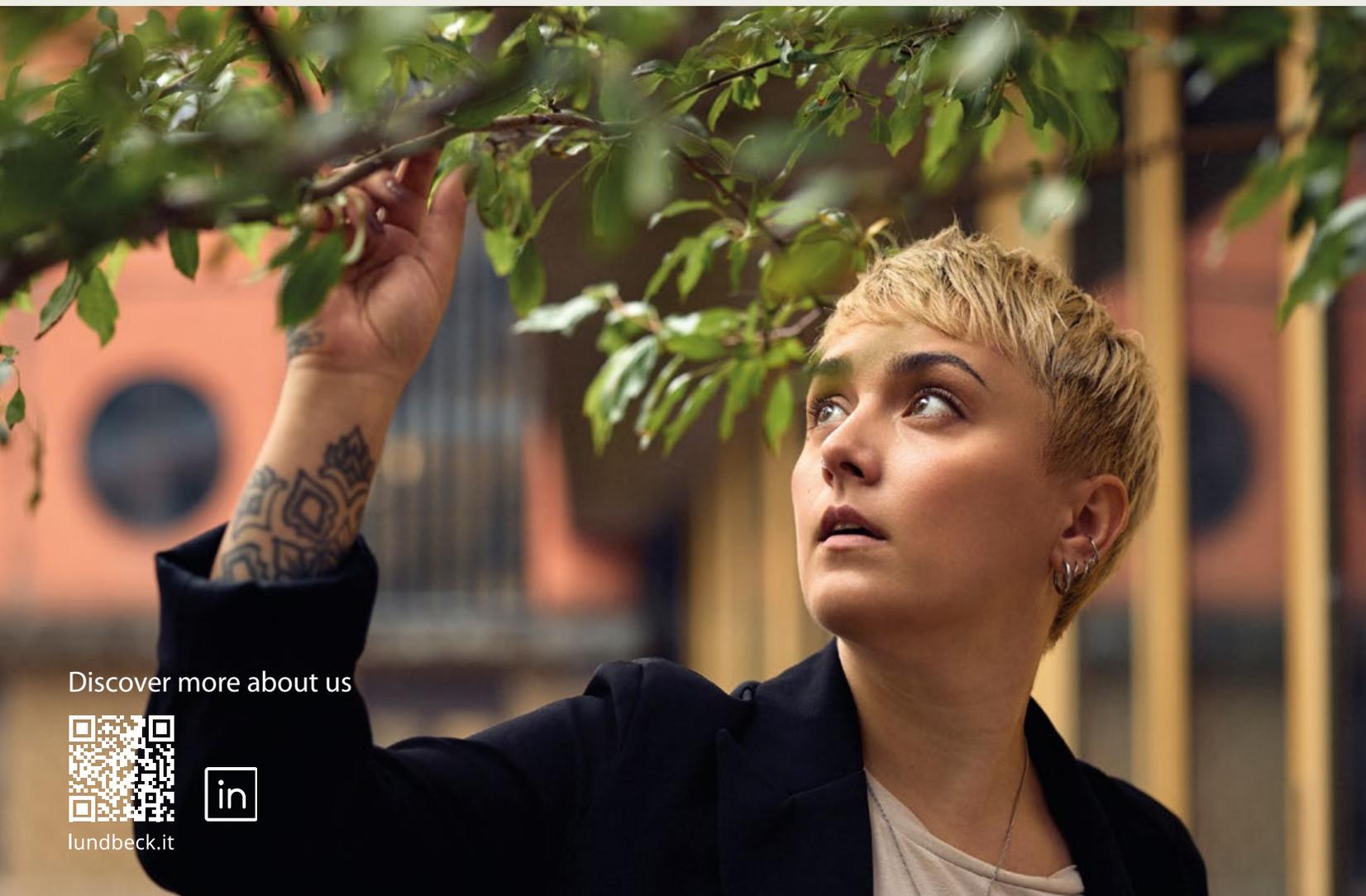
- 10:00 am ***Healthcare Without Borders: Challenges & Cooperation Across the Mediterranean***
President: F. Alberto Carrara, *President of the International Institute of Neurobioethics - IINBE*
- 11:30 am ***Algorithms & Truth: Media, Social Platforms & Influencers in the Disinformation Age***
President: Carla Bassu, *Full Professor of Comparative Public Law, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sassari*
- Lunch**
- 2:30 pm ***Space, Peace & Security: A New Frontier of Global Responsibility***
President for Space: Elena Grifoni Winters, *Professor of Space Policy and Governance, Gran Sasso Science Institute*
President and Guest of Honor for Peace & Security: Ambassador Staffan De Mistura, *Professor, SciencesPo, UN Under-Secretary-General, Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara*
- 4:30 pm ***Educating for the Future: The Evolving Role of Schools in Society***
President: Ersilia Vaudo, *Astrophysicist, European Space Agency, President of the Association Il Cielo Itinerante*
- 8:30 pm ***Gala Dinner at Palazzo Branciforte and International Awards***

Our commitment



Advancing brain health. Transforming lives.

For over 30 years in Italy, Lundbeck has been driving innovation in neuroscience, aware that patients, their caregivers, and society as a whole depend on our commitment.



Discover more about us



lundbeck.it

About Lundbeck

Lundbeck is a biopharmaceutical company focusing exclusively on **brain health**.

With more than 70 years of experience in neuroscience, we are committed to improving the lives of people with neurological and psychiatric diseases.

Brain disorders affect a large part of the world's population, and the effects are felt throughout society.

With the rapidly improving understanding of the biology of the brain, we hold ourselves accountable for advancing brain health by curiously exploring new opportunities for treatments.

As a **focused innovator**, we strive for our research and development programs to tackle some of the most complex neurological challenges. We develop transformative medicines targeting people for whom there are few or no treatments available, expanding into neuro-specialty and neuro-rare from our strong legacy within psychiatry and neurology.

We are committed to fighting stigma and we act to improve **health equity**. We strive to create long term value for our shareholders by making a positive contribution to patients, their families and society as a whole.

Since 1994, Lundbeck has been working in Italy alongside patients, their caregivers, healthcare professionals, and institutions with the aim of concretely improving the quality of life of people living with brain disorders.

Based in Milan, our offices reflect our culture: modern and sustainable spaces designed to enhance talent and promote **employee well-being**.

We are a young company – with the dynamism of youth necessary to face the future – but characterized by a rich heritage of specialized knowledge and experience, making us a reference **partner** in research and innovation in neuroscience.

With over **10 molecules marketed in Italy**, including 4 antidepressants of Lundbeck's research, we continue to advance brain health, developing therapies capable of making a difference for those affected by psychiatric and neurological disorders.

For additional information, we encourage you to visit our corporate site **www.lundbeck.com** and connect with us via LinkedIn.

Advancing brain health. Transforming lives.





SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Hamida AMAN



Hamida Aman is an Afghan media entrepreneur and founder of the Begum Organization for Women who has made significant contributions to Afghan women's rights. In 2024, she was recognized as one of the BBC's 100 inspirational women.

Studied journalism, and worked for the Swiss press. When the Taliban regime fell at the end of 2001, she returned to Kabul, where she worked for various international NGOs supporting Afghan media's development

In 2020, together with others, she founded the *Begum Organization for Women*. This organization aims to defend Afghan women's rights through various media

When American forces withdrew from Afghanistan in August 2021, Hamida had already launched, *Radio Begum*, in the preceding March and this was important. The Taliban's approach to governance led to what was later termed *gender apartheid*, as women were excluded from public life, and secondary schools and universities were reserved for boys and men.

Carla BASSU

Carla Bassu is a full professor of comparative public law at the University of Sassari, where she also teaches institutions of public law and public tourism law. She serves as the Deputy Director of the Department of Human and Social Sciences at UNISS, is the president of the School of Politics (<https://scuoladipolitiche.eu/>), and is registered in the special register of university professors' lawyers of the Sassari Bar, being admitted to represent clients before the Court of Cassation and higher courts.

Attentive to issues related to fundamental rights and the form of state and government from a comparative perspective, she collaborates with the Arel research center – a research and legislation agency founded by Beniamino Andreatta (<https://www.arel.it/>). She is the author of the blog Alley Oop for Il Sole 24 Ore (<https://alleyoop.ilsole24ore.com/author/carlabassu/>), the constitutional dissemination website www.appunticostituzionali.com, and numerous scholarly publications on comparative public and constitutional law, including the monographs: "Terrorism and Constitutionalism. Comparative Paths," Giappichelli, Turin 2010; "Australia," Il Mulino, Bologna 2012; "Protection of Rights and the Comparative Method. Experiences from the Antipodes," CEDAM 2017; "The Right to Personal Identity. The Maternal Surname between Individual Identity and the Principle of Equality," Editoriale Scientifica, Naples 2021; "Fundamental Freedoms and Constitutional Regression. Why Rights are not Irreversible Conquests," Il Mulino 2025.



Ouided BOUCHAMAOU



Mrs. Ouided Bouchamaoui was the first woman elected in 2011 to serve as President of UTICA, the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade, and Handicrafts.

Member of the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, which was awarded *the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015*, she is also recognized as one of the Top 25 Business Women in Africa by Jeune Afrique. She was awarded the “Best Businesswoman of the Arab World” in 2013, under the auspices of the G8 Deauville Partnerships. She also won the Oslo Business for Peace Award in 2014. In November 2015, His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden honored her with The Royal Order of the Polar Star. Additionally, she was awarded the title of Grand Officer of the Order of the Republic by Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi. Additionally, in 2015, she was awarded the Legion d’Honneur by French President François Hollande.

Mrs. Bouchamaoui is a member of the Board of Directors of the U.N. University for Peace in Costa Rica and serves as Vice President of the European Center for Peace and Development. In April 2024, she assumed her role as a Professor of Practice in Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution at NYUAD.

Daniela CAROSIO

Daniela Carosio, graduated in psychology and specialized in communication theories She began her managerial experience in business, which led her to deal with corporate communication, strategies, management training and corporate governance. In Governance she has held various positions: she was a Board Member of FERROVIE DELLO STATO for two terms; subsequently she served on the Board of Directors of TRENITALIA, and then joined the Board of Trainose, now HELLENIC TRAIN, the Italian–Greek railways. Previously she was a Board Member of BURSON MARSTELLER (Young & Rubicam Group). She is currently part of the CeSPI Scientific Committee, a think tank that carries out a research and analysis role on relevant topics and international policies. Today she is Vice President of BVTECH and Member of the Advisory Board of INTESASANPAOLO for the Impact project, and works for the Institute’s Communication and Public Affairs projects. Among her main professional experiences she was Director of EY Communications in Italy (Ernst Young) and General Secretary of the EY Italia Onlus Foundation. She was Central Director for Communications and Institutional Affairs of the FERROVIE DELLO STATO GROUP. Previously she covered the role of General Director and Member of the Board of Directors at BURSON MARSTELLER, Director of External Relations and External and Internal Communication of SWEDA and Fineur. Among her communication roles she worked for Credito Italiano, Iri, Sweda, Class Mobiltecnica, Fineur, Anker Data Sistem, Siv (Società Italiana Vetro). She has always carried out teaching activities on the topics of corporate communication at universities, management training schools, institutes, etc.



F. Alberto CARRARA, LC



Alberto Carrara, born in 1980, is a Catholic priest, academic, and Corresponding Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. He holds a background as a Chemical-Biological Laboratory Technician, a Doctorate in Medical Biotechnology from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Padua, a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Mind and Neuroethics, and a Bachelor's degree in Catholic Theology.

At the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome, he serves as Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Director of the Interdisciplinary Research Group in Neurobioethics (GdN), Full Professor of Philosophical Anthropology and Neuroethics, and Fellow of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights.

Since 2017, he has also been Full Professor of Anthropology and Neuroethics at the Faculty of Psychology of the European University of Rome (UER). In addition, he is a M.I.U.R.-recognized Professor and Member of the Scientific Council of S.I.S.P.I. (International School of Specialization with Imaginative Procedure), as well as a Member of the Scientific Committee of the Brain Research Foundation

Onlus, and an active member of both the International Neuroethics Society (INS) and the Italian Society of Neuroethics (SINE). Since October 2021, he has served as President of the International Institute of Neurobioethics (IINBE). Collaborating with Stephen M. Stahl since 2017 in the field of neuroethics of severe psychiatric disorders, he is also a Founding Member of ICONN – the International College of Neuroethics and Neuroscience.

Emmanuel CONTE

Deputy Mayor of the City of Milan for Budget, State Property and Extraordinary Housing Plan

Born in Eboli in 1979, he moved to Milan to study at Bocconi University, where he graduated in Political Economy.

After completing his studies, he began working within the Banca Intesa Group and collaborated with other financial institutions, including Borsa Italiana.

In 2016 he was elected City Councillor of the City of Milan. During his first term, he served as Chairman of the Budget Committee.

After being re-elected in 2021, Mayor Giuseppe Sala appointed him Deputy Mayor for Financial, Economic and Asset Resources. In 2025, following the reorganisation of municipal portfolios, Mayor Sala appointed him Deputy Mayor for Budget, State Property and the Extraordinary Housing Plan.

In this role, he is responsible for defining policies on revenues, expenditures, investments and local taxation, as well as overseeing municipal assets and state property. He also guides the implementation of the Extraordinary Housing Plan and supervises the financial aspects of municipal companies.



Sharon CITTONE



Founder and CEO of Edible Planet Ventures. GI00 Global Chair 4 Food Innovation, Food Tech Junkies Podcast Host, Ecosystem Builder and Community Shaper, Board Member, Mentor and Advisor, TedX Speaker & Expert.

Sharon is a leading figure in the global food and agricultural innovation ecosystem, leveraging her extensive background in communications and business to drive positive change. Recognized as one of Forbes' most influential women shaping the future of food, she has dedicated over a decade to building connections and fostering collaboration across startups, corporations, investors, policymakers, institutions, and youth.

At the heart of Sharon's philosophy is the belief in forging connections and catalyzing collaborative efforts to drive systemic change within food systems. In 2021, she founded Edible Planet Ventures, a platform aimed at convening industry leaders to address pressing challenges in the food system. Sharon's impact extends beyond entrepreneurship; she is actively engaged in various roles, including hosting the FoodTech Junkies Podcast and serving on the World Agriculture Forum's Council and on boards such as the AgrifoodTech Italia Association and The Complementary Protein Alliance.

In academia, Sharon contributes significantly as a member of the Faculty of the European Institute for Innovation and Sustainability Master program, specializing in agrifood and sustainability. She also shares her expertise as a mentor for initiatives like Rockstart Agrifood, EIC Scaling Club powered by Bpi France, Open Food Chain, 4WardVC and the FoodTech Accelerator, underscoring her status as a trusted authority in the field.

Sharon also remains steadfast in her commitment to fostering opportunities for women as the Global Chair for Food Innovation for the GI00, an organization promoting gender equality globally.

Recognized for her dedication to driving innovation and inclusivity within the global agrifood landscape, Sharon has received prestigious accolades and is frequently invited to speak at conferences and media outlets. Her journey is marked by innovation, leadership, and a relentless commitment to transforming the global food system for the better.



President CCC

French Representative G20 EMPOWER

Member G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council

Affiliate Professor, ESCP Business School

Italian and English, multilingual, Chiara Corazza, President of CCC, has forged economic and social ties in more than 100 countries. After 110 summa cum laude diploma in Political Science and a promising career as journalist at Il Globo in Rome, she arrived 40 years ago in Paris. Chiara Corazza is the Private Sector Representative for France within G20 EMPOWER, appointed by President Emmanuel Macron, and member of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council. In 2025, Chiara Corazza is spearheading the launch of the Global Leadership by Women Summit (Marseille, France, November 27), an initiative of CMA Média, part of the CMA CGM Group, promoting a new model of leadership: by women, for all.

She has been CEO at the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society (2017-2021). She is the author of the report 'Women at the heart of the economy', as part of the mission she was entrusted by the French Government after the G7 2019 Summit, proposing critical recommendations for the representation of girls and women in STEM and in the jobs of the future.

She was the Managing Director of the Greater Paris Investment Agency (2002-2016) to attract global investments to the Paris Region. As Director of International Affairs of Greater Paris (1985-2002), she created the Metropolis and implemented cooperation between Paris and 20 global capitals.

Chiara is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee for France and of the Arab International Women's Forum. In 2019, she was nominated as the French Foreign Trade Advisor. She has been independent board member of RATP and APRIL. She is an Affiliate Professor at ESCP Business School and a member of the international Advisory Board of ESCP Business School. She is also a member for France of the EESC (European Economic and Social Committee).

Chiara Corazza was named one of the "100 Women who Change the World" by La Repubblica and honoured in 2023 as "Legendary Woman of the Decade" by the Women Economic Forum (WEF).

She was awarded *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* by Christine Lagarde (2009) and *Ufficiale della Stella d'Italia* by President Sergio Mattarella (2015).

Anne-Claire de LIEDEKERKE



Anne-Claire de Liedekerke is President of Make Mothers Matter (MMM [link is external](#)), an international organisation that for the past seventy years has been placing mothers – the first educators of their children alongside fathers – at the heart of its mission, advocating for and supporting them as change makers for a better world. She firmly believes in recognizing motherhood as a determinant factor in the development of a culture of peace and for the progress of modern society. Anne-Claire leads teams of representatives at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna; at the UNESCO in Paris; and at the European Union in Brussels. MMM federates and gives a voice to mothers globally in the four main areas of peace, education, health and the economy. Through MMM's advocacy work and an expanding network of grassroots organisations working in the field with and for mothers, advocacy actions taken in the UN, European Union and UNESCO have influenced laws and measures directly benefiting mothers and families in their everyday life, and through them, the whole of society.

Anne-Claire joined MMM in 2008, heading the Delegation at the European Union, leading two major EU-funded research programs Family Platform and Dorian, and a major Survey about the well being of mothers in the EU. Anne-Claire holds a Master Degree in Art History from UCLouvain Belgium, and has been active in the cultural world throughout years of expatriation with her family in the United States and Canada.

Staffan de MISTURA

Staffan de Mistura was born in Stockholm and has both Italian and Swedish nationalities. He is a political science graduate from the 'La Sapienza' university in Rome cum laude.

He began working for the World Food Programme of the U.N. and continued his career within different organisations of the U.N. As project manager with WFP in southern Sudan he organised food aid convoys for villages isolated by civil conflicts.

He then worked as fundraising officer for FAO and then as liaison officer to the UN in New York leading a special mission in Vietnam to organise first food convoys to the Mao populations at the end of the war in 1975. In the following years he has been at the head of various UN emergency missions, such as leading the *UNICEF* mission breaking the siege of Dubrovnik and evacuating 4,570 women and children and bringing winter humanitarian relief convoys to the people of the besieged city of Sarajevo, with the assistance of Audrey Hepburn.

He also coordinated food assistance to Afghan populations impacted by the conflict between USSR and the Afghan resistance; assistance to the Kurdish population after the first Gulf War; and was Chief of the special UN mission sent to rescue communities who fled Saddam Hussein' repression in the Iraqi southern wetlands.

In more recent years he has been Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General first in Iraq then in Afghanistan with an interim as Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme and was also UN Special Envoy in Siria 2014/2018.

He has also covered posts for the Italian government as Deputy Foreign Minister of Italy and Undersecretary of State to the Foreign Minister of Italy.

He is currently Associate Professor at Sciences Po (Paris), Senior Visiting Fellow at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs (Yale University), Joseph S. Nye Jr International Affairs lecturer at the Woodrow Wilson School (Princeton).







What would life be like without infrastructure?

Without infrastructure, we would not have the world we know.

For the first time, a digital museum tells the story of the great works that shaped Italy's history, transforming it from an agricultural country into one of the world's leading economic giants. A 120-year journey to understand who we were, who we are, and who we want to become.

EVOLUTIO is the narrative of a journey: the one of Italy and other countries through the great infrastructure projects that have transformed economic and social conditions and lifestyles.

The initiative, conceived by the Webuild Group, celebrates over a century of know-how and work in major infrastructural projects that have accompanied Italy's progress over the last century. Inside the digital museum, unreleased images, videos, and testimonials restore the memory of a shared heritage while also looking to the future.



www.evolutio.museum

EVOLUTIO
BUILDING THE FUTURE FOR THE LAST 120 YEARS



Germana DI DOMENICO

PhD in Public Economics, Director at the Ministry of Economy and Finance within the Directorate for “European Financial Relations” of the Treasury Department, head of the Italian delegation and Vice Chair of the Economic Policy Committee under the ECOFIN Council. Responsible for analyses and studies on sustainable growth, structural reforms, and measures to reduce the gender gap. Author of numerous publications on these topics, she has also worked at the European Commission in Brussels.

Maria Concetta DI NATALE

Professor Maria Concetta Di Natale has served as President of Fondazione Sicilia since May 24th, 2024. An internationally renowned art historian, she is Honorary Professor at the University of Palermo, having previously served as Full Professor, Department Director, member of the Academic Senate, and Rector’s Delegate for exhibitions and cultural activities. Building upon the studies initiated in the last century by Maria Accascina on Sicilian decorative arts, Maria Concetta Di Natale has brought to light countless works and collections from Sicily, projecting the island’s artistic production of the Modern Era onto a European stage. Her nearly fifty years of research, exhibitions, and numerous scholarly publications now serve as a reference point for scholars across Europe. Her work is recorded in numerous scientific texts. Among these is *Gioielli di Sicilia*, the first study to reconstruct the history of Sicilian jewelry. She is Scientific Curator of the Treasury of the Cathedral of Palermo, of the Diocesan Museum of Monreale, and Scientific Director of the “Maria Accascina” Observatory for Decorative Arts in Italy, within the Department of Cultures and Society at the University of Palermo. She has curated numerous exhibitions and their respective catalogues, including *L’arte del corallo in Sicilia* (1986), *Ori e argenti di Sicilia* (1989), *Il Tesoro nascosto, gioie e argenti per la Madonna di Trapani* (1995), *Splendori di Sicilia. Arti decorative dal Rinascimento al Barocco* (2000), e *Materiali preziosi dalla terra e dal mare nell’arte trapanese e della Sicilia occidentale tra il XVIII e il XIX secolo* (2003). At Fondazione Sicilia, she chaired the scientific committee and contributed to exhibitions on Nino Geraci and Antonio Ugo. She curated *Le Estasi di Santa Rosalia* (2024) and was among the curators of *Eterna primavera. La Sicilia di Francesca di Carpinello* (2024).



Anna DORANGRICCHIA



Programme Manager on Gender Equality, Social & Civil Affairs Division, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat. She leads regional initiatives on women's economic empowerment, female entrepreneurship in green and tech sectors, and gender-lens investment and digital/financial inclusion. She has recently launched a regional Community of Practices on Gender, Environment and climate Change, a Community of Women in AI with more than 700 members and a regional Network on Climate, Women, peace and Security. Anna also coordinates the UfM Regional Policy Dialogue on Women Empowerment including 43 Member States and oversees the monitoring of UfM gender indicators since 2020. She leads the Gender Policy at the UfM.

Anna has been working for more than 15 years for several public and private institutions on fundraising in international cooperation frameworks as well in programme/project development and evaluation.

Maria Cristina FINUCCI

Maria Cristina Finucci (Lucca, Italy, 1956) is an architect and transmedia artist based in Rome. A graduate of the University of Florence and former visiting scholar at Columbia University, she has lived and worked in Moscow, New York, Paris, Brussels, and Madrid. In 2013, she founded *The Garbage Patch State*, an artistic and environmental project recognized by UNESCO, which transforms the issue of ocean plastic pollution into a powerful narrative through monumental installations worldwide. Her *Wasteland* series merges art, science, and media to address sustainability, ecology, and collective responsibility. Finucci's works have been exhibited internationally – including at the Venice Biennale, UNESCO (Paris), the UN Headquarters (New York), MAXXI (Rome), and EXPO Milan – and are part of major institutional collections. In 2018, she signed the UN 2030 Agenda as Head of State of *The Garbage Patch State* and later founded the Finucci Foundation. She has received numerous honors, including the *Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic*.

Sito web: <https://garbagepatchstate.org> – <https://mariacristinafinucci.com>





Francesca GALELLI

Francesca Gallelli is the Food Systems Policy Officer at the World Federation for Animals, a global coalition of 75 NGOs working to embed animal welfare into sustainable development worldwide. In her role, she strengthens the protection of animals within international food policies and leads the organisation's engagement with Rome-based agencies and other key stakeholders shaping more resilient and humane food systems.

Elena GRIFONI WINTERS

Elena Grifoni Winters is a Senior Level Executive in the aerospace sector, with extensive experience in the international, technological, policy and governance fields.

Since January 2024 she has been Visiting Professor of space politics and governance at the Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI) in L'Aquila (Italy). The GSSI is one of the 7 Italian schools of excellence for PhD/advanced studies and a research center in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Sciences and Social Sciences.

Before holding this position, until December 2023, she was Head of the Office of Space and Aerospace Policies at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome, Italy), i.e. responsible for the Italian space policy and with a supervisory role over its implementation.

Her professional path has been, and still is, mainly in the aerospace sector; in particular, Elena Grifoni Winters has had a long career at the European Space Agency (ESA) where she joined as a newly graduated software engineer at its Dutch research and development center, and rose to the role of Head of the Cabinet of the Director General of ESA (Head Quarters/Paris) – which she covered for 6 years.

On secondment from ESA, she worked for 5 years in the United States, at NASA in Washington D.C. and Houston, on the International Space Station program.

She was responsible for the secretariat of numerous international institutional commissions in the space sector and member of the Education and Space Commission of the Dutch Ministry of Education; she has been and still is engaged in public speaking activities and editorial collaborations in the space field.

In 2021 she was awarded the title of Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia.



Katrin GÜLDEN LE MAIRE



Dr. Katrin GÜlden is a Senior Advisor and independent researcher with 25 years experience in the finance, real estate and tech sector. She develops strategies and positions leaders and Boards with a strong focus on governance. Katrin selectively contributes to scientific debate and has authored contributions on ethics, character development and social cohesion. She has developed, trains and teaches the concept of «Governance as Culture».

Katrin participated in a 6-year long research project with 150 scientists globally, focusing on assessing the value hierarchies and circulation of powers in ten relevant systems that make up Western plurastic societies and affect human character. She is an advisor to ACTIVES, the French coalition promoting female senior talent to CAC40 companies, and a former advisor to the Policy Liaison Group ESG in Westminster/UK. She holds a PhD in Philosophy (epistemology), has a Chartered Certified Analyst ESG diploma and an Executive Masters in Communications next to a postgraduate Diploma in Financial Strategy. Katrin is also a trained theologian and successfully applies the EKS Cybernetics Management Strategy, which assesses power relations, dependencies and reciprocities affecting value creation in business, since 2007. She has created and co-created four small companies in three European countries and has lived and worked extensively in Germany, UK and France. Katrin is a speaker at conferences such as The Women's Forum or Women in Tech. She is married and a mother of two daughters.

Fiona HUNTER

Dr. Fiona Hunter is Associate Director at the Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation (CHEI) at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy where she manages the PhD Programme. She is Faculty and Scientific Council Member for the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) in Higher Education Leadership and Management Programme at LUISS Business School, Rome, Italy and Visiting Tutor at the University of Bath, United Kingdom where she supervises students on the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) in Higher Education Management. She is also a higher education consultant working with private, public and faith-based institutions around the world on strategic change and Scientific Council member of AVEPRO (Holy See's Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties).



Hind KABAWAT



Ms. Hind About Kabawat

Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Syrian Transitional Government.

Former Adjunct Professor, Director of Interfaith, Peacebuilding, and Conflict Resolution, CRDC, George Mason University.

Former President and founder of Tastakel Women Organization (www.tastakel.org).

Former Deputy Head, Syrian Negotiations Commission Office, Geneva Mission, Switzerland.

Former visiting scholar, Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School.

Guila Clara KESSOUS

UNESCO Artist for Peace and Vice President of the Union Nations Federation (ECOSOC consultative status with the UN), Dr. Guila Clara Kessous is an international award-winning executive coach dedicated to women's empowerment and leadership. Holding a PhD under the supervision of Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel and an Executive MBA from ESSEC Business School, she has supported more than 500 leaders worldwide in both public and private sectors for over 15 years. She has taught at Harvard University, SciencesPo Paris, and HEC Paris Executive Education and her research focuses on women empowerment and "heartificial intelligence." Recognized as a Rising Talent by the Women's Forum for the Economy and Society, she created the concept of Diplomatic Entrepreneurship and has been featured in Forbes and Harvard Business Review with her podcast «Women on Board». Named Officier des Arts et des Lettres and recipient of the Global Gift Women Empowerment Award, she is also the founder of The Sarah and Hajar Accords, a pioneering feminist diplomacy initiative, feminine equivalent of The Abraham Accords. In September 2025, she presented a historic resolution at the United Nations in Geneva during the PeaceTalks, advocating for women's quotas at the diplomatic negotiation table. At the Women Economic Forum Italy, she will be honored as Woman of the Decade.



Elena KUDRAVTSEVA



Elena Kudravtseva is a gender equality expert with over two decades of experience advancing women's rights and gender equality across global, regional, and national platforms. Currently serving as Senior Programme Officer at FAO, she leads strategic initiatives to empower women in agrifood systems and rural development, with a focus on land rights, livelihoods, and youth engagement. Elena brings a powerful blend of policy and programmatic expertise from her tenure at UN Women, private foundations, and academia, driving transformative change for women and girls worldwide.

Juliette LAMBIN



Head of Future Missions and Architecture Department in Earth Observation Programmes Directorate of the European Space Agency.

Juliette Lambin works at the European Space Agency (ESA) since April 2023, where she leads the Future Missions and Architecture Department in Earth Observation Programmes Directorate, overseeing future missions definition, and feasibility studies until they are decided for implementation. She has recently guided ESAERS European Resilience from Space initiative to strengthen space-based EO, Navigation, and Secure Connectivity assets to support Europeans autonomy and resilience. She graduated from Ecole Polytechnique (1997) and earned a PhD in geophysics from Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (2001). Ms Lambin worked at Caltech Seismo Lab and JPL in geophysics research, then held various positions at CNES (the French Space Agency) ranging across French Earth Observation missions developments, science strategy and programme management, and multilateral projects. In 2017-2023 she was the French Delegate to ESAERS Programme Board for Earth Observation, becoming its Chair in 2020. She was an IHEDN (Institut des Hautes Etudes de la Defense Nationale) Defense Policy auditor in 2019-2020, and became a Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur in 2023.

Giulia LANZA DI SCALEA

Psychologist, Agricultural Entrepreneur, Organic Farm Lanza di Scalea.

She manages the development of the farm dedicated to the production of almonds, pistachios, pomegranates, olives, and arable crops. She oversees the implementation of sustainable practices, the promotion of quality, and the valorization of local resources.

She manages the Villa Scalea, a historic 18th-century residence.

She is a psychologist, specializing in psychodynamic psychotherapy. She has worked in a shelter for women victims of violence.



Mette LAURSEN



Founder and CEO of LinkS. Focus on governance, leadership and strategy in collaboration as alliances across sectors. Cooperate with global decision makers and connecting to the collective powers of citizens. Executive management and board experience from global corporates, ministries, embassies, foundations, cultural institutions and top political environments.





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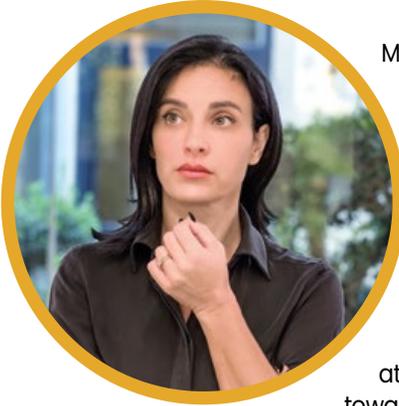
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UPMC Hillman Cancer Center San Pietro FBF - Roma

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Villa Maria - Mirabella Eclano

Milena LERARIO



Milena Lerario is CEO of e-GEOS since September 2024.

She graduated in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Pisa, specialising in Aerodynamics. She began her professional career in 2008 in Hamburg, Germany, at Industrie Hansa where she was involved in the A380 vertical tailplane repair campaign for Airbus Deutschland.

In 2011, she then moved on to wing production and certification for the A350XWB in Germany, France and England.

Over the years, she has held managerial roles in different functions, from Corporate Audit as Senior Corporate Operations Auditor to Human Resources, responsible at Group level for the contingent workforce, redeployment & diversity at the Airbus HQ in Toulouse.

In Madrid, between 2018 and 2022, she held the role of Head of Spacecraft Plant Production at national level, implementing a transformation and optimisation of industrial plant processes towards greater innovation and digitalisation.

In April 2022, she was appointed Managing Director of the Airbus Italia, Airbus Defence & Space unit in Italy with the mission of driving the transformation from service company to mass production.

Since September 2024, she has been CEO of e-GEOS and SVP of Telespazio's Geo-Info Business Line.

Awards and recognitions: Innovation Award – Women Excellence 2024; Inspiring Fifty 2024; Forbes Top 100 Managers 2022; 50 MPW Fortune Italia; Premio Heraclea 2024.

Enza LO RE

Dr. Enza Lo Re, MD, FEBN, is Head of the Neurology Service at IRCCS ISMETT-UPMC and Clinical Assistant Professor of Neurology at the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her medical degree and completed her neurology residency at the University of Palermo. In 2014, she established ISMETT-UPMC's neurology service, specializing in neurological complications in patients with end-stage organ diseases and solid organ transplants (SOT).

Her research focuses on brain injury mechanisms related to chronic liver (liver-brain axis) and kidney diseases (kidney-brain axis) and developing brain health programs for transplant candidates and recipients. Dr. Lo Re is also a member of the Alzheimer's Association Global Consortium, studying neurological effects in immunocompromised SOT recipients post-SARS-CoV-2. As part of the Italian Ministry of Health's Gender Medicine program, she promotes research and care that consider gender differences in neurological health.



Elspeth MCOMISH

Gender team lead, Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality, Education Sector, UNESCO.

Elspeth McOmish is Gender and education team lead at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. Her current work focuses on building international partnerships and strategies for gender equality in and through education, in particular through monitoring and support to policies, planning and curriculum development. Prior to this, Elspeth worked in the Organization's Santiago Office, managing programmes on disaster risk reduction, skills development and education for sustainable development. She has degrees in education, history and international law.



Tiziana MELE

Tiziana Mele has been leading Lundbeck Italy as Managing Director since November 2018. She joined the company in 2014 as Marketing Manager. She quickly rose through the ranks, taking on the role of Commercial Director before becoming, at the age of 39, the first Italian woman to head the Italian affiliate of the Danish multinational.

She graduated with honors from Bocconi University and began her career in strategic consulting at KPMG. She later transitioned into the pharmaceutical industry, where she gained extensive and cross-functional experience in areas such as market access, marketing, and sales.

A determined, tenacious, and highly skilled professional, she has built her career through unwavering dedication and a clear vision of her goals. Her personal motto, "Where there's a will, there's a way," perfectly reflects the mindset with which she tackles both professional and personal challenges.



El Iza MOHAMEDOU



El Iza Mohamedou is the Head of the OECD Centre for Skills which supports countries to achieve better economic and social outcomes by taking a whole-of-government approach and engaging with stakeholders to develop and implement better skills policies.

She has more than 30 years of international experience working in the field and at headquarters with various international organisations and in the private sector.

El Iza holds a PhD in Economics, MBA in International Business and a BA in Economics.

Giorgia MOLAJONI

Technology & Communication Director Eni Plenitude

A C-level Executive with extended experience in Technology & Communication Giorgia has worked internationally for major blue chips in the following industries: Energy|Eni plenitude. Technology|Microsoft, Yahoo. Food & Beverage| Coca-Cola | Pepsi-Co. Advertising & Entertainment| WPP. Multilingual, empathic and with an engaging attitude Giorgia enjoys public speaking, nurturing talent and contributing to purpose driven missions.

Her career started back in the 90s in Silicon Valley working for Yahoo, after a year Giorgia moved to London to launch the European Customer Operation of the Tech Giant. She then saw the opportunity arising from the Online Advertising & Bidding industry and accepted the challenge to Lead the European Digital Sales team for Microsoft Advertising. In 2007 she switched from technology company to enter the Agency world within the WPP. She was first Digital Director of Y&R and was soon promoted to be Managing Director of VML Switzerland. After 3 Years on the agency side she leaped to the client side accepting to roll out the social listening & reputation platform for Coca-Cola Europe. Her Digital Expertise and the Knowledge of the FMCG/F&B vertical lead her to accept a role within PepsiCo where she drove Digital COE for the chapters of UX, Data and technology. In 2018, Giorgia started a new Digital adventure within the Energy business. She is currently Chief Technology Officer and Chief Communication Officer at Plenitude.



Annamaria MONTERISI



An experienced journalist and communication manager, she has been Director of Communications and External Relations at the Italian Space Agency since 2022.

Over her 35-year career, she has developed solid expertise in creative writing, editing, communication planning, event management, and media relations, while working at the Apulian Agency for Technology and Innovation, IMAST – the Italian Cluster for innovative materials, the Italian Ministry for the Innovation of the Public Administration, and Fiera del Levante.

After graduating with honors in Political Science from the University of Bari, she earned a master's degree in Economic Development from the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce in Rome and a master's degree in Institutional Communication from the University of Rome Tor Vergata. She passed the professional qualification exam as a journalist and studied to pursue a career as a public manager.

Since 2022 she is Italian delegate at the Advisory Committee on Communication of the European Space Agency, that she has been chairing since 2025.

In 2024 she became member of the Board of Advisors of AstroAid Foundation, whose mission is to democratize healthcare access through space technology and innovation.

Gladys H. MORALES

Gladys H. Morales is Senior Innovation Officer and Senior Adviser to the Managing Director of the Office of Development Effectiveness at IFAD. As Senior Adviser, she advances strategic foresight and innovation to strengthen IFAD's effectiveness and impact for rural people, while fostering alignment across teams and with external partners. As Senior Innovation Officer, she leads the design and implementation of initiatives and partnerships that drive inclusive innovation. She also serves as Regional Ambassador in Italy for the Global Blockchain Business Council and as IFAD's representative to the International Association of Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA).

Before joining IFAD, Morales led digital transformation initiatives across Multilateral Development Banks and United Nations agencies in Latin America, Asia, and Europe. She also worked with the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China, where she launched the Global Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Portal, and held leadership roles in the private sector, including founding her own start-up in Italy.

She is a graduate of the Executive Program on Digital Business Leadership at Columbia Business School and holds degrees from the University of Rome Tor Vergata (MSc, Development Economics and International Cooperation) and Georgetown University (BSc, Foreign Service and International Economics). She has also earned multiple executive certificates in technology and innovation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



Antonio NICITA



Antonio Nicita is a Full Professor of Economic Policy at LUMSA, Member of the PD - IDP parliamentary Group in the Italian Senate, Visiting Fellow at the Freedom Center, University of Arizona and Visiting Scholar at the Center for Research in Regulated Industries, Rutgers Business School, Usa. (2021-2022) He has been Member of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB) at European Commission, and (2014-2020) Commissioner of the Italian Telecoms, Media and Postal Regulatory Authority (AGCOM). He has been Associate Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Siena; he was Visiting Fulbright Professor at Yale University. In 2006-07 he was an economic adviser to the Italian Minister of Communications and member of the Governmental Unit for the Improvement of Regulation. He was economic advisor for the 2009 OECD Report on Regulation in Italy and (2015-2020) member of OECD Steering Group on Regulation and Emerging Technologies. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Siena, Italy. His research interests cover Industrial organization, Law and Economics, Competition Economics and Regulation and he is author of numerous publications.

Martina PECCERILLO

I am a young professional with over two years of international experience in the fields of purpose-driven growth strategy and human-centered innovation for businesses.

My interest has always been in people: their dynamics, motivations, and ways of making sense of the world. After completing a Bachelor's in Psychology and Social Processes at La Sapienza University of Rome, I realized I wanted to make an impact not only at the individual level, but also at the societal level. That's why I pursued a Master's in Economic and Consumer Psychology at Leiden University, to explore how consumer understanding can be applied to help people make choices that positively affect both themselves and the communities around them.

Aligned with this vision, I joined Innate Motion, where, as a *Business Humanizer*, I combine insights from consumer behavior, cultural meaning, and purpose-led thinking to help brands and institutions grow with relevance and empathy. We help organizations to realign their values, narratives, and practices so that growth is measured not only in profit, but also in positive impact, inclusion, and well-being.

I am focused on bringing the voices of the next generations into more leadership conversations, especially around how young people perceive growth and desire to shape the future, as we're the ones who will live it most directly.



Alessandra PERRAZZELLI



Alessandra Perrazzelli is Visiting Professor at the Polytechnic University of Milan. She sits on the board of TIM – Telecom Italia SpA. From 2019 to 2025 she served as Deputy Governor of Banca d'Italia and as member of the Supervisory Board of the ECB. Member of the Board of Directors of the Bambino Gesù Children Hospital in Rome, she also sits on the Advisory Board of the Bruno Kessler Foundation. She was previously Italy Country Manager for Barclays Bank and sat on the Boards of Directors of Monte Titoli SpA, A2A (as Vice President) and ATM (Azienda Trasporti Milanese). She worked in Intesa Sanpaolo as Head of International Regulatory Affairs. She founded and chaired Valore D, an association aimed at fostering women to corporate management roles. Alessandra Perrazzelli has received widespread recognition and awards for her work on diversity and inclusion, and for the promotion of technological innovation in the financial industry. She began her career as a lawyer at leading law firms in New York and Brussels, specializing in the fields of banking law, financial services, telecom and public utilities. Member of the New York State Bar and of the Italian Bar. Graduated with honours from the University of Genoa, with a degree in Law and a Master of Laws in Corporate Law from the New York University School of Law. Alumna of the University of Stanford Business School. Knight in the Order of the Merit of the Italian Republic since 2021.

Rossella PEZZINO DE GERONIMO

Rossella Pezzino de Geronimo, born in Catania, studied in Switzerland and Florence, mastering English and French. She worked as an interpreter, translator, fashion photographer, buyer, and store director in Venezuela, also learning Spanish. In 1980, she founded Dusty, a leading Sicilian company in environmental hygiene, with over 950 employees, 27 sites, and ISO and ESG certifications. Under her direction, Dusty has promoted sustainability, gender equality, and achieved top recycling results in Sicily, earning European awards for civic and educational initiatives. A landscape designer, she created Le Stanze in Fiore Garden, part of Grandi Giardini Italiani and Great Gardens of the World, where she also runs organic farming, educational, and cultural activities. As a cultural promoter, she founded the art festival WonderTime Catania (2017-2019), recognized as one of Sicily's major cultural events. A writer, she published the novel *Le Stanze in Fiore* (Calibano Editore, 2024) and several art books including *Cruel Colors*, *Le Radici dell'Aria*, and *India: Frammenti di Identità*. As an acclaimed photographer and visual artist, she has exhibited worldwide – from Venice, Paris, Rome, New York, and Los Angeles to Beijing and Dubai – exploring the four elements through series such as *Linear Alchemies* and *The Roots of Air*, and pioneering holographic art since 2012. Her works are in major exhibitions (Biennale di Venezia, Malta Biennale, Rome Triennial) and collections such as the Federico II Foundation. She has received numerous awards, including *Donne al Timone*, *GammaDonna*, *Abarth*, *Paul Harris*, *Leonida*, and *Monaco International Art Grand Prix 2025*. Dynamic, determined, and creative, Rossella embodies entrepreneurship, artistry, and environmental and cultural commitment.







Med-Or Italian Foundation was established to enhance **Italy's role in the world** by promoting culture, education, research, and dialogue among civilizations.

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Giusy RANUCCI

Medical Doctor, specialist in Pediatrics and PhD, she is Head of Pediatric Diseases at IRCCS ISMETT-UPMC ISMETT in Palermo.

She deals with congenital and acquired pediatric liver diseases, acute liver failure, liver transplantation, and follow-up of pediatric transplant patients.

She has gained extensive experience in national and international centers for metabolic diseases and liver transplantation in children.

She holds a PhD in Medical and Translational Sciences, with a specific focus on childhood liver diseases, and is the author of numerous publications in international scientific journals.

She also participates in European and national research projects.

She is an active member of Italian and international scientific societies, including ESPGHAN, SIGENP, and SIRP.

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Fahimeh ROBIOLLE

Fahimeh Robiolle was born in Iran. She is a scientist and nuclear engineer. She worked in the Iranian nuclear sector before the 1979 revolution, then at the CEA in France where she held managerial responsibilities. Today, she is a consultant and teaches negotiation, conflict management, and leadership. She lectures at various prestigious universities in France, notably at Sciences Po Paris (for human rights defenders in the Marianne initiative), as well as internationally in Lebanon, in Afghanistan until the arrival of the Taliban, and in Iran until the « Woman Life Freedom revolution ».

She has worked on leadership development in post-conflict countries. In this context, she has organized and led leadership programs for Afghan women leaders (parliamentarians, senators, peace advocates...) so that they can take greater part in their country's governance and the peace process.

She continues to denounce the situation of women in Afghanistan and advocates for the Taliban to be tried for gender apartheid. She provides her full support to the women and families she helped escape the Afghan quagmire during the Taliban's return in August 2021.

She tirelessly supports Iranian youth who aspire to peace and democracy in the face of a repressive and theocratic state.

She regularly appears in the media to provide her analysis for the situation in Afghanistan, in Iran and nuclear issues.

Author of the book (in French and Persian) *“Woman Life Freedom, Let's Talk About It”*, she offers a narrative, analysis, and proposals on the three countries that have shaped her life: Iran, Afghanistan, and France. She is a Knight of the Legion of Honor.



Loredana TEODORESCU



Dr. Loredana Teodorescu is the President of Women In International Security (WIIS) Italy, an organisation affiliated to a global network dedicated to advancing women's leadership in the field of international relations, peace and security. Moreover she leads the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, an initiative launched by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with IAI and WIIS Italy to strengthen the role of women as agents of peace and security in the Mediterranean region, and she is GI00 Global Chair for Security and Defence.

She is also affiliated to several think tanks, including Istituto Luigi Sturzo, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), and the European Council for Foreign Relations (ECFR), and is a member of numerous networks of experts, including the NATO Civil Society Advisory Panel on WPS. Regularly invited to speak in international conferences, she has been advising different institutions and organisations, including the Italian Parliament, UNWOMEN, OSCE, and the G7 within the GEAC. Her areas of research and interest focus on women, peace and security, women's leadership, participation and networks, mediation, and EU governance and policies, in particular migration and asylum, and the link between internal security and foreign policy. She earned a PhD from Roma Tre University focusing on EU migration policy.

Valeria TERMINI

Valeria Termini is Full Professor of Economics at RomaTre University, Senior Fellow of Luiss University. She has acted as Commissioner of the Regulatory Authority for Energy and Environment (ARERA 2011-18). Appointed by Ban Ki Moon to the UN Expert Committee for the "Millennium Development Goals" (CEPA), she had the honour of leading the Italian delegation for Energy and Climate Change at G8, the UN and the OECD. From 2006 to 2009 she was head of the Italian School of Public Administration, an institution under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office for the recruitment and training of senior public officials, and in that role was elected World President of the International Association of Institutes of Administration (IASIA). She is currently one of the experts appointed by the President of the Republic to the National Council for the Economy and Labour (CNEL), a constitutional body that advises Parliament and the government on economic and social issues. She studied Economics at Bocconi University and in Cambridge (UK).



Ersilia VAUDO



Ersilia Vaudo is an astrophysicist with a three-decade career at the European Space Agency (ESA), where she is Special Advisor on Future Talents. A physics graduate of Sapienza University of Rome, she began in cosmology with research on CMB anisotropy experiments and was awarded the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship. She later earned an Executive Certificate from the Harvard Kennedy School (2020).

From 2002–2006 she served as Deputy Head of ESA's Washington, DC office, liaising with NASA, and sat on the Women in Aerospace US Board. In 2020 she joined Italy's national "Women for a New Renaissance" task force, contributing proposals on Research, STEM and skills, and was appointed by the Minister for Equal Opportunities as an expert member of the technical-scientific committee of the national Observatory on gender-equality policies. At European level, President Emmanuel Macron named her co-chair for Talent & Diversity within Scale-Up Europe, helping deliver the June 2021 recommendations to strengthen Europe's tech and talent ecosystem—from deep-tech scale-ups to inclusive skills pipelines.

Her public work bridges science, culture, and design. She curated the XXIII Triennale di Milano (2022–23), *Unknown Unknowns*; co-curated "A Satellite Symphonie" for the Venice Architecture Biennale 2025; and co-designed "Lune d'acqua" (Artemide, 2025), winner of the Rethinking the Future award. She is the author of *MIRABILIS* (Einaudi, 2023; translated into English, Spanish, French, and Arabic) and *Perché studiare fisica (non) è complesso* (Mondadori Scuola, 2024).

Honors include *Commendatore of the Order of the Star of Italy* (2022), *Tecnovisionarie – Special Europe Award* (2020), *EWMD "She Made a Difference"* (2023), and the *Carla Fendi STEM Award* (2024). She has been listed among *InspiringFifty Italy 2021*, *Fortune Italy 50 Most Powerful Women 2022*, *Forbes 100 Italy 2024*, *Unstoppable Women Italy (since 2022)*, and *StartHer's "20 Femmes à suivre" in French Tech*.

Vaudo is President and co-founder of *Il Cielo Itinerante*, which brings telescopes and STEM camps to underserved communities—winner of the *Financial Times WE Award 2023*. A frequent TEDx speaker and essayist, she champions science as a driver of inclusion, opportunity, and future-ready talent.







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