

Prize Ceremony

LUCE Awards 2026

9 June 2026

Teatro - Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

Scientific Director

Ilaria Conti | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI

Coordinator

Roberta Ruggero | Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS, EUI

Event Coordinator

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Introduction

The [Lights on Women](#) initiative at the Florence School of Regulation is proud to organise the forth edition of the **LUCE Awards**.

The awards

The LUCE Awards celebrates the outstanding contributions of women driving innovation and progress in the sectors of **energy**, **climate**, and **sustainability**.

Following a successful 2025 edition, **the 4th edition of the LUCE Awards** marks another milestone in advancing the Green Transition. As we forge ahead on the path toward a greener tomorrow, this edition aspires to further elevate the **voices and achievements of women** who are pioneering solutions for a sustainable planet.

Awards ceremony and prizes

The LUCE Awards will give two prizes under the categories:

- **Emerging Talent:** this category aims to recognise up-and-coming female academics, entrepreneurs, founders, and young civil society leaders who are working to advance the Green Transition. The winner will be invited to attend the awarding ceremony and offered a free seat in one community course by the Florence School of Regulation Energy and Climate.
- **Legacy Women:** this category honours the achievements of senior female professionals working to further the Green Transition worldwide. The winner will be invited to attend the awarding ceremony and to attend the FSR [Regulatory Policy Workshop](#).

The awarding ceremony, a flagship event of the 50th EUI Anniversary, will be held in Florence on 9 June 2026.

This event is organised with the kind support of the Lights on Women donor [Edison](#).

Programme

- 15.00 - 15.25 *Welcome and Introduction to the LUCE Awards 2026*
Ilaria Conti | Florence School of Regulation, EUI
- Keynote Speech*
Rosalinde Van Der Vlies | European Commission
- 15.25 - 15.35 *Updates from Lights on Women and Launch of New Video*
- 15.35 - 16.00 *The LUCE Awards Ceremony*
- Roberta Ruggero** | Florence School of Regulation, EUI
- Introduction to the Awards and Winners' Announcement
 - Winners' Speeches: Emerging Talent and Legacy Women
- 16.00 - 16.55 *Panel Debate*
The Price of Inequality: Economic Cost of the Gender Employment Gap
- Moderator:
Ilaria Conti | Florence School of Regulation, EUI
- Panellists:
Massimiliano Mascherini | Eurofound
Letizia Mencarini | Bocconi University
Lucio Pisacane | Italian National Research Council (CNR)
- Winners of LUCE 2026**
- The FSR Donors Perspective – Edison*
- 16.55 - 17.15 *Q&A with the Audience (20')*
- 17.15 - 17.35 *Ana Aguado Scholarships Awards*
- Moderators:
Leonardo Meeus | Florence School of Regulation, EUI
Veronica Cardoni | E.DSO
- 17.35 - 17.40 *Closing Remarks*
- 17.40 - 18.40 *Cocktail*

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Ilaria Conti | Florence School of Regulation

Ilaria Conti is FSR Coordinator of Strategy and Development and a member of the FSR Cabinet. An expert in energy markets policy and regulation, she has nearly 20 years of experience in EU institutional relations.

She began her career in Brussels, working for the Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU, the United Nations, and later the European Federation of Energy Traders (EFET), where she contributed to major EU energy legislation and regulatory processes, including the Third Energy Package, REMIT, EMIR, and the Renewable Energy Directive.

She joined the Florence School of Regulation in 2015 and led the FSR Gas area from 2017 to 2023, focusing on market design, LNG, sector integration, and decarbonisation through renewable and low-carbon gases.

Today, she also oversees the gender mainstreaming initiative “FSR Lights on Women.” In 2024, she was appointed Vice-Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and in 2026, Chair.



Rosalinde van der Vlies | European Commission, DG Energy

Ms. Rosalinde van der Vlies is Director in DG ENER, responsible for Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency, and Innovation.

Before this appointment, Ms. van der Vlies served as the Director of the Clean Planet Directorate in the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. She has also held roles as Head of the Coordination & Interinstitutional Relations Unit and Acting Head of the Communication & Citizens Unit.

Previously, she worked in the Directorate-General for Environment, Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs, and in the private office of Janez Potočnik, the European Commissioner for the Environment.

Before joining the European Commission, Ms. van der Vlies worked as a competition lawyer at an international law firm in Brussels and was a part-time lecturer at the Catholic University of Brussels.



Roberta Ruggero | Florence School of Regulation

Roberta Ruggero is a Project Associate at the Florence School of Regulation (FSR), where she coordinates the Lights on Women initiative and contributes to the School’s strategic development. In this role, she supports the promotion of gender equality and women’s leadership in the energy and climate sectors through community building, communications, and project management. She first joined FSR as a Training Trainee and later became a Training Assistant, gaining experience in coordinating executive training programmes and fostering collaboration across international stakeholders. Roberta holds a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and a Master’s degree in Cultures, Education and Global Society from the University of Padua, as well as a postgraduate certificate in Leadership for International Relations and Made in Italy from Fondazione Italia USA. Before joining FSR, she worked at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna, supporting initiatives on health and social policy.



Massimiliano Mascherini | Eurofound

Massimiliano Mascherini is Head of the Social Policies unit at Eurofound since October 2019. He joined Eurofound in 2009 as a research manager, designing and coordinating projects on youth employment, NEETs and gender equality. In 2017, he became a senior research manager and spearheaded new research on monitoring convergence in the EU. In addition, he led the conceptualisation of the 2026 European Quality of Life Survey. In 2025, he was awarded the Brendan Walsh prize for the best paper published in *Economic and Social Review*. Previously, he was scientific officer at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. He studied at the University of Florence, where he majored in actuarial and statistical sciences and attained a PhD in Applied Statistics. In 2014, he obtained a scientific qualification as Associate Professor of Social Statistics and Demography from the Italian Ministry of University and Research. He has been visiting fellow at the University of Sydney and at Aalborg University and visiting professor at the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.



Letizia Mencarini | Bocconi University

Letizia Mencarini is Full Professor of Demography at Bocconi University, at Department of Social and Political Science, Fellow at the DONDENA Center for Research on Social Dynamics and Public Policy and at IEP Institute for European Policy Making (at Bocconi).

She is the Representative of Bocconi University in the Consortium Board of GGP (Gender and Generation Programme) and she is the National Focal point for Italian Generations and Gender Survey and coordinator of Italian 2025-26 GGS-II.

Her research interests focus on family demography (life-course analysis, low fertility, transition to adulthood, family formation and disruption) and its links with well-being, time use, gender diversity and migration in a policy and welfare state perspective.

She is author of numerous papers published in international scientific journals and of books in Italian about “women, job market and fertility” and “demographic trap” in Italy for the general public.



Lucio Pisacane | Italian National Research Council

Lucio Pisacane is a researcher at the Italian National Research Council. His research focuses on higher education and social policy, with particular attention to inequalities and gender perspectives. Since 2023, he has served as Principal Investigator and coordinator of the Horizon Europe project gEneSys (Transforming Gendered Interrelations of Power and Inequalities in Transition Pathways to Sustainable Energy Systems).

In 2022, he served as an expert in the working group on the gender impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the research and innovation system in Europe within the RTD Directorate of the European Commission. He is currently a member of an establishing working group on bias in scientific evaluation within COARA (Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment). He also serves on the editorial board of *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* (HSSC), Springer Nature.



Barbara Terenghi | Edison

Barbara Terenghi is the Head of the Sustainability Division and a member of the Executive Committee at Edison, where she is also responsible for the Office of the Chief Executive Officer. Since 2021, she has served as Chief Sustainability Officer of the Edison Group and as Board Member of the EOS Foundation (Edison Orizzonte Sociale Foundation).

Since joining Edison in 1997, she has held several managerial roles in the Group's Human Resources department, including Head of Development, Training and Compensation. From 2016 to 2020, as Executive Assistant to the CEO, she led the company's Transformation Team, promoting the sustainable energy transition within the corporate culture.

She graduated in Business Administration from Bocconi University and previously worked in consulting firms specialised in Human Capital and Compensation.

Since 2022, she has also been a member of the Board of Directors of the United Nations Global Compact Network Italy and is part of the InTheBoardroom network.