



## “Highlight from WIA-Europe 10th years of activities & Award Ceremony”

10<sup>th</sup> September 2019, ESA/ESRIN Frascati

On 12 June 2019, we marked the 10th Anniversary of WIA Europe and WIA Europe held a special event for Outstanding and Young/professional Awards during the ESA’s Phi Week conference dedicated to the future of Earth Observation. This event is part of the planned events to celebrate the decade.

The WIA-E event started with a presentation of WIA Europe achievements and future plans performed by President **Luisella Giulicchi**.

WIA-E that includes more than 550 individual members, 12 local groups in strategic European cities and 26 Corporate members, aims to offer a platform to space agencies, industries and other institutions all over Europe to reinforce collaboration in order to build a well-balanced and diverse workplace, to contribute to STEM’s pipeline development, to stimulate more women to cover leadership position..



The second part of the event devoted to an Inspirational Talk by **Simonetta Cheli**, Head of Strategy, Programme & Coordination Office at the ESA Directorate of Earth Observation, on the role of space to reach some of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and what ESA is doing for these topics with a special focus on the joint programme with the EU COPERNICUS

After the two presentation, the Award Ceremony started with a brief introduction on motivation and women selected for the awards by **Christina Giannopapa**, WIA-E Director for Professional Development and **Juan de Dalmau**, Chair of the WIA-E Awards and Grants Committee. WIA Europe awards are devoted to encourage and support upcoming talent – young professionals and students alike – and honour senior women for their outstanding achievements in the aerospace sector.



The 2019 awards recognised from Award & Grant Committee are:

- the **Outstanding** Achievement Award to **Grazia Vittadini**, Chief Technology Officer, Airbus;

- the **Young Professional Award** to **Aloisia Russo**
- the **Student Award** to **Veronica Bandini**

They moderated WIA Europe traditional Award ceremony by introducing the young student **Veronica Bandini**, Student Award, and by asking her the motivation of paper submitted for the call:



« I want give my contribution to outreach and space education for young girls and boys. Moreover, I plan to use the grant to help my team mates in the REXUS-BEXUS Programme be part of the launch campaign at Esrange in Sweden next October ».

The same question has been asked to **Aloisia Russo**, Young Professional Award, and by asking her what they planned to do for future in relation to the paper submitted for the call:



« I created a STEM awareness event in my home town in Apulia Region, with a view to then bring it to other cities. I believe that education can play a key role to inspire the next generation of engineers »

WIA Europe received apologizes and video from the Outstanding **Grazia Vittadini**



« Diverse companies perform better: more innovation, more creativity, more employee engagement activities... at the end Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) have a positive impact on the role that we produce. The role of WIA-E is really important to bring more D&I to the all aerospace sector » Grazia Vittadini, Chief Technology Officer, Airbus;

The event has been closed by Josef Aschbacher, Director of ESA Earth Observation Programmes, closed the event highlighting the importance to promote Diversity and Inclusiveness in space and to stimulate the young generation to undertake careers in science and technology.

