

press release

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Hera now part of the Leading Utilities of the World

The first Italian company to be admitted within this network, Hera confirms the international standing of its activities in the water cycle, reflecting its participation in the Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate and its entry as part of the CE100. The Group's commitment takes concrete shape with over 110 million invested in the sector each year

The Hera Group – Italy's second operator in the water cycle, with 300 million m³ of water sold and 3.6 million citizens served – has now become part of the Leading Utilities of the World (LUOW), a network that brings together the planet's most innovative and successful companies in the water and wastewater sector and aims at promoting shared knowledge, projects and new objectives, in addition to favouring collaboration. This new entry came about during the 2018 Global Water Summit, which was brought to a close yesterday in Paris. Hera is Italy's first operator to obtain this recognition, which chronologically follows its membership in the CEO Water Mandate, an initiative launched by the Global Compact of the United Nations and designed to encourage companies to show greater commitment in sustainable water management.

In order to become part of the LUOW, the Hera Group passed the four phases involved in selection. The company was requested to provide extensive documentation proving its commitment and innovative contribution to managing water and wastewater activities. Following an additional phase of dialogue with the evaluation committee, which took place in France during the last few days, the Group became the twenty-eighth company to join the network.

Hera thus confirms the international status of its activities, which for some time now – as recorded in detail in its sustainability report – have been fully in line with the path set out by the European Union and the UN's 2030 Global Agenda.

The water sector, after all, is the area in which Hera has always concentrated the majority of its investments, coming to an average of more than 110 million per year over the last five years. This allows the Group to maintain over 53 thousand km of network in good health, in addition to approximately 900 production, treatment and purification plants. All users are thus provided with safe and inexpensive water, guaranteed by over 2 thousand analyses per day and capable of successfully overcoming periods of serious drought, such as the one seen during 2017. One of the strong points of Hera's integrated water service lies in its orientation towards innovation, with cutting-edge solutions based on automation and remote control of networks and plants, to guarantee continuity in supply and maintain leakage in its networks among the lowest in the country. This context includes, for example, the development of a technique involving satellite research for water leaks that Hera, the first to do so in Italy, developed in collaboration with the Israeli company Utilis, significantly increasing the amount of water recovered. Acting together with the National Health Institute, moreover, Hera is currently implementing the Water Safety Plans, a European protocol for monitoring all phases involved in drinking water production and distribution.

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