



press release

Bologna, 14 December 2024

Hera Group awarded with the Oscar for Financial Reporting

In the “Listed and unlisted utilities and multi-utilities” category, the Hera Group was recognized for its high level of maturity and its awareness of the intrinsic value of the ESG reporting process

The Hera Group, one of Italy’s largest multi-utilities operating in the waste management, energy and water sectors, is among the winners of the 60th edition of the FERPI (Italian Public Relations Federation) Financial Reporting Oscar, a traditional event dedicated to the importance of reporting for companies and organisations.

The award ceremony took place yesterday, Friday 13 December at Palazzo Mezzanotte in Milan and was organised by FERPI, Borsa Italiana and the Bocconi University with the support of the Lombardy Region and the Municipality of Milan. The theme of the 2024 edition was reporting transparency, in light of the new European CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive), which reflects the growing importance of sustainability reporting and compliance with ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) criteria.

After the 2007 Financial Reporting Oscar, received for the high attention dedicated to corporate social responsibility, the 2018 Financial Reporting Oscar with special mention for “innovation in reporting”, and the 2019 Financial Reporting Oscar for communication, in the 2024 edition the Hera Group stood out in particular for its “strong and deep-rooted corporate maturity in the integration between financial aspects and ESG issues”, according to the jury’s statement, and, overall, for “the Group’s high level of maturity and its awareness of the intrinsic value of the reporting process from an ESG perspective”.

The motivation provided refers to a “clear and systemic perception of the Group’s orientation towards creating shared value, mentioned as a reference value in all documents proposed for candidacy”. These documents, moreover, organically reflect and describe, on the basis of strategic drivers, its actual implementation and the methodologies used. As stated in the motivation, “operating and financial aspects are perfectly integrated with ESG factors thanks to the formula of shared-value Ebitda (CSV Ebitda) and CSV investments, including the graphic layout and explicit references to the Strategic Plan, as well as a particularly effective forward-looking approach”. The jury also particularly appreciated the clear presentation of the materiality analysis section, in which the methodology and correlations between impact areas, in line with the CSRD directive and the UN 2030 Agenda goals, are well described, as is risk analysis, presented from an integrated and systemic perspective. Furthermore, the classification of sustainable economic activities based on the EU Taxonomy, which are described in a separate report, was found to be very clear and concise, along with concrete and effective communications, involvement and listening processes with stakeholders.

Publicly listed since 2003 and included in the FTSE MIB since 2019, the Hera stock, which has been part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index since 2020, was also included in the MIB ESG Index in 2021, the first blue-chip index for Italy dedicated to ESG best practices, launched by Euronext and Borsa Italiana. The Hera Group has also long been included in the international FTSE Diversity Inclusion Index, drawn up by LSEG Data & Analytics, formerly Refinitiv, for its commitment to promoting diversity, inclusion and the development



of people, and in the ESG Identity Corporate Index 2024 (formerly IGI), for the full and conscious integration of sustainability policies in its business strategies.