

## **Hera Group: best Multi & Water Utility according to S&P**

*For the sixth consecutive year, Hera has been included in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook, ranking in the “Top 1%” of the world’s best-performing companies in its sector, with outstanding results particularly in governance and social performance*

According to Standard & Poor’s, the Hera Group is the world’s leading company in the Multi & Water Utility sector and has once again earned a place in S&P Global’s Sustainability Yearbook. This achievement follows an in-depth assessment of the Group’s performance across environmental, social and governance (ESG) dimensions.

In particular, Hera ranked first globally in its reference sector with a score of 83 out of 100, compared with an industry average of 37 out of 100.

The multi-utility is recognised as an international best practice across several areas:

- Governance: Hera stands out for the transparency of its reporting, its careful and effective risk management – including cyber risk – and its exemplary approach to managing the supply chain in a sustainable way;
- Environmental performance: the Group achieved top results in efficient energy management within its internal processes and in safeguarding biodiversity in the areas where it operates. It also excelled in the reporting and management of risks and opportunities related to climate change;
- Social dimension: Hera obtained the highest global score for respect for human rights, the development of its employees’ human capital, customer relations, privacy protection and engagement with local communities.

S&P Global’s analysis therefore portrays a forward-looking company that leads a benchmark made up of the sector’s top performers worldwide.

These highly positive assessments – released shortly after the publication of the new Business Plan – confirm the Hera Group’s ability to pursue a sustainability strategy based on continuous commitment across the entire value chain, while keeping a close eye on international best practices. The evaluations also highlight the key strengths identified by analysts: a company that continues to deliver significant shared value creation, reflected in a forecast double-digit average annual Total Shareholders Return.

Listed since 2003 and part of the FTSE MIB since 2019, Hera shares have also been included since 2020 in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index Europe & World (recently renamed the Dow Jones Best-in-Class Index) and in the FTSE4Good. In addition, the company is part of Italy’s ESG MIB blue-chip index, dedicated to ESG best practices, launched by Euronext and Borsa Italiana in 2021. Finally, for almost ten years Hera has featured in the FTSE Diversity & Inclusion Index “Top 100”, certified by FTSE Russell, in recognition of its commitment to diversity, inclusion and people development. It has also ranked on the podium of the ESG Identity Corporate Index for five consecutive years, thanks to the full and conscious integration of sustainability policies into its governance and business strategies.