

Enel Foundation Newsletter

Young voices, shared futures: a new dialogue on energy begins



“What does it mean to imagine the future of energy when the future itself feels increasingly uncertain?”

This was one of the questions at the heart of **“Giovani ed Energia: Dialoghi Intergenerazionali sul Futuro dell'Energia”**, hosted by Enel Foundation on July 14, 2026, at Teatro della Cometa in Rome. The initiative brought together a selected group of young high-potential professionals and senior voices from institutions, academia, research and international organizations to open a conversation on the transformations reshaping the global energy system.

The dialogue started from the perspectives of young people: their expectations, their questions and, at times, their sense of anxiety toward the future. In a world marked by rapid technological change, climate challenges and shifting demographic balances, the event created a space to turn uncertainty into reflection, and reflection into shared responsibility.

The intergenerational panels gave shape to this exchange through three conversations on the forces redefining society and the energy landscape:

The Age of Electricity

Laura Cozzi, President of Enel Foundation's Scientific Committee and Director of Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks at the International Energy Agency, and **Marco Gervasi**, Program Manager at UNIDO, explored how electrification is reshaping energy systems, economies and society.



Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Stefano Paolo Corgnati, Rector of Politecnico di Torino, and **Adriano Casu**, PhD candidate at the University of Cagliari, discussed the role of emerging technologies and AI in accelerating the energy transition.

Bridging Generations

Vincenzo Galasso, Director of the Department of Social and Political Sciences at Bocconi University, and **Anita Mannella**, Researcher at Enel Foundation, reflected on future anxiety, intergenerational dialogue and the value of mutual learning between junior and senior perspectives.



At the center of the discussion was the value of **intergenerational exchange**. Junior and senior perspectives met as complementary ways of reading change: one bringing fresh questions, urgency and openness; the other offering experience, context and long-term vision. The result was a dialogue built on mutual learning, where knowledge moved in both directions and different generations were invited to listen, challenge and support one another.

A key moment of the program was the inspirational talk by **Helen Watts**, member of Enel Foundation's Scientific Committee and Executive Director of Student Energy, dedicated to “Empowering the next generation of leaders.” Her contribution highlighted the importance of giving young people the confidence, tools and networks they need to take an active role in the energy transition.



This same ambition is at the core of **Hub Giovani ed Energia**, presented during the event by Enel Foundation together with representatives of the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security and the National Youth Council. The Hub is a new platform for dialogue and training designed to connect young high-potential professionals from companies, institutions, international organizations, universities, research centers and networks active in the fields of energy and climate. Its objective is to make this conversation continue beyond a single day. Through training, exchange and connection, Hub Giovani ed Energia aims to create a space where young people can strengthen their skills, share perspectives and contribute to the strategic debate on energy with awareness and ambition.

By bringing together emerging talent and experienced leaders, this event marked the beginning of a broader journey: one that recognizes new generations as active participants in the energy transition and invites them to help shape the choices that will define what comes next.

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