

CMCC Climate Change Communication Award "Rebecca Ballestra" - third edition

The CMCC Foundation announces the 2025 edition of the Rebecca Ballestra Climate Change Communication Award, which focuses on climate journalism that helps raise public awareness of climate change and incorporates climate topics into media and society through ongoing, innovative, science-based, and cross-sector reporting.

Following the success of the first and second editions of the *award*, which were handed out in 2021 and 2023, the CMCC Foundation - Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change announces its third edition, scheduled for 2025.

The CMCC Climate Change Communication Award honors the memory of artist **Rebecca Ballestra**, who was committed to shaping a sustainable future and promoting positive transformation processes in science, humanities, economy, ecology, and art, and collaborated with CMCC on various cultural initiatives.

Climate change is one of the most prominent challenges of our times. A widespread issue that involves countless actors worldwide, affecting every sector of society.

The scientific community is providing increasingly detailed and shared knowledge on the causes of climate change, measures that can help limit its impacts, and solutions that will build climate-resilient communities. Decision makers, from both the public and private sectors, are actively involved in this process as climate change is a cross-cutting challenge that can no longer be ignored. At the same time, civil society is putting pressure on leaders to turn knowledge into action, whilst the media are discussing which languages and solutions best describe the complexity of climate change, which has finally taken center stage in the news cycle.

In this context, climate journalism has been the focus of debates and research involving newsroom structures, journalistic language, and the interaction between climate change and various socio-economic sectors.

After previous editions, where the prize was awarded to a project combining art and science (FutureSHORELINE, in 2021) and a documentary series focusing on the faces of those most vulnerable to climate change and their stories of adaptation (Faces of Climate Resilience, 2023), the 2025 edition of the CMCC Climate Change Communication Award "Rebecca Ballestra" focuses on climate journalism that has contributed to compelling coverage of climate-related issues. The aim is to award consistent and continuous journalistic efforts that raise public awareness about climate change, emphasizing its cross-sectoral nature, integrating the topic into journalistic routines, and overcoming traditional organizational structures in the newsrooms of major international media outlets.

As in earlier editions of the award, assessment criteria are based on four key aspects:

- **increase public awareness** on climate change and its interactions with society, the economy, environment, and policy-making process;
- **disseminate science-based information and data** related to climate change through the application of innovative ideas, technologies, and methodologies in the field of media, journalism, and communication at large;
- **communicate the threats and opportunities** posed by the climate change challenge using innovative methods and tools, including journalism, art, visuals, and music;
- **trigger action** in the audiences addressed, including students, consumers, businesses and politicians.

Based on these criteria, the jury composed of CMCC experts evaluates the journalistic work of internationally recognized media outlets and selects journalists who, throughout their careers, have contributed to innovating journalistic language and bringing the story of climate change into sectors that are called to engage with the scientific foundations of the issue (such as policy, culture, foreign affairs, economics, finance, etc.).

Among the journalists identified by the CMCC jury, a winner(s) will be selected.

The winner(s) will receive a cash prize of 5,000 euros¹.

The winner(s) will be announced by the end of September 2025.

The prize will be awarded to the winner(s), along with any special mentions the jury deems appropriate, during a high-level event scheduled for October 2025.

All communication related to the award, the winner(s), and the event will be published and shared by CMCC through the CMCC Award website (www.cmccaward.eu) and official CMCC communication channels, including on www.cmcc.it.

Information and contacts

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¹ Gross amount subject to withholding tax