

## ***International Association for Quality, Innovation and Sustainability***

IAQUIS is a novel initiative designed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers, educators, practitioners, and doctoral students through quality, innovation, and sustainability to achieve societal impact. We aim to create and cultivate synergies among three crucial areas, generating fresh insights, practices, and solutions to confront contemporary challenges faced by individuals, organizations, and communities. Through fostering a culture of openness, excellence, and creativity, we aspire to advance knowledge and understanding of the complex interplay between quality, innovation, and sustainability. Our overarching ambition is to contribute to a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for all.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> IAQUIS CONFERENCE**

#### ***The Transformative Edge: Integrating Innovation, Quality and Technology for Sustainable Business Ecosystems***

**CATANIA, Italy  
SEPTEMBER 16 – 18, 2026**

The objective of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IAQUIS International Conference is to stimulate and strengthen collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers, educators, practitioners, and doctoral students from diverse countries, disciplines, and professional backgrounds. The conference aims to advance understanding of how innovation, quality, and technology can be strategically integrated to foster sustainable and resilient business ecosystems and generate meaningful societal impact.

The conference seeks to explore how organizations and institutions can navigate contemporary challenges and drive transformative change toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

Over the course of the three-day conference, participants will have the opportunity to present and discuss their research in plenary and parallel sessions, as well as engage in rich informal and convivial moments designed to encourage dialogue, networking, and the creation of new synergies.

All contributions will be united by a strong focus on the interplay between quality, innovation, sustainability, and technology. Adopting an interdisciplinary and cross-cutting perspective, the conference welcomes theoretical, empirical, and practice-oriented contributions from a wide range of fields that can offer fresh insights, innovative practices, and actionable solutions.

In addition, a pre-conference Doctoral Consortium will be organized to support doctoral students. The consortium will focus on how to develop impactful research papers, providing participants with constructive and in-depth feedback from experienced international scholars.

The 2nd IAQUIS International Conference will be held in Catania (Italy), a city rich in history, culture, and innovation, offering a vibrant and inspiring setting for scholarly exchange.

We look forward to welcoming you to Catania!

## Venue

Catania is a vibrant Baroque city located on the slopes of Mount Etna, famous for its UNESCO World Heritage historic centre built in striking black lava stone.

It offers a unique mix of Roman ruins, lively street markets and a renowned culinary tradition dominated by street food and pastries.



## CONFERENCE TRACK AND TOPICS

### Track 1: Digital Transformation, AI, and Data for Quality & Sustainability

Focus: digital technologies, analytics, AI, Industry/Society 5.0

- Artificial Intelligence in quality system management
- Data analytics for quality management
- Digital networking in quality and sustainability
- Industry 5.0 and Society 5.0
- Role of quality management in Industry 5.0
- Society 5.0 and sustainability digital innovations
- TQM in the digital age

### Track 2: Quality Management Models, Standards, and Operational Excellence

Focus: QM theory, tools, standards, performance improvement

- Evolution of Quality Management Models and Standards
- Operational Excellence (OPEX), Lean Production and Six Sigma
- Performance improvement (e.g., sustainable Lean Six Sigma, KPIs, agile sustainability)
- Risk management in quality management
- Sustainable quality management, standards and certification

### Track 3: Circular Economy, Green Innovation, and Sustainable Design

Focus: circularity, eco-design, materials, production systems

- Circular Economy and sustainability
- Methodologies and tools for a Circular Economy approach

- Role of quality management in circular economy
- Innovation in sustainable product design
- Innovation, Quality, and Sustainability for Packaging
- Green chemistry

#### **Track 4: Sustainability Strategy, ESG, and Policy Implementation**

Focus: governance, reporting, SDGs, finance, systemic change

- ESG for sustainable development and Green Reporting
- Credit, banking, and financial institutions' contributions to sustainability (sustainable finance)
- Operationalization of the SDGs
- Fostering sustainable transition
- Sustainability and energy transition

#### **Track 5: Supply Chains, Agriculture, and Industrial Ecosystems**

Focus: production networks, logistics, agriculture, ecosystems

- Sustainable Supply Chain Management, Green Supply Chain and quality
- Precision farming for quality and sustainability
- Service ecosystem transformation

#### **Track 6: Consumers, Society, and Social Sustainability**

Focus: consumption, behavior, social impact, LCA

- Consumer behaviour for quality improvement innovation and/or sustainability
- Sustainable consumption and consumer
- Social LCA for a quality approach

#### **Track 7: Leadership, Culture, and Organizational Transformation**

Focus: human factor, leadership, organizational change

- Quality culture, leadership, and human factor in quality management
- Sustainable leadership and management change
- Sustainable organization
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue for sustainable transformation
- Disruption and transformation through quality and sustainability

#### **Track 8: Quality Management in Services, CSR, and Emerging Markets**

Focus: services, CSR, contextual and regional perspectives

- Quality management in service industries
- Quality, innovation and corporate social responsibility
- Sustainable quality management in emerging markets
- Integration between quality and sustainability

The contributions may be of disciplinary, multidisciplinary or inter-disciplinary character. Also, we welcome papers of conceptual, empirical and practical characters.

## IAQUIS Membership

Conference fees are aligned with IAQUIS membership.

Participants are advised to complete IAQUIS membership **prior to paying the conference registration fee.**

### Conference Registration fee

#### IAQUIS Members

			For both AISME and IAQUIS conferences	
Participant	Early-bird Fee until 30 <sup>th</sup> of May, 2026	Regular Fee	Early-bird Fee until 30 <sup>th</sup> of May, 2026	Regular Fee
Practitioner/Professor	€ 590,00	€ 690,00	€ 540,00	€ 640,00
PhD Student	€ 390,00	€ 490,00	€ 340,00	€ 440,00
Accompanying Person*	€ 250,00			

\*The accompanying person fee includes dinners and transfer. We could also offer a specific program of visits and tours for accompanying persons, providing an additional price.

#### NOT IAQUIS Members

			For both AISME and IAQUIS conferences	
Participant	Early-bird Fee until 30 <sup>th</sup> of May, 2026	Regular Fee	Early-bird Fee until 30 <sup>th</sup> of May, 2026	Regular Fee
Practitioner/Professor	€ 600,00	€ 760,00	€ 610,00	€ 710,00
PhD Student	€ 460,00	€ 560,00	€ 410,00	€ 510,00
Accompanying Person*	€ 250,00			

**Conference fees must be paid through the official conference website**

## Important Dates

Abstract deadline: April 15, 2026  
Acceptance: April 30, 2026  
**Early fee registration closed: May 30, 2026**  
Extended abstract/full paper deadline: July 15, 2026

Doctoral Consortium call for contributions  
PhD project abstract deadline: April 15, 2026  
Acceptance: April 30, 2026  
Extended PhD project deadline: July 15, 2026

## Author regular registration deadline – August 23, 2026

### Scientific Committee

**Alessandro Ruggieri** – Professor, University of Tuscia  
**Maria Francesca Renzi** – Professor, Roma Tre University  
**Manuel Francisco Suarez Barraza** Ph.D. in Management Science Managing Director, Universidad de las Americas Puebla  
**Bo Edvardson** – Professor, Karlstad University  
**Boštjan Gomiček** – Professor, DoctorateHub  
**Carmen Jaca** – Professor, Tecnun, Engineering School of Universidad de Navarra  
**Evangelos Psomas** - Professor, University of Patras  
**Samuel Petros Sebhatu, Ph.D, Assistant Professor** – Karlstad University  
**Maria Gianni** – PhD, University of Macedonia  
**Frederic Marimon** – Professor, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya

### Local Chair

**Agata Matarazzo** – Professor, University of Catania