

**Verdiana Bandini** is Head of Research and competitive funding at the University of Bologna, where she was involved in the development of food related activities since 2006. The University of Bologna is one of the main key players in the Italian agro-food sector, being member of the Board of Directors of the National Technological Cluster on Agrifood (CLAN), the main platform for agro-food research and industrial actors at national level, as well as of the Clusters on Green Chemistry and Blue Growth. At EU level, it is the first University in Italy for research outputs and attracted funding, scoring in the top 15 EU research institutions for H2020. The main focus is on food sustainability and circular economy, food quality and healthy food consumption. UNIBO is involved in relevant European networks (e.g. HDHL, FACCE, EIP AGRI, Food4Life, FoodNexus, FoodForce, JTI Biobased Industry, PRIMA, BLUEMED, EUSAIR). In the context of the CSA FIT4FOOD2030, it represents the link with the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area PRIMA Initiative; it is thus a first base towards an exchange with global players in the Food, Nutrition Security domains. Verdiana holds a master degree in European Literatures and a second level executive master degree in Open innovation and technology transfer. Before joining the University of Bologna, she worked for 11 years in ASTER, the Emilia-Romagna Agency for innovation, where she engaged on European networking, innovative technologies, industry-academia collaboration and start-ups, regional development. She also regularly served as expert for the European Commission in Framework Programmes since 2004.