

Belinda Gottardi – Curriculum Vitae

I was born on 8 March 1970 and grew up in Castel Maggiore, in the metropolitan area of Bologna, Italy.

I graduated in Law from the University of Bologna and have been a qualified lawyer since 2002.

I began my political career at a young age as a member of the Municipal Council of Castel Maggiore, where I also served as Chair of the First Commission. From the outset, I focused on institutional development, local governance, youth policies, and social inclusion.

Over the years, I have held several executive roles within the Municipality of Castel Maggiore, including Councillor for Public Works, Mobility and Environment, and Councillor for Culture, Education, Employment, and Participation. In these roles, I gained extensive experience in local administration, public policy, and community development.

On 25 May 2014, I was elected Mayor of Castel Maggiore, and I was re-elected on 26 May 2019. During my tenure, I have led the administration with a strong focus on institutional transparency, social cohesion, and sustainable local development.

On 17 March 2016, I was elected President of the Reno Galliera Union of Municipalities.

At the European level, I have been actively engaged in multilevel governance and local democracy. Since 2017, I have been a member of the Italian delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, where I have served on the Current Affairs Committee and, since 2023, on the Monitoring Committee. Since 2021, I have also served as Vice Head of the Italian delegation.

I have been actively involved in European and international networks of local authorities. Since 2016, I have been a member of the Executive Bureau of AICCRE (Italian section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions – CEMR, and of United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG). I have served as AICCRE delegate to CEMR (2019–2024) and to UCLG (2020–2025), and as European spokesperson at CEMR on climate and climate change (2020–2024). I have also been a member of the European Board of the Covenant of Mayors (2020–2024).

From 2022 to 2024, I was responsible for gender balance initiatives within the regional federation of the Italian National Association of Municipalities (ANCI).

In October 2022, I was appointed co-rapporteur on “A fundamental right to the environment: a matter for local and regional authorities” within the Congress of the Council of Europe.

In June 2024, I was elected Municipal Councillor in Castel Maggiore.

Thanks for your attention,

Bologna, 27 march 2026

