

**Grazia Rendo** is an Italian entrepreneur, who previously worked for 15 years as Manager for an important family-owned Italian construction company called Co.Ge.I., based in Rome that undertook illustrious construction contracts both domestically and abroad.

After time spent in this position, she decided to pursue her own business initiatives and has been, since January 2008, the majority founder of Orchidea s.r.l., a film and television company based in Sicily that promotes young talents within the movie production sector.

Since 2013, she has been a member of the Women's Entrepreneurship Platform, counting more than 40 European Women Entrepreneurs' Associations, of which she became the President in May 2015. This adds to her impressive profile as an activist within the realm of female entrepreneurship. In fact, from 2011 onwards, she has been part of an Italian/European network designed to mentor female entrepreneurs (BE WIN).

As of 2009, she has also undertaken the role of Ambassador for a female entrepreneurship project sponsored by the European Commission's DG Enterprise & Industry. The same year, she became a Member of the Board for UNESCO's Intercultural Euro Mediterranean Centre, which is based in Greece and whose aim is to develop cultural cooperation among inhabitants of the Mediterranean area.

2009 was also the year that she founded – in cooperation with other leading female professionals – a Business Angels associations ('WE') to support young entrepreneurs with innovative ideas, via scouting activities, business development and funds.

Grazia has been a member of 'Laboratorio Donna,' a non-profit association whose objective is to assist female convicts by teaching them skills on craftwork and other forms of handy work.

This endeavour is reflective of Grazia's support for more marginalised groups in society. In 2003, she supported an initiative of the Italian Ministry of Culture that enabled access for disabled people to all Italian museums.

Furthermore, she has been a member of the Board of Directors for Federmanager (the Italian Federation of Managers) and a member of the Sicilian branch of AIDDA (an association for female managers and entrepreneurs).

Finally, for the past 10 years, she has been working as a supporting member of YMCA Italy – a non-profit association promoting cultural exchanges among young people.