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Ersilia Vaudo Scarpetta has been working at the European Space Agency since 1991 and she is currently the Head of Business Control and Management Support Office in the Directorate of ESA Policies, Planning and Control.

During her career at ESA, she held several positions focusing, *inter alia*, on economic and strategic studies, policy elaboration and analysis, finance and control and support to decision-making with Member States. She spent four years at the ESA Washington Office in charge of international relations, in particular with NASA, and in 2005 was Member of the Board of Directors of Women in Aerospace US.

She holds a Degree in Physics, with specialization in Astrophysics and has a further Doctoral education in Economics at the University La Sapienza in Rome.

Before joining ESA, she has also worked as a scientific freelance journalist for many Italian magazines and newspapers.