SHORT BIO

Edoardo Milana holds a BSc in Mechanical Engineering and a MSc in Nanotechnology Engineering both from the University of Rome La Sapienza, and a PhD in Engineering Science from KU Leuven (2020). During his PhD, he was Visiting Researcher at the Interdisciplinary Centre of Excellence for Nanostructured Materials and Interfaces of the University of Milan. Later, he was researcher at the Institute for the Protection of Terrestrial Infrastructure of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and then at the Freiburg Center for Interactive Materials and Bioinspired Technologies (FIT) of the University of Freiburg thanks to the Walter Benjamin Programme of the German Research Foundation (DFG). Since 2023, he has been Tenure-Track Professor at the Department of Microsystems Engineering (IMTEK) of the University of Freiburg, Principal Investigator of the DFG Cluster of Excellence livMatS and full member of FIT. He is the recipient of the Pioneering Research Grant from the Volkswagen Stiftung, the largest private research foundation in Germany. His research interests include soft robots and transducers, flexible mechanical metamaterials, bioinspired material systems, and embodied intelligence. His expertise lies in mechanical design and advanced manufacturing of soft and compliant structures. He is co-author of ~30 peer-reviewed publications in international journals (among others, Nature, Science Advances, Advanced Materials) and international conference proceedings (IEEE RoboSoft, IEEE IFETC). His group won the Best Communication Paper Award at IEEE RoboSoft 2021, Best Poster Finalist Award at IEEE RoboSoft 2023 and 2nd Best Talk Award at IEEE IFETC 2024. He was selected for the Freiburg Rising Stars Academy in 2022. He co-organized several workshops on soft robotics, microrobotics, and embodied intelligence at international robotics conference, such as RoboSoft (2023, 2024), I-RIM 2023, BioRob 2024, IROS 2024. He regularly serves as Associate Editor for the IEEE conferences BioRob and RoboSoft and he is in the Programme Committee of the Human Friendly Robotics Workshop series and the VDE GMM Actuator conference.