SDG16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Actions

Politecnico di Milano expresses its commitment to fulfilling SDG16 by acting as:

• A university which encourages and respects the participation of students, faculty and staff in decision-making processes through elected representation. All components of Politecnico population are included in university bodies, with representatives given the opportunity to make their voices heard at all levels of governance.

• A university and public administration that values transparency, making its internal regulations open and freely accessible through a dedicated portal, committing to transparent and equitable selection processes, and publishing financial data and documentation.

• A university that operates in close contact with and provides impartial expert technical support to local and national governments, as well as to all public administrations who rely on our expertise and advice.

ELECTED REPRESENTATION AND STUDENTS’ UNIONS

All components of the university population (faculty, students, technical-administrative staff, researchers, PhD students) are guaranteed fair and full representation in Politecnico di Milano’s governance structure. The Statute of Politecnico di Milano defines the governing bodies of the university, describing their responsibilities and indicating which components are represented in each of them:

• Faculty elect 16 representatives in the Academic Senate, 4 representatives in the Board of Governors. All faculty of each department are part of the Departmental Council.

• Students elect 4 representatives in the Academic Senate, 2 representatives in the Board of Governors and several representatives in the committees, boards and councils of the individual schools.

• Technical-administrative staff elect 2 representatives in the Academic Senate, 1 representative in the Board of Governors, and 2 representatives in each Departmental Council.

• Temporary research staff elect 2 elected representatives in each Departmental Council.

• PhD Students elect at least 1 representative in each Departmental Council and 4 representatives in the PhD School Board.

The Student Council is an advisory body which makes proposals and provides advice to the university’s governing bodies on issues under discussion in the Academic Senate and the Board of Governors. It is composed of the student representatives in the Academic Senate, the Board of Governors, and the Joint Committees of the schools of Politecnico di Milano.

Politecnico di Milano encourages and promotes the establishment of students’ associations with cultural, social, recreational or scientific aims. At present, 25 students’ associations are active at the university; additionally, in June 2017, these associations inaugurated an informal round table in which each association is represented by one member. This round table, which meets monthly, also involves the participation of student representatives, who liaise between the associations and Politecnico. Any students who wish to form an association must follow the procedure illustrated in the Regulations for the Constitution of the Register of University Student Associations and for the Funding of the Cultural and Social Initiatives of Politecnico di Milano Students.
TRANSPARENCY

Transparency at Politecnico di Milano is one of the core values established in the Code of Ethics and Conduct: “Politecnico di Milano promotes the dissemination of the information necessary to guarantee the traceability and transparency of administrative processes, and the correct balance between transparency and privacy protection. The community is committed to being fair in decisions, to ensure transparency in decision-making and in evaluation processes, and to promote clear communication. The constant search for dialogue and open discussion is also expressed in the explanation of the motivations and decisions taken.”

Administrative transparency is pursued following the guidelines laid out in the Regulations on Administration, Finance and Accounting. The Transparency page of the website allows a comprehensive view of the main administrative acts of Politecnico di Milano.

- **Three-year plan against corruption and for transparency**

  Politecnico di Milano receives financial contributions from the state and region, as well as from students, businesses, alumni and donors. As such, it is responsible to the entire community for the transparency and fairness of its actions. The Plan, which includes a risk analysis and a map of the critical issues related to corruption and transparency, aims to:

  - strengthen the oversight on high-risk processes by establishing an internal auditing unit that carries out the activity in full autonomy;
  - increase the involvement of managerial staff by setting specific individual objectives included in the performance assessment plan.

  Politecnico di Milano will organise training related to the Plan and the content of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for all technical-administrative staff, and will also establish a working group on conflicts of interest.
• Polimi for COVID-19 and the Premio Rosa Camuna
During the COVID-19 pandemic, Politecnico di Milano set in motion a series of research projects to support national and international efforts to tackle the pandemic within its area of expertise. These projects aim to analyse the mechanisms behind the spread of the virus, help to monitor the evolution of the pandemic, propose innovative technologies for laboratory analyses and treatments, and design pathways to mitigate the effects of the crisis and assist recovery. This significant effort was recognised by the Lombardy Regional Government, the president of which awarded the Rosa Camuna prize to Politecnico di Milano in May 2021.

• Polimi for the City of Milan
Politecnico di Milano has established a long and fruitful relationship with the City of Milan, characterised by a deep connection between the university and the surrounding community, for which Politecnico aims to serve not only as a higher education institution, but also as an open and accessible space for socialisation, an institution which is active in preserving the local heritage, and a strong promoter of innovation in the city of Milan. Some prime examples of this relationship include the agreement for the urban redevelopment project of the Bovisa-Goccia area, with the Garden of Arts and Science, a new sports centre (Fabbrica dello Sport) and an innovation district to create an ecosystem of innovation with those who wish to develop business projects and startups together with Politecnico; the collaboration for the Off Campus projects in the San Siro and NoLo neighbourhoods, an example of co-design in conjunction with local companies to carry out interventions capable of producing a positive impact in the community; the university’s commitment to donate tablets and PCs and to establish Internet connections in public schools in the city, as well as to promote digitalisation and technology training throughout the curriculum in order to educate young citizens.

• Polimi for the Lombardy Regional Government
In 2018, the Lombardy Regional Government and Politecnico di Milano established a collaboration agreement with a view to improving the maintenance and management of the regional roadway infrastructures. Several joint activities were included in the agreement, specifically:

- the development of guidelines for the classification, description, diagnosis, monitoring, lifecycle analysis and drafting of maintenance plans for the critical elements of the regional transportation network, e.g. bridges, viaducts and flyovers;
- the development of criteria for the identification of priorities, accounting for indirect consequences related to downtime during maintenance operations;
- the development of decision support tools for the management of bridges in both ordinary and emergency situations;
- the application of the criteria developed to major pilot bridges;
- the establishment of a monitoring network for roadway bridges as well as data management procedures, allowing for interoperability with existing operational databases.

A working group on the maintenance and management of roadway infrastructures - “Cabina di Regia Lombardia Sicura” - was set up in conjunction with owners and operators of the regional transport infrastructure, with a view to defining a shared policy on the subject.

• Poliedra
Poliedra is a consortium at Politecnico di Milano that operates as a consultancy and services centre, dealing with issues such as environmental sustainability, mobility, decision support systems, smart cities and communities. As such, it has supported institution and public administrations in the process of defining environmental policies; one of its most recent projects involved supporting the Italian Ministry of the Environment in developing the monitoring and evaluation process of its National Strategy for Sustainable Development (“Strategia Nazionale Sviluppo Sostenibile”). It also provides capacity building activities to institutions and players in the private sector: recently, it provided technical assistance to Unioncamere Lombardia in the promotion and dissemination of “green economy” best practices, with
particular reference to the application of Green Public Procurement procedures, by organising seminars on Green Public Procurement involving companies from the supply side, managing round tables with stakeholders, and directly supporting the contracting authorities in the drafting of the green specifications.

Affiliations and partnerships

- **European Charter for Researchers**
  The European Charter for Researchers is a set of general principles and requirements which specify the roles, responsibilities and entitlements of researchers, as well as those of the employers and/or funders of researchers; it affirms the **fundamental principles of academic freedom and freedom in research**. The aim of the Charter is to ensure that the relationship between researchers and their employers or funders leads to their success in generating, transferring, sharing and disseminating knowledge and technological development, as well as the researchers’ career development. The Charter also recognises the value of all forms of mobility as a means for enhancing the professional development of researchers.

Administrative units and supporting bodies

- **Guarantor of Transparency**: The Guarantor of Transparency is responsible for verifying and promoting the circulation of information, publicity and the transparency of the decision-making processes of Politecnico di Milano. This figure is appointed by the Rector - based on proposal by the Academic Senate - from a pool of university professors, and remains in office for three years.

- **Head Against Corruption and for Transparency**: The Head Against Corruption and for Transparency is responsible for drawing up and submitting the Three-Year Plan against Corruption and for Transparency to the Board of Directors, assessing the effectiveness of the programme, defining the procedures for selecting and training the staff working in corruptible areas, and producing the Annual Report according to the national directives. The Internal Auditing Unit supports the Head Against Corruption and for Transparency in assessing how successfully the plan is being implemented.

- **General Affairs and Institutional Legislation Unit**: within the General Directorate, this is the unit responsible for managing electoral procedures within university bodies and coordinating the revision and updating of university regulations. It also assists the Head Against Corruption and for Transparency in performing their duties.