**SDG17**

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

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**Strategic programmes**

**POLISOCIAL**

Polisocial promotes and encourages new multidisciplinary approaches with a particular focus on human and social development, expanding the training opportunities and chances for discussion and research offered to students, researchers, and the university's teaching and technical-administrative staff. Polisocial promotes technological cooperation in the service of local self-development, creating opportunities for field research in unconventional local and international areas. The network built by Polisocial is composed of international organisations, civil society associations, public administrations, foundations and private companies.

- **Polisocial Award**: annual competition run by the Polisocial programme with the aim of supporting academic research with high social impact. Proposals must guarantee the active and effective involvement of local partners, developing partnerships with them, and projects must have a strong social vocation. The purpose of the Award is to stimulate cooperation and inclusion processes in vulnerable contexts, develop innovative technologies, processes and services to reduce social inequalities, and consolidate research and co-design in collaboration with other university departments and/or external stakeholders. In 2018, a report entitled *Polisocial Award, Responsible Research Experiences* was published, summarising the experience of past editions of the Award.

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT @POLIMI**

Politecnico has formalised its vocation for university cooperation based on the interest and commitment of individual professors, who have been able to lay solid foundations on which to build more widespread interest and participation. From the outset, academic cooperation at Polimi has been defined by collaboration with universities in developing countries, with Africa in particular representing perhaps the longest-standing strategic geographical area. Politecnico di Milano's approach is characterised by research activities aimed at solving problems in developing countries, involving Polimi professors and young researchers working in synergy with local partners or stakeholders. Collaborations with universities in cooperating countries make up an important proportion of Politecnico's network, as do its close relationships with public administrations in the context of technical assistance services or the sharing of best practices. Within this line of action, the granting of scholarships (through national programmes financed by the AICS - the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation) and participation in mobility projects for the students and staff of universities in cooperating countries (mainly financed by the European Union) has seen an increase in recent years. A report entitled "Stories of Cooperation at Polimi" is due to be published in 2021 and will present a collection of the cooperation activities undertaken by Politecnico over the 2017-2021 period.

**SUSTAINABILITY IN TEACHING**

It is the university’s aim to ensure that a culture of sustainability permeates the various training opportunities it offers, both in curricular teaching and in complementary activities. In order to spread knowledge and awareness of sustainability both within the university, amongst students, researchers and staff, and beyond, amongst citizens and school students, Politecnico therefore promotes various teaching activities.
In addition to the commitment to include SDGs in course curricula, Politecnico di Milano also offers specific curricular and extracurricular teaching activities which encompass all the themes of sustainability and the 2030 Agenda in particular:

- **Sustainable Development (course unit):** the course aims to introduce students to the theme of sustainable development and the role of technology in the complexity of global challenges. Sustainable development aims to identify innovative models for economic prosperity that are compatible with respect for the planet and the social inclusion of all people. It is through this lens that the rationale and logic behind this paradigm must be analysed and understood by the generations of engineers who will be working in increasingly global contexts.

- **Passion in Action – Passion for Sustainable Development (elective learning activity):** Politecnico di Milano offers particularly passionate and proactive students the chance to engage in “Passion in Action”, a catalogue of innovative learning activities characterised by multidisciplinarity, transversality and soft skill development. One of the available paths, “Passion for Sustainable Development”, aims to involve the students in a double-faceted process of learning and teaching about the SDGs and global sustainability challenges: the learning section is structured around seminars, workshops and individual study, whilst the “give-back” teaching phase involves peer education projects with secondary school students, in which Politecnico di Milano students take up the role of ambassadors for sustainable development and are tasked with educating the younger generation.

- **Higher Education for Sustainable Development Goals (MOOC):** classified as a “MOOC for citizens”, this is open to the general public and aims to disseminate knowledge about sustainability, with a view to reaching the widest possible audience. The course introduces the concept of sustainable development whilst also providing an overview of recent debate and the policies promoted at the global level to tackle urgent environmental and societal challenges. The 17 SDGs are presented over the course programme. The course concludes with a call for action to accelerate and demonstrate the commitment of the higher education community.
As part of the university involvement in international cooperation and sustainability in teaching, Politecnico di Milano holds two UNESCO Chairs and manages one UNITWIN Network, promoting international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work in key priority areas related to UNESCO's fields of competence:

- **UNESCO Chair in Architectural Preservation and Planning in World Heritage Cities**, aiming to develop innovative education, research and dissemination activities in the field of architectural design for heritage cities, by supporting the experimentation with new teaching and training practices, fostering international cooperation through the establishing of a cross-cultural network of partners, and facilitating the exchange and transfer of knowledge within different areas of the world.

- **UNESCO Chair in Energy for Sustainable Development**, which focuses on knowledge sharing and training on issues related to access to energy and sustainable energies strategies, in collaboration with international institutions and NGOs. The public-private partnership is enforced by working with the civil society players and/or public institution on research projects funded by private bodies for supporting local socio-economic growth.

- **UNITWIN Network on Green Chemistry Excellence from the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean and Beyond**, aiming to promote an integrated system of research, documentation, training and information activities on Green Chemistry as a contribution to actions aimed at preventing pollution and risks, promoting the exploitation of green resources and reducing the consumption of non-renewable resources.

### Other actions

- **GreenMetric Ranking and Impact Rankings**: Politecnico di Milano has been participating in the UI GreenMetric Ranking since 2010 as a way of measuring its performance in terms of environmental sustainability against that of an ever-growing number of universities around the world (more than 900 in the 2020 edition); the participation of such a large number of universities allows the ranking to track the progress made by higher education institutions towards the sustainability goals and to gather data that can be used to direct actions and policies geared towards achieving sustainable development for all.

  2021 will mark the first time that Politecnico di Milano applies for the Impact Rankings organised by Times Higher Education (THE), an initiative in a similar vein which takes a broader look at the theme of sustainability, measuring each university's performance with regard to all of the SDGs.

### Affiliations and partnerships

- **Festival dello Sviluppo Sostenibile (Sustainable Development Festival)**
  Since 2017, Politecnico di Milano has been taking part in this event organised by the ASviS – Associazione Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile, as a way of marking European Sustainable Development Week. During the Festival, Politecnico di Milano organises a rich programme of events which are open and freely accessible to the general public.

  The Festival dello Sviluppo Sostenibile is a unique opportunity for academics, civil society players and NGOs to disseminate knowledge and best practices pertaining to the SDGs, as well as to create and strengthen cross-sectoral networks which can effectively contribute towards sustainable development in the local and global community.

- **RUS (Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile)**
  The RUS - Network of Universities for Sustainable Development - is a network of Italian universities that cooperate with the aim of pursuing and promoting sustainable development, with the two main branches of environmental sustainability and social responsibility. The main purpose of the Network is the dissemination of the culture and best practices of sustainability, both within and outside the universities (at the urban, regional, national and international levels), with a view to increasing the positive impacts of the actions implemented by the members of the Network in environmental,
ethical, social and economic terms, so as to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and bolster the recognition and value of Italy’s experience at the international level. The members are organised into seven working groups, each of which focuses on a specific aspect of sustainability; Politecnico di Milano is the coordinator for two working groups: Climate Change and Resources & Waste.

- **CUCS (Coordinamento Universitario per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo)**
  The CUCS - University Network for Development Cooperation - is a network of more than 30 Italian universities, all committed to playing a concrete and innovative role in strengthening and improving international cooperation for development. A CUCS conference is organised every two years by one of the member universities with a view to enabling valuable networking, peer learning, and the blending of experience and concepts.

- **ISCN (International Sustainable Campus Network)**
  The International Sustainable Campus Network brings together more than 80 universities from all over the world. The mission of the ISCN is to provide an international forum to support higher education institutions in the exchange of information, ideas and best practices for achieving sustainable campus operations and integrating sustainability into research and teaching.

**Data**

**Polisocial Award**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TECHNOLOGICAL PRODUCTS OFFERED TO WIDER SOCIETY</th>
<th>2014-2019</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interactive web platforms</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile apps</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical devices</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling units</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab-on-a-chip diagnostic tests</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy systems (mini-grids)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COMMUNITY</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local communities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations/NGOs/citizens’ committees</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic partnerships with institutions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, through the Polisocial Award, 16 teaching and education products have been developed, as well as one patent; the number of active partnerships developed thanks to the Award rose from 74 in 2014 to 233 in 2019.

**International cooperation for development projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF PROJECTS</th>
<th>2011-2016</th>
<th>2017-2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main SDGs addressed by cooperation projects at Politecnico di Milano

90% of projects undertaken at Politecnico address themes that are related to six main Goals:

- SDG11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG4 – Quality Education
- SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Administrative units

- **Social Responsibility Projects Unit**: established within the Public Engagement Division, this unit supports the action of the Polisocial programme and coordinates social responsibility projects developed at Politecnico di Milano and led by Rector’s Delegates (Delegate to Cooperation and Development, Delegate to Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility).

- **Sustainability Unit**: established within the Campus Life Division; in addition to planning and developing actions related to environmental sustainability at the university, this unit has the role of spreading the culture of sustainable development and awareness about the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda throughout Politecnico community and beyond, largely by promoting events and disseminating online content.