



**POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863**



ISABELLA NOVA

Executive Vice Rector with a focus
on the Implementation of the Strategic
Plan at Politecnico di Milano

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Isabella Nova is Executive Vice Rector with a focus on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan at Politecnico di Milano, where she is also Full Professor of Chemical Technologies at the Department of Energy (DENG) and holds the course on Industrial Chemistry for the Chemical Engineering program. Graduated in Chemical Engineering from the same university, she obtained her PhD in Industrial Chemistry from the University of Milan. She is member of the Board of Directors of Maire Tecnimont since 2023.

During her career, Nova has held numerous institutional positions, both internal and external to Politecnico di Milano, which have defined a progressive expansion of her vision: from a context more focused on teaching and research in the chemical and energy fields, to assisting the Rector in the overall functioning of the university.

She is recognized as an international leader in the field of catalysis, with a focus on post-treatment processes for polluting effluents and sustainable energy production. Since 2002, she has participated in the research activities conducted by the Laboratory of Catalysis and Catalytic Processes (LCCP) of the Politecnico di Milano, focusing on the application of catalysis at an industrial level and its possible use in the environmental and energy fields.

She authored over 170 publications, is co-editor of 6 Special Issues, and holds 3 international patents. Her numerous research achievements have earned her a place in the 100Esperte in STEM, the Top Italian Scientists, and the 2018 Inspiring Fifty Italy.



Vision

“Politecnico di Milano as an extended community. Its campuses as places of aggregation”. This is the vision of Isabella Nova, who recognises the university as a place dedicated to the growth of the individual and the development of talent. In the long term, Politecnico di Milano aims to get closer to international standards, transforming its campuses, in Milan and the territorial poles, into true extended communities, held together not only by teaching and research activities but also by sports, cultural, recreational, and non-profit activities.

Equally important for Nova is the attention to environmental dynamics and energy transition, the result of years of study, advanced research, and industrial experimentation (such as emission control resulting from combustion, as well as new processes for clean energy production through photocatalytic water splitting).

Inclusion and sustainability are key elements resonating throughout the 2023-2025 University Strategic Plan, translated into performance indicators monitored annually under the coordination of Professor Nova. This continuous review process reflects a pact of trust between Politecnico and its stakeholders: from students to researchers; from enterprises to institutions.

During her previous experiences (including her roles as Coordinator of the Chemical Engineering Course Council and Deputy Dean of the School of Industrial and Information Engineering), Isabella Nova tackled a variety of themes, many of which are echoed in the Strategic Plan. Among them, the Plan dedicates great care to educating the new generations to critically address global challenges, through innovative models and experimentation.

It is no coincidence that, before being appointed Vice Rector, Nova restructured the Master’s degree in Chemical Engineering to be more flexible and tailored to the needs and aptitudes of individual students. She also expanded extracurricular and interdisciplinary activities through free participation courses (Passion in Action courses)



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in order to foster the development of soft and social skills. Furthermore, she played a role in establishing higher education courses (PoliMI Ambassadors) designed to create interdisciplinary professionals.

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