



# ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

## Overall Strategy

### **Our institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy**

Internationalization is a key element in the vision of the Politecnico di Milano, which reads as follows:

“A university of international relevance, actively participating in networks of excellence, pursuing quality research activities as defined by international standards, attracting high profile international students in significant numbers at the Master of Science and PhD level, with high quality administrative services addressed to both international and national students and with a more and more international faculty.”

As far as education is concerned, the strategic objectives that have been planned are addressed to enhance the attraction of international students (targets set: 20-25% at MSc level, 30-40% at PhD level), to select international students that are able to perform as well as national students and to have them equally distributed in all programmes. To reach these ambitious goals it has been established that from the a.y. 2014/15 all Master of Science courses will be exclusively offered in English.

As to international partners, the strategy of Politecnico di Milano is to give priority to international partnerships and agreements with institutions that are present in the most important international rankings. In terms of geographical areas, beside Europe and North America, BRIC countries are considered highly strategic together with Vietnam, Indonesia, Argentina, Chile, Israel and Turkey.

Another key element regards the exchange mobility where our strategy is to implement all the instruments of the ECTS even with non-European partners. The instruments to manage the process are continuously updated using all the tools of information technology. We offer such opportunities of mobility to undergraduate and master students and PhD candidates as well as to academic staff. We also promote mobility of the administrative staff to exchange international experience of good practice in order to innovate the administrative procedures.

The Politecnico di Milano launched its first double degrees in 1988. Since then, more than 500 of its students have been awarded double degrees.

Polimi has been a founding member of the T.I.M.E. Association (providing also one of its Presidents) pioneering double degrees at the graduate level since the year 1988. In that framework, Polimi contributed to launch a “quality label” for double masters in engineering through a very strict quality control of the process. Double degrees are a top priority in the strategy of the Polimi so that its Academic Senate established strict rules on choosing partners, on defining the process and on controlling the quality both of the process and of the educational outcome. This guarantees the awarding only of double degrees highly recognized by the job market.

With more than 100 official double degree agreements with top class institutions all over the world the Polimi is one of the most active institutions of the world in double degrees. The Polimi has launched and managed projects to assess the outcomes of the double degree programmes and the feedback from constituencies external to the world of Higher Education.

All our processes are designed totally transparent and under control to implement all the issues of equal opportunities, gender balance and social equity.

### **Our institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme**

The strategy of Politecnico di Milano is to participate in the calls for projects implemented under the Programme: both the ones aimed at studying the policy and the structure of international cooperation, and the ones that implement such cooperation through mobility of Undergraduates, Master's students, Doctorands, Postdocs, Academic and Administrative Staff.

We study the relevance and quality of our international co-operations and actions. Two examples are the Evaluate-E ATLANTIS project with EU and US institutions and Adde Salem Erasmus Mundus Act 3 project with EU and South American institutions. The Polimi launched and coordinated both projects that provide a feedback from the world external to higher education (mainly employers and alumni) on double degrees. The policy to sustain those studies even after the end of the projects' financing. In both cases we afford the problem in a systematic way avoiding self-referentiality and anecdotal approaches.

For all our projects, we set up a "quality control committee" to continuously monitor the actions and procedures, and an "evaluation committee" also with external members to obtain an ex-post evaluation.

We also participated in many Consortia of the Erasmus Mundus Action 1 and 2 projects. Even in the new programme we will be active in international Consortia.

We use the results coming from studies like the ones of the former EM Act.3 projects, to better design curricula for Consortia like the ones of the former EM Act.1 and 2. This is made possible by implementing a "virtuous cycle" to guarantee that the results of our studies are received by the institution and the outcomes are used in designing new international programmes. That is how we can set-up Consortia that implement international projects responding to real needs of the Society.

### **Expected impact of our participation in the Programme on the modernization of our institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda)**

1. It will increase attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs in particularly at the doctoral level. International projects are designed with attention to underrepresented groups. A close contact with companies is maintained through conferences, seminars and internships, increasing opportunities of research careers both within and outside the academic world.

Special attention is paid to increasing the number of women in postgraduate education and research.

2. Improving quality and relevance of higher education and employability of the graduates in high-skill occupations is high priority. Employers and labor market institutions are always involved at an early stage when designing international projects. They offer practical experiences like internships cooperating with our Career Service. Consortia, like MIP and CEFRIEL, are promoted with companies as members. They set up other international exchange projects (both educational and for research) also by exploiting ICT and other new technologies. Our corporate partners are offering high-skill occupations.

Graduate careers are monitored.

3. Quality is strengthened through mobility and cross-border co-operation. Our goal for "horizontal mobility" is to reach 20% of students having a study period abroad before 2020, concentrating on graduate levels. Such mobility is already requested of all our doctoral candidates. As to "vertical mobility" we already have a very strong incoming flow but low for "outgoing" graduate. That is why we are setting up international strategic alliances with research-intensive institutions.

To attract best academics and researchers from abroad the Polimi has heavily invested in grants.

4. The knowledge triangle has been implemented by Polimi since its foundation in 1863. Today it is involved in Consortia with local and international companies to promote research contracts, participation of industry people in teaching, setting up continuing education courses. Our Foundation connects Local Communities and administrations on the most important issues of our time. Polimi is the only Italian University in the WC2 Network where the most important issues of the World Class Cities are afforded through cooperation between Universities, Business and Local Communities.

Start-ups and spin-offs are promoted and sustained by our incubator "Acceleratore d'Impresa".

5. To improve its governance the Polimi has internally set up a competitive funding mechanism linked to performance assessed through a periodical peer review control of the research. Peer reviewers for each Department are foreign academics. The results are publicized and efforts are focused on the areas of excellence. Funds from our Ministry and from the European Commission are used to leverage private investment. Grants are used to attract the best foreign professors and researchers.

Many initiative aims at valorizing women both in education and research.