



## **Pisa University's engagement in the promotion of research**

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Pisa University's engagement in the promotion of research has constantly been strong and well-defined.

Throughout the almost seven centuries of its existence, the University of Pisa has always maintained a very high qualitative standard in research, and the effort aimed at preserving and improving this standard is certainly characterizing the present Rector's engagement, as well as that of all his collaborators.

The results of a recent evaluation, commissioned by the Ministry of Higher Education, that has taken into consideration all the 77 Italian universities as well as all the national research agencies, have confirmed that Pisa solidly occupies a very satisfactory third place. On the basis of the standard parameters internationally accepted by the scientific community, Pisa University has obtained not only a more than adequate overall position, but it belongs to a very select group of top performers in various key areas, doing honour to its competitive potential at both national and international level.

For the current year, additional internal resources have been allocated to research projects of a specifically multidisciplinary character. Moreover, the University of Pisa is currently and successfully pursuing a policy of rationalization of its many PhD courses into Doctorate Schools, targeted at further improving their efficiency and attractiveness.

Next to the two already in existence – the 'Galilei' School for Mathematics, Physics, Informatics, and Chemistry, and the 'Leonardo' School for Engineering Studies - eight new Schools have been established while more still are in the process of being created.

All this has the obvious aim of creating structures where all, or most of, the activities run at the University of Pisa can best be coordinated, with a special attention at interdisciplinarity, in the awareness that this will also advance collaboration with other national and international scientific institutions.

Finally, an important project - funded by the Tuscany Region - the University of Pisa is very keen on. Towards its realization, a protocol has been signed between Pisa University, the integrated city-and-university public-health system and the Tuscany Region. This agreement will lead to the creation of the new Pole of Regenerative Medicine, which will include a Centre for the Clinical Use of Stem Cells and an Interfunctional Centre in the field of Biotechnologies. The above-mentioned Pole is meant to represent one of the most highly qualified structures within its sector - counting on a 2,000-square-meter compound, endowed with ten fully accessorized laboratories for the manipulation of stem cells, offices and lecture rooms - and a centre of attraction for those agencies and businesses which may be interested in developing the research in the various areas connected with the study of stem cells.