

# *GUIDELINES FOR ENSURING THE QUALITY OF THE THIRD MISSION*



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## INDEX

1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION	p. 3
2. MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE THIRD MISSION IN THE UNIVERSITY	p. 3
3. CONTRACTED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR THIRD PARTIES	p. 4
4. INTERMEDIARY STRUCTURES OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THIRD MISSION ACTIVITIES	p. 4
5. CONTINUOUS TRAINING, LIFELONG LEARNING AND OPEN EDUCATION	p. 5
6. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT	p. 6
7. WEBSITE	p. 7



## 1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The University of Gastronomic Sciences considers the activities of the Third Mission as a fundamental institutional responsibility of its mission. Consistently with a holistic and critical view of the knowledge that characterizes the University of Pollenzo, the gastronomic sciences promote a complex, systemic, inclusive model of knowledge, within which there is a vital space for the activities of the Third Mission of the University alongside traditional teaching and research missions that enters into direct interaction with society and promotes the transfer of culture and innovation. For a university that produces future gastronomes, experts who are capable of understanding the processes of food starting from production to consumption, from techniques and technologies to symbols and narratives, and are equally interested in what nourishes both the body and the human soul, those activities of the Third Mission are crucial that define a synergy with the territories, with the companies that produce food, with the local realities and with the people that contribute in making food not only as a material resource, but also a cultural, symbolic, economic and social element.

Many of the objectives that characterize the Strategic Programming of the University coincide with the objectives of the Third Mission. In particular that of promoting research at the service of civil society with the aim of contributing to the well-being of humanity, promoting equal dignity between scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge of local communities through the mutual transfer and sharing of knowledge, in order to strengthen the sustainability and sovereignty of food systems in the world. Therefore, the university gives particular importance to applied research activities, training for non-academic audiences and commitment to maintaining cultural diversity and social cohesion.

Since these are activities meant for the outside world, particularly capable of favoring the valuable creation for the whole society, for businesses and for the territory in which it is synergistically and strategically located, the University of Gastronomic Sciences pursues adequate policies for the Third Mission and implements a series of actions in order to strictly ensure quality.

## 2. MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE THIRD MISSION IN THE UNIVERSITY

The activities of the Institutional Third Mission in which the University is currently involved are divided into:

- a) contracted research activities for third-parties;
- b) activities carried out by the intermediary structures;
- c) activities of continuous training, lifelong learning and open education;
- d) activities of social and cultural *Public Engagement*.

### 3. CONTRACTED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR THIRD PARTIES

The Third Parties describes the research and consultancy activities carried out by the University on the basis of contracts with external clients.

Thanks to its centrality within its network that involve numerous excellences of Italian and world food, the University carries out numerous research activities on behalf of third parties, some of which are highly innovative and unique researches in Italy.

In accordance with the Guidelines issued by the ANVUR, the University has an internal system for systematically recording applied research activities carried out on behalf of third parties. Thanks to a specific applied research project model prepared by the University and a database in which data related to funded research projects are systematically collected, ranging from economic / financial data (e.g. allocated budget, etc.) of each project, to information regarding the contract, such as title of the project, PI, etc., the University administration periodically verifies the accounting data and updates it by adding any missing data. Thanks to the settings of filters inside the file, it is easy to go back to the specific third-party research activities and to the characteristics required by the ANVUR Guidelines.

### 4. INTERMEDIARY STRUCTURES OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THIRD MISSION ACTIVITIES

Intermediary Structures are those structures of the University that play a role of connection and mediation with the territory and with activities that fall under the institutional task of the Third Mission. In particular, the University of Gastronomic Sciences makes use of the following intermediary structures within the University: The External Relations Office particularly dedicated to carry out activities to enhance research on behalf of third parties and relations with companies; the Communication Office particularly dedicated to external dissemination activities and disclosure of research and knowledge transfer activities carried out by the University to a non-academic audience or public. The Career Center is specifically dedicated to *placement* activities, selection and promotion of students with reference to the questions expressed by the productive world. In particular, the Career Center is a specific active structure, which accompanies the path of professional growth of its students and Alumni through classroom workshops, customized coaching sessions, meetings with companies, dedicated events and with services available through the portal: [www.career.unisg.it](http://www.career.unisg.it)

In accordance with the provisions of the ANVUR, the University has equipped itself with internal tools aimed at carrying out periodic inspection of the activities performed by the intermediary structures.

In particular, this inspection is conducted at the University level through surveys, in which each structure periodically fills out forms that are integrated to an expandable database that is continuously available for both internal and external monitoring and verification.



## 5. CONTINUOUS TRAINING<sup>1</sup>, LIFELONG LEARNING<sup>2</sup> AND OPEN EDUCATION<sup>3</sup>

The area called "CONTINUOUS TRAINING, LIFELONG LEARNING AND OPEN EDUCATION" describes a series of training activities carried out by the University, which are not aimed at traditional users and do not award a university degree. These are training activities that fall within the framework of the Third Mission, as they are aimed at participants or audience other than those who typically take advantage of University teaching.

For the unique and prominent position that the University of Gastronomic Sciences occupies in the field of knowledge of the food system in all its aspects, it is distinguished by a particularly wide spectrum of continuous training offered to companies, to confederations, associations and non-profit organizations in the agri-food sector. These are training activities related to professional interests, some accredited and others not, aimed at updating and animating the public debates on issues of interest both locally and globally. These activities are carried out in collaboration and / or agreement with an external organization, generally governed by a formal act approved by the University Bodies. In accordance with the Guidelines on the Third Mission disseminated by the ANVUR, these activities are classified and monitored separately from those with an educational purpose and it is aimed at an audience of non-specialists who are instead included in the Public Engagement framework.

As stated in the Guidelines disseminated by the ANVUR, the University has equipped itself with tools for systematically monitoring continuous training activities, integrating the archiving tools of the individual external training activities with a format specifically designed for the strategic inspection of the Third Mission, and it is made as compliant as possible with the Guidelines published by ANVUR. The inspection takes place at the University level, through surveys and compilation of forms by the office responsible for external training, that is integrated in to a dynamic and continuously expandable database. The information refers to all the external training activities carried out by the University, consisting mainly of paid courses commissioned by private and public entities.

In accordance with the requirements of the ANVUR module, the survey collects data regarding the total number of activities per year, with detailed information regarding the type of training, total number of CFP / CFU provided (if recognized), overall number of hours of assisted teaching disbursed, total number of participants, total number of teachers involved, number third parties involved in the

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<sup>1</sup> By Lifelong Learning it is meant "lifelong education and training", in other words, over the whole life span; this expression underlines duration of the training: It is in fact a training either constant or at regular intervals. (Source: [https://archivio.pubblica.istruzione.it/dg\\_postsecondaria/memorandum.pdf](https://archivio.pubblica.istruzione.it/dg_postsecondaria/memorandum.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> Lifelong learning consists of "any activity undertaken by people in a formal, non-formal, informal way in various stages of life in order to improve knowledge, skills and competences, in a personal, civic, social and occupational perspective "(Law 92 of 2012, article 4, paragraph 51). (Source : <http://www.miur.gov.it/tematiche-e-servizi/istruzione-degli-adulti/apprendimento-permanente> ).

<sup>3</sup> By "open education" or "at stations" we intend to mean an educational format with an objective to support the active action by the subjects in training. The teacher sets up an "open" or "station" setting, in which corners and spaces for diversification and self-determination are organized by the students involved in their learning. It is an educational format particularly intended to the realization of an inclusive and plural education (Source: MIUR, *L'autonomia scolastica per il successo formativo. Documento di lavoro*, 2018)

organization of the courses if any, total revenue generated by the programs with details of the source of the amounts.

The University has also endowed itself with an internal tool for identifying the skills certification activities, those activities of recognition, validation and certification of the competences performed by the universities, which allow individuals to exploit and spend the skills acquired in a specific geographical context, in the European labor market and in education and training systems. In some cases, the certification of competences is occurred within the training courses aimed at non-specialist publics and therefore falling within the activities described by the Public Engagement framework (see §6). Therefore, in accordance with the requirements of the ANVUR Guidelines, the university has equipped itself with an internal identification tool specifically aimed at the certification of skills and conducted through surveys, the compilation of which is carried out by the office responsible for external training.

## 6. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

This category falls within the institutional functions of the Third Mission carried out by the University of Gastronomic Sciences and describes the activities organized institutionally by the University or by its non-profit structures with an educational, cultural and social development value aimed at a non-traditional and non-specialist public.

Due to the intrinsically inclusive nature of the cognitive and educational model of the University of Gastronomic Sciences which is strongly inspired by the values of environmental and social sustainability, the University of Pollenzo appears to be particularly committed to public engagement.

In particular, the University is specifically involved in the following activities:

- popular publications (dedicated to the non-academic public) signed by the teaching staff, production of radio or television programs, management of websites and social media channels for communication and scientific dissemination (other than the University website)
- organization of research enhancement, consultation and sharing events (e.g., Researchers' Night, open day, debates, festivals and scientific cafés, online consultations);
- organization of concerts, exhibitions, film festivals, expos and other public utility events open to the community;
- participation in the development of public interest programs (policymaking);
- health protection initiatives (e.g. information and prevention days);
- orientation and involvement initiatives and interaction with high schools (innovative teaching, hands on experiments, laboratory activities and simulations);
- participatory democracy initiatives (e.g. consensus conferences, citizen panel);
- Knowledge co-production initiatives (e.g. citizen science, contamination Lab).



Given the intense involvement in Public Engagement activities, also in this case, the University has equipped itself with a periodic survey tool shared by all the teaching staff and by the technical-administrative staff for the systematic collection of information related to the various activities carried out starting from 2015. It is in a form of a file through a shared Drive and intended for self-compilation by the same subjects (teachers, researchers and staff) at any time of the year.

The file therefore constitutes a database that is always available and in continuous expansion, which allows to have a complete view of all the Public Engagement activities carried out by the University. Moreover, through the use of filters it is possible to do research according to specific indicators (for example by year, by category of public engagement activities, by teacher, etc.). This tool allows internal monitoring of Public Engagement activities and makes this information immediately available on demand to those who requires it, especially during periodic surveys of ANVUR.

## 7. WEBSITE

All the updated information regarding the specific activities of the Third Mission in which the University of Gastronomic Sciences is involved is available on the following site:

<https://www.unisg.it/docenti-ricerca/terza-missione/>