

# MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION ENGINEERING

## Ateneo/DIGEP -Service to society & the quality of public policies: drivers and conditions of anticipatory governance promoted by research institutions

<b>Funded By</b>	Dipartimento DIGEP Politecnico di TORINO [P.iva/CF:00518460019]
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<b>Supervisor</b>	SACCHI STEFANO - stefano.sacchi@polito.it
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<b>Context of the research activity</b>	<p>The transformations involving our time, from the ecological transition to the energy transition, to the demographic transition; from migrations to the digital transformation, to the development and use of artificial intelligence, to the increased risk of global war, all pose new social, political, economic and technical challenges for advanced societies, and elicit new intellectual and policy responses. In order to be effective, such responses must be cast in an interdisciplinary perspective, combining the approaches from applied technological and applied social and human sciences. The analysis of these transformations and the challenges they pose for policymakers, as well as the crafting of policy responses is increasingly at the core of both research and teaching activities of some of the most prestigious schools of technology in the world, as well as think tanks and institutes of governance studies, and sometimes research centres associated to public bodies. Often based on concepts such as foresight and anticipatory governance, defined by the OECD as “a proactive approach that integrates foresight, innovation, and continuous learning into the heart of public governance”, these initiatives aim to provide insight and guidance to policymaking, and – in the case of higher education institutions – train decisionmakers capable of crafting more effective, resilient and participated policies, experimenting with innovations. The research programme “Technology, transformations and policy” (ttpoli) includes the study of initiatives – from research to training of decisionmakers – to inform policymaking based on anticipatory governance of technologies and their societal consequences.</p>
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	<p>The research activities aim to study the concept and practical adoption of foresight and anticipatory governance when applied to the relationship between technology and public policy, with a view to singling out the drivers of adoption of such approach, and the conditions under which this leads to effective domestic or supranational policymaking. In order to do so, the activities, organisation and mission of think tanks and research centres, either independent or affiliated to governmental bodies, that adopt such approach</p>
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**Objectives**

will be reviewed. A specific objective of this research is to investigate the structure and functioning of research centres or teaching and training programmes in higher education institutions, most notably schools of technology, which have focused on providing guidance to policymaking and on the training of decisionmakers along those innovative lines. The research activity has two main goals. First, to understand the drivers whereby anticipatory governance, typically embedded in foresight or research centres, is taken into account in policymaking, and the conditions which favour or hinder the adoption of the outputs and recommendations of such institutions in actual policymaking and public governance. Second, to build, based on the comparative assessment of initiatives worldwide, a framework of reference for the construction of a research and training facility on the interplay between technology and policymaking that be guided by the orientation towards anticipatory governance and that provides guidance to policymakers, as well as training policymakers and decisionmakers according to its own vision.

**Skills and competencies for the development of the activity**

No specific background is required, as diverse backgrounds in applied science, social science and humanities are all acceptable, but knowledge of key concepts in the field, the ability to carry out comparative analysis both via desk research and in field work, and the analytic capabilities to issue recommendations, are at the core of the research tasks to be performed by the doctoral candidate.