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Data as a Common Good: Knowledge, Transparency and Decision-making

As already highlighted by Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University, in an era defined by the speed of transitions, **data is no longer merely a technological by-product**, but the true **“raw material”** of our time. It represents the primary key to interpreting our reality, the starting point for information and decision-making processes that directly impact the community. However, data are not just numbers; they are **a language that enables progress for the collectivity and unprecedented transparency**, in full alignment with the **principles of Open Science**, of which **Luiss is a promoter**.

This issue of the **Research & Third Mission Newsbook** explores the theme of digital data by adopting a perspective that is specialized yet not divisive, but rather deeply transversal across disciplines. About a year since its inception, the strategy that led to the establishment of **the Department of AI, Data and Decision Sciences has proven successful**: not only for creating a **laboratory where quantitative analysis is oriented toward the collective good**, but also for its **ability to demonstrate the genuine proximity between academia and civil society**—the hallmark of an authentically “engaged” science.

Today, **interpreting data means taking responsibility for leading change with ethics and vision**. And it is precisely through this synergy that Luiss continues to consolidate its excellence, as shown by the selection of high-profile publications by our researchers and the success in competitive research projects.

As an institution geared toward innovation, we continue to **invest in research that integrates technological development with human values**, convinced that **the ability to transform information into knowledge is the precondition for a more conscious, equitable, and transparent society**.

Stefano Manzocchi
Deputy Rector for Research and Third Mission