



Ph.D. in



SCUOLA  
ALTI STUDI  
LUCCA

# Social Sciences for Sustainability and Wellbeing (S3W)



PhD in Social Sciences for  
Sustainability and Wellbeing



## PhD Social Sciences for Sustainability and Wellbeing

The PhD program in Social Sciences for Sustainability and Wellbeing (acronym: S3W), jointly offered by the [University of Florence](https://www.unifi.it/) and the [IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca](https://www.imt.it/), offers a great opportunity to learn a wide range of methods from the social sciences and enter a community of scholars committed to doing their best to ensure wellbeing and a sustainable future for our society.



# Ph.D. jointly provided by

**University of Florence**  
**Dep. Economics and  
Management (DISEI)**



**Scuola IMT Alti Studi Lucca**



# PhD Program Overview

## **Educational profile**

Expert in social science methods applied to sustainability and well-being

Analyzing interactions between social, economic, and environmental systems

Expert in transition to green mobility

## **Possible fields of application**

Promotion of healthy lifestyles

Organization of public services

Responsibility for consumption, investment, and production choices

## **Learning-by-doing**

Seminars

Internship to public institutions and private firms

Involvement on research projects

Participation to summer schools and conferences

# 3 Pillars of S3W

## 1. Interdisciplinary & Transdisciplinary Approach

Integrates perspectives from Political Science, Sociology, Management, and Environmental Science.

Creates a shared language to solve complex problems like the energy transition and inequality

Training researchers and professionals to tackle global challenges through advanced, interdisciplinary approaches

## 2. Applied Orientation (High TRL)

Focuses on high "Technology Readiness Level" (TRL) knowledge.

Research is designed for immediate application within institutional, economic, and local contexts

Promoting sustainable development and individual/collective wellbeing

## 3. Active Stakeholder Engagement

Collaborations with public institutions, businesses, third-sector entities, and civil society.

Promotes the "co-production of knowledge" and direct transfer of scientific results to the socio-economic system.

# Teachers

The Board is composed of 21 members, coming from different disciplines.

- **BELLUCCI Marco**
- **BILANCINI Ennio**
- **BONCINELLI Leonardo**
- **BRUNORI Paolo**
- **CRIMALDI Irene**
- **DI GUIDA Sibilla**
- **DISTEFANO Tiziano**
- **FACCHINI Angelo**
- **GNECCO Giorgio Stefano**
- **GORI Michele**
- **GRAZZINI Laura**
- **IELASI Federica**
- **LOMBARDI Ginevra Virginia**
- **LOMBARDI Sara**
- **MARINO Marianna**
- **MARTELLOZZO Federico**
- **MARZI Giacomo**
- **RICCABONI Massimo**
- **RUNGI Armando**
- **SERTI Francesco**
- **STEFANI Gianluca**

# Main courses & extra topics

**Social Dynamics:** Analyzing inequalities and social interaction dynamics.

**Resource Governance:** Management of natural resources, the "commons," and energy transition.

**Sustainable Production:** Resilience and sustainability of production chains.

**Policy & Institutions:** The role of public policy in promoting equitable development models.

**Multidimensional Wellbeing:** Measuring individual/collective behaviors and decision-making processes.

**Accountability:** Tools for sustainability reporting and institutional transparency.

- **Social Interactions, Competition and Inequalities**
- **Ecological Economics and Finance**
- **Sustainable Behavior and Experimental Economics**
- **Statistics and Data Analysis**
- **Wellbeing Measurement and Analysis**
- **Institutional Analysis for Sustainability and Wellbeing**
- **Organizational Behaviour and Business Ethics**
- **Energy and Resources Economics**
- **Sustainability Reporting and Accountability**
- **Satellite Imagery for the Environment and Econometrics for Sustainability and Wellbeing**
- **Institutions, property rights and collective action**
- **Health Economics and Policy**

The educational offer will not be limited to the aforementioned courses. The [University of Florence](#) and the [IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca](#) have planned activities to enhance cross-cutting skills. Overall, the approach to educational activities aims to promote open-mindedness, collaboration among students, and integration among different disciplines and approaches, also through the use of tools that foster proactive engagement and participation.

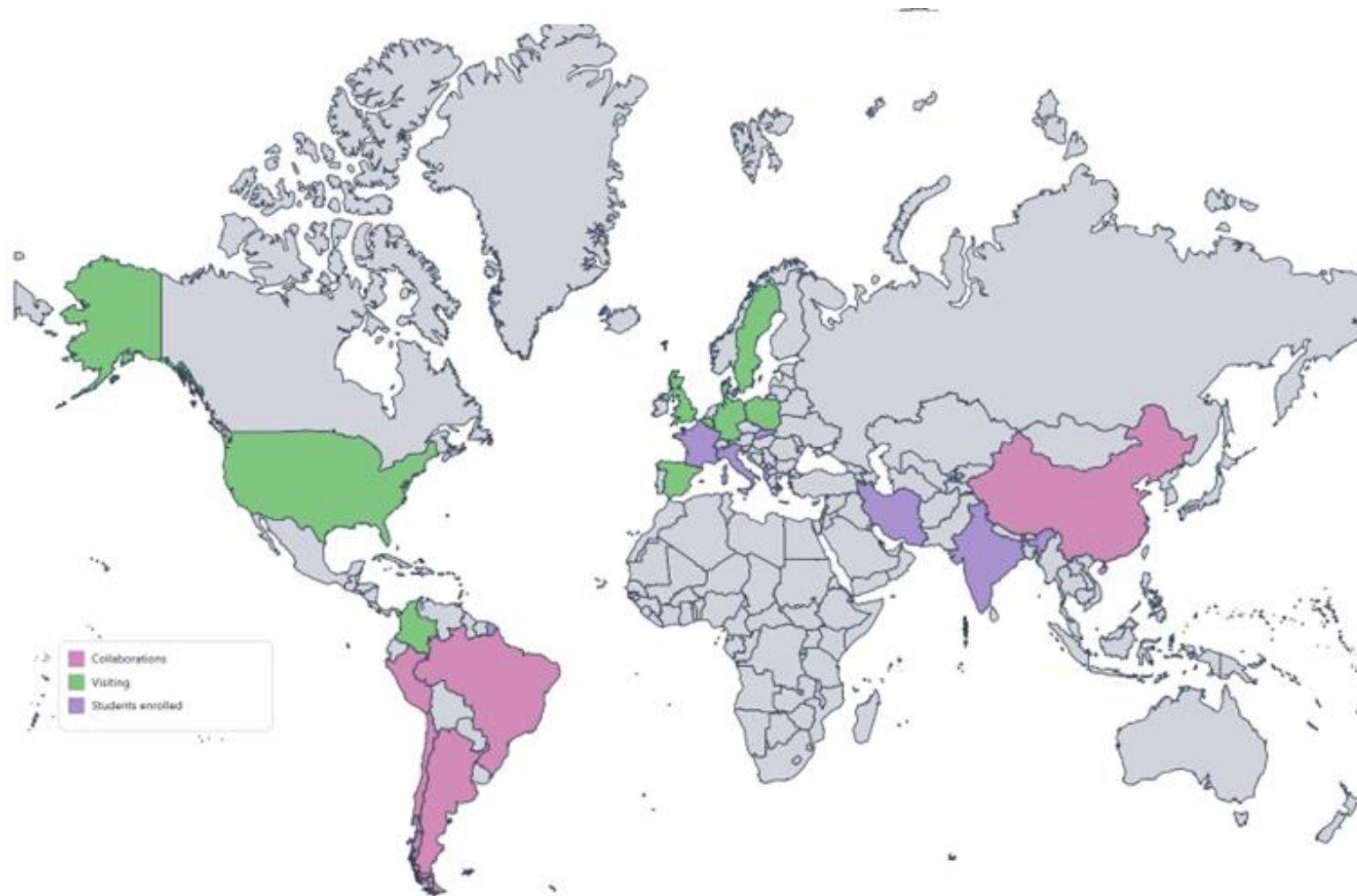
# Stakeholders and Job opportunities

**Graduates are equipped to operate at high levels within:**

- *Academia: Advanced research and teaching.*
- *International & Public Institutions: Policy design and evaluation.*
- *Private Sector: Sustainability management and corporate strategy.*
- *NGOs & Third Sector: Social innovation and community development.*

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ➤ <b>Unicoop Firenze</b>                              | ➤ <b>ANCI Toscana</b>             |
| ➤ <b>Consorzio Zenit</b>                              | ➤ <b>IRPET</b>                    |
| ➤ <b>Alia Servizi Ambientali</b>                      | ➤ <b>Comune di Camaiore</b>       |
| ➤ <b>ARS Toscana</b>                                  | ➤ <b>CGIL</b>                     |
| ➤ <b>3Bee</b>   | ➤ <b>SIGMA INGEGNERIA</b>         |
| ➤ <b>Ordine degli Psicologi della Toscana</b>         | ➤ <b>GEA FACTORY</b>              |
| ➤ <b>Autorità Idrica Toscana</b>                      | ➤ <b>FONDAZIONE FINANZA ETICA</b> |
| ➤ <b>Comune di Firenze (Assessorato all'Ambiente)</b> | ➤ <b>PIN ARCO</b>                 |
|   | ➤ <b>Dumarey</b>                  |

# International collaborations



# euni well

## European University for Well-Being

<https://www.euniwell.eu>

EUniWell - the European University for Well-Being - is one of over 60 European University Alliances, selected for funding by the European Commission under the **ERASMUS+** programme in 2020.

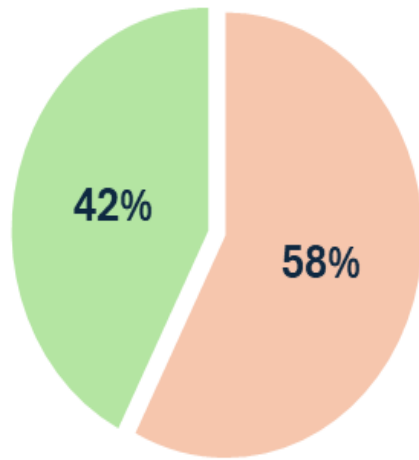
EUniWell is formed by the twelve universities of Birmingham (UK), Cologne (Germany), **Florence (Italy)**, Inalco (France), Konstanz (Germany), Linnaeus (Sweden), Murcia (Spain), Nantes (France), Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Semmelweis (Hungary), Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine), and Medical University of Warsaw (Poland).

Based on our joint values - democratic, inclusive, diverse, research and challenge-based, inter- and transdisciplinary, entrepreneurial, and co-creational - we aim to develop an action-oriented response to well-being, grounded in high profile research expertise, educational leadership and civic engagement.

# Enrolled students (very young Ph.D. 😊)

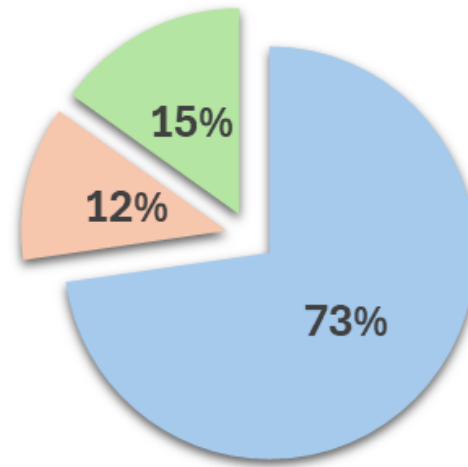
Cycle	#Students
39°	15
40°	10
41°	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

### Gender composition



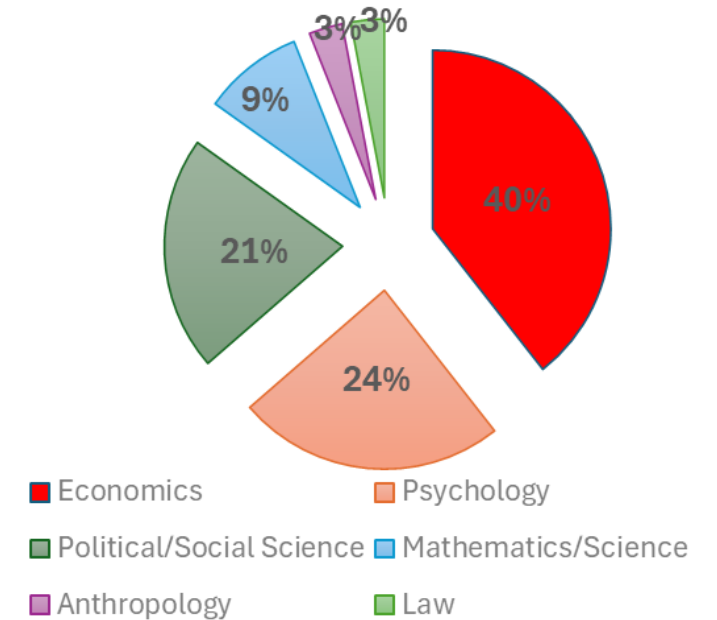
Male Female

### Nationality



Italians EU Extra EU

### Background



Economics Psychology  
Political/Social Science Mathematics/Science  
Anthropology Law

# Students' publications (before concluding the Ph.D. 😊)

1. **Turrini, S.**, Biggeri, M., Schmidt, I., & Wilts, H. (2026). Policymakers' perceptions of the wellbeing economy: emerging patterns and trade-offs in implementation.
2. Boncinelli, L., **Dallinger, L.**, & Distefano, T. (2025). C-frame thinking: Embedding behavioral economics into ecological economics. *Ecological Economics*, 227, 108373.
3. **Dallinger, L.**, Van Eynde, R., Vogel, J., Di Domenico, L., Fearon, S., Beigi, T., ... & O'Neill, D. W. (2026). Modelling the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW) and its response to policies. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2602.21971*.
4. **Berzi, L.**, Grasso, F., Pugi, L., Boni, E., & Savi, R. (2021, September). Design and Preliminary Testing of an Electrified Directional Drilling Machine. In *International Conference on Applications in Electronics Pervading Industry, Environment and Society* (pp. 24-30). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
5. **Ciulla, L.**, & Clò, S. (2026). Regional trains and air pollution: estimating avoided NO2 concentrations through a natural experiment. *Environmental Research Letters*, 21(3), 034031.
6. Clò, S., **Ciulla, L.**, Martellozzo, F., Gatto, A., & Segoni, S. (2025). Creative destruction revisited: regional impacts of natural disasters beyond GDP. *Regional Studies*, 59(1), 2546973.
7. Martellozzo, F., **Dalle Vaglie, M.**, Falaguasta, C., Randelli, F., Negacz, K., van Tongeren, P., ... & Vellinga, P. (2025). Assessing extreme sea level rise impacts on coastal agriculture in Europe and North Africa. *Scientific Reports*.
8. **Dalle Vaglie, M.**, Martellozzo, F., Chirici, G., & Francini, S. (2025, April). Advancing Soil Health Monitoring: A Machine Learning Approach. In *EGU General Assembly Conference Abstracts* (pp. EGU25-3300).
9. **Magnolfi, A.**, & Bisanti, M. (2024). Innovazione Didattica nell'Insegnamento dell'Economia Politica: L'Utilizzo del Megagame "Turania". In *Board Game Research Meeting-Atti del convegno* (Vol. 14, pp. 50-59). Gruppo del Colore-Associazione Italiana del Colore.
10. **Magnolfi, A.**, Vicario, E., & Boncinelli, L. (2024, September). AI-Powered Chatbot Assistant for Course Organization. In *International Conference on Higher Education Learning Methodologies and Technologies Online* (pp. 185-196). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.
11. **Salama, J.** (2023). Financing the post-growth state. *Degrowth journal*.
12. **Villano, D.** (2025). Future-proofing the Energy Transition - Embedding Resilience in Energy Finance. Climate and Finance Conference 2025, Henley Business School, University of Reading.
13. **Villano, D.**, **Colli, L.**, Martellozzo, M., Lombardi, S. (2025). Shifting Tides: A Decade of Business Climate Adaptation and Resilience Research (2013–2023). Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

And more...

# What can we offer?

## Grants Cycle 42°

### 4 Open grants

→ minimum 6 months abroad

### 5 Pegaso grants\*

→ each one subject to a specific topic

→ minimum 6 months abroad

→ minimum 6 months in a public/private institute

Note: Each grant is a **3-years** fully funded (about **1200€/month**) and also ensures an additional fund of **4500€** to be spent to participate in conferences, summer schools, ecc.

\*To be confirmed

## Future steps

Opportunities for double degree with global partners

Providing advanced training to tackle the "Grand Challenges": environmental degradation, economic inequality, and social injustice

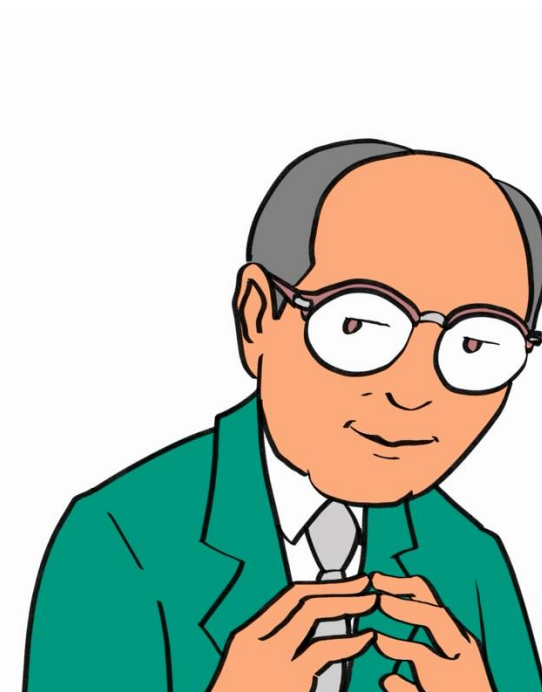
Participation to the annual summer school linked with the S3W in [Ecological Macroeconomics \(7-9 September, 2026\)](#)

Promoting formal and informal partnerships with international public and private actors

Focus on building sustainable and inclusive communities

# Questions?

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# Main info

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PhD Website: <https://www.s3w.unifi.it/>

Current Coordinator: Prof. **Leonardo Boncinelli (UNIFI)**

New Coordinator: Prof. **Tiziano Distefano (UNIFI)\***

Vice-Coordinator: Prof. **Angelo Facchini (IMT Lucca)**

\*Email: [tiziano.distefano@unifi.it](mailto:tiziano.distefano@unifi.it)

\*LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tiziano-distefano-559407159/>