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The Internet considered in a wide sense - and therefore including topics such as Big Data, Internet of Things, Factory 4.0, Online privacy, and Computer Ethics - is a powerful technology. Founded in November 2006, the Nexa Center for Internet for Internet & Society at the Politecnico di Torino (DAUIN) is an independent research center, focusing on interdisciplinary analysis of the force of the Internet and of its impact on society. Understanding the Internet, its limitations as well as its potential, is an indispensable course of action to ensure economic, scientific, cultural and social development for the years to come.

The Nexa Center for Internet & Society is born from the activities of an initially informal interdisciplinary group – with expertise in technology, law and economics – that was formed in Torino in 2003 and that has since evolved conceiving, designing and implementing a number of initiatives: Creative Commons Italia (2003-present), CyberLaw Torino (2004), Harvard Internet Law Program Torino (2005), SeLiLi – free legal advice on open licenses for creators and programmers (2006-2013), COMMUNIA, the European Commission-funded thematic network of 50 partners aimed at studying the digital public domain (2007-2011) and LAPSI, the European thematic network on legal aspects of public sector information (2010-2012). The Nexa Center has also been a key player that made possible the launch in May 2010 of one of the first public open data portals in Europe, <http://dati.piemonte.it>. From October 2014 to October 2016, the Nexa Center coordinated the Global Network of Internet & Society Research Centers (NoC), which supports the cooperation among the main Internet & society research centers worldwide. Since December 2016 the Nexa Center has been involved in two projects funded by the European Union: DECODE (H2020) and EDU-HACK (Erasmus+). Since March 2021, the Nexa Center is coordinating the STRATEGYHACK project, financed by the EU.

The Nexa Center interacts with the European Commission, national and local governments and regulators as well as with business and other institutions – careful at preserving its academic and intellectual independence and with a special attention to the policy implications of its activities.

The Trustees of the Nexa Center – which include prof. Charles Nesson, co-founder and co-director of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University as well as other renowned scholars and thinkers – meet in Torino at least once a year to review the activities of the previous twelve months and to give the Nexa community (directors, staff and fellows) the benefit of their judgement regarding both past activities and the priorities for the future.