Information about the use of Compilatio.net software

The use of Compilatio.net software for monitoring possible instances of plagiarism of texts involves the importance and necessity of supplying appropriate and adequate information to students whose written work is subjected to such tests, concerning the way the software is used and the treatment of personal data. In fact, the law in force imposes a duty to inform and the collection of forms signed by the student, acknowledging their awareness of the monitoring procedures put in place by the use of anti-plagiarism software.

In this regard, it should be recalled that the monitoring procedure adopted by the use of this software affects the treatment of students’ personal data (Legislative decree no. 196/2003) and copyright (Law no. 633/1941): theses, where original, constitute intellectual property protected by copyright.

Students must be made aware not only of the fact that such software is used but, even prior to this, of the significance of plagiarism and its consequences.

The Code of ethics of the University of Trento expressly provides that “All research activity is based on the correct recognition and attribution of intellectual achievements. University members must therefore avoid every form of plagiarism or the improper use of the intellectual activity of others. […] With particular regard to the writing up of theses and texts, including the undertaking of examinations, it is the specific responsibility of individuals to uphold these rules, avoiding all forms of plagiarism and dishonest conduct. It is furthermore the duty of all university staff to flag every case of plagiarism or the improper use of the intellectual activity of others of which they may become aware”.

In addition to other specific forms of conduct, the Code of conduct for students of the University of Trento prohibits plagiarism of the works of others, defining it as “the improper reproduction of the intellectual activity of others in the elaboration of a written text of any kind, where such intellectual activity is not cited in the sources of the written text, or the unacknowledged appropriation of ideas, concepts, presentation, data or any other information reproduced in written work (including digital versions), or the oral expressions of others, without having expressly and correctly indicated the sources or having obtained the express consent of the author or inventor”.

The Departmental staff and those in the Schools involved in examination procedures and in the presentation of undergraduate, Masters’ and doctoral theses must be aware both of these legal obligations as well as the rights enjoyed by students.

To facilitate the task of informing students and of collecting their statements of acknowledgment, a model form for informative and declaration purposes has been produced, to be provided in advance to students whose work will be monitored by means of the software. This model form, available for download using the link provided, must be completed and signed by the students and then filed.

Further information may be obtained from

Ufficio Didattica Online (tel. 3316) or at uff.didatticaonline@unitn.it