

Astra Press Office

Stella Polare

May 2023 Edition



In collaboration with



CONTENTS

- **PAG 1** : *CULTURE'S SPACE - ASTRA "STELLA POLARE" PRESENTATION*
- **PAG 2-3** : *BOCCONI STUDENTS ELECTION: A BREAKDOWN*
- **PAG 4** : *WASA'S GOT TALENT*
- **PAG 5** : *WASA'S GOT TALENT: SFH INTERVIEW - GIULIA COLLUCCI*
- **PAG 6 - 7** : *TURKEY'S REFERENDUM ON ERDOGAN : HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD CARE*
- **PAG 8** : *HISTORIC HAT-TRICK BY NAPOLI: A LEGENDARY VICTORY THAT IGNITES HEARTS AND INSPIRE DREAMS*
- **PAG 9** : *ASTRA'S REVIEW - MARGHE*
- **PAG 10** : *CREDITS*



Culture's Space – Astra's "Stella polare" Presentation

It is indeed with great pleasure that we publish the first edition of Astra Bocconi's monthly magazine, a new format aiming to offer the occasion to deepen our analysis of the various themes treated by our articles, as well as to delve into other aspects of student life. From culture to sports, from politics to hobbies, the magazine shall provide accessible and enjoyable readings written by a diverse spectrum of authors: as a matter of fact, our writers from Astra's Press Office will be sided by authors belonging to other students' associations, who will provide insightful remarks regarding the topics they specialize in. This is for us a great occasion to consistently broaden the horizons and variety of our content, as well as, most importantly, to realize a truly comprehensive cooperation with other university societies. This perspective which truly embodies Astra's willingness to offer a concrete and substantial service to our student community by providing a common space for cultural associations – our magazine – to foster the publication of high-quality articles on a wide range of subjects.

Consequently, while we strongly hope that more and more associations will take part in this project, we would also like to sincerely thank Genesis Sport Insights, Student for Humanity and Bocconi Turkish Student Association for having participated in the redaction of this first edition. They have offered an outstanding contribution to this project, and their passion and professionalism inspire us to profuse even more effort into making Astra's magazine a point of referral for Bocconi students.

Enjoy your reading!

Written by Federico Mellace, Tommaso Morotti and Neri Tai Verniani.



ELECTIONS

Bocconi students election: A Breakdown.

February 8, 2023: a press release announces the birth of a new representative: the name chosen is “Astra”.

April 28, 2023: the mentioned list, founded less than ninety days earlier, wins the elections, obtaining the majority of seats in all bodies. These two dates would be enough to understand how much has been done in a few months. From an idea born from a couple of friends, a new list came alive, and it then demonstrated to be capable of subverting a status quo that seemed to have become immutable, winning elections against all odds.

The last elections that have just ended have certainly been the most hard-fought ones in recent years. To triumph, as well as Astra, was primarily the turnout. Let’s give only one simple figure: 7133 voters, equal to 51.73% of eligible students. To make a comparison with the two years ago elections (2021-2022), although official total turnout data are not available, for the BoD, 6158 ballots were counted out of a total of 13547 entitled voters, equal to just 45.46%.

The merit of this large turnout is due to the heated but fair “battle that was fought” between the two lists (three considering the School of Law). Until a few months ago, and probably even up to a few weeks before the elections, no one would have imagined such a high participation and, above all, such a heated challenge.

Let’s now deepen into more detail by viewing and analyzing what were the main outcomes, based on the seats assigned, starting by remembering that the lists that had the right to be voted were three: Astra Bocconi, B.LAB - Unilab Network, IUS@B.

results:

Department	Astra Rappresentanti					
Board of	1\1					
Faculty Council	3\5					
Undergraduate School Council	2\3					
Graduate School Council	2\3					
School of Law Council	1\3					
Department Councils	5\9					
ISU Bocconi steering	2\3					
Committee for University	1\2					
Quality Assurance	1\1					

Regarding the results, in order to understand more closely how was this possible and how were been lived these elections, we decided to give the floor to a protagonist of these elections: Alessandra Massaro, elected to the ISU Board of Directors for Astra.

Together with her we enter the heart of the representation, and we ask her directly how the campaign period was lived. “This period has been intense both for our candidates and for the members of the association. We had a challenge: to reach as many students as possible and make ourselves known as an association in just three months. We have set ourselves



WRITTEN BY:

VOLPATO LUIGI



WRITTEN BY:

FABBRI FRANCESCA

the goal of involving as many students as possible, considering that in recent years many students have experienced university representation in a passive and disinterested way. Particular attention has been paid to international students, whose number has been increasing in recent years (also considering the internationalization that Bocconi University wants to implement), who have so far had little participation in the university representation life.” As mentioned before, previous election numbers had shown that less than half of student voters had expressed their preference for the board (45.46%).

Astra was born in February 2023 and won in these elections the majority of seats (18) in the various bodies and the Board of Directors: how do you think this victory was possible? “One of the added values of Astra was certainly the novelty: we have presented ourselves as a new, open and engaging association, many students have preferred to trust this new idea, perhaps tired of the lack of comparison and the existence of a single prevailing reality, as emerged from the data of the last elections.”

Talking specifically about the body in which you were elected, what are the projects and values that you and Aldo Corigliano would like to bring at ISU? “Our priority goal is to make the financial benefits that Bocconi offers to students more accessible, considered they are often hidden on the university site. Indeed, our highest priority proposal is to create an information portal in which, through the “financial aid calculator”, students will be able to calculate the benefits they will have access to. The key point of our proposals, the others I suggest you read them in our program, is to allow students not to preclude the possibility of studying at Bocconi only because of economic reasons.”

These were the words of Alessandra, one of the eighteen members of Astra who had been elected. They make us understand how much work will be needed from now on, but also how much and great desire there is, on the part of everyone, to get involved in order to improve our university, always keeping in mind that motto that we have learned to appreciate so much in recent months “aim for the stars”.



WASA'S GOT TALENT 2023

On the 2nd of May, the 2023 edition of Wasa's Got Talent took place at the PIME theater (via Mosè Bianchi 94, Milan), a new and larger venue compared to the previous years. The event, organized by the association Students for Humanity, consisted of an aperitif followed by a talent show that gathered many talented personalities who entertained the guests during the evening.

The night was a success. Thanks to many different sponsors that proposed to collaborate in the realization of the event, the guests could enjoy a wide range of foods and drinks – beer, spritz, pasta, focaccia, and even sushi. People engaged in conversations, forging new connections, and fostering a sense of community. Then, the participants at the talent show showcased their extraordinary skills. The stage came alive with an array of performers that ranged from BLPSA, dancers, singers, musicians, and even an acrobat. The public had the opportunity to vote for their favorite performance and decide the final winner: a pop-funky band. Also, last year's winner, Davide Beatbok, greeted the audience and exhibited on the stage. The convivial and fun atmosphere was further improved by the important number of people that bought the tickets to the event. Thanks to this year's sales boom, the contribution to the association's Wasa project could be higher than usual. In

fact, the event's profits, like every year, funds the association's Working for Wasa project, the main mission of Students for Humanity that aims at helping the village of Wasa, Iringa, in Tanzania. Specifically, it co-manages a school – the Saint Joseph VTC – that provides vocational education to 70 students. The primary objective is to ensure a satisfactory level of education for the students, but the real ambition of the project is to achieve self-sufficiency for the school and to create a socio-economic impact on the entire village of Wasa.

Many thanks for this year's edition of Wasa's Got Talent go to diverse associations and realities that made their part in the realization of the event. It was broadcast live by Radio Bocconi, while Bocconi TV recorded the most salient parts of the night. There were also stands by other organizations, such as ADMO and B.Wine, that contributed to the success of the night.





WRITTEN BY:

LANDA ALESSANDRA



WRITTEN BY:

MELLACE FEDERICO

SFH interview – Giulia Colucci

However, Students for humanity does not just organize the Wasa's got talent event, and it provides many other significant features. To give little information, SFH is a non-Governmental organization (NGO) and it's the only student association in Italy to have a volunteer project abroad (in Wasa).

We are dealing with complexity. Therefore, in order to better understand this association's peculiarities, I have interviewed Giulia Colucci, head of the marketing department for SFH, whom I thank for her availability. We have discussed about numerous aspects, ranging from future events to the SFH internal ramification. Talking about this last point, I was particularly interested in the role of two SFH departments: awareness and marketing.

Concerning the first one, the awareness department aims to enhance knowledge about sensitive themes such as blood and bone marrow donations. Its goal is to inform students about the minimum criteria for donating. And, of course, they try to convince the more people they can, to make this effort that should save humans lives. To achieve that, SFH collaborates with AVIS (organization specialized in blood donation) for "on campus" initiatives.

In specific time periods, they organise an information stand with AVIS representatives at the entrance of the Leoni building. In that occasion, students who are interested in, should sign up to donate their blood in the following month. Then, thirty days later AVIS makes available a blood drive truck in which SFH members, along with specialized staff, operate as volunteers just outside the Velodromo building. These initiatives usually take place in October-November and March-April.

Moving to the second department (marketing), which Giulia leads, we have talked about

the importance, especially for an association of volunteering activities, of using medias for "spreading the voice" and coaxing students to help in SFH volunteering desks. She told me that it's way more difficult to promote through social media this kind of activities rather than an event, such as *Wasa's got talent*, in which people just take a sit and get entertained. Therefore, she believes that the best way to sponsor these projects is through word of mouth by explaining to friends and classmates what these activities mean for you. Then, she added that their Instagram account is noticeably active, but people who join the association and "get their hands dirty" usually arrive from personal contacts.

Finally, futures events and initiatives. SFH has its own Voluntary Desk department which collaborates with the Bocconi's one (which is coordinated by Campus Life Bocconi's department) i. This one sends monthly the list of initiatives that SHF is supposed to promote and then they send an email to all students to remind them of the upcoming events. For example, Giulia updated me that their next tell me anything more. In addition, during the summer period they will interrupt their activities on campus as they will concentrate their efforts on the departures of four groups of volunteers to Wasa village in Tanzania. However, they would start again on September, so, if anyone's interested, go follow them on their social media!





(the article was finished on 26th May)

Turkey's Referendum on Erdogan: Here's Why You Should Care

On Sunday, 28th May, Turkey went for a presidential run-off for the first time in history. It is the third time that the country is holding a presidential election where the people, not the Parliament, choose the president. In the previous elections, Erdogan was able to secure more than 50% of the votes in the first round.

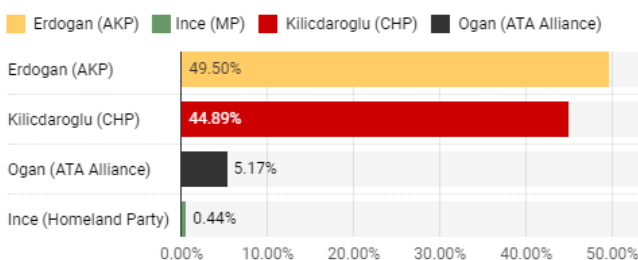
This time, things got tougher for the strongman. In his unconstitutional third run for the presidency, Erdogan had been expected to struggle due to the record-level inflation and the government's mishandling of the earthquake. The united opposition, led by the center-left Republican People's Party (CHP) and the nationalist Good Party (IYI), was able to form an alliance of six parties under the name of Nation Alliance – which is mostly referred to the “Table of the Six”. The alliance consists of parties with different ideologies and includes two newly formed parties that recently split from Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

Six parties got together with the aim of changing the country's regime back to the parliamentary regime, as Turkish voters voted in favor of Erdogan's proposal to change the regime to a presidential system in a disputed referendum back in 2017. The Table of Six also agreed on uniting behind one joint candidate to challenge Erdogan although it was a hard call to make. There were three potential candidates: Istanbul Mayor Imamoglu, Ankara Mayor Yavas, both popular candidates who took control of the two biggest cities of Turkey, and the CHP leader Kilicdaroglu.

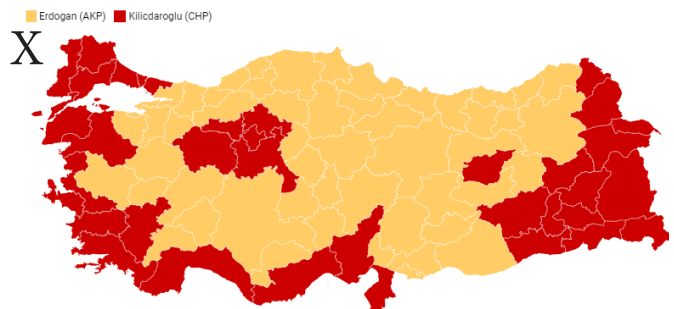
The Table agreed on a formula that made **the CHP Leader Kilicdaroglu the candidate for president** while nominating Imamoglu, Yavas, and leaders of the six parties within the alliance for vice president. The People's Democratic Party, the pro-Kurdish party that had the third most seats in the Parliament, endorsed Kilicdaroglu for president despite being part of the leftist Labor and Freedom Alliance. Apart from Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu, two other candidates announced their candidacy: Muharrem Ince, Erdogan's 2018 challenger, and Sinan Ogan, an ultra-nationalist. Muharrem Ince dropped out of the race just few days before the election.

Kilicdaroglu ran a way-better-than-expected campaign, even impressing those opposed to his candidacy in the first place. Before the election, he was polling above 47%. The opposition voters went to the poll stations with the hope of voting Erdogan out in the first round; however, things didn't turn out exactly as intended. **On May 14th**, when electors went to the polls voting for the president and the parliament at the same time, Erdogan's ruling AKP got 35% and secured a simple majority in the Parliament along with their coalition partners far-right Nationalist Movement Party (MHP)'s 10% and ultra-Islamist New Welfare Party (YRP)'s 2.8%. Erdogan got 49.5% himself while the opposition's joint candidate Kilicdaroglu gained 44.8%. The third candidate, Ogan, got 5.1%. Now, **the country is going for a run-off for the first time ever**, with Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu competing to become the president for the next five years.

Candidates



Turkey presidential election results map 2023



Source: Anadolu Agency



WRITTEN BY:

AKOGLU ELIF



WRITTEN BY:

ARAY EGEMEN

The results of the election on the 14th of May showed us that the Turkish voters that requested a change were the majority compared to the ones that are satisfied with the country's current position as Erdogan's vote dropped below 50% as opposed to 2018's 52,59% that secured him his seat. Despite the assumptions from foreign media that Turkey was in an irreversible antidemocratic position, these results signaled the existence of vibrant opposition against the status quo within Turkey. So, why did the opposition not agree on a single candidate during the first round if they wanted a change from the current administration? What dragged the country into a run-off election was the citizens who neither want Erdogan nor Kilicdaroglu as their president that form more than 5% of the population and voted the Turkish nationalist third candidate Sinan Ogan as a reaction against both candidates.

The topic of terrorism is the no-fly zone for Turkish citizens. The opposition leader Kilicdaroglu is blamed by Erdogan supporters with the claims of being related to the Kurdish terrorist organization PKK despite never sitting on the same table. In contrast, Erdogan's party AKP formed an official alliance with the ultra-Islamist party Huda-Par, who has in their party propaganda statements denying the Turkish nation's union and who are seen as the political successor's of the Islamist militant group Hezbollah, is considered a terrorist organization internationally. Huda-Par, who is openly advocating for a non-secular social order, promised to abolish mixed-sex education, "re-home" unmarried women, discuss the autonomy of the Kurdish state, and remove the Turkish name from the constitution calling it a racist statement. Huda-Par's 4 candidates who entered the parliamentary elections from the AKP's list are now members of the parliament.

Although the current government is criticized on many issues from the soaring inflation of 64,27% last year, with the academics announcing the real rate is way higher, to the many cases of corruption, **the most important question the country should face is whether to drag the country towards a less democratic, less secular, and less just state or not when going to the polls.** Erdogan's great advantage in the elections is that he controls the mainstream media and takes advantage of judicial power. He has been trying to silence the opposition figures by jailing them, an example of which was the latest court decision to ban Istanbul Mayor Imamoglu from politics. All 17 members of the ministerial cabinet ran for the parliament as candidates and hence campaigned for Erdogan using government resources.

The electors are going to the polls again to make the most important decision in the state's history. As opposed to Erdogan who has Russia and China's support in the elections, Kilicdaroglu promised to restore relations on the basis of "mutual trust" with the US and to revise the agreement with the EU on refugees. Erdogan's unregulated refugee policy that welcomed 3.5 million Syrians inside Turkey's borders will also be reversed if the opposition candidate wins. Under Erdogan's regime, 223 thousand Syrians became Turkish citizens among whom 130 thousand will be able to vote in the upcoming elections.

Whatever result comes out of the polls this Sunday, it is ascertained that the country is on a crossroad to decide its own fate alongside many other authoritarian regimes'. The overthrow of Erdogan through democracy will imply a silver lining for all states under autocratic rules all around the world. The results can have implications that will shuffle the deck in political relations among states.



Historic hat-trick by Napoli: a legendary victory that ignites hearts and inspires dreams.

Napoli, by triumphing for the third time in the Scudetto, has made history, and the reaction of the fans was simply epic. The city of Naples transformed into a sea of blue flags, with fireworks illuminating the night sky. It was a magical moment, a dream that people of Naples and fans of this team eagerly waited for years, and finally, it came true. The victory in the tricolor was an occasion to celebrate not only a solid and united team but also to overcome past difficulties and look hopefully towards the future.

In the unforgettable Scudetto of '87, Ottavio Bianchi led the team from the sidelines. Bianchi, already a renowned name in Italian football, had played for Napoli, Atalanta, and Milan, bringing valuable experience with him. In 1985, he took on the role of Napoli's coach and within just two years, he conquered the Scudetto and Coppa Italia, showcasing his tactical skills and deep commitment to the team. The second national title was achieved under the guidance of Alberto Bigon. In 1989, taking over from Bianchi, he accomplished an extraordinary feat, winning the league and the Italian Super Cup.

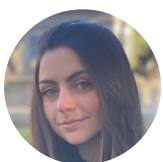
Diego Armando Maradona was the linchpin of Napoli's success in those years, embodying the magic and genius of football. A legend whose technical ability, vision of the game, and determination will forever be intertwined with Napoli's history and the conquest of those trophies.

Under the unwavering guidance of coach Luciano Spalletti, Napoli reached its pinnacle, clinching the title for the third time in its history. This incredible achievement was made possible by the tremendous dedication of the

coach and his players, proving to be one of the most competitive and united forces in modern football. The presence of talents like Osimhen and Kvaratskhelia gave Napoli an extra edge throughout the season. The Nigerian striker, often assisted by the magical dribbles of the Georgian player, was a driving force for the team. Both were protagonists of exceptional performances and decisive goals in crucial moments of the championship. On the field, Napoli stood out for its offensive, spectacular, and captivating style of play, characterized by masterful ball possession, rapid attacks, and a touch of brilliance in dribbling, demonstrating exceptional composure even under pressure.

The title victory unleashed an overwhelming reaction among Napoli's fans, who flooded the streets to celebrate this historic achievement. The Neapolitan supporters have always been known for their passionate fervor, capable of instilling a deep sense of belonging to the team and transforming the stadium into an authentic volcano of emotions. The celebrations lasted for days, involving not only the city of Vesuvius but the entire Italy.

This triumph goes beyond the meaning of a mere title for the Napoli supporters. It signifies the end of an era marked by difficulties and disappointments and the beginning of a new chapter filled with success and triumphs. Napoli has established itself as one of the most significant entities in Italian and European football, solidifying its position in the football landscape. This Scudetto is tangible proof that Napoli has the potential to write glorious pages in football and continue to amaze the world with its incisive and captivating style of play.



WRITTEN BY:

D'APICE MARTINA



Astra's REVIEW – Marghe

Where it is: Marghe, as the name suggests, it's a pizzeria which takes place both in Via Plinio, nearby Lima station (M1), and in Via Cadore, thirty minutes away from Bocconi on foot.

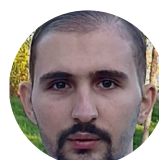
Menu: Marghe's meals perfectly combine the Neapolitan tradition, classic pizzas such as Margherita and Bufalina (with buffalo milk mozzarella), and the search for modern and innovative receipts. About the latest, I recommend pizza with 'nduja (a spicy, spreadable pork sausage from the region of Calabria), zucchini blossoms and anchovy of Cetara. These three are in my opinion worth the price and they are advised for the most discerning palates. Together with the pizza menu, Marghe offers a list of typical Neapolitan antipasti and desserts; for example, meatballs in tomato sauce, the stracciatella (the burrata inner part) and the classic tiramisu to conclude your meal. All of them fit with the pizzas' quality standards.

Restaurant features: Marghe's location in Via Plinio is simple but at the same time it mixes the concept of a rustic restaurant with features of a modern pizzeria. Tables are well disposed in lines and the place is well lit with several hanging light bulbs. Moreover, the restaurant is provided with a tiny dehor (outside space) which is excellent for summer evenings. The price fluctuates from 15€ to 25€ according to which meals you take.

Pros: the service is overall quick and efficient, even though the place is generally crowded both in lunch and dinner time. Waiters are immediately welcoming and courteous; they achieve to make you feel at ease as so you can enjoy the experience. Concerning the food sphere, raw materials such as tomato and mozzarella are of quality and the pizza dough is soft and light.

Cons: Unfortunately, Marghe's reputation attracts many costumers every day and sometimes, even though you have booked up before, you may have to wait a considerable amount of time in order to take a sit.

Opinion: In conclusion, since I come from Campania (Naples' region), I've tested several pizza restaurants, and I personally regard Marghe as one of the best one in Milan. Its wide menu is worth the price, which is overall affordable, and the location is chilling as well.



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