



Università  
per Stranieri  
di Perugia



C O D A U

Convegno permanente  
dei Direttori Amministrativi  
e Dirigenti delle Università Italiane

# HOW IS CHANGING THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IN ITALY

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# The recent law

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- ▶ At the end of 2010, the Italian Parliament approved a law proposed by the Government, which goes to a very significant change in the university system of our country.
- ▶ After twenty years, therefore, the state is back on the university system, with the aim of enhancing the quality of teaching and research and, at the same time, increase the efficiency of universities in the use of allocated resources

# The main areas of intervention

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- ▶ The level of internal governance and the accounting system of universities
- ▶ The recruitment of teachers
- ▶ The evaluation system of teaching, research and use of resources.

# Principal aims

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- ▶ To adopt an internal structure of government leaner, more efficient and more open to the needs of the productive forces of the country
- ▶ To improve the recruitment system
- ▶ To improve the performance of the Italian universities on worldwide scale

## ...Some examples

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- ▶ The Boards of Directors shall be composed of few members (maximum eleven) but highly qualified and accountable for all decisions vital for universities (e.g. resource allocation, activation of courses).
- ▶ Some members of the board should be external.
- ▶ The President of the board can be chosen among the members as an alternative to the Rector of the university.
- ▶ The head of administration is at the same level of the other bodies and the role outlined by the law is focused on management skills.

# The change of the system of recruitment of teachers

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- ▶ We move from a system of competitive local vacancies for each university, into a national certification system with the centralization of the selection board appointed each year for each scientific field.
- ▶ Lecturers and research fellows can be recruited only for temporary contracts (maximum six years) and after passing a national selection in the related scientific field.

# ...we can infer that

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- ▶ Change in Italian universities did not come from inside but was dictated by state law. This is a result of a long legal debate developed over the past decade both within academia and industry alike. The need to adapt the university system to the needs of a society that has to deal with open and global knowledge has led some to react differently than others. The change, however, as we have said, came from outside.
- ▶ The government expects from the Italian reform law a real improvement of resource management, cost control, recruitment of human resources and consequently improvements in the quality of teaching, research and then the university preparedness of Italian citizens
- ▶ However, although with a more limited degree of autonomy than before the entry into force of the current law, the translation of the principles, rules and guidelines into concrete actions and behavior is up to individual universities and to those who compose it. It will take at least ten years to know the real impact of these changes on the university system and whether the desired improvements will be made. Everything will depend on how many universities have considered this request for change as an opportunity.

# Conclusions

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- ▶ As always, the challenge is to improve quality and reduce costs, this is the reason why the law provides for a new accounting system that registers earnings and costs of the activities and not only incomes and the expenditures
- ▶ The new model of governance, according to the law, leads to integration and collaboration between universities. Some universities are already making agreements in order to arrange services and set up common activities with the goal to improve the teaching quality and research and, at the same time, to share the costs.