Strengthening university autonomy and increasing accountability and transparency of Western Balkans Universities (STAND)

Kick off Meeting
3-5 March, 2021
WP3. Enhancement of university governance for promoting autonomy

University of Foggia

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Higher education in Italy

The State has exclusive legislative competences on the the education system (e.g, general dispositions, minimum standards, school staff, quality assurance, State financial resources).

The *Ministry of education* and the *Ministry of university and research* carry out the functions of the State.

Universities are autonomous bodies; in terms of **governance** they adopt their own statutes, establishing their own governing bodies (such as the rector, senate, and board of management) as well as their teaching and research structures. (Autonomy governance 65%, according to Scorecard, EUA, 2017)

Financial autonomy: Universities are characterized by fairly flexible public funding modalities (70%, according to Scorecard, EUA, 2017).

institutional background

Italian University system complementary bodies

- In addition to the *Ministry of Education, University and Research*, there are also some bodies with complementary functions for the development, comparison, evaluation and, more generally, the organization of the university system.
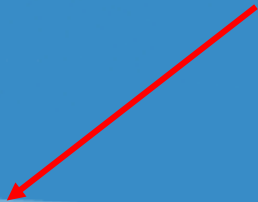
ANVUR
(National Agency for the evaluation of the university and research system)
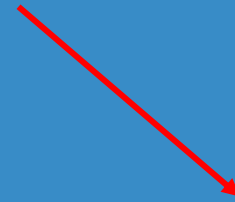
CRUI
(Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities)

institutional background

Common model of university governance based on three essential aspects:

- the granting of greater institutional autonomy to the universities;
- the evaluation of the quality of research and teaching that each University is able to offer;
- the introduction of competitive financing mechanisms assigned towards valorisation, or the penalty on the basis of the results obtained by the Universities.

Important change ⟹ *Italian Ministry of University and Research,* ***Law. n. 240, 2010***

Italian University recruitment system

In compliance with the autonomy granted to universities, recruitment procedures for access to university careers, both teaching staff and technical and administrative staff, are managed directly by universities through local competitions.

Teaching and research staff categories:

- First-level professors (Associate Professors).
- Second-level professors (Full Professors).
- Permanent researcher (depleted role).
- University assistants (depleted role).
- Fixed-term researcher (referred to in article 24, paragraph 3, point b. Law 240 of 2010).
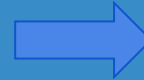
Recruitment proceedings:
competitions for access to university roles are organised directly by universities with reference to the official procedures (Law n. 240, 2010)

institutional background

UniFg STAND activities

WP3: Enhancement of University governance for promoting autonomy (UniFg Co-lead)

3.1 Workshops with Program country institutions for adoption best practices on University Governance
(UNIFG, TUHH, UNIZG, EUA, SEEU)

workshop on the adoption best practices on University Governance and staffing autonomy will be held in Italy (University of Foggia), 15 Sept. 2021

3.2 Establishing a regional expert network on university autonomy

3.3 Capacity building training and consultancy sessions for management staff

UniFg autonomy

University autonomy depends, even to a considerable extent, on its **ability to satisfy the external world** that sustains institution and enjoys the services of the same, also through the **management of interaction with referents outside the university**.

Our experiences: Doctorate schools, Spin-offs, Laboratories, Meetings, public events, workshops (Regional nodes, Innovation Challenge workshops, thematic networks, Community of practice).

experience in similar actions

UNIVERSITÀ DI FOGGIA

HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Examples of Good Practices

1. Gender balance in Italian Universities

- EU Parliament resolution, Gender budgeting - building public budgets from a gender perspective (2003)
- EU Parliament resolution, Gender mainstreaming in the work of the European Parliament (2011)
- Directive of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, 23 May 2007, Measures to implement equality and equal opportunities between men and women in public administrations
- Decree 27 October 2009 n.150 – Art. 10: Gender Report as an essential part of the Performance Plan

19 September 2019, the **CRUI** Group for Gender Balance presented the **Guidelines for Gender Balance in Italian universities** to the Rectors' Conference.

Gender balance is an essential tool for **promoting gender equality** in universities and for **integrating the gender perspective** into all University policies.

Gender balance report implemented from University of Foggia

best practices for implementation of workshops

Examples of Good Practices
2. Quality Assurance system (ANVUR)

The Law 240/2010 and the Legislative Decree n. 19/2012 have introduced the Quality Assurance (QA) system in the Italian higher education. Following this legislation, in 2015 the ANVUR developed its own assessment criteria, methodologies and procedures.

The guidelines for performance life cycle management of Universities and Research Institutes, propose an "integrated" approach linking administrative performance evaluation to the **three main missions** of research institutions: **scientific research, teaching (only for Universities) and socio-economic impact**.

The quality of the research, in particular, is evaluated according to the parameters defined VQR (Evaluation of Research Quality). The VQR covers 14 disciplinary areas and allows ANVUR to draw up a **ranking of Italian universities**.

ANVUR assists the MIUR in the provision of the Ordinary Funding Fund (FFO), the main source of funding provided for Italian universities, with the aim of rewarding the most "virtuous" universities, for the quality of teaching, training offer and research projects in act or presented for the future.

In every Italian University there is a team taking care of QA systems.

best practices for implementation of workshops

WP3 - Forward looking

- identification and sharing of Good Practices among

   partners

- cross cutting interaction among partners

- sinergy on organization and planning of workshops

- meetings in person with all partners hopefully soon

Thank you for the attention!

the UNIFG team