

## The university of the future



What kind of rankings, internationalisation and reforms are eventually good for universities? The answer to this question actually depends on few basic points: what are the universities for? which are the risks and opportunities that they face in connection with the transformations happening in the outside world?

It does not take a crystal ball to predict what the universities of the future are going to be. Change is already happening notwithstanding the inertia that legislators and regulators display, the resistance of powerful stakeholders (including intellectual élites that do not like the idea to forget privileges that have gone uncontested for decades) and the failures of many reforms in producing any significant change. [...]

### The Politics and Economics of Happiness: a new approach to existing problems

What should societies – and policy makers – look for? Is “progress” still a valid notion towards which science and economy should be oriented? Can happiness be an effective alternative to GDP when it comes to measuring quantity of well being and the fairness of its distribution? These are some of the basic questions at the basis of Vision's [project](#).

### Visionaries Book Announcements



We start a new webmagazine's section where Vision friends will launch their new book. This week we are pleased to have our friend **Bill Emmott** to

introduce his last libro on "Forza, Italia".

"Everyone tells me that there are two Italies, the north and the south, and that they are totally different. Everyone also tells me that the thing to understand about Italy is that it is like a bird or insect that shouldn't be able to fly, but does, somehow flouting all the rules of economics and politics. But when everyone tells me the same thing, I start to feel suspicious." [...]

### New Vision Website

VisionWebsite restyling is underway (see [here](#) for the new version). Any suggestion or feedback is welcome.

### Events

On May the 13th, in Rome, Vision co-organized the event "The Pursuit of Happiness". Click [here](#) to watch TV news.

### Next Issue

Within the next issue of Vision's web magazine we will focus on the concepts of **Big Society** and social impact bonds. If you should like to write an article or know more, please write to [info@vision-forum.org](mailto:info@vision-forum.org)

### Vision in Facebook



Now you can join the Vision Group on facebook and be constantly updated in real time on all projects and initiatives underway. The facebook group is "Vision - The Italian Think Tank".

If you want to join Vision's projects or be author of Vision web magazine write to: [info@vision-forum.org](mailto:info@vision-forum.org).

## Universities within the global market for innovation



VISION newsletter introduces the project on “the future of European universities in the global market of innovation”. The conference will be held in Turin on the 18th October ([agenda](#)) and you are kindly invited. During the event, Vision will present the second edition of "The ranking of Italian Universities".

The VISION paper on universities is focused on the merits and the limits of rankings and on the factors explaining why international students choose amongst different countries and universities. Both are considered by Vision, as triggers of change whereas comprehensive, over ambitious reforms appear to have often failed their objectives in broader countries.

Some of the questions upon which we asked contribution by our authors are: How much do you agree with the idea that universities have lost their leadership in creating innovation? Would you agree that reforms of university systems have normally failed and if so which are in your opinion are the reasons for that? What do you think about international rankings in terms of their concrete impact and validity? What do you think about the assessment of the quality of universities that may exist in your country and how much do you like the idea to link allocation of public funds to such an assessment? Which are the risks, if any, and the advantages of pushing universities to raise funds from private donors? How much priority would you attach to attract international students and which are the strategies that you may envisage to increase such number? How important, in your opinion, is it to attract international faculty? How much should a country encourage its students and professors to go abroad?

Among out authors, you will find some of the speakers of the conference: Diane Lalancette from OECD, Professor Caputo from Pace University (NY), Professor Schmidt from Goethe University of Frankfurt.

If you like to *participate* to the conference or to *contribute* to the project, please write an email to [gianfilippo.emma@vision-forum.org](mailto:gianfilippo.emma@vision-forum.org)

### The OECD AHELO feasibility study

by Diane Lalancette



The OECD launched the first international study of what students in higher education know and can do upon graduation: the Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes (AHELO). [...]

### Challenges and responsibilities

by David A. Caputo



The modern university faces a myriad of challenges today. Traditional learning is being replaced with new technology. Funding

formulas are in transition. Demands for assessment and accountability are increasing. [...]

### Internationalization and Modernization – the House of Finance in Frankfurt

by Reinhard H. Schmidt



I want to use the opportunity of this conference to present to the audience the so-called house of finance (HoF) at Frankfurt's Goethe University. [...]

### The academic vocation of public universities and the knowledge economy

by Giorgio Baruchello



Public universities have been required to spur innovation for quite some time. What constitutes innovation, though, has never been doubted or discussed much. With rare exceptions, the transformation of academic

faculties, departments and research centres [...]

### The new challenges of rankings

by Alberto Vercellino



The theme of productivity and competitiveness in Italy has recently characterized the debate between Government, labor unions and the EU commission. Some consideration can be drawn, in particular when we

consider the role of higher education in shaping the knowledge today's students, tomorrow's employees. (article in Italian) [...]

### La leva calcistica della classe '77

by Valeria Chiappini

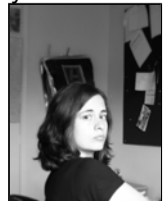


1977 is my birth year, and the one of my colleagues at Scuola Normale in Pisa. If I check that list (in my mind), I realize how well the football metaphor is appropriate about

university. (article in Italian) [...]

### University Rankings: qualche notazione

by Serena Manzoli



Few weeks ago we were informed about Cambridge success in the international QS ranking. For the first time Harvard did not win. (article in Italian) [...]

**Do you agree that universities and professors should be ranked and that remunerations should depend on the results of the ranking?**

- Totally agree
- Partially
- Disagree

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### On the spectrum of change in Higher Education

by Flavius Stan



As the Vision research on the role of universities rightly points out, there continue to be discrepancies between the expectations and the actual performance of higher education institutions [...]

### There's more where they come from

by Michael Kutner



International students are great things for universities to have, and I'm not just saying that because I used to be one. Like their U.S. counterparts, European universities want to increase the diversity [...]

### Italian as a Second-Language (ISI) Programs and International Student Recruitment

by Greg Caramenico



Here I suggest a way that universities within the European Union - with Italy especially in mind - can increase their share of international students [...]

### Inconsistency in comparisons

by Oscar Pasquali



Most of the rankings that we are used to consult are compiled on the base of research performances. The methodology deployed are principally thought to assess research output, impact [...]

### Student mobility and comparative advantage

by Arnault Morrison



In the current process of globalization, students are more mobile than ever. As well as being a positive asset and a life long experience for the student, it has also a non-

negligible impact for the university international rankings. [...]

### The Scenery of public university in Italy

by Nick Berardo



The main problem of Italian university system is its reputation, internally and abroad as well, except for some departments such as Literature and maybe Archeology, which refer to a typical Italian historical

heritage. [...]