

The revolution of the universities



The revolution is already happening and this time it is not (only) about students taking over campuses all over Europe from Paris to Rome. It is a revolution triggered by technologies that are, in fact, already changing the way we produce and distribute the core product of universities: knowledge. It is a change that – as an American speaker said at last week Vision conference – will make universities totally different from the ones we have today.

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



In this new section, Vision friends will launch their new book. This week we are pleased to

have **Cristiana Rumori** introducing her last book “*Roma perché sì, perché no*” (the presentation of the book will take place on 4th November in Rome, Melbooks - Via Nazionale).

“There are countless ways of looking at a city like Rome: it is full of great wonders but also of amazing contradictions, and it is difficult to make all agree: there are those who wholeheartedly admires and praises its history and its beauty, the friendliness of its people, its traditions, and who mutters that it is impossible to live in Rome, from which it is better to escape.” (*article in Italian*) [...]

New Vision Website

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

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 big.society@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.

Universities within the global market for innovation



VISION newsletter presents the project on “the future of European universities in the global market of innovation”. The conference was held in Turin on October, the 18th ([agenda](#), [photos](#) and [videos](#) are now available on our website).

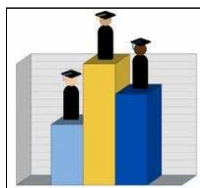
The Vision paper “[Ranking and internationalization as triggers of change](#)” focuses on the merits and the limits of rankings and on the factors explaining why international students choose amongst different countries and universities. Both are considered by Vision as triggers of change, whereas comprehensive reforms appear to have failed their objectives in broader countries. At the event, Vision also released the second edition of “[The ranking of Italian Universities](#)”.

Among the panelists of our discussion sessions there were Rectors, universities’ managers for Internationalization strategies and experts who drafted some of the most prestigious international rankings (click [here](#) to download their presentations). The discussion tried to address the following issues: 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? 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?

In this newsletter, you will find contributions by some panelists of the conference: Diane Lalancette from OECD, Prof. David Caputo from Pace University (NY), Prof. Reinhard Schmidt from Goethe University of Frankfurt, Prof. Shigeru Tadano from Hokkaido University.

If you like to *contribute* to the project, please write an email to gianfilippo.emma@vision-forum.org

The Ranking of Italian Universities



The second edition of the Ranking of the Italian universities is the evolution of an idea already launched in 2009. The objective is to start a debate with the operators of the universities in order to improve the effectiveness of reform efforts. [...]

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. [...]

The academic vocation of publica 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

[...]

Rankings and internationalization as triggers of change



Reforms of universities are not an efficient policy tool because of their nature of blanket measures.

Incremental change within the system – which can be achieved through assessment, ranking and internationalization – could be a more effective alternative if triggered by well designed levers and led by credible champions. (*Position Paper*) [...]

Current situation on Japanese Universities

by Shigeru Tadano



Recently Japanese universities seem to be increasing the interest about the world university rankings. One of the reasons is that Japanese media frequently take up

this issue using in a large space. [...]

Internationalization and Modernization – the House of Finance in Frankfurt

by Reinhard H. Schmidt



I want to present you the so-called house of finance (HoF) at Frankfurt’s Goethe University, an institute aiming at internationalize staff and students [...]

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 [...]

Which is the most important criterion for a ranking of universities?

- employment rate for student, one year after graduation
- number of scientific publications
- number of foreign students
- level of student satisfaction

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