



European Commission



Study Programs at Italian University

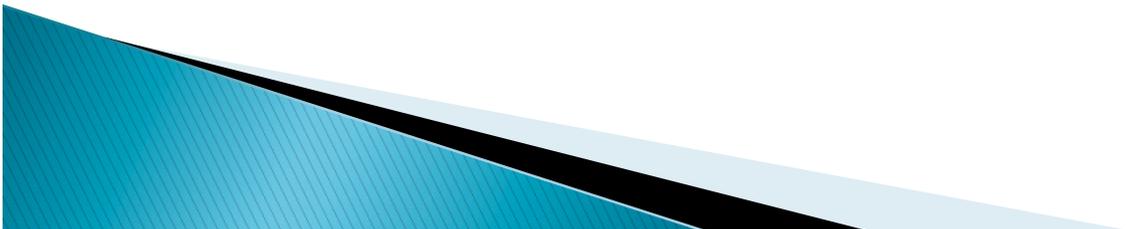
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Genova, May 2015



TOPICS

- The general philosophy behind the last-year reform in educational offer
- Credits and credit system
- Procedures to organize a Course of Study



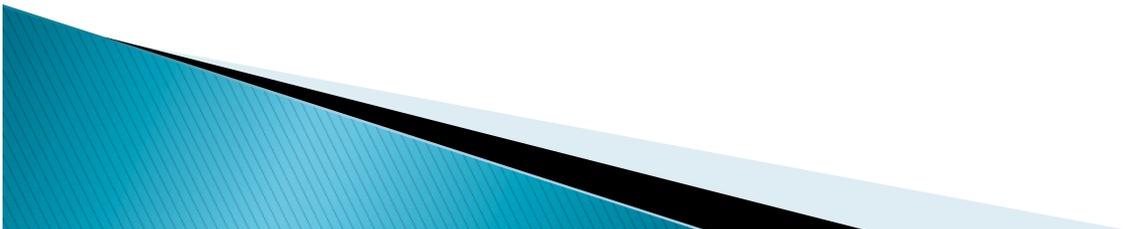
A NEW TREND FOR EUROPE

- It is a a different way of looking at the role of the State, limiting its direct action in order to create public value
- It is an European trend about a new way to look at the relationships between central governments on the one side and higher educational institutions on the other



NEW PUBLIC MANAGEMENT FOR UNIVERSITY

- European countries (but not only) have proposed similar public policies/reforms for the higher educational sector aiming at:
 - reducing public expenditure through increasing competition among universities;
 - introducing market mechanisms and a customer philosophy;
 - improving the business spirit of the academic institution
 - Giving autonomy to the University (with the consequences of the need for institution to strengthen themselves and their organizations)



NEW PUBLIC MANAGEMENT FOR UNIVERSITY

- Uprise of a contractual market model:
 - public authority defines the nature of the services and the decentralized units must provide quantity and quality
 - public authority limits itself to checking and evaluating (by guidelines)
 - universities are judged on results



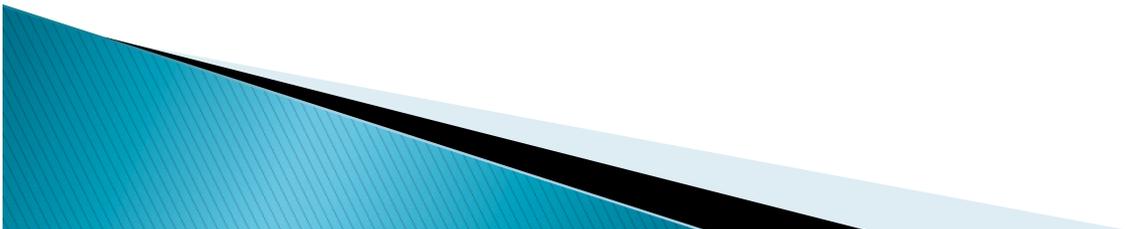
NPM IN ITALY

- Also Italy has been experimenting this model since 1989:
 - 1989 statutory autonomy
 - 1993 financial autonomy
 - Quality and assessment systems
 - Changes in the institutional structure and governance (1989 – Gelmini 2010)

THE UNIVERSITY CYCLE

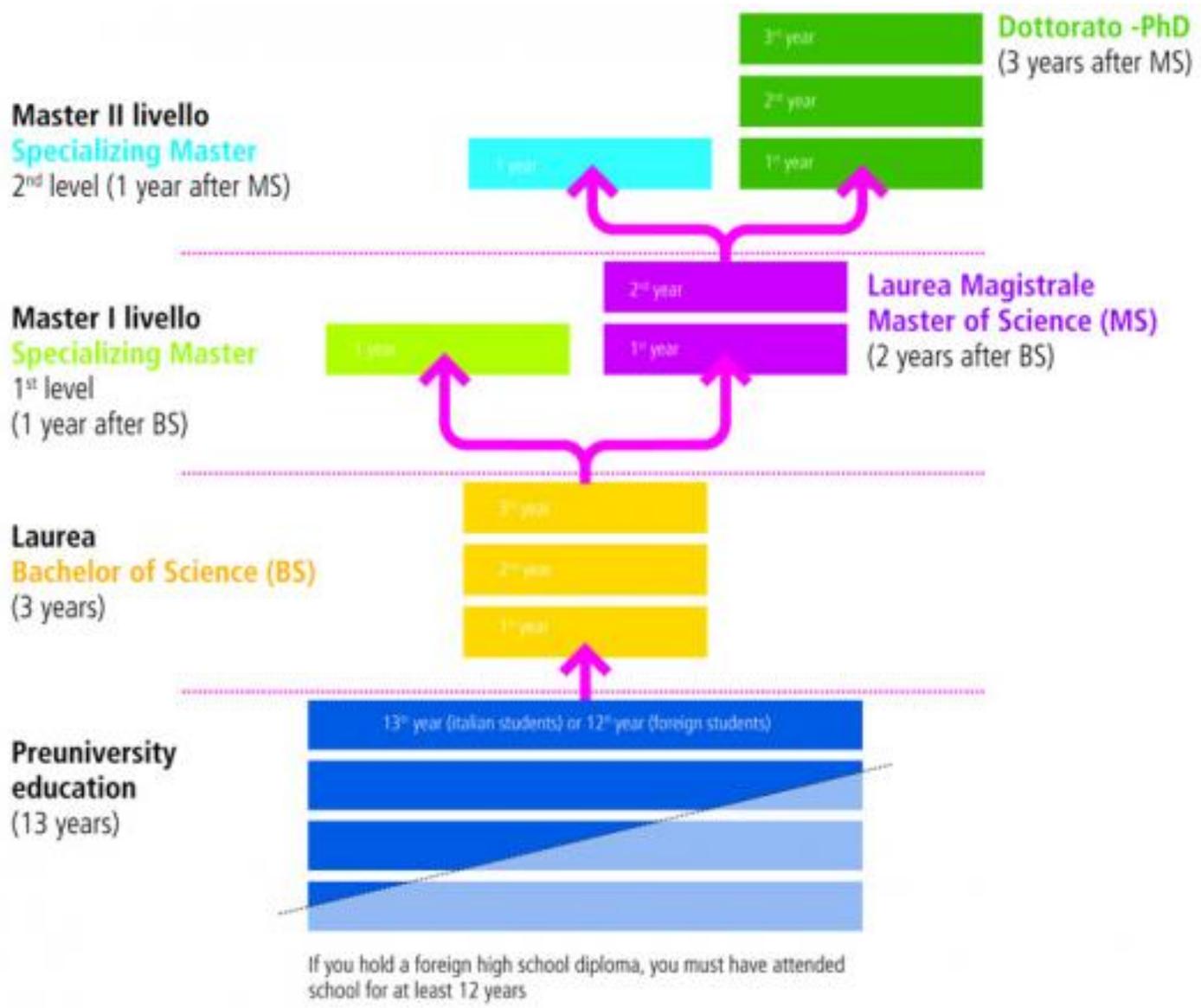
The reform of the Italian University System (Ministerial Decree no. 509/99) has introduced some important innovations in the organization of the academic degrees, implementing the decisions taken by EU Ministers in Bologna in 1998:

- The University cycle
- The credit system (ECTS)



THE UNIVERSITY CYCLE

- The first cycle (*Laurea*) has a 3-year duration for a total of 180 ECTS. It leads to a Bachelor of Science (degree-UK).
- The second cycle (*Laurea Specialistica/Laurea Magistrale*) has a 2-year duration for a total of 120 ECTS. It leads to a Master of Science (Master degree UK)
- The third cycle (*Dottorato - Phd*) has a 3-year duration for a total of 180 ECTS
- On top of the first cycle, the Italian system provides a 1-year course (minimum of 60 ECTS) leading to a 1st level Specializing Master
- On top of the second cycle, the Italian system provides a 1-year course (minimum of 60 ECTS) leading to a 2nd level Specializing Master



ECTS

- ▶ The credits represent the student's total workload (class time, individual study, exam preparation, practical work etc.) and one credit is equivalent to 25 hours.
- ▶ The average full-time workload for one academic year is 60 credits which is equivalent to 1500 hours. Universities may opt for an increase or decrease in this total workload of a maximum 20% (1200–1800 hours), but they must justify this change.
- ▶ The amount of time reserved for individual learning or other individual educational and training activities must not be lower than 50%, except for the courses that include practical or laboratory work.
- ▶ Universities can recognize credits for professional skills and experience, according to the regulations, as well as other skills and knowledge acquired in post-secondary level courses that have been set up and taught in collaboration with the university.

PART-TIME STUDENTS

- ▶ Students can decide to be non-full-time students
- ▶ Students can enroll at 25%, 50% or 75% (up to 15 credits a year, up to 30 and up to 44)
- ▶ They pay the 25%, 50% or 75% of the University fees

DEGREE CLASSES

- The Ministry indicates the Degree Classes within which each University can activate CdS
- 43 DC for 3-year degrees
- 95 DC for MD

DEGREE CLASSES

- L1 Cultural Heritage
- L2 Biotechnology
- ...
- L5 Philosophy
- L6 Geography
- ...
- L9 Industrial Engineering
- ...
- L15 Tourism Sciences
- ...
- L20 Communication Sciences

SUBJECTS

To organize a CdS, University has to choose within categories of subjects selected for each Degree Class:

- Base-subjects
- Characterizing subjects
- Similar and supplementary subjects
- Chosen by the student subjects
- Other credits (seminars, linguistic skills...)

EXAMPLE L-36 POLITICAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Activity	Scientific Sector	Subject	ECTS	TOT ECTS
Base-Subjects	Inter-disciplinarian Subjects	- Public Law - Contemporary History - Political Economy - Statistics - History of Political Thought - Political Science - Sociology	32	40
	Linguistic Subjects	- French Language - Spanish Language - English Language - German Language	8	
Characterizing - Subjects	Political and Historical Subjects	- Modern History - Contemporary History - History of Political Thought - History of Political Institutions - History of International Institutions	10	50
	Economic and Political Subjects	- Political Economy - Economic Politics - Financial Sciences - Applied Economy - Demography	10	
	Sociological Subjects	- General Sociology - Cultural Process Sociology - Economic Process Sociology - Political Phenomena Sociology -	10	
	Political Subjects	- Political Philosophy - Political Science	10	
	Juridical Subjects	- Private Law - Comparative Private Law - Institutions of Public Law - International Law - EU Law - Comparative Public Law	10	

EXAMPLE L-36 POLITICAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Out of the remaining credits, the CdS can decide but taking into account that:

- a number of ECTS is for final thesis
- a L36 student has to know 2 foreign languages
- a number of credits is for internships

THE IDEA BEHIND THE REFORM

The main idea behind the last-year reform is that identical degree classes in different Universities can offer very different CdS according to the needs of the territory:

- Political Sciences or Political Theory
- Administration Sciences or Organizational Theory
- European Studies

HOW TO START A NEW CdS

There is a process that provides:

- Starting accreditation
- Permanent accreditation



THE AVA SYSTEM: FIRST STEP

Self-evaluation, evaluation and accreditation system: it is compulsory to meet criteria to get “accredited”

- A quality assurance system
- A quality board
- SUA-CdS submission
- Final report
- Students’ opinion data collection (in graduation and graduated ones)

THE AVA SYSTEM: CRITERIA

Criteria to activate a CdS:

- Minimum number of professors
- Financial and economic sustainability of the CdS
- Educational planning

NUMBER OF PROFESSORS

It depends on the kind of Degree, the kind of University and the kind of CdS:

- Bachelor (3 years), Master Degree (2 years), 5-year Bachelor, 6-year Bachelor
- State Universities, Non-State Universities, Distance Learning Universities
- Special CdS (Social Services, Motor and Sport Sciences, Educational Sciences, Health Professions, Linguistic Mediation and Translation)

STATE UNIVERSITIES

CORSI	a.a. 13/14	a.a. 14/15	a.a. 15/16	A REGIME a.a. 16/17
Laurea	3 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 1 Professore • almeno 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 1 docente appartenente a ssd affini 	6 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 2 Professori • almeno 4 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	9 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 3 Professori • almeno 6 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 3 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	12 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 4 Professori • almeno 9 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 3 docenti appartenenti a settori affini
Laurea magistrale	2 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 1 Professore • almeno 1 docente appartenente a ssd caratterizzanti • massimo 1 docente appartenente a ssd affini 	4 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 2 Professori • almeno 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd caratterizzanti • massimo 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	6 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 3 Professori • almeno 3 docenti appartenenti a ssd caratterizzanti • massimo 3 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	8 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 3 Professori • almeno 5 docenti appartenenti a ssd caratterizzanti • massimo 3 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini

STATE UNIVERSITIES

Laurea magistrale a ciclo unico di 5 anni	5 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 2 Professori • almeno 4 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 1 docente appartenenti a ssd affini 	10 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 4 Professori • almeno 8 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	15 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 6 Professori • almeno 12 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 3 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	20 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 8 Professori • almeno 15 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 5 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini
Laurea magistrale a ciclo unico di 6 anni	6 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 3 Professori • almeno 5 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 1 docente appartenente a ssd affini 	12 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 5 Professori • almeno 10 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	18 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 8 Professori • almeno 15 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 3 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	24 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 10 Professori • almeno 18 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 6 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini

NON-STATE UNIVERSITIES

CORSI	a.a. 13/14	a.a. 14/15	a.a. 15/16	A REGIME a.a. 16/17
Laurea	3 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 1 Professore • almeno 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 1 docente appartenente a ssd affini 	6 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 2 Professori • almeno 4 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	9 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 3 Professori • almeno 6 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 3 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	9 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 4 Professori • almeno 6 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 3 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini
Laurea magistrale	2 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 1 Professore • almeno 1 docente appartenente a ssd caratterizzanti • massimo 1 docente appartenente a ssd affini 	4 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 2 Professori • almeno 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd caratterizzanti • massimo 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	6 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 3 Professori • almeno 4 docenti appartenenti a ssd caratterizzanti • massimo 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	6 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 3 Professori • almeno 4 docenti appartenenti a ssd caratterizzanti • massimo 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini

NON-STATE UNIVERSITIES

Laurea magistrale a ciclo unico di 5 anni	5 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 2 Professori • almeno 4 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 1 docente appartenenti a ssd affini 	10 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 4 Professori • almeno 8 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	15 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 6 Professori • almeno 10 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 5 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	15 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 8 Professori • almeno 10 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 5 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini
Laurea magistrale a ciclo unico di 6 anni	6 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 3 Professori • almeno 5 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 1 docente appartenente a ssd affini 	12 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 5 Professori • almeno 10 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 2 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	18 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 8 Professori • almeno 12 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 6 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini 	18 docenti, di cui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almeno 10 Professori • almeno 12 docenti appartenenti a ssd di base o caratterizzanti • massimo 6 docenti appartenenti a ssd affini

THE AVA SYSTEM: SUSTAINABILITY

$$\text{ISEF} = A/B$$

Where

A is $0,82 \times \text{FFO} + \text{Students' fees} + \text{costs for location}$

B is $\text{staff costs} + \text{amortization}$

ISEF ≤ 1 then University can activate a new CdS if the total sum of CdS remains the same

THE AVA SYSTEM: EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

The Course has to answer questions as:

- If there is a similar CdS, why does University want to activate another ones?
- Which are the job opportunities for similar course in the same Region or in neighbouring ones?
- Which are the reasons for activating the CdS if occupational opportunities are not so high? If there are other similar CdS within the University?

THE AVA SYSTEM: *IN ITINERE*

Self-evaluation, evaluation and accreditation system: it is compulsory to meet criteria to maintain accreditation in time

- A board of experts (CEV) in evaluation is selected by the ANVUR (Nation Agency for Evaluation of University and Research) of the Ministry. The experts evaluate each CdS through “periodical indicators”

PERIODIICAL INDICATORS

- yearly mean ECTS/number of students
- % of enrolled students at the 2nd year
- % graduated students/enrolled students
- % of drop out
- number of working students
- number of students out-of-course (period longer than the one provided by the CdS)
- mean of years for graduation
- labour market opportunity
- % professors/students in each area
- % CdS where a entrance-test is provided
- % number of ECTS obtained in international activities/number of enrolled students
- % number of Erasmus students/number of enrolled students
- Number of professors involved in international activities
- Number of PHD courses
- Total amount of money obtained by international activities
- ...