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**Abstract**

In recent years, Italian universities professors have, for the first time in decades, faced a process of structural change encompassing the entire system of higher education. These transformations represent a long overdue answer to the unmet social demand for higher education, and have forced academic staff members to adjust to changes in their working conditions. This article examines a number of alternatives related to their professional condition that Italian university professors need to consider in this changing situation. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)