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Teaching and research at Italian universities : continuities and changes

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Abstract

The balance between teaching and research is rooted in the history of Italian contemporary university. Recent changes, though, put a pressure on it suggesting that this enduring balance might be called into question in the future. This chapter highlights both continuities and changes in the historical development of Italian university discussing their implications for teaching, research and their relationship. Two topics are especially addressed. First, the university reform of 1980 has shaped the Italian academic profession for the following 30 years. Second, recent policy initiatives have deeply changed the institutional environment within which Italian academics carry out their teaching and research activities. Some effects of these changes are visible in the results of the Changing Academic Profession survey while others are too recent to be detected by it. Relying on these results, Italian academics' teaching and research activities and their views on the relationship between them are described, occasionally comparing Italian academics with their most similar colleagues in selected European countries. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)

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