

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910131337003321
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Titolo	Mergers and Alliances in Higher Education [[electronic resource] ] : International Practice and Emerging Opportunities // edited by Adrian Curaj, Luke Georghiou, Jennifer Cassingena Harper, Eva Egron-Polak
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham, : Springer Nature, 2015 Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2015
ISBN	3-319-13135-4
Edizione	[1st ed. 2015.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxi, 307 pages) : 28 illustrations; digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	378
Soggetti	Higher education Educational policy Education and state International education Comparative education Higher Education Educational Policy and Politics International and Comparative Education
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters.
Nota di contenuto	Mergers and Alliances in Context. Luke Georghiou, Jennifer Cassingena Harper -- Part I Mergers and Alliances from the Perspective of National. Higher Education Systems -- Mergers and Alliances in France: Incentives, Success Factors and Obstacles. Andrée Sursock -- Mergers and Classifications in Romania: Opportunities and Obstacles. Liviu Andreescu, Radu Georghiu, Alina Irimia, Adrian Curaj -- Collaboration Between Universities in Sweden. Daniel Ljungberg, Maureen McKelvey -- Reorganising the Welsh University System. Philip Gummatt -- Institutional Mergers in Ireland. Siobhán Harkin, Ellen Hazelkorn -- Institutional Mergers in Chinese Higher Education. Rui Yang -- Institutional Culture of Mergers and Alliances in South Africa. Martin Hall -- Institutional Combinations and the Creation of a New Higher Education Institutional Landscape in post-1994 South Africa. Saleem

Badat -- Part II Mergers and Alliances at the Institutional. Level - Experiences and Lessons -- Strategy to Join the Elite: Merger and the 2015 Agenda at the University of Manchester – an update. Luke Georghiou -- The Experience with Creating University of Lorraine by Merging four Former Universities. Jean-Pierre Finance, Hervé Coilland, Pierre Mutzenhardt -- Strategic Aggregation of Universities in Spain: The Spanish Program International Campus of Excellence and the Experience of the Technical University of Madrid. Luis Delgado, Gonzalo León -- The Process of Merging Romanian Universities: Technical University of Cluj-Napoca - North University of Baia Mare. Radu Munteanu, Dan Clin Peter -- The Experience of University of Western Sydney, Australia. Rhonda Hawkins -- About the Editors -- About the Authors.

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## Sommario/riassunto

Higher education in Europe and beyond faces a series of major challenges. The economic crisis has accelerated expectations of an increased role in addressing economic and societal challenges while, at the same time, putting pressure on available finances. Broader trends such as shifting student demographics and expectations, globalisation and mobility and new ways of working with business have contributed to these increased pressures. In the light of these trends there have been moves, both from national or regional agencies and from individual institutions to respond by combining resources, either through collaborative arrangements or more fundamentally through mergers between two or more universities. This volume seeks to draw upon recent and past experiences of mergers and associations short of a merger and to approach the subject both from a systemic level and from the perspective of individual institutions. Inevitably the two levels are interlinked but broadly speaking this distinction is used to separate Part 1, dealing with perspectives at the level of a nation and national system, although often illustrated by examples which extend the range of cases (for countries such as France, Sweden, Romania, Wales, China, South Africa), and Part 2, which takes us down to individual case-studies analysed in depth (in countries such as France, UK, Romania, Spain, Australia). These experiences of course also show responses to wider forces and initiatives but allow a more detailed insight into the specific rationales and the implementation issues involved in effecting a university merger. Within the sections the general flow is from large to medium to small European countries and then to non-European. The chapters of this volume tell stories and make contributions in their own right. An introductory chapter seeks to guide the reader by pointing out from the start some recurrent themes and tensions. In seeking to identify the phenomenon of university mergers, their causes and their consequences, a series of dichotomies are discussed: alliance vs merger; external vs internal motivation; education vs research; short-term vs long-term outcomes and assessment; and motivation and implementation.

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