

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910158976003321
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Titolo	Changing Governance in Universities : Italian Higher Education in Comparative Perspective // by Giliberto Capano, Marino Regini, Matteo Turri
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : Palgrave Macmillan UK : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2016
ISBN	1-137-54817-7
Edizione	[1st ed. 2016.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (VI, 192 p. 2 illus.)
Collana	Palgrave Studies in Global Higher Education, , 2662-4214
Disciplina	378
Soggetti	Higher education Educational policy Education and state International education Comparative education Higher Education Educational Policy and Politics International and Comparative Education Education Policy Italy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	PART I. The Theoretical Framework.- Chapter 1. The Unintended Consequences of University Governance Reforms.- Chapter 2. Poor Policy Design and Implementation -- PART II: The Historical Evolution of Italian Higher Education.- Chapter 3. From the Post-WWII Period To The 1980 Modernization Law.- Chapter 4. Autonomy And Funding: The Reforms Of the Late 1980s to the Mid-1990s.- Chapter 5. Leading The Change In Europe: Early Implementation Of The 'Bologna Process' -- Chapter 6. Catching Up on Institutional Governance and Assessment: The 2010 Reform and its Aftermath -- PART III. Changing Governance in Italian Universities -- Chapter 7. Changes in Funding and Assessment -- Chapter 8. The Transformation of Systemic and Institutional Governance -- Chapter 9. Conclusions: Basic Data on the

Sommario/riassunto

This book critically examines the ramifications of reforms to higher education institutions. All of the higher education system reforms implemented in western countries over the last three decades have had one fundamentally important aim: namely, that of changing the existing institutional and system governance arrangements. This book argues that within this general framework, Italy is a relative latecomer to a scenario where attempts at university reform have been characterized by considerable difficulties, and have been blighted by the arguably poor quality of policy design. By focusing on the Italian reform trajectory as an emblematic case, and providing a comprehensive of the historical evolution of higher education in Italy and further afield, this book adopts a comparative perspective to show how reforms of governance in higher education may achieve different degrees of success depending on the characteristics of their policy design, and why these reforms inevitably lead to a series of unintended consequences. It will be vital reading for those interested in education policy and the history of education. .
