1. Record Nr. UNINA9910957900903321

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Titolo Higher education in Africa : crises, reforms, and transformation / /

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Pubbl/distr/stampa Dakar, : Codesria, c2006

ISBN 9786612901416

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (206 pages)

Collana Working paper series

Disciplina 378.6

Soggetti Education, Higher - Africa

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali "Green book"--Cover.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. [158]-202).

Nota di contenuto Front Cover: Author: Title Page: Copyright Page: Table of

Front Cover; Author; Title Page; Copyright Page; Table of Contents; Introduction; Chapter One - Origins and Mission of African Universities; Chapter Two - Cultural Colonisation by Force and by Choice; Chapter Three - Tre Crisis, Its Consequences, and the Call for Change; Chapter Four - Waves of Reforms and Recent Innovations; Chapter Five - New Challenges within the Global and Local Objective Conditions; Chapter SIx - Structural Change, Transformation, and Localisation of Higher Education as a Public Good; Conclusion; Bibliography; Back Cover

Sommario/riassunto This book provides theoretical tools for analysing contemporary African

higher education systems and institutions. It also examines policy challenges and the prospects for social progress. It points to critical areas of investigation for the CODESRIA Multinational Working Group (MWG) research network on higher education. Conceived as a background text for this network, the book traces the historical roots

and the global factors of the African higher education crises and the search for transformation to address issues of legitimacy and relevance. It analyses the origins, nature, and mission of African higher education, the problems associated with cultural colonization and the dependency trap, the local/global nexus in the crises with a special attention to the structural adjustment programmes (SAPs), and the various waves of reforms and innovations. Furthermore, the book presents a synopsis of studies that were conducted on the crises, highlighting both their findings and recommendations.