

PUBLIC SELECTION BASED ON QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERVIEW FOR THE AWARDING OF NO. 2 GRANTS LASTING 12 MONTHS FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH ART. 22 OF LAW OF 30.12.2010 NO. 240 AT THE CCSE - CISALPINO INSTITUTE FOR COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN EUROPE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGAMO (ACADEMIC RECRUITMENT FIELD 09/B3 – BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING – ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE ING-IND/35 – BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING)

announced with decree of the Rector Rep. no. 595/2016 of 18.11.2016 and posted on the official registry of the University on 18.11.2016

#### **RESEARCH PROJECT CODE N. 1**

##### ***“Innovation in higher education systems: the role of new technologies”***

#### **Project objectives**

The candidate will be included in the research group coordinated by prof. Stefano Paleari at the University of Bergamo, in a research project entitled "The governance of the university systems and higher education: a comparative analysis of the reforms implemented in the years of austerity," area 09 "Industrial and Information Engineering ", scientific discipline ING / IND 35 "Management Engineering ", classification for public applications 09/B3 "Management Engineering".

#### **Research project**

Hand in hand with the important states' disinvestments that globally have struck higher education systems in the last decade, higher education institutions have been obliged to re-think their business model as to find further financial resources and ensure their survivability. In the US context, HEIs have faced severe cuts. In 2015 the States were spending 20% less per student than in 2008 (Mitchell & Leachman 2015). Overseas, in Europe, there have been significant changes in the funding mechanisms (Claeys-Kulik & Estermann 2015). In this regard, universities have increasingly competed to attract more students, both at a bachelor and master level (Cattaneo et al. 2016, Pucciarelli & Kaplan 2016; Altbach 2015), as to rely on more tuition fees.

In the wake of this structural transformation of the HE sector, universities have started to innovate and reinvent their service to students by introducing (since 2008 at the University of Manitoba) massive open online courses (MOOCs), which have been also implemented for an economic purpose (Hollands & Tirthali 2014). Indeed, along with the opportunity to attract more students and increase the institutional reputation in the eyes of competitors, MOOCs also provide but also collect additional revenues and also help universities to improve learning outcomes thanks to new pedagogical innovations (Belleflamme & Jacqmin 2015).

This project aims to investigate the role of MOOCs and other technological innovation in the Higher Education system in terms of redesign of organizational structure, and impact on all university stakeholders.

#### **RESEARCH PROJECT CODE N. 2**

##### ***“The governance of higher education systems: a comparative perspective of the reforms implemented in time of austerity”***

#### **Project objectives**

The candidate will be included in the research group coordinated by prof. Stefano Paleari at the University of Bergamo, in a research project entitled "The governance of the university systems and higher education: a comparative analysis of the reforms implemented in the years of austerity," area 09 "Industrial and Information Engineering ", scientific discipline ING/IND 35 "Management Engineering ", classification for public applications 09/B3 "Management Engineering".

#### **Research project**

In the twenty-first century, an array of policy challenges arose demanding the kind of broad, sweeping policy reforms reminiscent of the Progressive and New Deal era of a hundred years before (Miller 2010). The current economic crisis is in fact not only a crisis of the Western economic model, but it is a structural breaking point in the social, economic, and cultural balance, which calls for a complete reshaping of the social framework (Paleari et al. 2015).

Social, economic and technological challenges are crucially modifying the higher education and science environment. As a matter of fact, the declining birth rate will reduce student cohorts in Europe in the coming decades. A further social change regards the exponential growth of academic knowledge due to the need to focus on more and more specialised research fields because of the expanding social and economic requests to higher education institutions.

From the economic perspective, in spite of the recognized value of science and higher education and the past experiences in dealing with financial and economic crises, public spending in those areas as a measure to contrast economic crisis is an exception rather than a rule. Last, even technological changes are affecting the university and research environment.

As a whole, in today's complex and competitive environment, the challenges for Europe are immense, independently if they are global, national or local. In this setup, an adequate policy framework not only helps mediating the interaction between science, higher education and society, but also contributes to shaping systems, strategies and development patterns. Thus, this project will address what types of policies have been implemented over the past years, and what governance frameworks are needed for science, technology and higher education in the coming decades, both for individual member states as well as the EU as a whole.