The Importance of Being International

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Why to be international

Is internationalization a “fashion driven” process?

• Politicians like it very much and put universities under pressure, even if they really do not fully understand its costs and benefits.

• The bias of international ranking systems.

• International vs. domestic “markets”: the role of Europe.
How to be international

Each university should find its own approach to internationalization

• The “genius loci” effect.

• Internationalization may be an important tool to mitigate the problems of national systems.

• Nowadays, international alliances are essential to promote the development of advanced higher education and research programs. The choice of the “best” partners may be the most critical part of the process.
A short presentation of UniTN
Established in 1962 as a Free University. State University since 1983.

Starting from Jan. 2010 a new hybrid model has been adopted: UniTn continues to be a State University but all public funds are provided by the Local Government of Trentino. A “living lab” for the whole Italian University system.

- 600 Faculty members
- 300 Post-Docs and visiting professors
- 600 Technical & administrative staff
- 16000 Students
UniTN facts & numbers (2)

Academic staff

ISI papers

PhD recipients

YEAR

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009
**University of Trento**

Undergraduate Profile | [Click here for Graduate/Postgraduate Profile](#)

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Engineering &amp; IT</th>
<th>Life Sciences &amp; Biomedicine</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
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**World Rankings**

401-500

Source: [Times Higher Education - QS World University Rankings](#)

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Financial resources:

- 6.6%
- 0.6%
- 6.9%
- 9.3%
- ~145 M€

- Public funds
- Tuition fees
- Teaching grants
- Private enterprises
- Research grants

- 76.6%
- 14.7%
- 56.8%

- State
- Regional funds
- European Commission
- Other funds
Our approach to internationalization (1)

• Promote the mobility of students and professors (Erasmus program et al.).

• Develop joint and double degrees with international partners.

• Attract graduate and Ph.D. students, Post-Docs and professors from abroad.

• Support young researchers (YR) to stimulate their participation to European programs (e.g. “coach” for ERC YR grants).

• Work in tight connection with the local research network in order to be more competitive at the international level (e.g. joint participation to the EIT competition).
Our approach to internationalization (2)

About 1/3 of our Ph.D. students come from abroad (mainly UK, Germany and BRIC countries)
Our approach to internationalization (3)

DIVISION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND MOBILITY

- EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES, NETWORKS AND COOPERATION Office
- DOUBLE DEGREE AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS Office
- LLP ERASMUS Office
- WELCOME Office

About 15 administrative staff members support the Vice rector for international relations. Our good Trento formula: strong joint cooperation between academic and administrative staff.
Internationalization@home

Increase the offer of Master programs entirely taught in English. So far:

Cognitive science,
International management,
Economics,
Innovation management,
Mathematics,
Physics,
Computer science,
Telecommunication engineering,
European and international studies.
International research partnership (1)
International research partnership (2)
Threshold effects

To be really effective at the international level it is essential to promote the development of “Higher Education clusters” at the European regional level. This idea is becoming progressively more popular.

However, there is still a lot of work to do ...
Thank you for your attention!

www.unitn.it/international