



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BERGAMO  
CENTRO di ATENEIO per la  
QUALITÀ dell'INSEGNAMENTO e dell'APPRENDIMENTO



# RESEARCH OUTSIDE ACADEMIA: INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATES AND APPRENTICESHIPS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

V Edition

Bergamo (Italy), 26-27 September 2014  
2, Piazzale Sant'Agostino

Over the last decades, growing attention has been placed, in a comparative and international context, on the development of innovative higher education curricula and, in particular, on new types of training paths for researchers, which are increasingly intended to ensure a closer collaboration with companies, as they are designed to better respond to labour market needs. This attention stems in important respects from the need to improve the employability of highly skilled young people taking into account the real needs of the labour market. However, both at the international and the national level, there is insufficient awareness of the great potential that these educational paths could have as a lever for local development, competitiveness and innovation.

Through an interdisciplinary and comparative approach, this conference aims at attaining a better understanding of the potential that could be realized through a closer cooperation between higher education and research institutions, and the overall economic and social system, as well as of the role played by educational programmes that combine work-based learning and traditional academic education for the employability of the young people involved, also promoting businesses' innovation and research.

The conference is one of the ADAPT international events on *Productivity, Investment in Human Capital and the Challenge of Youth Employment*, the papers of which have been collected in three volumes of the *ADAPT Labour Studies Book Series* published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing:

- [Productivity, Investment in Human Capital and the Challenge of Youth Employment](#) (September 2011)
- [Youth Unemployment and Joblessness: Causes, Consequences and Responses](#) (September 2012)
- [Tackling Youth Employment](#) (February 2014)



It is expected that the best papers, among those selected for this conference, will be published in one of the ADAPT publications. The editors will also welcome contributions from those who are not able to participate in the conference but willing to give their contribution to the event all the same.

The [International Doctoral School in Human Capital and Labour Relations](#), promoted by ADAPT and the [Academy for Teaching and Learning Quality \(CQIA\)](#), invites professors, researchers, doctoral students, experts, practitioners and all those interested in the conference topics, from a multidisciplinary perspective – including, but not limited to, economics, sociology, political science, labour and employment law, industrial relations, and human resource studies – to present contributions on the following topics:

**(I) Industrial Doctorates and their role for youth employability, research and the development of territories and enterprises**

The literature has by now extensively investigated the crucial role of educational and research institutions for the economic, social and cultural development at the local level. Although in Italy, examples are few and the cooperation between universities and businesses is often regarded skeptically because of cultural resistance, in other countries, these educational paths are now well established and produce significant results for the institutions themselves and for society as a whole. Particular attention will be devoted to contributions that will address the impact of the closer cooperation between universities and businesses on the economic and social system at the local level as well as in developing countries. Indeed, the objective is to explore the issue of industrial doctorates promoted in collaboration with enterprises. In Italy, doctorates have long been defined as a process of training for an academic career. The most recent reform attempts try to overcome this connotation through greater openness of these paths (in terms of internationalization and cooperation with enterprises) looking at the experiences, including the industrial and professional doctorates, developed in other countries. These models have long been introduced in Northern Europe and in some cases, such as in Denmark, they have proved that they can produce significant results in terms of employability of young people and businesses' productivity. In Italy, industrial doctorates were introduced just a year ago although with a number of shortcomings in terms of definition as well as institutional conditions that undermine the actual implementation of these innovative programmes. One aspect that is worth investigating is the role of the organizational dimension, selection procedures and management of teaching and research faculty on the openness of organizations.

**(II) Becoming a Researcher: Educational Paths beyond Academia.**

PhDs are not the only way to become a researcher in the private sector. In Italy, apprenticeships for research purposes are an alternative, which share a fundamental characteristic with the Doctoral programmes carried out in the company: the combination between theoretical and practical learning

How is this methodology applied in different countries and what are its effects on the employability of young people? Do the skills acquired during an apprenticeship or a “work-



based” doctorate provide a “competitive advantage” also in the long run, or is their effect limited to ease access to the labour market? What impact do these programmes have on businesses innovation? Is there scope for an actual development of these types of programmes also in Italy?

### **(III) The Role of Work-based Learning in Higher Education and Research: Social Representation and Cultural Orientation of Institutions, Young People and Businesses.**

Programmes that combine work-based learning and higher academic training, such as higher apprenticeships or industrial and professional doctorates, are not equally attractive for young people and businesses in different countries and they do not receive the same degree of attention from governments and institutions. There are countries in which these programmes are already implemented and valued, whereas in others they struggle to take off. To what extent is this an image problem or an institutional problem? What is the implementation status of higher apprenticeships and work-based doctorates in the various countries? Which interventions are required from institutions and social partners to promote them? Is there any form of cultural resistance to their development?

#### **On-line Submission of Abstracts:**

The procedure for abstract submission is on-line. Before starting, you must be registered at the conference system. To register, you need to create an account for the on-line cooperation area. Please, follow the instructions [here](#). If you have any problem, please write to [helpdesk@adapt.it](mailto:helpdesk@adapt.it).

#### **Deadlines**

Deadline for abstracts: **30 June 2014**

Deadline for our confirmation: **10 July 2014**

Deadline for your confirmation about your participation in the conference: **15 July 2014**

Deadline for submission of papers for the conference: **1 September 2014**

#### **Fees and Expenses**

Participation to the conference is free. Accommodation expenses are covered by the organizers for the authors of the selected papers. Participants must cover their travel expenses, although a limited number of grants to cover travel costs will be available for selected students of PhD candidates.

#### **Further Information**

Further details will be available at <http://moodle.adaptland.it/course/view.php?id=22> and [www.bollettinoadapt.it](http://www.bollettinoadapt.it) (*Eventi*).

For any queries, please contact: [info@adapt.it](mailto:info@adapt.it).