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**Abstract**

The main goal of this article is to analyze and discuss the contexts, the rationale and the challenges associated with integrating autonomy and accountability in university governance. Contexts, concepts and uses of the words governance, university, autonomy and accountability in higher education are revisited. The design and implementation of participatory governance models is seen as a way to call for accountability and for the development of an understanding of the present role of universities.

(HRK / Abstract übernommen)