

07.4.2026

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Title

Higher education policy convergence and the Bologna process : a cross-national study / Eva Maria Vögtle

Publisher

Basingstoke : Palgrave Macmillian, 2014

Collation

XII, 229 S. : graph. Darst.

Publication year

2014

Series

(Transformation of the State)

ISBN

978-1-137-41278-2

Inventory number

78719

Keywords

Hochschule und Staat : allgemein ; Hochschulreform : allgemein ; Bologna-Prozess ; Qualitätssicherung ; Evaluation ; Grade : Bachelor / Master ; Studentenschaft : Studienverhalten ; Austausch von Wissenschaftlern und Studenten ; Ausland : Europa : Studenten, Studium, Lehre ; Ausland : Europa : Hochschulwesen allgemein

Abstract

Political interest in higher education provision and research has risen remarkably. From a European perspective, changes in higher education program structures can be related to the Bologna Process, but we still lack knowledge regarding whether this process had a direct impact on higher education

07.4.2026

policy convergence. This book investigates whether the soft governance mechanism of transnational communication evoked cross-national policy harmonization, exploring the relational patterns between this policy convergence and domestic factors conditioning the degree of convergence. Empirically, convergence processes are measured on the basis of undirected dyadic data, assessing changes in higher education policies of 20 OECD countries between 1996 and 2008. Results suggest that the Bologna Process, even though it rests on voluntariness, has triggered substantial policy harmonization beyond both general policy convergence and its European members. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)

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