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Abstract

Higher education research is a small field with fuzzy borderlines between those closely attached to this thematic focus and representatives of various disciplines touching this theme occasionally, as well as between researchers and other experts involved in knowledge production on higher education along other tasks. It is a sizeable field of research in some European countries and marginal in others, whereby the themes of research are diverse and the institutional basis is varied. A national focus dominates everywhere. The results of research are unevenly spread across Europe as a consequence of the different role of the English language in the various countries. Europe-wide and international communication and collaboration among higher education researchers has grown substantially since the 1980s, and many analyses are of a comparative nature or address similar developments across countries – as a result of both the researchers' own initiatives and of a growing influence of

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supra-national policies and developments of higher education. European support for policy-oriented analyses and ‘targeted’ research is viewed by the researchers both as counter-productive constraints, and as an opportunity for improved research and for a dialogue relevant for the future of higher education research, as well as for the future of higher education policy and practice. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)

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