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**Abstract**

Following the end of the binary system in 1992, UK higher education has witnessed a new approach to diversity based on institutional self-determination within a common overall framework. Using analysis of statistical performance indicators, this paper shows that institutions have become more diverse, especially in terms of research activity. However, such diversity is unplanned and unco-ordinated. Moreover, compared with some other countries, there is relatively little diversity in UK higher education. Further diversity will require radical changes within the university system, either by the operation of unfettered market forces or by increased intervention by Government or funding councils. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)