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**Abstract**

Mergers in the higher education sector have been on the agenda in the Nordic countries for some years. The mergers are both top-down and bottom-up initiated. The aim of this article is to identify different types of higher education mergers in the Nordic countries, investigate different reasons for these mergers as well as report experiences from some merger processes in the Nordic countries. One Swedish case in particular is presented. Prerequisites for successful mergers are identified, including leadership requirements. The importance of a future-oriented and engaged academic leadership, as well as an open-minded leadership and preparedness for team leadership in merger processes, is emphasized. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)