

30.12.2025

**Author**

HARTMANN, Eva

**Title**

Overburdening Higher Education? : The Europeanisation of the Professional Complex / Eva Hartmann

**Publication year**

2018

**Source/Footnote**

In: European Higher Education and the Internal Market : Tensions Between European Policy and National Sovereignty / edited by Cristina Sin, Orlanda Tavares, S  nia Cardoso, Maria J. Rosa. - Cham : Springer International Publishing, 2018. - S. 287 - 308

**Inventory number**

48920

**Keywords**

Mobilit  t ; Ausland : Europa : Studenten, Studium, Lehre

**Abstract**

Cross-border mobility of labour has become a major bone of contention in Europe. This contribution develops a theoretical framework that makes it possible to understand the emerging European labour market as a political project. The framework combines a Gramscian account of hegemony with sociology of professions with a view to better understanding the role of skilled migrants in establishing a European hegemony. A study of the Europeanisation of the professional complex and the obstacles this transformation has met so far provide interesting insights into the complexity of the European integration as a social transformation. The paper also highlights the vital role that the European Higher Education Area has gained in Europeanising the professional complex in recent years, which is not without risks for higher education. (HRK / Abstract   bernommen)

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