

**18.2.2026****Author**

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**Title**

The university of the twenty-first century : from blueprint to reality

**Publication year**

2003

**Source/Footnote**

In: Higher education in Europe. - 28 (2003) 1, S. 83 - 85

**Inventory number**

17775

**Keywords**

Hochschule : Idee und Aufgabe ; Hochschule : gegenwärtige Situation ; Hochschulreform : allgemein

**Abstract**

During the 1990s, a typical theme of a conference on the role of the university was "the university of tomorrow". Now, however, tomorrow has arrived, and universities are undergoing very powerful stimuli to transform themselves. The principal driving forces are the development of knowledge societies and economies, the all-pervasiveness of the information technologies, globalization, and the debate on the public or private nature of higher education. These forces generate a myriad of responses that, while defying the elaboration of blueprints, call for constant change and diversity.

(HRK / Abstract übernommen)