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**Abstract**

Portuguese speaking countries represent one of the largest linguistic communities in the world, though this tends to be less visible in the case of higher education than for other widely spoken languages. Moreover, the existing literature on higher education systems in Lusophone countries is scarce and very unevenly distributed. Thus, in this article we briefly present the higher education systems of the Lusophone countries. We give particular attention to their recent patterns of development and their current regulatory frameworks regarding the governance at the system and institutional levels. In our analysis we explore the main similarities and differences present in those systems. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)