

11.8.2024

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Title

How do professional mutual recognition agreements affect higher education? : examining regional policy in North America / Creso Sá and Patricia Gaviria

Publication year

2011

Source/Footnote

In: Higher education policy. - 24 (2011) 3, S. 307 - 330

Inventory number

30670

Keywords

Ausland : Kanada : Hochschulwesen allgemein ; Ausland : USA : Hochschulwesen allgemein ; Mobilität ; Austausch von Wissenschaftlern und Studenten

Abstract

Professional mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) are one of the policy instruments employed in global and regional trade agreements to facilitate the mobility of skilled labour. While such agreements have been noted in the literature examining cross-border academic mobility, little is known about how they impact higher education. This paper examines the formation of professional MRAs in North America since the passing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), focusing on three fields: engineering, architecture, and accounting. In the three professions, asymmetries characterizing the NAFTA partners led to system-level reforms in Mexico. The paper discusses how and why the institutional arrangements governing professional higher education in the country were 'harmonized' with those of the United States and Canada. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)