

21.4.2025

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**Title**

Merging Professional and Research Higher Education Institutions Creates Competitive Edge :  
Discussion of a Finnish Experience / Kirsi Viskari

**Publication year**

2018

**Source/Footnote**

In: Internationalisation of higher education : a handbook. - 6 (2018) 4. - F 1.7. - S. 59 - 75

**Inventory number**

47823

**Keywords**

Ausland : Finnland : Hochschulwesen allgemein ; Hochschule : Wettbewerb

**Abstract**

Higher education institutions compete on talented students, faculty members and on the quality of research results. In order to succeed better in this competition, several universities have taken the path of mergers. Bringing together practically oriented and scientifically recognised researchers, added by a larger variety of disciplines and skill sets, the merger results can include improved attractiveness and increased research results on top of plain cost savings. This article discusses a Finnish case study on scientific-professional collaboration, reflecting the motivations and results on earlier university mergers in Europe. The case study supports the findings from the literature, indicating that voluntary mergers involving the faculty and staff throughout the process decrease resistance towards the change. In addition, the results of the case study and literature claim that mergers of universities with different or complementing disciplines tend to succeed better than mergers of universities with similar disciplines. This article also discusses the impact of physical closeness on improving collaboration.

(HRK / Abstract übernommen)