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**Abstract**

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the higher education systems in the fifteen independent states that once comprised it have gone through many changes. While a number of these republics have acceded to the Bologna protocols and joined the European Higher Education Area, a few have not. This article, written by two American researchers, offers an outsider's perspective on the history and current state of tertiary education in the post-Soviet republics as well as the challenges that

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remain as they seek to more closely align their higher education systems with those of Western Europe. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)