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The importance of geography and culture in mergers : a Norwegian institutional case study / Jorunn Dahl Norgard ; Ole-Jacob Skodvin

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### **Abstract**

Internationally the main intention of merging higher education institutions has often been that the establishment of larger units should result in academic and administrative economies of scale. This was also the case in the Norwegian State College Reform. This article focuses on how geographical distance, as well as cultural differences between sub-units at Telemark College, influence the degree of attainment of academic and administrative goals. By using network theory and a cultural approach, we have studied the merger processes as well as the outcomes of the amalgamation. In the conclusion, lessons to be learned from this case study are highlighted. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Skodvin. Ole-Jacob, E-mail: ojs@ufd.dep.no