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**Abstract**

The development of private higher education institutions in Poland since 1989 has become a thorny political issue. The question is discussed in terms of the overall expansion of higher education in Poland, the Polish national development strategy, the spatial distribution of higher education institutions in Poland, and the role of higher education in the formation of the Polish national élite. The author argues strongly in favour of the equal treatment of private higher education. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)