

# Phase 1

## Fragmented Expansion

*Until the end of the twentieth century, the development of post-secondary education in Western Europe can be described as a continuous growth period characterised by differentiation of study programmes and diversification of organisational forms and curricula, and by geographic and institutional decentralisation of institutions and study places. In this book, the term fragmented expansion has been used to illustrate this phase in the development of the college sector.*

*Chapter 3 analyses the processes of differentiation and diversification in a Norwegian context, and Chapter 4 explains the processes of geographic and institutional decentralisation. These processes are analytically distinct, but strongly intertwined and the fragmented expansion of college education can only be well understood by analysing their internal relationships, which will be done in Chapter 9.*