

Phase 2 Horizontal Integration

In the 1980s, the decentralisation wave in higher education had reached its peak. The expansion of the college sector had led to a highly differentiated, diverse, and geographically dispersed organisational field which called for state coordination through horizontal integration of programmes and institutions. Processes of differentiation and diversification were countered by various processes of field contraction: authority unification, institutional de-differentiation, programme coordination, and field homogenisation, while geographical decentralisation was replaced by regionalisation of programmes and institutions.

Chapter 5 analyses the various processes of de-differentiation and de-diversification of professional and vocational programmes in the college sector, while Chapter 6 explains why the long period of geographic decentralisation of non-university institutions was replaced by a regionalisation policy. The dynamics of these processes combined are discussed in Chapter 9.