

## Phase 3

# Vertical Integration

*Three principal processes have worked to bring the two higher education sectors closer to each other: academic drift in the college sector, vocational drift in the university sector, and field-coupling. In this vertical integration process, we can distinguish between political, bureaucratic, and professional coordination of institutions and programmes, and on adaptation of individual institutions to new realities based on market coordination. Over time, these processes have reduced the differences between the sectors and worked towards integration.*

*Chapter 7 explains the academisation process in the college sector, and Chapter 8 analyses the processes which constitute what is here called field coupling through student mobility, rule harmonisation, network building, and cross-field organisational mergers. Because this study is devoted to the transformation of the college sector, vocational drift in the universities is not dealt with in a separate chapter, but in Chapter 9 where the dynamic relationship between the processes characteristic of vertical integration is discussed.*