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What is a University? The Organizational Forms of Swedish and Finnish Higher Education

Bakgrund/Frågeställning

Institutions of higher education can have the legal status of, for example, government agencies, associations under public law, foundations, and joint stock companies. This article will investigate what kinds of legal entities Swedish and Finnish institutions of higher education have been organized as in the period from the 1990s until 2020. We want to explore how changes from one form of organization to another have been legitimized in reports from government committees, political actors and other similar sources. How have actors argued for and against public or private universities, associations under public law, foundations, joint stock companies and other forms of organization? These arguments are closely related to the views that the actors hold of the nature of universities. We also want to explore how the special characteristics, aims and demands of the university institution have caused adaptations to the organizational forms into which it has been molded. For example, what adaptations have been made to the legislation regarding joint stock companies and foundations in order to make them suitable forms of organization for higher education? Thus, this study investigates the two-way process in which new organizational forms and the university institution are affecting and adapting to each other.

Metod och Resultat

Konklusion