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SOCIOLCULTURAL DIMENSION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION IN ALBANIA

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The main factors causing the need of rethinking higher education institutions in Albania are connected with the advent of the global age. Higher education in Albania is affected by globalization-related processes. Higher education is doubly affected by the local post-1989 transformations and by more profound and long-lasting global transformations. To neglect either of the two levels of analysis is to misunderstand a decade of failed attempts to reform higher education systems in Albania. The main purpose of this study is to carry out the main issues related to the social and cultural dimensions of the transformation process of the Albanian higher education and their impact to the globalization process. The transformation of the higher education system consists in reflecting the changes that take place in Albanian society, strengthening the values and practices of Albanian new democracy, changing the past inequalities, serving a new social order, meeting the national needs and responding to new realities and opportunities. Higher education plays a central role in the social, cultural and economic development of modern societies. All traditional factors determine social and cultural dimensions of transformation process and it`s positive impact. Government politics related to higher education, the students`chance of choice, the existence of a great variety of the universities that can be accessed, changing curricula, students exchange, opening to the word play an important role. All the factors above affect the social and cultural dimensions of higher education transformation process in Albania.