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## Governance and Funding of Higher Education – International Trends and Best Practices

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### Abstract

The aim of our research was to overview and analyse the best practices of higher education funding (mostly in the EU, with a highlight to Central and Eastern Europe) and to make proposals for Hungary in designing its own system of funding focusing on quality, sustainability and the possible inclusion of private (entrepreneurial) contribution. During the research we unfolded the international trends and the Hungarian practice of governance and funding of higher education with concrete examples from Germany (Martin Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg), Great Britain (University of Manchester), France (Lille Institute of Political Studies), and from Central and Eastern Europe with special focus on Poland (Jagiellonian University in Krakow) and Slovenia (University of Ljubljana). This paper provides a brief summary of the general trends in financing higher education, and we highlight a few funding solutions that could be used by the CEE countries as well.<sup>†</sup>

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### 1. Introduction

Funding higher education has been a hot topic for a couple of decades. The reason for this is the mass fiction of higher education, which is a process still unfinished. Increasing heterogeneity of students' needs resulted in the a growing number and a wider variety of educational programmes and a more differentiated higher education sector with many new institutions (colleges, polytechnics, for-profit institutions etc.). As the complexity of the sector is growing the role of government changes: the task is to guide a complex ecosystem made up of many different agents with many different interests instead of the direct control of homogeneous institutions. The autonomy of institutions (Estermann – Nokkala, 2009; Jongbloed et al., 2010; Estermann et al., 2011) and the means of their control also changes: the emphasis shifts from direct regulations (government) to indirect incentive mechanisms and different monitoring and reporting practices (governance) (Jongbloed et al., 2010). Funding can be considered as one of the most important incentive mechanisms.

In funding, two major general trends can be observed. First, sources of funding have become more diversified (Estermann – Pruvot, 2011). Tuition fees and third stream incomes become more and more important,

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