Abstract

The Higher Education Systems (HES) of Latin America have gone through several stages from the growth of the enrolment in the 70’s to the consecutive economic crises and the quality deterioration in the 90’s. As a consequence, the shortage of funds in public universities has become one of their most typical features. In order to reduce these problems the governments took several measures: the development of private higher education institutions (HEI), the change of funding models and the establishment of the quality’s evaluation systems. The objective of this work is to analyze the recent evolution of the Costa Rican Higher Education in order to know if these measures have been implemented. The results show that Costa Rican government, just like the rest of the Latin American governments, has created a favorable atmosphere for the development of private institutions. In addition, funding models of public universities are being changed with the purpose of reallocating the funds and attaching more importance to the market criteria.

Keywords

HIGHER EDUCATION/ COSTA RICA/ FUNDING MODELS/ PRIVATIZATION/