TOWARDS THE ACCEPTANCE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY IN ACCREDITATION PROCESSES: THE ROLE OF PEER EVALUATORS

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ABSTRACT
The paper analyzes the role of peer evaluators in the accreditation of higher education institutions and programs, in a context marked by diversity. The discussion addresses four different aspects of this subject: the context in which evaluations take place, the types and levels of differences among institutions, institutional culture, and the relative objectivity of peer evaluators. The paper emphasizes aspects of the dynamics of evaluation and the personal characteristics of peer evaluators. It suggests conclusions on the tensions and challenges involved in the accreditation of higher education institutions, particularly in the impending scenario in Chile, which is changing its system tending to the privatization of accreditation agencies.

Key words: accreditation, higher education, peer evaluator, diversity

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