SUMMARY

This paper explores the different areas of operation of higher education and the application of policy mechanisms (which include funding, regulation and information) to each from the point of view of public responsibilities. Starting from the Chilean experience during the last twenty years, it suggests areas where the involvement of the private sector should not only be welcome, but encouraged. The areas of operation taken into account are the development of science and technology (or academic leadership), professional training, technical training and the promotion of an open society and democratic values.