ACREDITACIÓN INSTITUCIONAL EN CHILE: UNA OPCIÓN EMERGENTE

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**ABSTRACT**

The paper first presents the principles underlying accreditation for higher education institutions and also the main reasons why educational institutions have joined this initiative fostered by the National Commission for Undergraduate Accreditation (CNAP). It then goes on to examine the goals, methodological orientation and stages of the process, and it concludes with a valuation of accreditation as a quality assurance system for higher education institutions.