



***Choices and Responsibilities:  
Higher Education in the Knowledge Society***

**Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE)**

TOWARDS HIGHER EDUCATION MARKET – COOPERATION OR COMPETITION

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In year 2000 the University of Latvia started reform process with the aim to improve the efficiency of the administration and to increase own competences. This was a logical closing to the developments of the last decade in the higher education of Latvia, which was characterized by rapid increase in student numbers (2.7 times); with the extension of state funding remaining unchanged and private funding entering the higher education sector. Nowadays both public and private higher education institutions exist in Latvia and 24% of 12 600 students are financed by state funding. Several new ideas are born during the reorganization process of the University of Latvia, which affect directly external consequences of the University and require solutions on the level of politics. There is demand for new approaches in cooperation (or competition) of public and private sectors, request for new solutions in reaching integration or differentiation and alleviating entry of market regulating mechanisms in the market of the higher education. These questions refer to answers in regional, national and global levels. How Bologna Declaration influences these market-regulating mechanisms? Do the activity principles of higher education have to change concurrently to the economical statements? So far the realized campaign-type reforms have not lead Latvia to the desired results in general. In this publication the ideas are considered, which have been discussed in Latvia and resp. University of Latvia in the last two three years.