

**Abstract:** The book aims to contribute to a more systematic analysis of the implications of introducing market-oriented mechanisms in the steering, funding and organisation of the higher education sector. The analysis is carried out primarily from an economic perspective. Moreover, the contributions presented in this book take the reader to various national systems, enabling a comparative analysis to be carried out of some of the recent moves undertaken by various governments to inject market forces into their national higher education systems. Overall, the perspective provided by this set of chapters on the reality of markets in higher education is a complex and fascinating one, both from an analytical point of view and an empirical one.