

Poland



REGION: EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (EECA)

Also included in this region: Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia, Ukraine

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Polish HE system combines features of the Former Eastern Bloc and the Northern European models. Over half of all students were enrolled in specialised universities in 2018, with nearly all of the remainder attending either comprehensive universities or hybrids. Due mainly to adverse demographic trends, total enrolments fell by nearly 30% between 2010 and 2018, which was in line with the average across the rest of the EECA. There were much larger declines in private enrolments than public enrolments. The number of HEIs also fell, due largely to an ongoing process of phasing out short-cycle HEIs. Just under three-quarters of students attended public providers in 2018, which was below the average for the rest of the EECA.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive universities	Universities	18	1	19
Specialised Universities	Higher schools of economics, agriculture, pedagogy, technology, arts, institutions under the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of the Interior and Administration; medical universities; higher schools of theology; maritime schools	73	88	161
Hybrids	Other higher education institutions; higher vocational schools (2006 and 2007)	73	144	217
Short-cycle HEIs	Colleges	4	0	4
Semi-HE	Scientific units of the Polish Academy of Sciences; Research institutes; the Medical Center of Postgraduate Education (only postgraduate/doctoral students)	NA	NA	NA

FIGURE 1 – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018

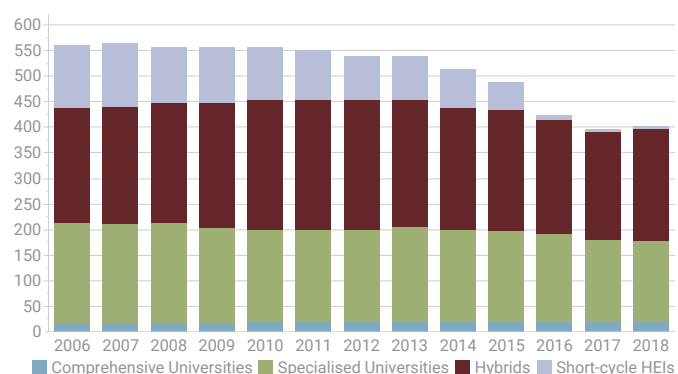


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

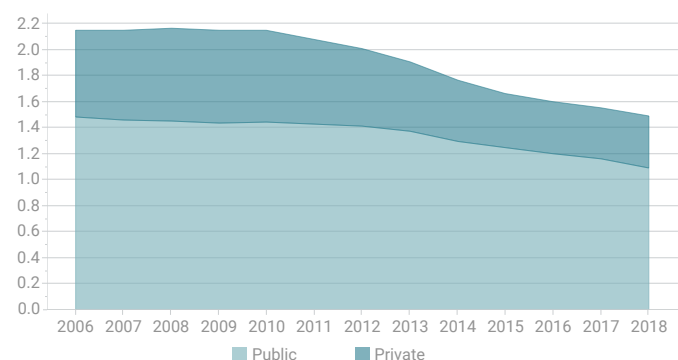


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Poland, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

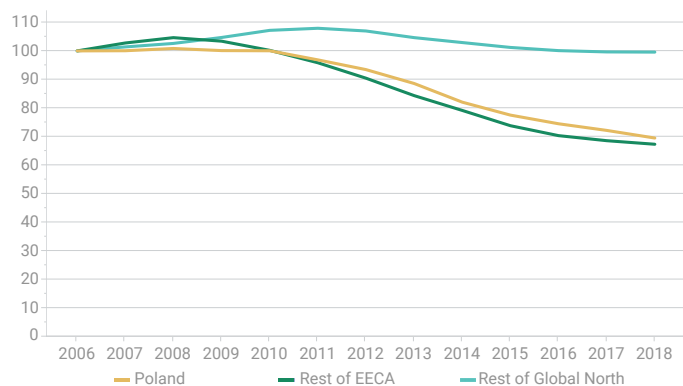


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Poland and the rest of EECA, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

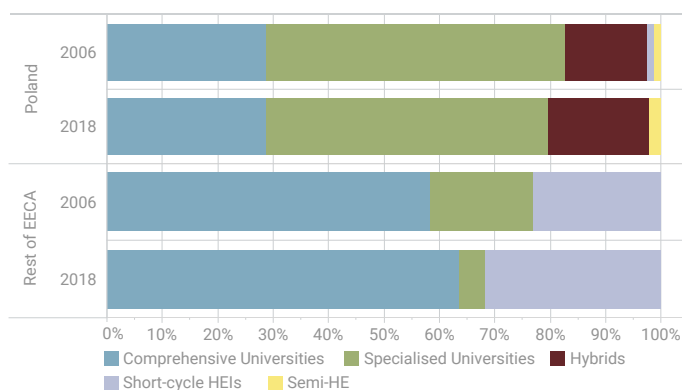


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type in Poland and the rest of EECA, 2018

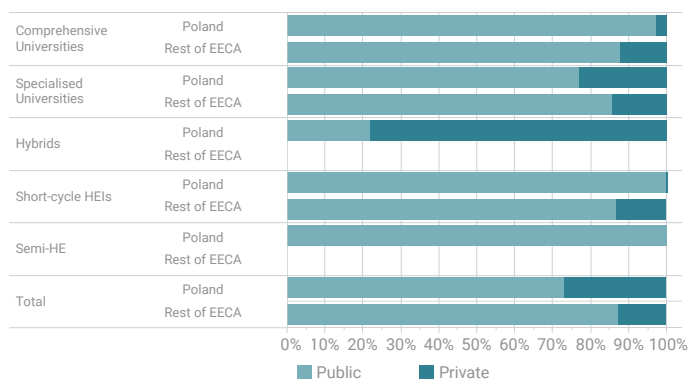
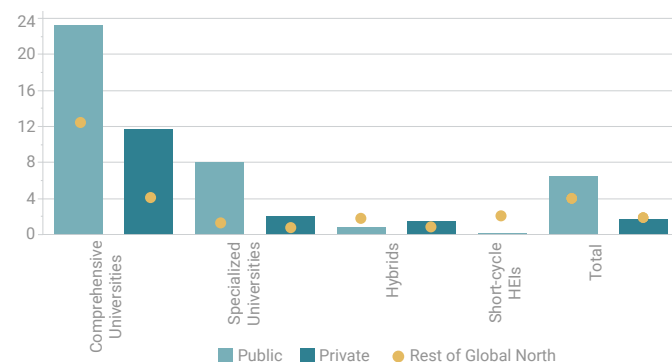


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Poland and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Poland rose by a little over 20% in constant dollars from 2006 to 2018, roughly in line with averages across the rest of the EECA and the Global North. However, spending fell by close to 20% relative to GDP. Public transfers to HEIs (both universities and hybrids) and total expenditures at public HEIs rose at roughly similar rates to total public spending. Total expenditures at private HEIs fell more or less in line with enrolments, although private HEIs gained access to substantial non-fee revenues to make them less dependent on fee income.

FIGURE 7 – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Poland, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

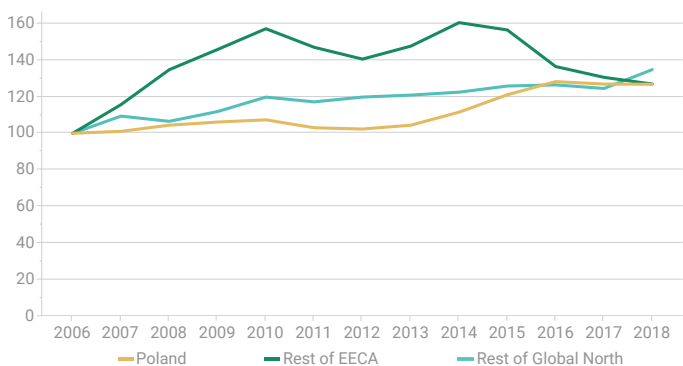


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Poland, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

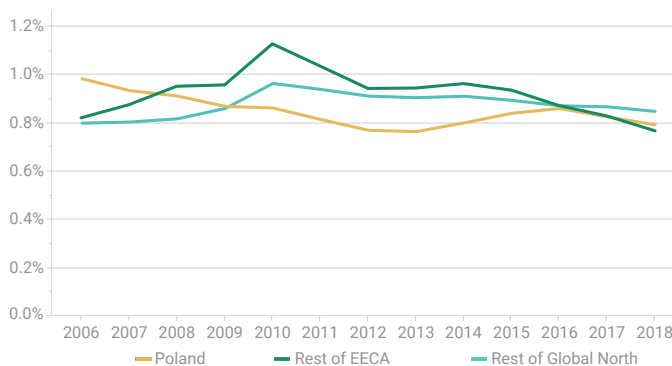


FIGURE 9 – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Poland and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

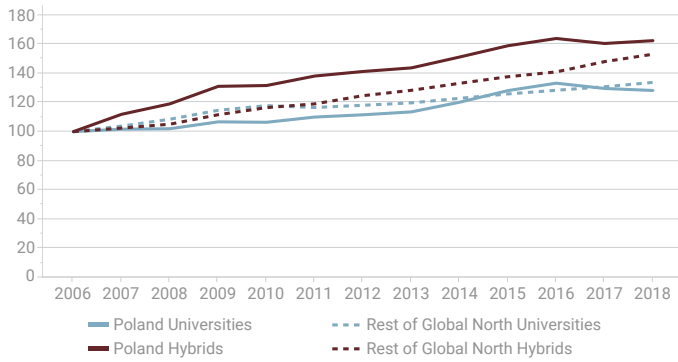


FIGURE 10 – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Poland and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

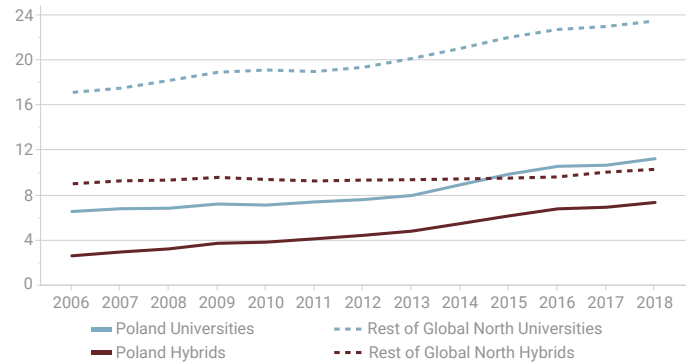


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Poland and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

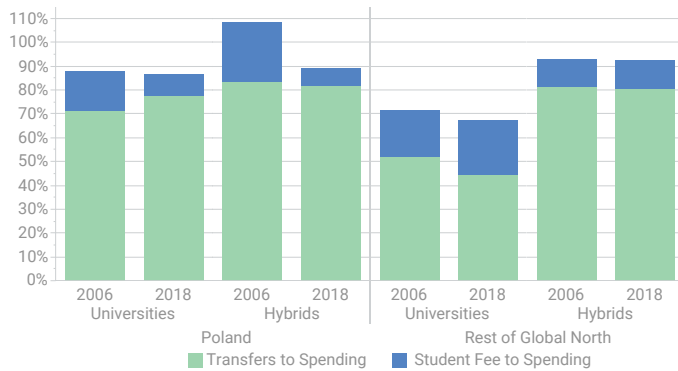


FIGURE 12 – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Poland and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

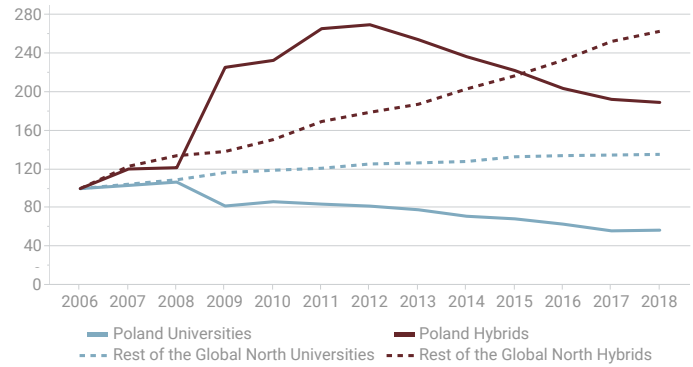


FIGURE 13 – Per-student total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Poland and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

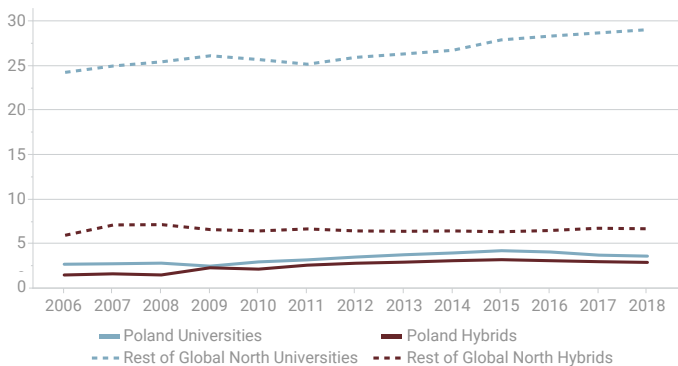
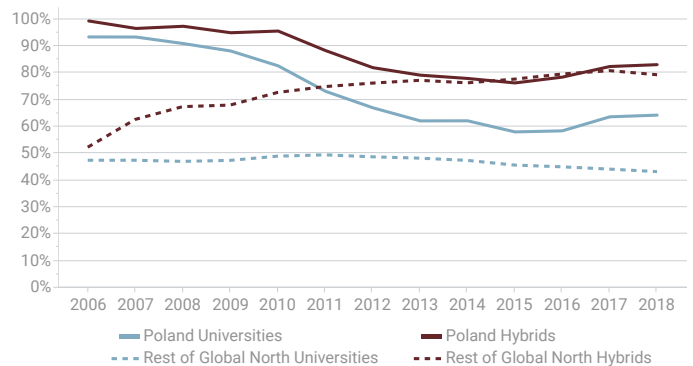


FIGURE 14 – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Poland and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

Poland combines characteristics of the inclusive free public and differentiated fee-charging models. Nearly three quarters of students paid no compulsory fees in 2018. This percentage increased by close to 15% over the period of interest and was well above the average across the rest of the EECA. International students and part-time students pay fees in public HEIs. Per-student fee income from students required to pay fees in public universities exceeded USD 3,500 in 2018, up from roughly USD 2,500 in 2010. Fees per student at public hybrids were lower and more stable, as were fees at private HEIs.

FIGURE 15 – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Poland, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

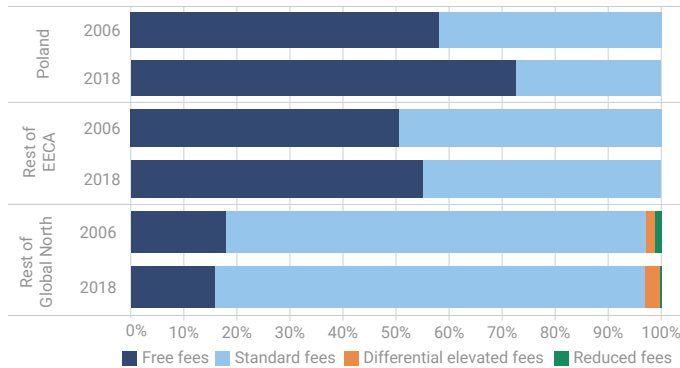


FIGURE 16 – Fee revenues per student paying “regular” rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018

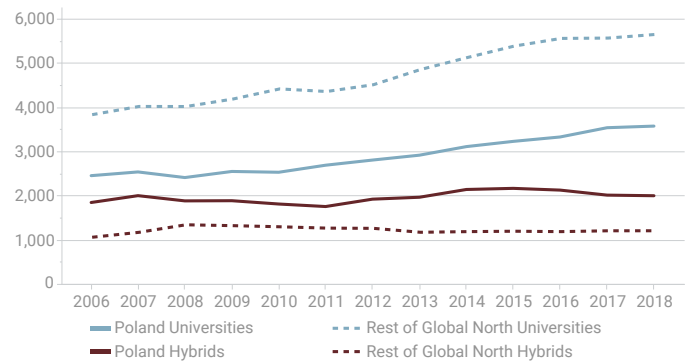
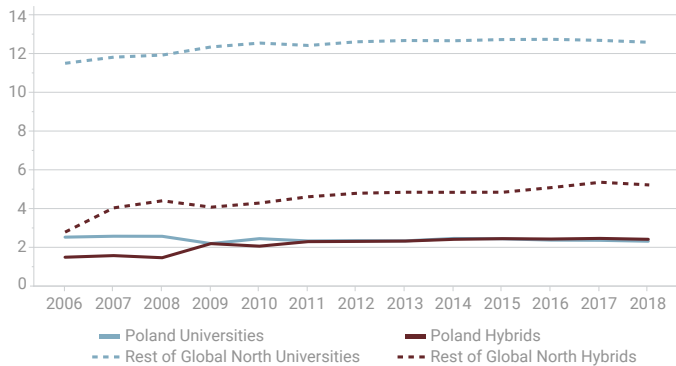


FIGURE 17 – Fee revenues per student at private institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



University of Bialystok, Poland

PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Poland is effectively grant-only, as the student loan system served less than 1% of students in 2018. Roughly 17% of all Polish students received grants in 2018, a decrease of about ten percentage points relative to 2006. The decline in recipient numbers was offset by an increase in the average size of grants, keeping total disbursements relatively constant. As GDP grew, total student financial aid disbursements fell in relative terms by almost half from 2007 to 2018, to a level that was well below the average for the rest of the Global North, though higher than across the rest of the EECA (recognising that our data for other EECA countries includes a lot of minimum estimates).

TABLE 2 – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Institutional grants provided pursuant to national level guidelines	Mostly need-based, some merit-based	249,500	1,307,045,481
Loans	Bank loans backed by government	Need-based	3,885	18,563,903
Residence subsidies	National student housing system appears to generate revenues rather than cost money, aside from grants tracked as such.	NA	NA	NA
Other	Meal services appear to function much the same way as for residence spaces under the same agency	NA	NA	NA

FIGURE 18 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in Poland, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

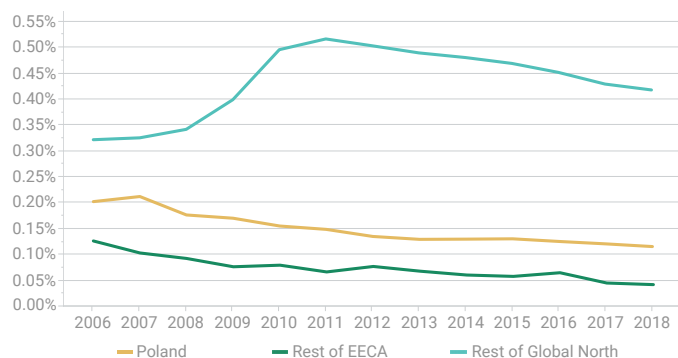


FIGURE 19 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Poland and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

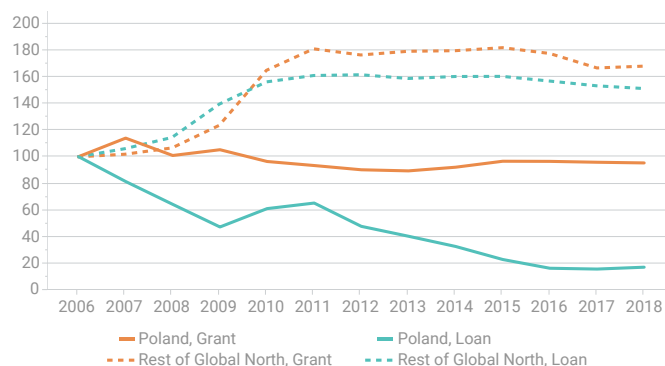


FIGURE 20 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Poland and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

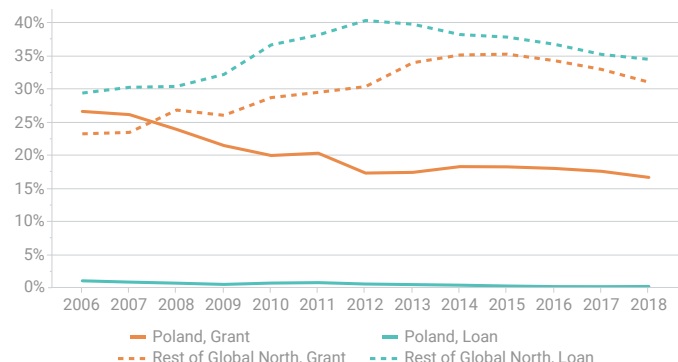
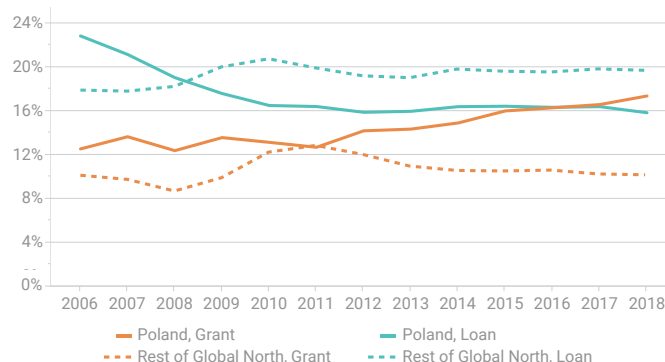


FIGURE 21 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Poland and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



***Note: For more on methodology and data quality please see Appendices A and B.**