

Romania



REGION: EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (EECA)

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

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Romanian HE system is loosely related to the Former Eastern Bloc model. Over half (59%) of HE students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with most of the remainder enrolled in specialised universities. Due partly to adverse demographic trends and partly to the bursting of an enrollment bubble at a single private institution, total enrolments fell by more than 50% between 2009 and 2015 – likely among the largest peacetime fall in enrolments anywhere in the world since the Second World War. The number of HEIs also fell, but not as drastically as enrollments. Roughly six out of seven (87%) HE enrolments in Romania were in public institutions in 2018, which was very close to the average across the rest of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA).

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive Universities	Public comprehensive universities; Private universities	21	39	60
Specialised Universities	Universities specialised in agriculture, fine art and design, engineering, medicine and other fields; Security-related higher education institutions	35	0	35

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

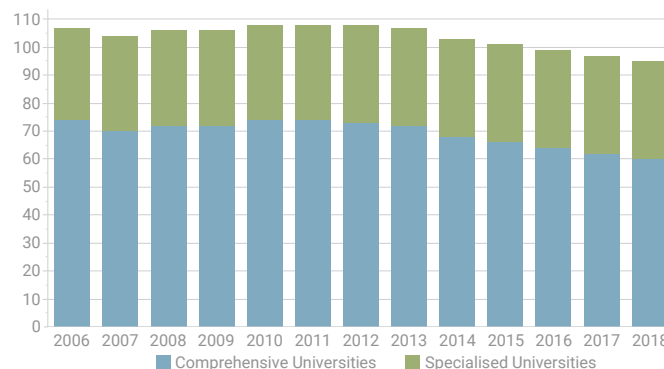


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

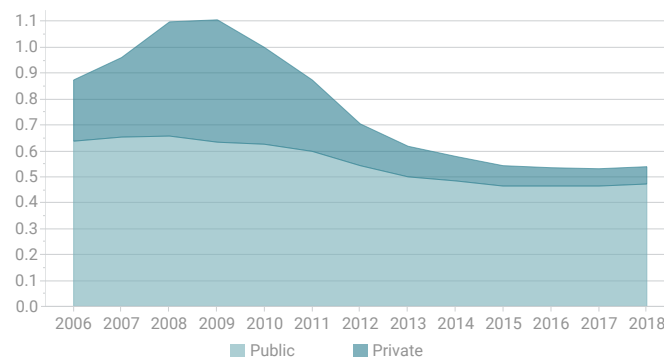


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Romania, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

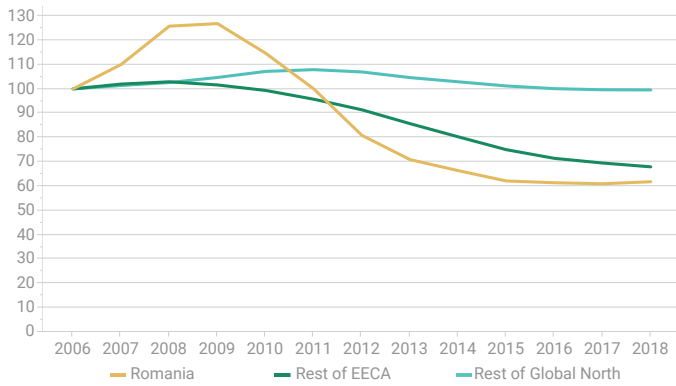


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Romania and the rest of EECA, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

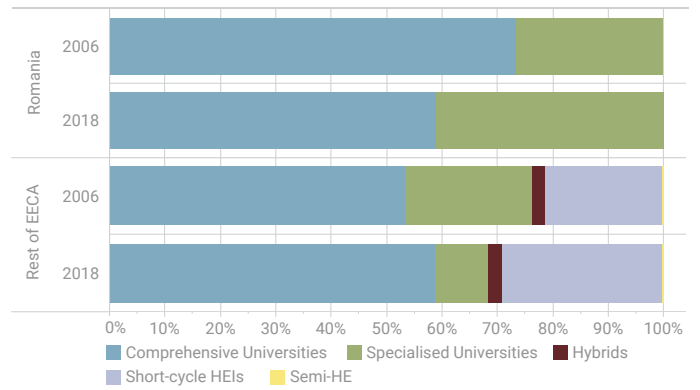


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Romania and the rest of EECA, 2018

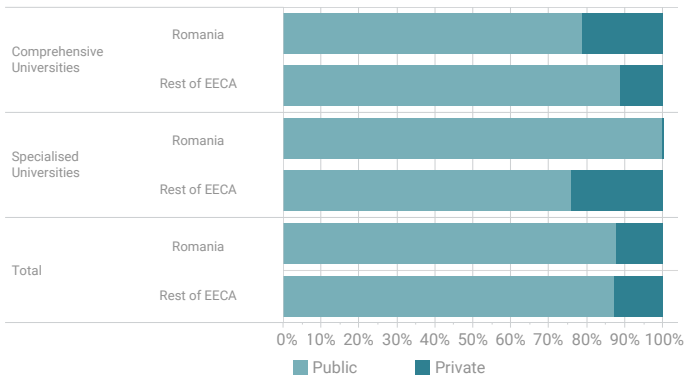
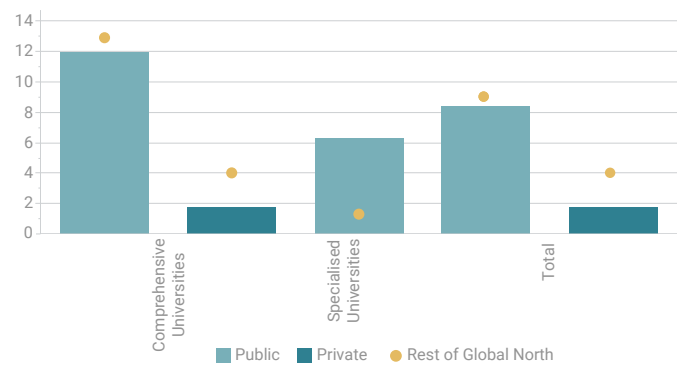


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type, in Romania and the rest of EECA, 2018 (Thousands)



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PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Romania doubled from 2006 to 2010. Subsequently, it crashed and then recovered, to tally a 40% overall increase by 2018 – slightly ahead of growth across the rest of the EECA and the Global North. However, relative to GDP, spending actually fell from 0.5% to 0.4% from 2006 to 2018. Institutional expenditures at public HEIs grew roughly in line with public expenditures, leading to a more significant increase in per-student terms because of the large decline in enrolments. Broadly speaking, public HEIs received a growing share of funding from government while student fee revenues became less important.

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

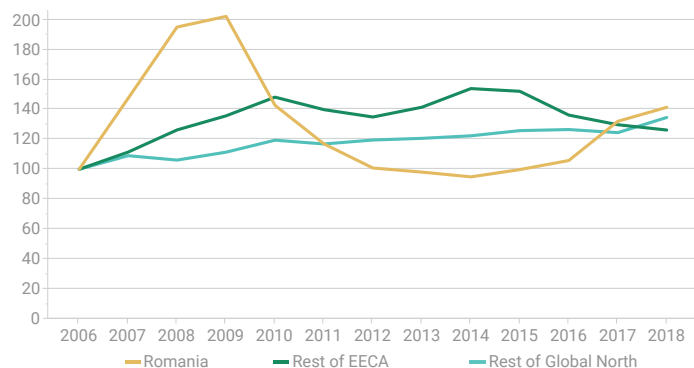


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Romania, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

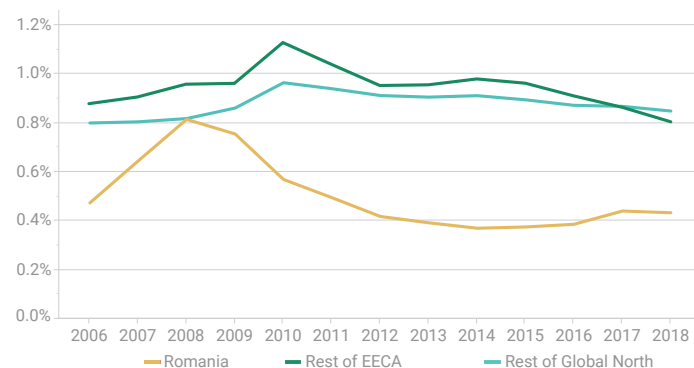


FIGURE 9 – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Romania and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

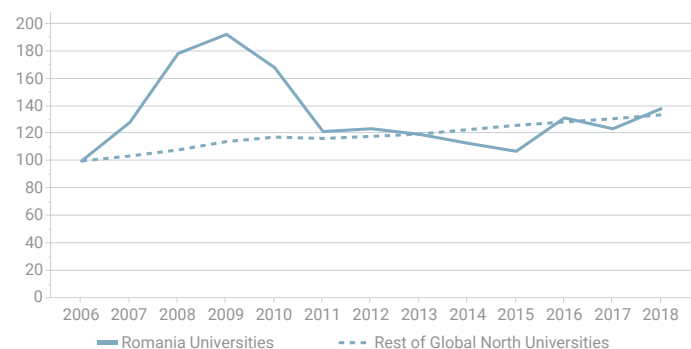


FIGURE 10 – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Romania and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

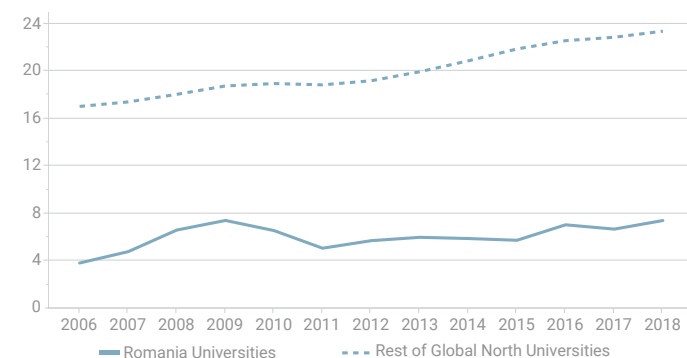
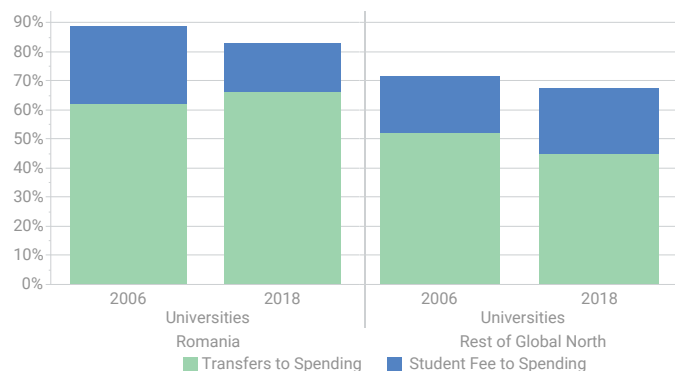


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type, in Romania and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

Almost two-thirds (64%) of students at public institutions in Romania paid no fees to attend HE in 2018, a much higher share than in 2006. This figure was slightly higher than the average for the rest of the EECA. In contrast, fee income per student at public universities rose substantially from 2006 to 2018. No data on fees were available for private HEIs in Romania.

FIGURE 12 – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Romania, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

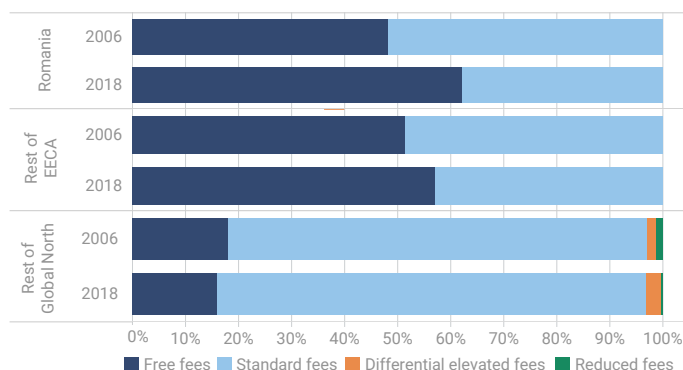
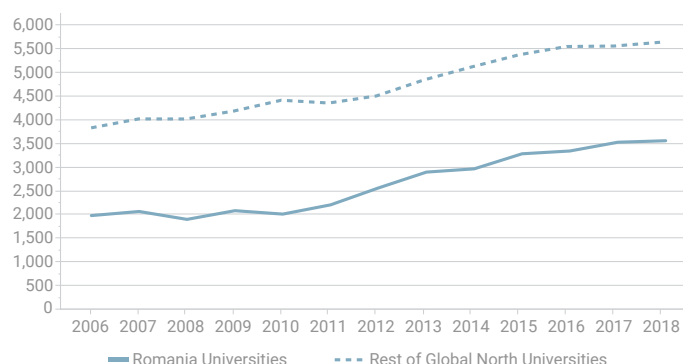


FIGURE 13 – Fee revenues per student paying “regular” rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Direct government financial aid to students in Romania does not really exist. There are no student loan programs, and grants are handled at the institutional level. Essentially, the government earmarks a certain portion of its funding to HEIs as being for student financial aid, but it is up to individual HEIs to distribute the aid. As a result, no data on student financial aid in Romania were available.

***Note:** For more on methodology and data quality please see [Appendices A and B](#).