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Comments on Study Grants in the EU

Cristina Moise



* Portability of study grants

Cristina MOISE

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research,
Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)
Department for Higher Education Funding

*The NESSIE Network

- * was established in 2006, in the framework of the Bologna Process, mainly dealing with the topic of portability of grants and loans
- * the network has currently 24 members
 - * *Countries: Austria, Belgium (FI) (Fr), Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.*
 - * *Organizations: European Students' Union (ESU), EU (DG EAC)*
- * exchange of best-practice experiences and information on student support systems, promotion and further development of portability and attracting Bologna states as new network members

* Purpose and/or outcome

- * To promote the portability of grants and loans in order to facilitate greater mobility of students across the European Higher Education Area
- * To support the related objectives of achieving more balanced flows of incoming and outgoing students across the European Higher Education Area and an improved participation rate from diverse student groups
- * To offer practical solutions for member countries in implementing schemes of portable student support
- * To share information on developments in relation to the portability of student grants and loans in order to ensure balanced and sustainable mechanisms to support the mobility of students
- * To raise issues of common concern in relation to the portability of student supports

* Current issues

- * Student support is a sensitive issue for many of the countries currently members of the network - it has to do more with money, and the money is a particular issue for each country
- * The student support schemes are related to different policy makers
- * Student support has to be seen as a tool to reach different goals
 - ⇒ if you want to open-up to portability you have to be prepared to pay the costs

* Student system support in Romania

Particular case

* Romanian higher education system

The education in the Romanian higher education system is free of charge in the limit of the study places allocated each year by the Government, for each of the three cycles.

The Romanian higher education system includes:

- * 57 recognized public higher education institutions
- * 61 private higher education institutions
(35 accredited, 21 temporarily authorized, 5 temporarily authorized for postgraduate studies only)

The study places, with tuitions fees covered by the State budget, are allocated only to the State universities. In addition to these places, these universities can offer to the students the possibility to study upon paying the tuition fees.

In the private higher education institutions all students are expected to pay tuition fees.

* Romanian higher education system

Academic year 2010-2011

Students enrolled in the Romanian HE system	Bachelor and Master Degree		Bachelor Degree		Master Degree	
Total number of students	549 810		426 435		123 375	
Students with tuition fees covered by the State Budget	275 406	50,1%	209 099	49,0%	66 307	53,7%
Students with tuition fees covered by their own sources	274 404	49,9%	217 336	51,0%	57 068	46,3%

In addition, the higher education institutions have the right to grant at least one place for free of tuition charge to the graduates with a Baccalaureate diploma coming from foster care.

Candidates coming from environments with high socio-economic risk or socially marginalized (*Rroma people, high school graduates from rural environment or cities with less than 10,000 inhabitants*) may benefit from a number of guaranteed free waive places in public higher institutions.

* Student support system in Romania

- * For the academic year 2010-2011, from the funds allocated from the State Budget for education (overseen by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport):
 - * 1,3% is assigned for the urban transportation of students;
 - * 9,66% is reserved for different types of scholarships which are granted by public universities to a particular number of students
 - * 5,75% is reserved for sustaining the accommodation of students. The rest of funds represent the core funding of the teaching process.
- * The number of scholarships and types of scholarships (i.e. merit, excellence, social) are awarded by the public universities according to their own regulations as agreed and set by the university senate.

* Student support system in Romania

The new Law of Education stipulates that students coming from low income families can benefit from study loans, guaranteed by the State, that will cover study taxes and the costs of life during the period of study.

The Law stipulates also that graduates who will practice their profession for a minimum of 5 years in rural environment, will be exempt from the payment of 75% of the loan, the respective amount being taken over by the state, in the maximum amount of 5000 lei.

* Student support system in Romania

The public body appointed to manage the study loans is the Agency for Loans and Scholarship Grants

- * proposes appropriate regulations in order to grant credits (*Law of Education no 1/2011, Chapter X, Section 2, Article 204, align (3)*)
- * elaborates and proposes for approval to the Government, through Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, the methodological requirements for raising the loan funds, the methodology for granting loans (such as the maximum quantum, the approval conditions and the corresponding reimbursement conditions of a loan) and the management of the loan system for the students (*Government Decision (HG) number 1402/2009, article 3, align j) and k)*).