



AUTHOR

Valentin MAIER, Ph.D

CONTACT

For further information, please contact us at:

EMAIL:

ahe-ro@unibuc.ro

WEBSITE:

ahe-ro.unibuc.ro

This paper is supported by a grant from the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research (CNCS – UEFISCDI), for the project "Access to Higher Education in Post-Communist Romania" (PN-III-P4-PCE2021-0981)

EXPANSION OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN ROMANIA AFTER 1990

A b s t r a c t

In 1989, at the end of the communist regime, 44 institutions from different types of education were operating in the Romanian higher education: technical (polytechnic institutes, monotekhnical institutes – agronomic, construction, oil and gas, mining, architecture, sub-engineering institutes), university and pedagogical (universities and sub-engineering institutes), medicine and pharmacy (institutes), physical education and sports (institute) and artistic (conservatories, theater institute, fine arts institute, theatrical art and cinematography institute).

With the start of the new post-communist (democratic) regime, the network of higher education institutions gradually diversified both territorially and especially in terms of the types of institutions and their number. Very important from our point of view is the expansion within these institutions, i.e. in terms of the nomenclature of specializations, but also the structural evolution (colleges, faculties, departments, other components integrated into the educational act or located at the intersection with it – research, cultural, State security). Later, in addition to public/State education, private education also developed, which created an additional development of the entire higher education system.

In order to understand the foundations on which the new institutional architecture was created, several clarifications will be necessary, because, for example, some of the new higher education institutions came into being, through the transformation of the old ones, from before 1989, while others were placed on new bases.

Higher education institutions, their organizational composition, including the nomenclature of specializations they supported are all essential aspects in knowing the developments that took place after 1989 in this important system for the Romanian State (from the point of view of citizen education, workforce training and implicitly ensuring the general well-being of the population and the state existence).

With complex research on this topic, regional development decisions, directions in education and research or the degree of internationalization of local higher education can be understood, but we can also touch on topics that have made a "career" in the history of higher education, such

as the representation of nationalities, "just distribution" of social capital, the discrepancy between the realities of society or the labor market and the educational offer.

The main sources of research are legislative acts¹ and monographic works.

¹ According to Government Decision no. 521 of May 12, 1990 regarding the organization and operation of education in Romania in the 1990/1991 academic year: "Higher education institutions are established by government decisions, and faculties and departments by order of the Minister of Education". Of course, in 1989 and later, several higher education institutions were already operating.