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# ROMANIA IN THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH A SELECTED POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRY

## A b s t r a c t

The Revolutions of 1989, the fall of the Iron Curtain, and the democratizations in ECE led at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the third millennium to the implementation of transcontinental measures of integration and transparency of the values specific to the forms of government in which supremacy belongs to the people: freedom, equity, equality, solidarity. In 1999, a few months after 11 European countries gave up part of their sovereignty, their own currency, to enter the Eurozone, at a time when the Treaty of Amsterdam had entered into force, 29 Ministers of Education of some CoE states, which were also members of the European Higher Education Area, met in northern Italy to lay the foundation stone foundation of a system that "acquires a world-wide degree". The Bologna Declaration was preceded by another historic decision taken 12 months before at the Sorbonne Université by Ministers of Education in France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, which signed the Joint Declaration on Harmonization of the Architecture of the European Higher Education System on 25 May 1998. A decade after the Bologna Declaration cemented the steps towards the Budapest-Vienna Declaration, EHEA had a very clear framework, but each piece had to be placed carefully in the coming years. In March 2010, EHEA members committed that the first major post-EHEA step would be reviewed in Bucharest on April 26-27, 2012.

After examining methodically and in detail the structure of EHEA, I will analyze the Polish and Romanian tertiary 2010-2022, the legal framework, HEIs, quality assurance, qualifications framework, internationalization in higher education, incoming international students, Poles and Romanians studying abroad, foreign higher education institutions operating in Poland and Romania, two case studies, ERC Grants won by Poles and Romanians and EUA.

Hence, EHEA is not a perfect community. There was no way it could be. Like any alliance where the significant differences between the members are visible through a simple analysis, the Bologna Process is far from being successfully concluded. Presumably, even if all the indicators were met by 2020, there would still be enough room for other, more daring goals for 2025 or 2030, and this continuing education program would have improved even faster. However, a quarter of a century in the scale

of history is insufficiently short, even when AI is developing extremely quickly, and knowledge develops at an extraordinary speed. There will probably still be substantial challenges in the short and medium term, there will probably be indicators far from being satisfied, and some governments will probably not report on time or manipulate data, but in the long term, the EHEA is the solution in a world so polarized.