

Bulgaria

Introduction

According to the analysis in St. Aubyn (2009), the tertiary education system in Bulgaria is below efficiency, and stable between the two periods (1998 to 2001 and 2002 to 2005). As most newly acceded Member States, Bulgaria is found to be relatively more efficient if teaching is considered than in what concerns research.

Indicators

As regards teaching, Bulgaria shows comparatively low numbers of students and the ratio of graduates per students is average. Decomposing the production of articles shows that the academic staff is of average size, but the number of publications and their impact in terms of citations are on the lower bound.

Public tertiary education spending at 0.9% of GDP is comparable to the EU25 average of 1.1% of GDP. Bulgaria has the highest spending per student (relative to per capita income), which would suggest that resources are not the main constraint in the performance of the tertiary education system.

Table - Summary of indicators in St. Aubyn (2009)

	Scores of efficiency indicators					
	Average ISI citation		Recruiter review		Peer review	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
BG	2,63	21	:	:	:	:
best performer	NL - 5,51	1	IE - 2	1	FI - 2	1
worst performer	RO - 1,63	26	CZ -1.06	16	GR - 1.02	16

	Descriptive indicators						
	Academic staff	Students	Graduates		Students <i>per academic staff</i>	Graduates	Graduates <i>per student</i>
			<i>per capita</i>	Publications			
BG	1,8	25,8	5,0	0,1	14,7	2,9	19,3
EU27	1,9	33,7	7,1	0,6	17,8	3,7	19,8

Policy developments

The reform of higher education started at the beginning of the transition period (1990) and a main reform is the adoption of the Higher Education Act (1995) which in particular aims to enhance autonomy of higher education institutions and quality of higher education and to implement mechanisms for efficient public funding.