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**Abstract**

The author of this article, who took part in a PHARE-sponsored project (RO 9601) aimed at the restructuring of the administration of higher education in Romania, at system and institutional levels, describes some of the key elements of the administrative process that have developed in the European Union countries and that are being adapted to the Romanian situation. These include the legal framework of higher education administration, the structure of the system as a whole, the awards structure, and the organization of academic governance at institutional level. Also examined are the linkages between universities and social and economic development and the financing of higher education. The Western countries of reference for this project were France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)