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**Abstract**

The article discusses the main changes in student demographics in post-communist Romania, particularly in relation to their influence on the diversity of the higher education system after 1989. It argues that the demographic trends in question explain, in substantial part, the fact that on a number of dimensions the higher education landscape has either become more homogeneous or has ignored important opportunities for differentiation. The paper ends with a set of lessons learned in light of the recent crisis in student numbers. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)