

Affordable Quality Higher Education At what price?

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**Access to higher education: Is it a right, a privilege or a
necessity?**

Affordability, Quality, Equity & Diversity

**EAN 21st Annual Conference
University of Zagreb, Croatia
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Impact of the economic crisis on HE public funding: 2008 - 2012

- **11 countries:** overall decrease in public funding of more than 10% (-57% in Latvia)
- **2 countries:** overall decrease up to 10%
- **2 countries:** stable funding level
- **9 countries:** increase in public funding, but...
 - Increase in number of students
 - Inflation

=> Unit cost stays the same
- **2 countries:** special cases

Main trends

- Very high youth unemployment:
 - Stress on skills
 - Stricter immigration rules

- Hiring freeze or redundancies, resulting in:
 - Lower staff/student ratio
 - Rationalisation of the education offer
 - Reductions in library opening and contact hours
 - Larger classes
 - Curtailed student services

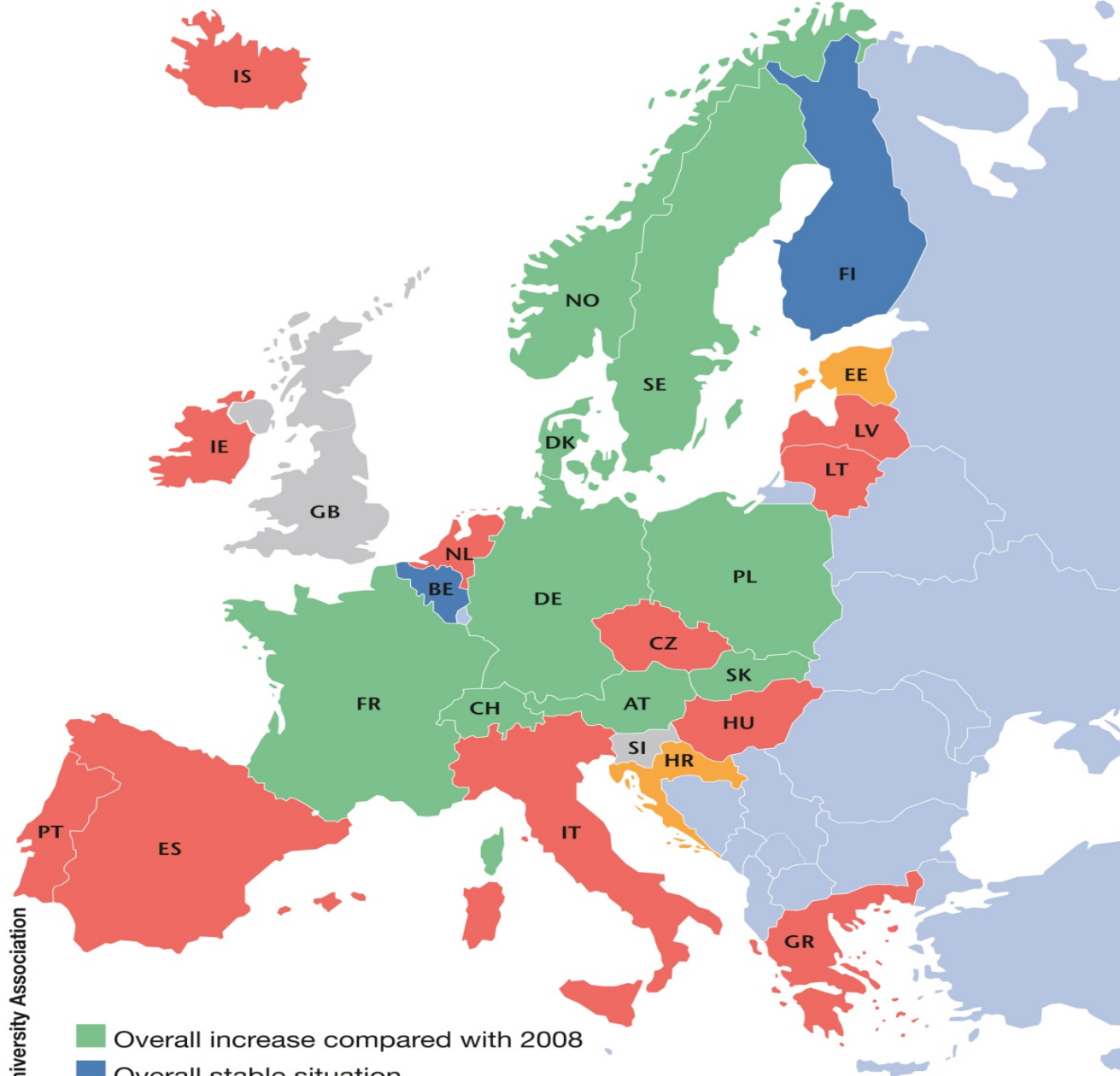
- Changes to tuition fees

- Changes to financial aid: from grants to loans

- ⇒ More stress on managerialism/efficiency/diversifying income sources (less stress on education?)

- ⇒ Exacerbated differences between north/west vs. south/east

TRENDS IN PUBLIC FUNDING TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN EUROPE 2008-2012



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- Overall increase compared with 2008
- Overall stable situation
- Overall decrease (up to 10% cut compared with 2008)
- Overall decrease (over 10% cut compared with 2008)
- Specific case/see report

Data collected in
May-June 2012.

EUA Public Funding
Observatory

Source

EUA's public Funding Observatory, June 2012

[http://www.eua.be/Libraries/
Governance_Autonomy_Funding/
June_2012_report_FINAL.sflb.ashx](http://www.eua.be/Libraries/Governance_Autonomy_Funding/June_2012_report_FINAL.sflb.ashx)