HIGHER EDUCATION COST-SHARING POLICY: THE PORTUGUESE CASE

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Abstract

Based on the cost-sharing theory of Johnstone (1986), the research on student’s costs in higher education (HE) plays an important role in educational policy, mainly concerning the (in) equity in cost distribution among students, the state and other stakeholders. The chapter is focused on the socioeconomic characterization of Portuguese HE students and on research into the costs these students support, as well as the remaining stakeholders (families, governments/taxpayers and others), based on the analysis of the results of three nation-wide surveys in the academic year of 1994-1995 (Cabrito, 2000); 2004-2005 (Cerdeira et al., 2012). The surveys were conducted in both public and private universities and polytechnics.