
Portuguese higher education institutions (HEIs) have been facing austerity, a policy of cuts in public funding, brought by the intervention of the Troika (European Central Bank, European Commission, International Monetary Fund). In consequence the financing for social support programs has decreased. Therefore, demand to access HE has been decreasing since 2010/2011. This article presents the evolution of HE in Portugal, seeking to show the impact of cost-sharing policies in budgetary resources of HEI and accessibility for students, underlining the vision of stakeholders taken in interviews: policy-makers; rectors/presidents; Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education; students; business and industry representatives.