

## THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN ROMANIA AND EUROPE - COMPARATIVE STUDY

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**Abstract:** The progress of humanity, over time, was subject to technical discoveries. This puts humanity in the face of new challenges: the transition to information society / knowledge society. This time, however, the focus must fall primarily on quality rather than quantity. Leap which should make it in the third millennium will be one based on the strength of mind, spirit, and not brute force, physical. Terms of new paradigms and expectations of the moment can not be met by itself, the natural evolution of things, but requires focusing on increasing volumes of knowledge and on their uptake. A key role in enhancing knowledge is the educational system. From this perspective, the authors have proposed carrying out a quantitative analysis of the state of the Romanian education is in line with Europe. Another objective of this paper is to achieve a number of estimates relating multiple indicators characterizing education in Europe and beyond.

**JEL classification:** C82, C83, I21

**Key words:** knowledge, culture, education, education system, estimate.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Education includes all social activities for the transmission of culture, generation, organization and management of individual or collective learning. In general, man is a cultural being, educated. Relationship between culture and education is summarized as follows: culture can be understood as training, that education and learning as a process of transmitting culture. What is culture is learned. Educational content aimed at culture, knowledge, that all information, knowledge, goods and cultural products, values, etc..

Values can be viewed from three perspectives:

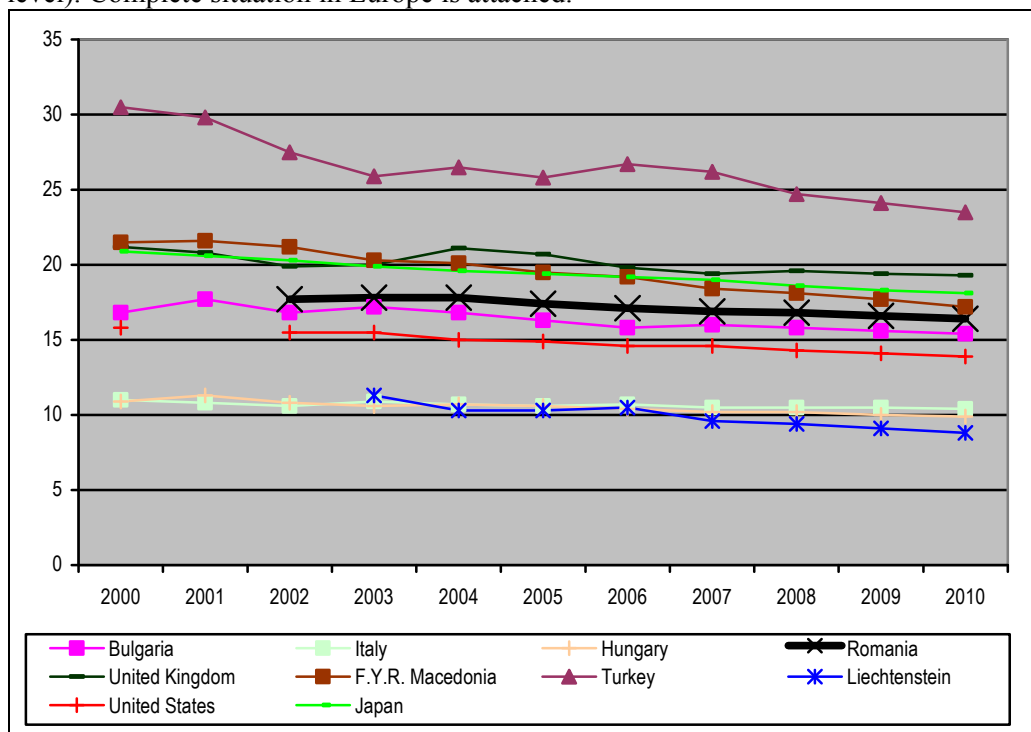
- *eternal human values* – are the values of all times and all places;
- *era values* – values of all spaces of this concern;
- *national community values* – refer to local values perennial.

Finding a balance between these categories are tackling fundamental value of education content, education. A good starting point in this approach - identifying the balance - it may be a quantitative assessment / national education statistics system components compared with European / global.

## 2. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN ROMANIA AND IN EUROPE, IN THE PERIOD 2000-2010

Education indicators are among the significant indicators of the level and effects of investment in human capital, because it now depends on their quality, especially in the future economic progress and social states of the world.

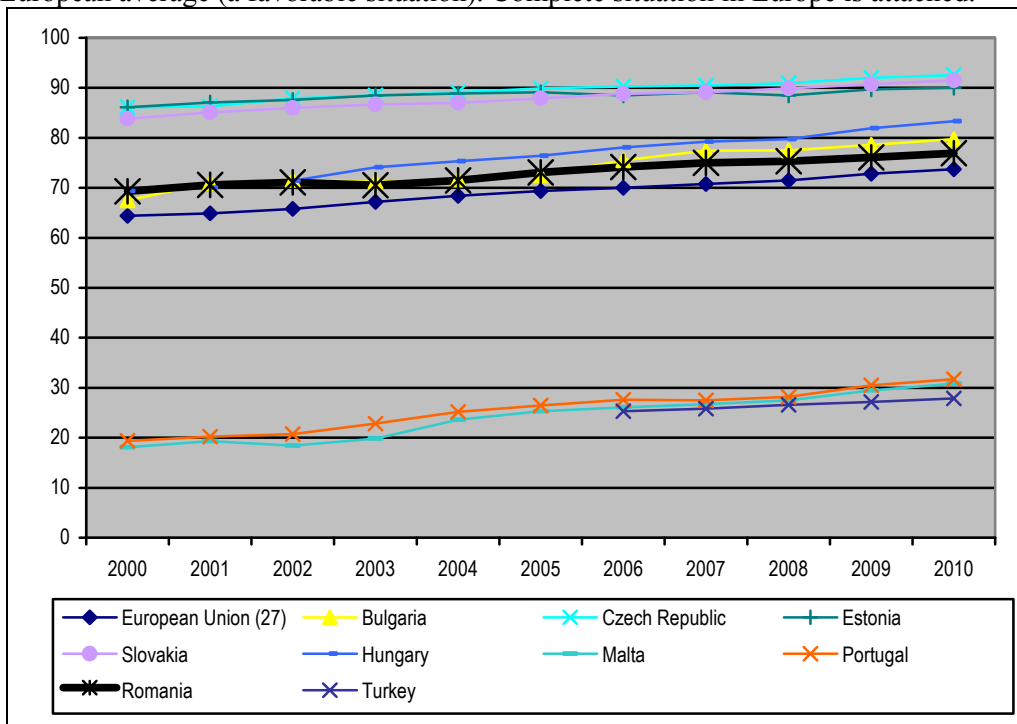
„The report pupil / teacher in primary education (students per teacher)” in Romania, during 2000-2010, reaching a minimum in 2010 (16.4), and peak in 2004 (17.8), reflecting a favorable situation ( decreasing). Report pupil / teacher in Europe ranged between 6.3 to 30.5 pupils to one teacher. The minimum would be achieved by Lithuania in 2010 and peak in 2000 in Turkey. Annual average is the lowest recorded Liechtenstein (9.9), while the maximum Turkey (26.5). Year with the lowest average level would be 2010 and the highest is 2000. Romania is placed accordingly in the middle rankings. Figure 1 is depicted the situation of Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary (neighbors), the three states with the lowest annual average (Liechtenstein, Hungary, Italy) and the three largest annual average (Macedonia, United Kingdom, Turkey). Additionally, the U.S. rates appear (below our country) and Japan (over our country level). Complete situation in Europe is attached.



Source: Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00054&plugin=0>) for the period 2000-2007, estimates for 2008-2010 authors

Fig. 1. Evolution „Pupil/teacher ratio in primary education” in Europe during 2000-2010.

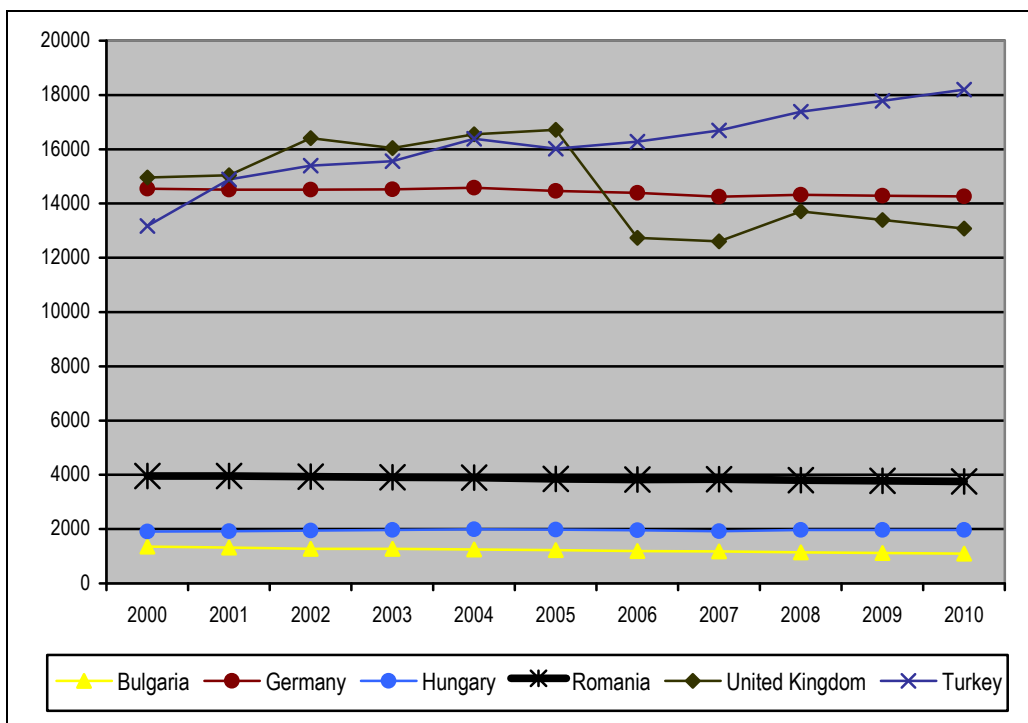
„Total population having completed at least upper secondary education, population aged 25 to 64” in Romania, during 2000-2010, was 69.3% in 2000, an estimated 76.9% in 2010 (signifying a favorable situation). Indicator is rising in Europe, both overall and in each country. Minimum level of this indicator was 18.1% (in Malta in 2000) and the maximum is 92.6% (Czech, 2010). The average minimum annual belonged Malta (24.1%) and the maximum is also Czech (89.5%). Years, the average minimum is 66.5% (in 2000) and the maximum is 73.9% (2010). Figure 2 is presented the evolution of Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary (neighbors), the three states with the lowest annual average (Malta, Portugal, Turkey) and the three largest annual average (Slovakia, Estonia, Czech Republic). Note that in Romania, this indicator is above the European average (a favorable situation). Complete situation in Europe is attached.



Source: Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tps00065>) for the period 2000-2008, estimates for 2009-2010 authors

**Fig. 2. Developments' share of the adult population (25-64 years) who has completed upper secondary education „in Europe during 2000-2010**

In Romania, the number of „Pupils and students excluding pre-primary education (1 000)” decreases continuously from 2000 until now, the situation is correlated with demographic indicators. In Europe, during 2000-2010, the total rose to 2005, then began to decline. Such variation recorded and many European countries, while others have increased over the period studied. In Figure 3 we have the situation of Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary (neighbors), the states with the highest average annual three (Germany, Britain, Turkey) - three states with the lowest annual average (Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta) not very low levels as they occur. Complete situation in Europe is attached.

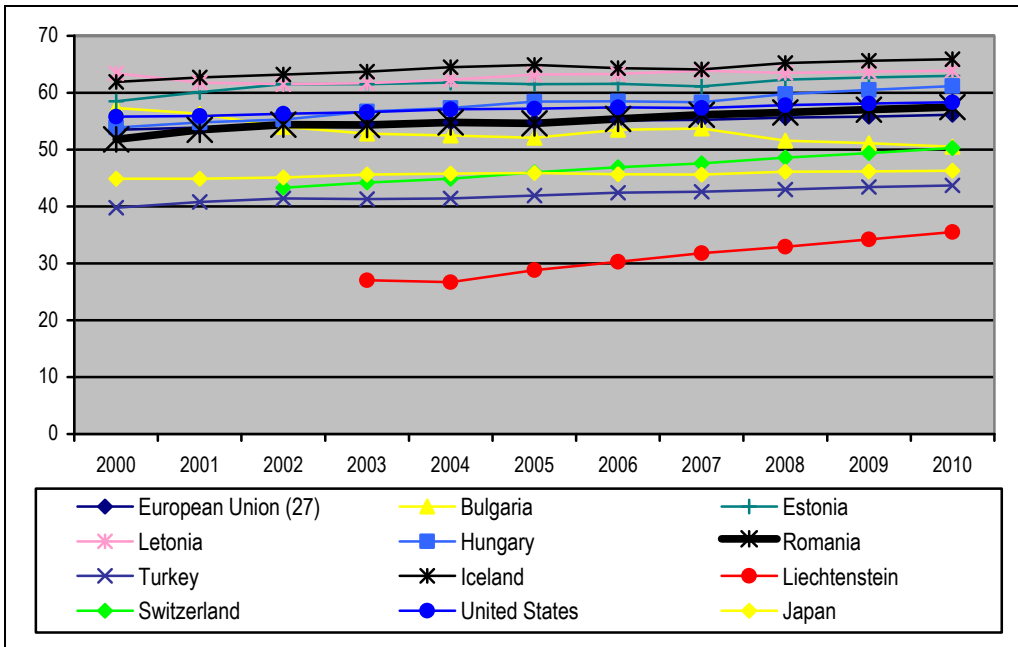


Source: Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00051&plugin=0>) for the period 2000-2007, estimates for 2008-2010 authors

**Fig. 3. Evolution „number of Pupils and students excluding pre-primary education (1000)” Europe in the period 2000-2010.**

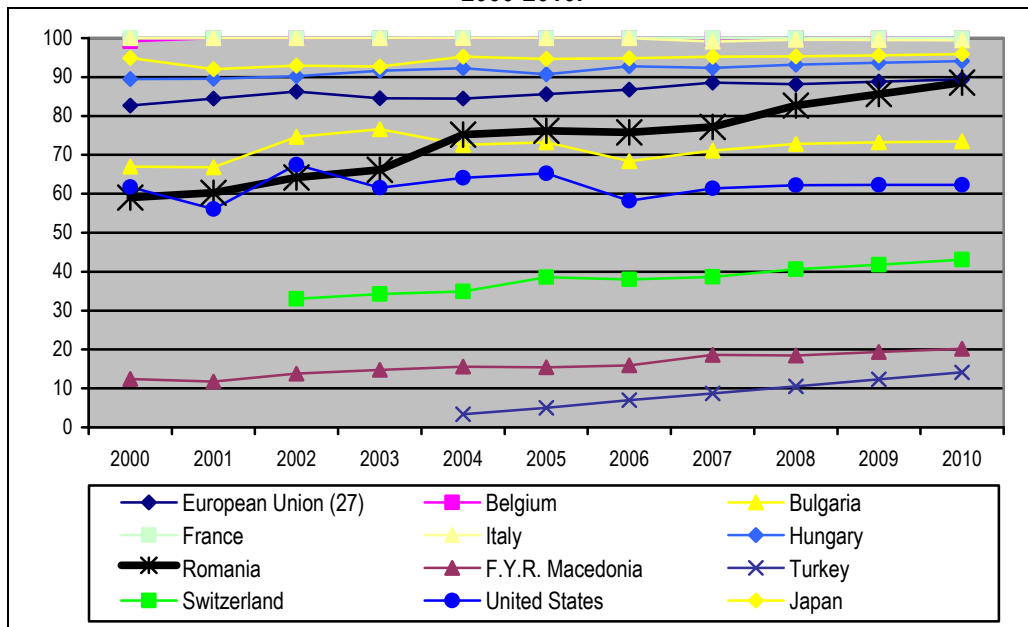
„Share of women among tertiary students” in Romania, during 2000-2010, increased from 52.8% in 2000 to 57.5% in 2010. The proportion of women among students in Europe increased, the total from 53.5% in 2000 to 56.1% in 2010. With few exceptions (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Poland, Portugal), most states were registered the same trend of this indicator. Figure 4 is represented the situation of Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary (neighbors), the three states with the lowest annual average (Liechtenstein, Turkey, Switzerland), respectively with the three largest annual average (Estonia, Latvia, Iceland). Note that in Romania, this indicator is above the European average. Additionally, U.S. appear (above our country) and Japan (under the country’s). Complete situation in Europe is attached.

„Four-year-olds in education participation rate” in Romania, during 2000-2010, shows an increase from 59% (in 2000) to 88.6% (2010) - we appreciate that Such a trend is positive. Europe confirms the concern for education, bringing the overall rate of 82.7% in 2000 to 89.4% in 2010. Exceptions to this rule the growth rate are Ireland, Spain, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, United Kingdom. Note the situation of France, where the rate is 100%, or Italy, which has a rate of 100% over a long period, falling to 99.4%. In Figure 5 we have the situation of Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary (neighbors), the three states with the lowest annual average (Turkey, Macedonia, Switzerland), respectively with the three largest annual averages (Italy, Belgium, France). In Romania, this indicator is below the European average. Additionally, U.S. appear (below our country) and Japan (over our country level). Complete situation in Europe is attached.



Source: Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tps00063>) for the period 2000-2007, estimates for 2008-2010 authors

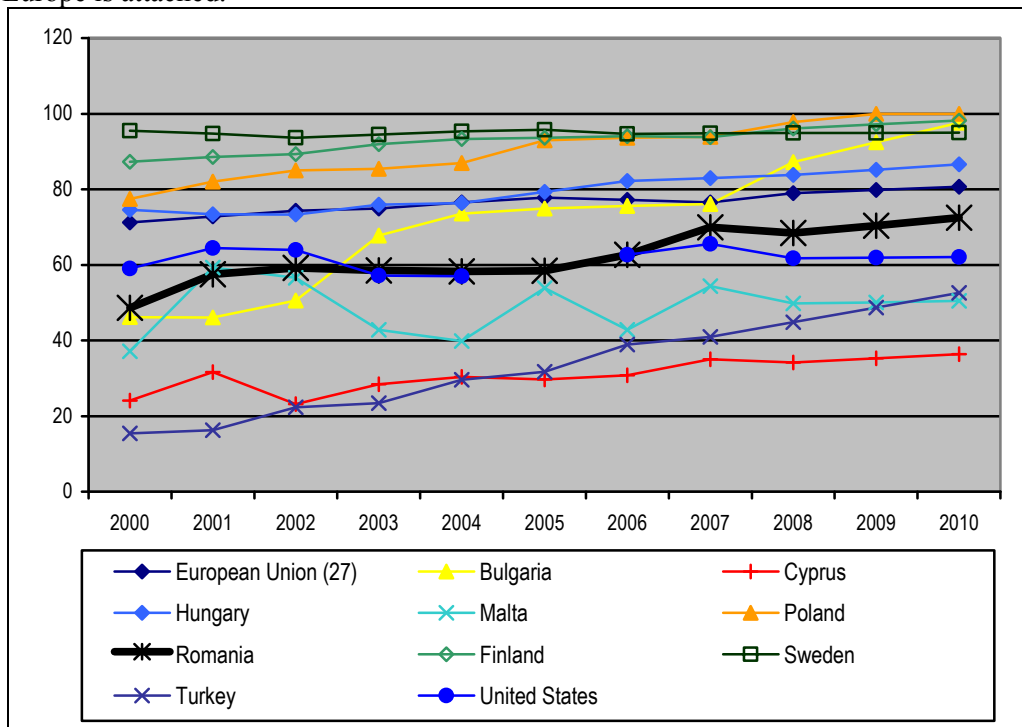
**Fig. 4. Evolution of „Share of women among tertiary students” in Europe in the period 2000-2010.**



Source: Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tps00053>) for the period 2000-2007, estimates for 2008-2010 authors

**Fig. 5. Evolution „Four-year-olds in education participation rate” in Europe during 2000-2010.**

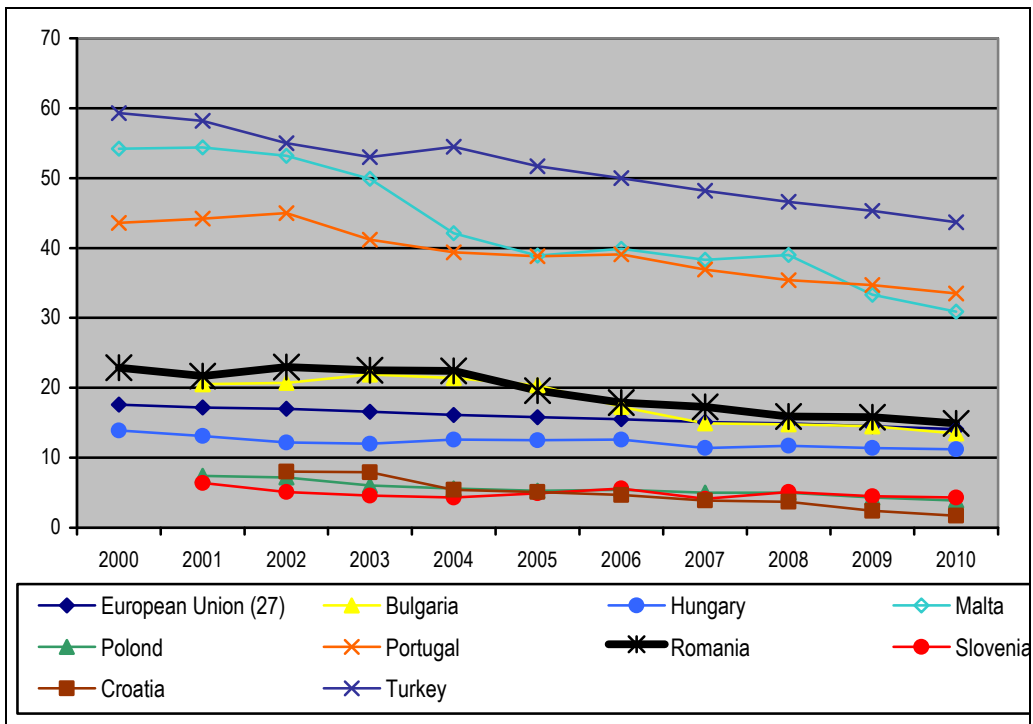
„18-year-olds in education participation rates, all levels”, in Romania, has increased from 48.6% (in 2000) to 72.5% (2010) - is positive such a tendency. Europe confirmed, as previous rate, the concern for education, bringing the overall rate of 71.2% in 2000 to 80.7% in 2010. Exceptions to this rule the growth rate are Greece, France, Luxembourg, Britain, Liechtenstein. In Figure 6 we see the situation of Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary (neighbors), the three states with the lowest annual average (Cyprus, Turkey, Malta) and the three largest annual average (Poland, Finland, Sweden). Note that in Romania, this indicator is significantly below the European average. Additionally, the U.S. appears (in our country level). Complete situation in Europe is attached.



Source: Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tps00060>) for the period 2000-2007, estimates for 2008-2010 authors

**Fig. 6. Evolution „18-year-olds in education participation rates, all levels”in Europe during 2000-2010.**

„Early school-leavers” in Romania, during 2000-2010, experienced a downward trend from 22.9% in 2000 and reaching 14.9% in 2010 (favorable situation). A similar trend is recorded in Europe, the total from 17.6% (in 2000) to 14.1% (2010). Figure 7 is depicted the situation of Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary (neighbors), the three states with the lowest annual mean (Croatia, Slovenia, Poland) and the three largest annual average (Portugal, Malta, Turkey). Note, unfortunately, that in Romania this figure is higher than the European average. Complete situation in Europe is attached.



Source: Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsisc060>) for the period 2000-2008, estimates for 2009-2010 authors

**Fig. 7. Evolution „early school-leavers” in Europe during 2000-2010.**

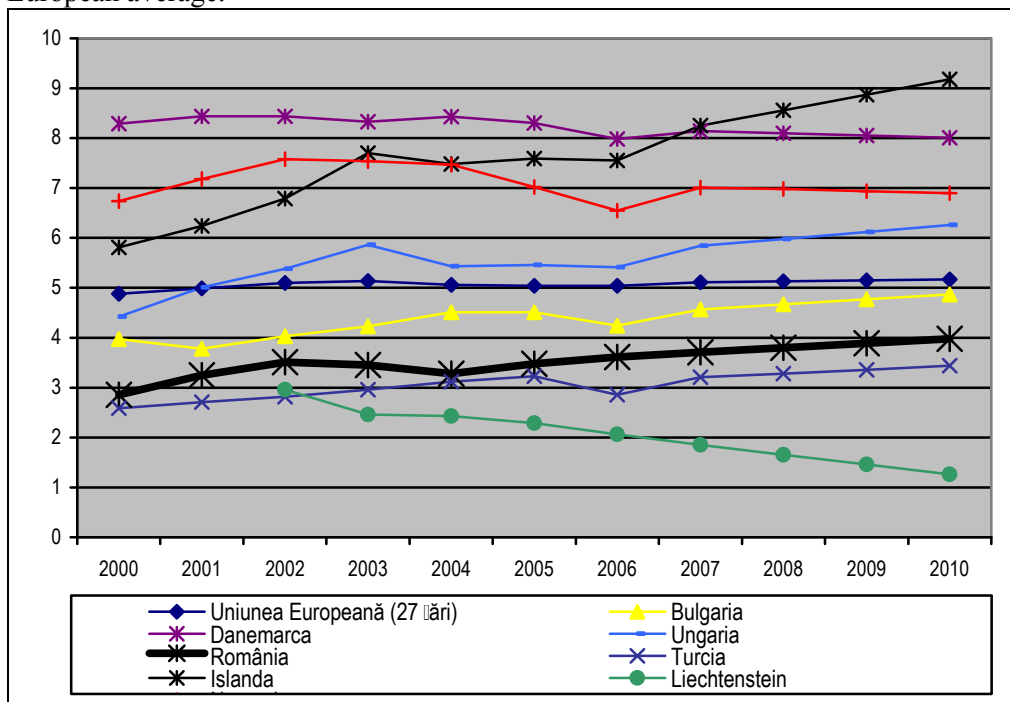
In Romania, „the share of expenditure on education in GDP increased from 2.86% in 2000 to 3.98% in 2010 (favorable situation). Public expenditure on education in Europe, during 2000-2010, increased slightly from 4.88% in 2000 to 5.17% in 2010. In Figure 8 we have the situation of Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary (neighbors), the three states with the lowest annual average (Liechtenstein, Turkey, Romania) and the three largest annual average (Norway, Iceland, Denmark). Note, unfortunately, that in Romania this figure is significantly below the European average (only being in Liechtenstein and Turkey below, Macedonia was not considered due to lack of data). Complete situation in Europe is attached.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

In Romania, „Pupil/teacher ratio in primary education” has improved (downwards), placing it at European level, the middle ranking. „Total population having completed at least upper secondary education, population aged 25 to 64” in Romania is growing, as in Europe, to which our country has entered a higher level. The number of „Pupils and students Excluding pre-primary education (1 000)” fall both in Romania and Europe, the situation is correlated with demographic indicators. „Share of women among tertiary students” in Romania is increasing (57.5% in 2010), being superior to the European average.

„Participation rates in education” of the population in Romania is growing (as in Europe), remaining however below the European average. „Early school-leavers” in Romania has experienced a downward trend similar to what is recorded in Europe, to which our country has a higher level. „Public expenditure on education, percent of

GDP” in Romania increased (as in Europe), but the indicator is well below the European average.



Source: Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsdsc510>) for the period 2000-2008, estimates for 2009-2010 authors

**Fig. 8. Evolution „public expenditure on education” in Europe during 2000-2010.**

Remember that some indicators of education are dependent evolution of demographic indicators (school population), and therefore we can not say that would be a favorable or unfavorable. A satisfactory situation by placing the average in Europe, a meeting to „Pupil/teacher ratio in primary education”. Other indicators (such as „participation rate in education of the population”, „Early school-leavers”, „Public expenditure on education”), although improved over time, compared with levels in Europe, found that allowing the situation is negative. The other category (only „Total population having completed at least upper secondary education, population aged 25 to 64”) requires a favorable trend in time, and a favorable ratio compared with Europe.

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