

ACADEMIC RANK				COUNTRY			NUMBER OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs)						Academic Cohesion Index (N = L / M)
EASTERN EUROPE (Jan 2026) A	WORLD						world-ranked in:				TOTALS		
	Jan 2026 B	July 2021 C	CHANGE in world rank 2021-2026 (D = C – B) D	NAME E	POPULATION (2024) F	GDP (2024, billions USD) G	TOP 100 H	101-500 I	501-1000 J	1001-5000 K	TOP 5000 L	ALL HEIs M	
1	27	30	3	Greece	10,405,130	256.24	0	3	4	18	25	67	37.3%
2	30	29	-1	Russian Federation	143,533,850	2,173.84	0	2	9	99	110	957	11.5%
3	32	32	0	Poland	36,559,230	917.77	0	2	7	61	70	395	17.7%
4	35	34	-1	Czechia	10,905,030	347.03	0	2	3	16	21	64	32.8%
5	41	39	-2	Hungary	9,562,070	222.72	0	1	4	12	17	69	24.6%
6	43	40	-3	Serbia	6,586,480	90.1	0	1	1	5	7	90	7.8%
7	44	60	16	Croatia	3,866,200	92.98	0	1	0	8	9	50	18.0%
8	45	42	-3	Slovenia	2,127,400	72.97	0	1	0	4	5	53	9.4%
9	46	41	-5	Estonia	1,372,340	43.13	0	1	0	4	5	30	16.7%
10	47	38	-9	Türkiye (Turkey)	85,518,660	1,359.12	0	0	9	139	148	210	70.5%
11	51	47	-4	Romania	19,051,800	382.56	0	0	2	32	34	103	33.0%
12	56	54	-2	Slovakia	5,422,070	140.93	0	0	1	15	16	35	45.7%
13	59	59	0	Cyprus	1,358,280	37.63	0	0	1	7	8	39	20.5%
14	60	58	-2	Lithuania	2,888,280	84.87	0	0	1	7	8	38	21.1%
15	62	89	27	Latvia	1,866,120	43.68	0	0	1	4	5	51	9.8%
16	67	66	-1	Ukraine	37,860,220	190.74	0	0	0	46	46	303	15.2%
17	74	53	-21	Bulgaria	6,441,420	113.34	0	0	0	13	13	56	23.2%
18	80	116	36	Uzbekistan	36,361,860	114.97	0	0	0	6	6	180	3.3%
19	82	91	9	Georgia	3,699,560	34.19	0	0	0	6	6	60	10.0%
20	83	82	-1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,164,250	29.61	0	0	0	6	6	42	14.3%
21	86	55	-31	Belarus	9,132,630	75.96	0	0	0	5	5	53	9.4%
22	87	97	10	Azerbaijan	10,202,830	74.32	0	0	0	5	5	46	10.9%
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	Northern Cyprus ("TRNC")	476,214	7.14	0	0	0	5	5	15	33.3%
23	103	96	-7	North Macedonia	1,824,360	16.95	0	0	0	3	3	23	13.0%
24	104	105	1	Armenia	3,033,500	25.96	0	0	0	2	2	46	4.3%
25	110	107	-3	Moldova	2,402,310	18.2	0	0	0	2	2	24	8.3%
26	125	102	-23	Albania	2,377,130	27.05	0	0	0	1	1	43	2.3%
27	134	129	-5	Montenegro	623,520	8.27	0	0	0	1	1	10	10.0%
				TOTAL:	458,622,744	7,002.28	0	14	43	532	589	3,152	18.7%

NOTES

1. **RANKING DATA:** The number of HEIs in every academic world-rank category per country ("TOP 100" ... "1001-5000", columns **H** ... **K** correspondingly) was derived from world-rank data per HEI and per country in the [January 2026 edition of Webometrics](#), authored by **Isidro F. Aguillo**, Director of the *Cybermetrics Lab* of the *Higher Council for Scientific Research* (CSIC) of Spain.

2. **POPULATION DATA:** The World Bank

3. **GDP DATA:** The World Bank

4. As Northern Cyprus ("Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" or "TRNC") is not recognized as a sovereign state by the UN, its statistical data is not included in the primary World Bank or IMF datasets used for the other countries. Consequently, its Population and GDP data in the table were sourced from the [TRNC Statistical Institute](#).

5. The method of country ranking—i.e., multiple sorting of countries by numerical data in columns **H**, **I**, **J**, **K**, in this order—is identical to the method applied by Webometrics in its July 2021 and January 2026 editions, the first titled "**Countries arranged by Number of Universities in Top Ranks**" for 213 countries and 31,097 HEIs, and the second titled "**Distribution by Country and Region**" for 222 countries/regions and 32,147 HEIs.

6. For every country, the *Academic Cohesion Index* (column **N**), is the ratio of the number of the country's HEIs in top-5000 in the world (column **L**) over the total number of the country's HEIs (column **M**). The higher this ratio (written in percentage form in the table), the relatively fewer the country's HEIs beyond the 5000th mark—i.e., the more skewed the distribution of the country's HEIs towards the top-5000 level—and consequently the higher the *Academic Cohesion* of the country's tertiary education system, and vice versa.

7. **CITATION:** Pappas, John D. (2026). Countries in Eastern Europe arranged by Number of Universities in Top Ranks - 30 January 2026 [Data set]. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18495124>