

IVET provision in line with the labour market needs

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** ROMANIA

Timeline

2022 Implementation**2023 Implementation****2024 Implementation****ID number 44140**

Background

Starting first as a project, Educated Romania tackled a series of public debates on priority topics in the education system. Then, based on complex consultation processes involving experts, practitioners, higher education representatives, public and private authorities, it aimed to set a new vision and general framework for education and training by outlining weaknesses to be addressed and strengths to be consolidated. The debates were focused on the identification of sensitive problems within the education system. They took place in all main regions of the country. Seven working groups were created focusing on the main themes identified: the teaching career; equity in the education system; the professionalisation of education management; VET; autonomy, quality and internationalisation in higher education; accessible early childhood education; and student assessment.

Subsequent national policy actions in education aim to consolidate the reform of education system, all levels of education being targeted, teaching staff included, and schools/ higher education representatives and economic and social stakeholders being encouraged to strengthen cooperation and create stronger and more efficient partnerships.

Objectives

To provide access to quality IVET, increase employment of recent VET graduates, better adapt qualifications to the labour market needs, create new VET paths, with more bridges to higher education, and improve school infrastructure.

Description

Educated Romania underlines the commitment to adjusting the education system to current and emerging challenges. Education and skills-related measures and actions are to be implemented with the support of State budget and EU funds. The strategy foresees adopting a legislative package ensuring implementation of the vision and goals.

The National Centre for TVET Development, responsible for the organisation and implementation of IVET, contributes to the implementation of the goals set at national level through the development of strategic planning.

The centre focuses its actions on promoting IVET as a first-choice option at upper secondary level, including the dual form of VET, through provision of training offers relevant for the labour market, improving participation and facilitating access to IVET programmes, improving IVET quality, fostering innovation and cooperation in IVET.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, methodologies were developed and approved allowing to expand the dual IVET pathway from qualifications at EQF level 3 to 4 and 5, thus increasing opportunities for dual based-IVET graduates to continue their studies in higher education.

Almost 40% (366 775) of upper secondary learners enrolled in IVET (based on internal data within the Integrated Information System of Education/ SIIR), most of whom (229 331) were in four-year technological programmes. 79 201 learners were enrolled in three-year IVET programmes, including 15 118 in three-year initial dual VET.

In 2022, each IVET school had a contractual relationship (partnership agreement) with employers offering work-based learning.

New teacher training took place with the support of EBA Academy - InnoEnergy on an up-to-date topic of alternative, renewable energy sources and use of electric batteries, using interactive platforms, combining self-study and online training. The training and assessment took place in English.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, a new package of education laws for pre-university education (Law no. 198/2023) and for higher education (Law no. 199/2023) was adopted. The Regional Consortia for Dual Education were also established to support implementation of dual VET.

The law package promoted the development of a complete dual VET pathway at EQF levels 3-5 and dual higher education at levels 6-8.

In 2023, the Ministry of Education launched a call for the development of regional consortia for dual education, selecting 10 regional consortia, and equipping 10 integrated vocational campuses. The call aimed to strengthen cooperation between different stakeholders and share responsibilities in the effort to support dual VET. Each consortium received around EUR 21 million. They were established based on methodology by the ministry, and included representatives from administrative - territorial units, universities, IVET school, and employers.

Due to the high interest of applicants and the necessity to support all stakeholders in the implementation of the complete dual VET pathway at national level, and considering also the need to address the objectives of regional development policies for the eight development regions established in accordance with the provisions of art. 5 of Law no. 315/2004 on regional development in Romania, a total of 29 Regional Consortia for Dual Education were actually approved and operational, subsequent funds being supplemented.

In 2023/24, 44.54% (273 281) of learners were enrolled in IVET, most of whom (179 498) were in four-year technological programmes. 93 783 learners were enrolled in three-year IVET programmes, including 15 805 learners in dual IVET programme that is a form of the three-year IVET track.

Dual IVET programmes (three-year length) are offered based on immediate and direct request of employers based on their urgent labour force, whereas the regular four-year and the three-year length IVET programmes are organised based on the strategic planning process for IVET offer.

In 2023/24, the number of employers participating in practical training of learners in three- and four-year IVET programmes decrease, except for dual VET.

2024 Implementation

Regional Consortia for Dual Education started their work by creating a cooperation environment for all stakeholders investing in a joint effort to support dual VET, based on the local/regional labour market needs. Joint working groups for the update of IVET curricula were established and consultation/ advisory meetings started with public authorities on IVET and higher education.

In 2024/25, 44.78% (283 333) of learners were enrolled in IVET, most of whom (178 732) were in four-year technological programmes. 97 054 learners were enrolled in three-year IVET programmes, including 17 972 learners in dual IVET.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education
- National Centre for TVET Development (CNDIPT)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers

Entities providing VET

Companies
VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses
Expanding VET programmes to EQF levels 5-8
Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation
Integrating green transition and sustainability in VET curricula and programmes
Integrating digital skills and competences in VET curricula and programmes
Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education
Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

Educated Romania

Parliament of Romania (2004), Law no. 315/2004 with subsequent updates regarding regional development of Romania

Ministry of Education (November 2022), Press release: Call for competitive projects "Pilot program for the development of regional consortia for dual education"

Ministry of Education (2023), Order no. 5.068 / 14.07.2023 approval of selected Regional Consortia for Dual VET

Ministry of Education (2023), Order no. 5.068 / 14.07.2023_annex 1, list of selected Regional Consortia for Dual VET

Ministry of Education (2022), Order no. 6216/ 09.11.2022 Methodology regarding the establishment of regional consortia for dual education

Parliament of Romania (2023), Law no. 198/2023 on Preuniversity Education

Parliament of Romania (2023), Law no. 199/2023 on Higher Education

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

Promoting IVET

The National Centre for TVET Development, together with the support of the education ministry, runs annual information campaigns to raise public awareness that initial VET can be a first option for young people.



Type of development

Practical measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2024 Implementation

Teacher and trainer continuing professional development

The National Centre for TVET Development implemented several projects through which continuing teacher and trainer-in-companies training was offered.

**Type of development**

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Implementation**Referencing the national qualifications framework to EQF**

The Romanian national qualifications framework was referenced to the EQF in April 2018 and the next revision of the referencing report is foreseen to take place in 2023.

**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Implementation**Revising training standards in IVET**

In 2013-16, the training standards for IVET (131 initial VET qualifications at EQF level 3 and 69 qualifications at level 4) were revised and, in 2016, were approved by ministerial order.

**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2021 Completed**The 2016-20 VET strategy**

The strategy for education and vocational training in Romania for 2016-20 was adopted in 2016 (government Decision No 317 on 27 April 2016).

**Type of development**

Strategy/Action

plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Implementation

Introducing dual IVET programmes

An amendment to the Education Law endorsed in November 2016 (Ordinance No 81/2016) introduced a dual form of initial VET for qualifications at EQF/ROQF (Romanian national qualifications framework) levels 3, 4 and 5.



ROMANIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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