

Promoting entrepreneurship competence in VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 ROMANIA

Timeline

2015 Implementation	2016 Implementation	2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation	2019 Implementation	2020 Implementation
2021 Implementation	2022 Implementation	2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation	2025 Implementation	

ID number 28517

Background

In 2001-02, the Centre of the training firm in Romania (ROCT) was established offering training firms as an interactive method of learning in support of entrepreneurship competence. The learning process was learner-centred, and activities took place in pilot schools. Due to their success, entrepreneurship elements became part of some subjects in lower secondary education. From 2006/07, entrepreneurship competence was included in the national curricula for upper secondary education for all initial VET schools in service study fields, extending the teaching method and concept of the training firm (Order of the Ministry of Education No 3172/2006).

Since 2008/09, ROCT became an affiliate member of EUROPEN: European practice enterprises network (an organisation that represents the European network of over 7500 exercise companies in 42 countries) and the ROCT Department was established within the National Centre for TVET Development.

In 2008/09, the Business plan competition was introduced as a tool to develop entrepreneurship competence by facilitating the correlation between theoretical entrepreneurship-related concepts and practical training. This measure helped develop entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, self-confidence and perseverance; it allowed seizing business opportunities and provides knowledge regarding competitive environments; it facilitated adaptation to the real environment, encouraging competition between firms.

Objectives

To develop entrepreneurial spirit and competences of learners and teachers.

Description

The National Centre for TVET Development registers new training firms and corresponding activities annually.

The Business plan competition is managed through it and is organised annually. Students together with teachers create a virtual company, just like a real one, perform virtual transactions (buy-sell, including international), make payments and make balance sheets.

The competition takes place based on the approval of the education ministry at local, regional and national levels.

The number of training firms participating in the competition Business plan increased from 242 to 304 at local level, decreased from 65 to 38 at regional level and remained unchanged (eight) at national level between 2008/09 and 2018/19.

Every year the National Centre for TVET Development publishes the calendar and methodology for the organisation and implementation of this competition, as well as the latest information regarding international competitions, so that the schools and training firms can register and participate.

2015 Implementation

In 2015/16, 1 193 operating companies – 236 new training firms and 957 training firms (TF) – previously registered, continued their activity.

At the end of 2014/15, total accounts on ROCT reached 5 467, of which 3 883 were active and 1 027 inactive.

2016 Implementation

In 2016/17, there were 1 180 training firms registered, out of which 1 023 were previously registered and continued their activity and 157 were new training firms.

2017 Implementation

In 2017/18, implementation of the activity continued.

2018 Implementation

In 2018/19, there was an increase of 22.30% of active companies compared to the 2017/18 school year.

1 459 operating companies and simulated enterprises were activated. Growth was in all areas, the highest being in production: 62.89%. 507 new companies and 952 companies registered in a previous school year continued their activity in 2018/19.

2019 Implementation

In 2019/20, the training plan was approved but some competition activities cancelled due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was only a temporary measure.

2020 Implementation

In 2020/21, the training firm actions performed by high school students on the virtual platform continued as part of regular curricular activity. The platform was intensively used by students acting in a total of 1 555 virtual training firms, out of which 462 were new.

The pandemic situation did not allow organising contests/competitions with physical participation of pupils as planned. Consequently, the Business plan competition took place only at local level and included 323 training firms and 912 students. The other stages of the competitions, which were planned at county, regional and national levels during March-April 2020, were suspended.

The organisation of training firm fairs was possible for 12 important events that took place at local, county, regional and national levels and included the participation of 1

800 students who were active in the virtual entrepreneurship activities on the electronic platform (ROCT).

2021 Implementation

In 2021/22, the training firm activities performed by high school students on the virtual platform continued as part of regular curricular activity. The platform was intensively used by students acting in a total of 1 060 virtual training firms, out of which 373 were new training firms.

The pandemic imposed many restrictions and did not allow the organisation of public events/contests/competitions with physical participation of high number of participants. Consequently, the Business plan competition could not be organised at all (not local level/regional/national as it used to be every school year).

The ministerial order from 2020, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by the suspension of school competitions with physical attendance, was also applied in 2021. The organisation of the competitions with physical participation of students could not be organised, so the competitions, which involve gradual stages of assessment and selection/award (at school, local, county/regional and national levels), such as training firms fairs and the Business plan competition, were greatly affected. The Quality mark competition could be organised, as this was an evaluation of the schools which were more active/involved in the virtual training firm activities.

Student training activities online varied and were still a strong support for the development of their entrepreneurship competence. These activities included a total of 8 796 students from 1 060 schools that are active in the virtual entrepreneurship activities on the electronic platform (ROCT).

2022 Implementation

A total of 1 455 virtual training firms performed activities on the virtual platform, out of which 689 were new training firms.

Business plan competition, a multi-stage competition, was not organised at the beginning of the 2022 school year because of unsafe health social context which determined a delay of the calendar of national events for face-to-face activities.

Training firm fairs took place (25) at local, county, regional and national levels (online) and included the participation of more than 3 000 students who are active in the virtual entrepreneurship activities on the electronic platform ROCT. The Quality mark competition was organised, as an evaluation of the practice enterprises activities. 45 companies participated in the Quality mark certification, 11 companies obtained the basic level and 28 the advanced level.

2023 Implementation

In 2023/24, 987 virtual training firms (including 349 new firms) performed on the virtual platform ROCT based on the national curriculum.

In 2023, the education ministry approved (order of the Minister of Education no. 3469/2024) the organisation of Business Plan competition face-to-face. 273 training firms participated at local level in all the country, out of which 146 were selected at county level (42 territorial administrative counties), 35 continued at regional level and 8 reached the national level.

In 2023, 27 firms received a quality mark, 18 obtained advance level and 9 basic level. The quality mark competition evaluated the practice of enterprise activities against the quality standards. The quality mark is granted in the form of the Certificate of Quality Mark of the Exercising Firm, following the evaluation of the exercise firms.

2024 Implementation

In 2024/25, 1 112 training firms in schools were established as virtual companies where students in economic highschools, based on theoretical knowledge from specific study disciplines, performed virtual activities leading to the acquisition of entrepreneurial competencies.

2025 Implementation

Since January 2025, based on the education ministry order no. 3025/2025 and specific methodologies, the Business plan competition was organised as part of activity within the project 'Increasing the relevance of initial education and vocational training by anticipating training needs for labour market' implemented by the National Centre for TVET Development together with its partners, funded through Education and employment programme. The competition included 347 training firms at local, county, regional and national levels.

The Quality mark competition involved 30 IVET schools, of which 25 received advanced-level awards for the quality of their provision and learner performance.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of National Education (until 2021)
- National Centre for TVET Development (CNDIPT)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers
School leaders
Guidance practitioners

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Supporting teachers and trainers for and through digital

European and international dimensions of VET

EU and international skills competitions

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions and occupations in high demand

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Official Information Note of the Ministry of Education and Research and the National Centre for TVET Development, No 214/21.01.2020, approving the business plan competition](#)

[Order of Education Ministry no. 5924/2020, cancelling school contests/competitions/extracurricular activities with physical attendance](#)

[Calendar of competitions for 2023_2024, Ministry of education Order no 3469/2024](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

National strategy for employment 2021-27

The National strategy for employment 2021-27 outlines an integrated vision of labour market demand and supply policies.

 ROMANIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2022 Completed

VET responses to the COVID-19 crisis

Rapid changes in teaching took place: using online methods and new applications to create and develop resources. The pandemic also created the opportunity to develop new types of learning communities by learning from peers or sharing good-practice experiences.

 ROMANIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2025 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.

 ROMANIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

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).

 ROMANIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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