

Incentives for learners to participate in VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 ROMANIA

Timeline

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

ID number 28511

Background

Not all (potential) learners can afford to attend vocational education and training (VET) programmes because of socio-economic factors. There is a need to mitigate such risks and make sure they acquire qualifications.

Objectives

To offer financial incentives for learners to study in VET.

Description

The government supports the implementation of initial VET programmes by offering financial support in various forms.

- High school scholarship is a national social protection programme that offers approximately RON 250 (EUR 50 since 2018/19) of monthly financial support for upper secondary education learners in grades 9 to 12, including those in VET (technological and vocational programmes). The scholarship is linked to family income and is not available for all learners enrolled in any of three specified four-year education programmes (general education, vocational education, technological education programmes);
- Professional scholarship for three-year professional programmes is a national social protection programme that offers approximately RON 200 (EUR 40) per month for all three-year professional programme learners. This scholarship can be combined with grants provided by training companies. The grants usually cover transportation and meals;
- Dual IVET allowance: in addition to a professional scholarship, initial dual VET learners receive at least approximately RON 200 (EUR 40) per month in allowances from the company where they undergo training. Companies also pay for work equipment for learners, their insurance and medical examinations, if obliged to do so by the

- occupation requirements;
- (d) Euro 200 scholarship: the Euro 200 scholarship is a national programme that supports VET and other learners who otherwise cannot afford to buy a personal computer and develop their digital skills. The programme has been in place since 2004, based on Law No 269/2004 granting financial aid according to social criteria.

The dual VET allowance was introduced in 2017/18 for learners enrolled in the initial dual based programme. Unlike the other incentives (the professional scholarship, Euro 200 scholarship) provided by the government, requested by learners and registered at school level, validated at county level and approved by the Ministry of Education, the dual VET allowance is granted by the company supporting the practical training activities made in joint cooperation with the school and has at least the same value as the professional scholarship.

2015 Implementation

Learners benefited from incentives based on the type of initial VET programme in which they were enrolled, according to the legal provisions.

2016 Implementation

Learners benefited from incentives based on the type of initial VET programme in which they were enrolled, according to the legal provisions.

2017 Implementation

Learners benefited from incentives based on the type of initial VET programme in which they were enrolled, according to the legal provisions.

In addition, the dual VET allowance was introduced as of 2017/18 for learners enrolled in the initial dual based programme. Unlike the other incentives (the professional scholarship, EUR 200 scholarship) provided by the government, at the request made of learners and registered at school level, validated at county level and approved by the ministry of education, the dual VET allowance is granted by the company supporting the practical training activities set in cooperation with the school and has at least the same value as the professional scholarship.

2018 Implementation

Learners benefited from incentives based on the type of initial VET programme in which they were enrolled, according to the legal provisions.

The scholarship Money for high school increased from 200 to 250 RON (approx. EUR 50) in 2018/19.

2019 Implementation

Learners benefited from incentives based on the type of initial VET programme in which they were enrolled, according to the legal provisions

2020 Implementation

Learners benefited from incentives based on the type of initial VET programme in which they were enrolled, according to the legal provisions.

2021 Implementation

Learners benefited from incentives based on the type of initial VET programme in which they were enrolled, according to the legal provisions.

In 2021, the legal framework for awarding the performance scholarships was updated

(Government Decision No 1.094/2021 and Ministerial Order No 3073/2022) and includes new provisions on the minimum monthly scholarships differentiated as:

- (a) performance scholarship RON 500 (approximately EUR 100);
- (b) merit scholarship RON 200 monthly (approximately EUR 40);
- (c) social support scholarship RON 200 (approximately EUR 40);
- (d) study scholarships RON 150 (approximately EUR 31).

In 2021, the government decided that the funds for these scholarships (except for the dual IVET scholarship which is supported by the company) are to be supported from the State budget. A total of RON 645 million (approximately EUR 130 million) was spent on scholarships for 605 510 learners in all types of education programmes in the pre-university system, including VET in 2021.

Learners can receive multiple scholarships if they comply with the requirements: for social support and performance, for social support and merit, and for social support and study.

2022 Implementation

Financial support continued as a regular practice.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, the education ministry changed the scholarship rules, including IVET. The changes introduced new scholarship types: social, merit, etc.

2024 Implementation

In July 2024, the education ministry updated the scholarship rules. Overall, the following types of scholarships were available:

- (a) Olympic excellence scholarship I and II;
- (b) merit scholarship ;
- (c) resilience scholarship;
- (d) social scholarship;
- (e) technological scholarship;
- (f) minor mothers.

Olympic Excellence Scholarship I was awarded to students who obtained distinctions at international school Olympiads and school sports championships at international level, recognised by the Ministry of Education, at the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the Youth Olympic Games. This award was also given to students who already benefited from the Olympic Excellence Scholarship I or II, merit scholarship or resilience scholarship, awarded based on the school results of the previous year.

Olympic Excellence Scholarship II was awarded to middle school and high school students who obtained distinctions, respectively the I, II and III prizes at the national school Olympiads organised and financed by the Ministry of Education; this award is also given to students who already benefited from the Olympic Excellence Scholarship I or II, merit scholarship or resilience scholarship, awarded based on the school results of the previous year.

Merit scholarships were awarded to at least 30% of the students in secondary education (grades 5-8, 9-12), including professional and dual education, in a pre-university education unit and had at least 9.50 annual average in the previous school year.

Resilience grants were awarded generally to students in secondary education (grades 5-8, 9-12), including professional (3year IVET programme) dual education, who obtained at least a general average of 7 in the school year prior to the one in which the scholarship was awarded, in descending order of general averages, less students from the 5th grade and students from 9th grade; other additional conditions are

included in the methodology.

Social scholarships/grants were provided to all students enrolled in full-time courses in state pre-university education (in grades 0-4, 5-8 and 9-12), even up to the age of 30 if not employed on the labour market and enrolled in forms of education with reduced frequency or in educational programmes of the Second chance type.

The technological scholarship was given to all IVET learners in technological education. By way of exception, in 2024/25, the technological scholarship was granted only to students enrolled in professional education specialisations, including dual, at EQF/NQF level 3.

Merit, resilience and technological scholarships were awarded for the school year, during school courses, including practical training and preparation and support of the national assessment by eighth grade graduates, during the first session of the exam national baccalaureate or professional qualification certification exam, until the final results were announced, provided that the scholarship students appeared for the exams.

The value of the scholarships can be supplemented by the administrative boards of the educational units.

Students could also benefit from other types of scholarships, based on a contract concluded with economic operators or with other legal or natural persons or granted by local public administration authorities. These could be combined with scholarships from the state budget

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

Learners with disabilities

Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

Government Decision No 1488/2004 on the provision of financial support for students in the national social protection programme Money for high school (in effect since 2009)

Government Decision No 1062/2012 on the professional scholarship and its latest updates (2017)

Euro 200, a national programme to support learners and students to buy a computer. Law No 269/2004, with its latest updates

Government Decision No 1.094 / 2021 on the minimum level of scholarships differentiated as performance, merit, social and study scholarships

Order of the Education Ministry No 3073/2022 on the new criteria for the award of scholarships in preuniversity education

Minister for Education, press release on scholarships, 5 January 2022

Parliament of Romania, (2023), Law of Pre-University Education no.198 of July 4, 2023, art. 108

Ministry of Education (2023), Order no. 6,238 /2023 on the approval of the framework methodology for scholarships in preuniversity education

Ministry of Education (2023), Instruction/Clarification regarding the implementation of scholarship methodology in 2023/24 school year

Ministry of Education (2024), Order no. 5518/2024 on the approval of the framework methodology for scholarships in preuniversity education (for 2024/25 school year)

Ministry of Education (2024), Instruction/Clarification regarding the implementation of scholarship methodology in 2024/25 school year

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.

 ROMANIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2024 Implementation

Measures to prevent early leaving from education and training

The national strategy to reduce early school leaving in Romania was adopted in June 2015. It is based on prevention, intervention and compensation in thematic/policy areas and addresses the following directions of action/pillars:

 ROMANIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET

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.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Incentives for learners to participate in VET: Romania. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28511>