

# Lifelong learning strategy 2015-20

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 ROMANIA

## Timeline



ID number 28509

## Background

Several initiatives were undertaken in 2015-16 to improve the relevance of education and training systems in line with the needs of the labour market. Consequently, Lifelong learning strategy 2015-20 was developed, the Youth guarantee initiative was approved in 2013, aiming to combat youth unemployment, and the strategy for reducing early school leaving was approved by government decision No. 417/03 of June 2015, aiming to support social inclusion of at-risk groups.

## Objectives

To increase participation in lifelong learning and improve the relevance of VET to the labour market needs. To have at least 10% of the adult population (ages 25-64) participating in lifelong learning activities by 2020.

The objectives are centred on three main strategic pillars: access and incentives for participation, quality and relevance, and partnerships for better information.

## Description

Lifelong learning strategy 2015-20 was adopted in 2015. It addressed the need for strengthening partnerships between VET providers and enterprises, to increase the quality and labour market relevance of VET. Measures supported the take-up of apprenticeship contracts for people with low qualifications, with a target of 125 000 contracts to be awarded by 2020. Financial incentives (subsidies) were set to stimulate employers to engage in apprenticeship programmes, internships and job placements.

The strategy covers adult education, to which the apprenticeship system belongs. In 2017, the Apprenticeship act was amended to stimulate employers to conclude apprenticeship contracts. The main changes were the increase of the subsidy offered by National Agency for Employment, the harmonisation with the national qualifications framework (NQF) and the possibility of financing apprenticeship programmes from the European social fund.

In 2018, the Apprenticeship law was amended again, introducing the possibility of organising apprenticeship programmes at level 1 of the EQF/NQF, with a duration of 6 months, for elementary occupations. The list of elementary occupations for which level 1 qualification programmes can be organised has been approved by the order of the Minister for Labour.

The labour ministry, together with the National Qualifications Authority (ANC), revised the national qualifications framework and included the level 1 qualification.

The regional vocational training centres of the National Agency for Employment (NAE) have started to develop occupational standards for NQF level 1 occupations, with the support of sectoral committees, to be approved by the National Qualifications Authority.

Community centres for permanent learning were established at national level, starting with 36 pilot centres. A methodology for the accreditation, periodic assessment, organisation and functioning of the community centres for lifelong learning was developed and approved in 2017. Institutions may apply for financing from different sources. One example is the Romanian Institute for Adult Learning (IREA) which, with the support of a Swiss grant, and together with relevant partners, will improve access for adults from disadvantaged rural areas through the establishment of four learning community centres in the Western Region of Romania. The overall objective is to have an integrated approach to reducing the economic, social and education disparities in the region. The strategy also addressed the acquisition and validation of basic and transversal competences that help early leavers from education to find jobs. The measures included revision of the validation methodology, quality assurance and training of staff in assessment centres of prior learning. The allocated financing has allowed 45 000 adults to acquire basic and transversal competences. It also included CPD measures as part of adult education.

#### **2015 Approved/Agreed**

#### **2016 Implementation**

#### **2017 Implementation**

#### **2018 Implementation**

#### **2019 Implementation**

Lifelong learning strategy 2015-20 comprised national actions seeking to facilitate participation in training, improve recognition of prior learning and to provide financial incentives/subsidies to employers for the recruitment of unemployed and inactive persons in apprenticeship programmes and internships.

In 2019, several support measures were offered:

- (a) for jobseekers/unemployed: assessment/validation of professional competences, entrepreneurship training, start-up assistance, counselling, financial incentives, subsidised employment / internships;
- (b) for low-qualified adults: key (basic/transversal) competence training.

After all the legislative modifications in recent years there has been an increase in the number of apprenticeship contracts concluded (from 129 in 2015 to 6163 in 2019).

The labour ministry elaborated the draft of the Methodology for implementing the principles for quality assurance in the field of adult vocational training, including in the content of the draft normative act all the proposals formulated by the partner institutions consulted within working groups organised by the Ministry of Labour as follows: the Romanian Agency of Quality Assurance in Pre-university Education; the National Qualifications Authority (ANC); the National Accreditation Centre; the National Centre for TVET Development (CNDIPT); the Institute of Education Sciences (ISE); and sectoral committees.

#### **2020 Implementation**

Implementation continued as a regular practice.

## **2021 Completed**

The implementation of various types of actions / activities to support adults either to acquire or improve/update their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and become more likely to be employed and/or advance in their career, continued with the support of the programmes implemented by the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM) and private authorised centres for CPD activities.

These activities addressed young adults and adults who enrolled within the ANOFM registers benefiting from a full profile in terms of level of studies, competences, socio-economic status, plus career guidance and counselling. Based on their 'profile', expressed wish and option they could enrol in vocational training to obtain a qualification and available resources (types of training and financial support). Detailed data were centralised at ANOFM level as they covered several national strategic documents. Such actions were common to the lifelong learning strategy and the VET strategy. All detailed and quantitative data were described within the subsection of CVET progress for 2021 of VET strategy.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of National Education (until 2021)
- Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity
- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (until 2021)
- National Qualifications Authority (ANC)
- National Agency for Employment (ANOFM)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Young people (15-29 years old)  
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)  
Adult learners  
Unemployed and jobseekers  
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment  
Low-skilled/qualified persons

### **Education professionals**

Teachers  
Trainers  
School leaders  
Adult educators  
Guidance practitioners

## **Thematic categories**

### **Governance of VET and lifelong learning**

Coordinating VET and other policies

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Acquiring key competences

### **Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation**

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

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Lifelong guidance

## Subsystem

CVET

## Further reading

Ministry of National Education (2015). Strategy to reduce early school leaving 2015-20, approved by government Decision No 417/2015

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Lifelong learning strategy 2015-20

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Government Decision No 598/2017 regarding the accreditation, periodic assessment, organisation and functioning of the community centres for lifelong learning

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The Ministerial Order regarding the approval of the list of elementary occupations for which level 1 qualification programmes can be organised

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Youth guarantee implementation plan 2017-20

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National Agency for Employment, press release on the number of trainees in 2021

## Related policy developments

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**2024 Implementation**

### National strategy for employment 2021-27

The strategy was developed in a challenging economic time. It needs to support the recovery of the labour market after the COVID-19 crisis and continue the previously implemented policies, including Youth Guarantee actions.

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#### Type of development

Strategy/Action  
plan

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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**2024 Implementation**

### Transferable credit system

The development of the transferable credit system includes methodology for granting transferable credits for the professional training of adults including categories of skills to be considered for certification of competences: key, technical and occupation-related.

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**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

CVET

**2024 Implementation****Master degree for the teaching profession**

A master degree has been legally required as a condition for entering the teaching profession since 2011 (Education Law), but the implementation of this provision did not start in 2015-16 as planned, leaving it as an option.

 ROMANIA**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET

**2021 Completed****Support for adults acquiring key competences**

The 2015-20 lifelong learning strategy addressed the acquisition and validation of key competences that help early leavers from education to find jobs. The measures included revision of the validation methodology, quality assurance and training of staff in assessment centres of prior learning.

 ROMANIA**Type of development**Practical  
measure/Initiative**Subsystem**

CVET

**2021 Completed****Youth guarantee implementation plan 2017-20**

Since 2016, the Youth guarantee implementation plan has put emphasis on initiatives that combine employment with training of the workforce, which gives young people the opportunity to improve their skills obtained during initial education and to acquire new skills through participation in apprent

 ROMANIA**Type of development**

Strategy/Action

plan

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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**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.

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**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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**2024 Implementation**

**Developing mechanisms for recognition of prior learning**

In 2018, the regulatory framework for validation and recognition was revised with a view to introducing QA measures for validation and recognition.

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**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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**2024 Design**

**Developing a methodology for quality assurance in CVET**

Since 2017, the labour ministry has taken over the coordination of authorising vocational training providers and started drafting the legislation on quality assurance in adult learning.

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**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

CVET

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**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).

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### Type of development

Strategy/Action  
plan

### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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## 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

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### “ ... ” Cite as

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