

## VET in Romania

Vocational education and training (VET) is provided at upper secondary and post-secondary levels. The first two years of upper secondary education are compulsory for all learners. To enrol in upper secondary education and training, including VET (grade 9), learners need to present grades from national exams in mathematics and the Romanian language, a lower secondary diploma and a final mark transcript for all subjects. Some VET schools also have entry exams. To enrol in tertiary education, all upper secondary graduates need to pass baccalaureate exams.

Initial VET is under the responsibility of the Ministry of National Education. The National Centre for TVET Development coordinates the creation of training standards for qualifications validated by sectoral committees (coordinated by the National Authority for Qualifications) and approved by the ministry. Social partners participate in the committees and support VET implementation. Continuing VET development is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice.

### Initial VET

At upper secondary level there are:

- three-year school-based programmes (ISCED 352), providing graduates with a professional qualification at EQF level 3 (such as cook). Programmes are offered by 'professional schools', cooperating with employers which provide compulsory in-company training for learners as part of work-based learning (WBL). WBL is also offered in schools, with average share of 50% per programme. Learners who interrupted their studies after completing lower secondary education may enrol in the programmes until age 26, free of charge. Since 2017/18, a dual form of VET has also been available, provided at the request of companies that participate in training provision. The share of learners in dual VET is 1.5% of the total VET population at upper secondary level. The programmes open access to the labour market. Graduates can also enrol in the third year of EQF level 4 technological programmes;
- four-year technological programmes (ISCED 354) offering graduates an upper secondary school leaving diploma and the EQF level 4 'technician' qualification in services, natural resources, environmental protection and technical study

fields (such as technician in gastronomy). The programmes are provided by technological high schools and sometimes by colleges. The WBL share is 25%. After completing compulsory education, learners may opt out and enrol in a short VET programme (ISCED 352) offering a professional qualification only;

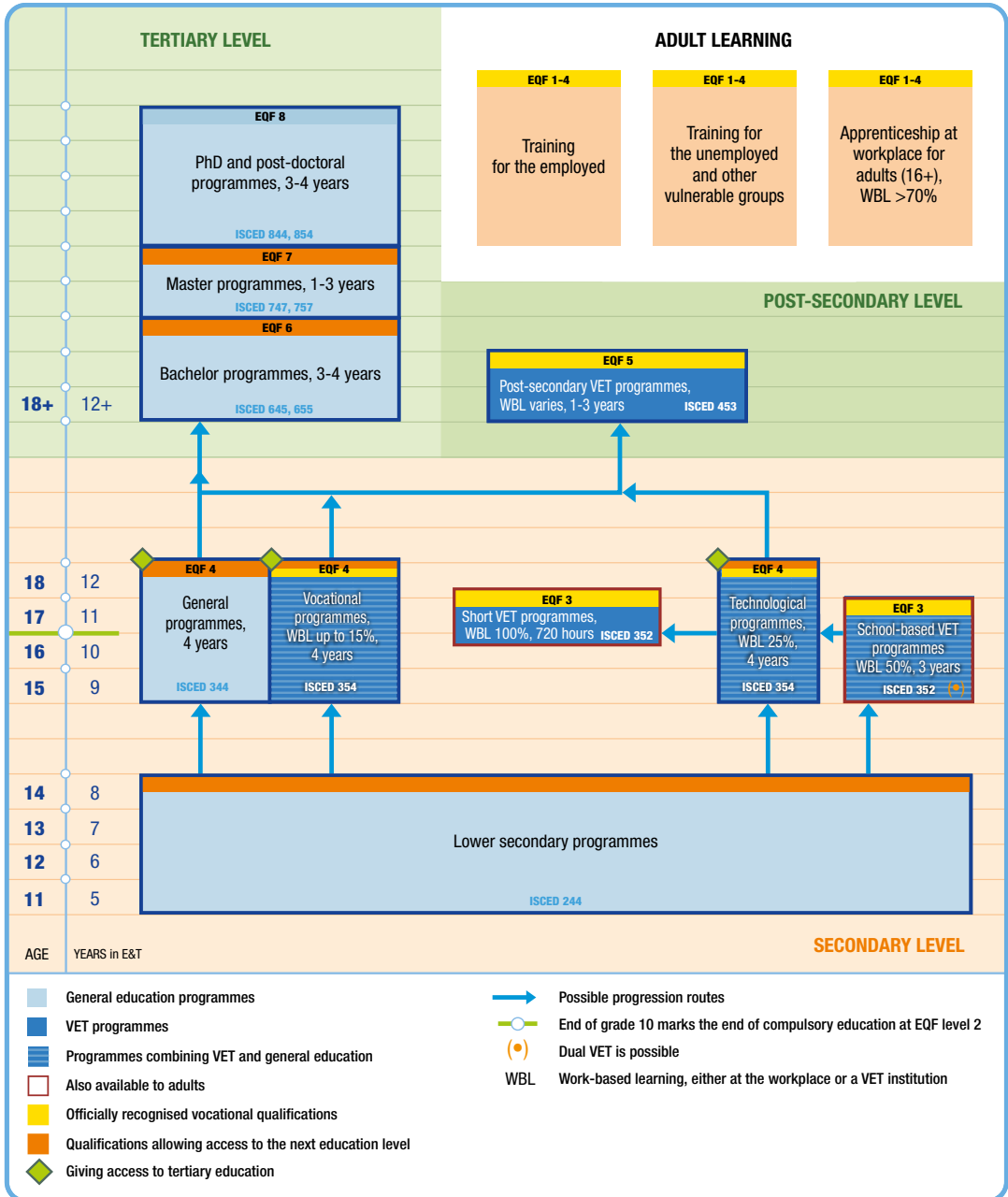
- short programmes (ISCED 352), providing learners who completed two years of a technological programme (completed grade 10) with a professional qualification at EQF level 3 (such as cook) via 720 hours of work-based learning. The programmes are coordinated by VET schools and are provided mainly by employers. Young and adult early leavers from education and training can also access these programmes after completing a second chance programme;
- four-year vocational programmes (ISCED 354, EQF level 4), providing graduates with a professional qualification in military, theology, sports, arts and pedagogy as well as with an upper secondary school leaving diploma. These programmes are provided by colleges and the share of WBL is up to 15%.

Post-secondary VET provides one- to three-year higher VET programmes (ISCED 453), leading to a professional qualification at EQF level 5 (such as optician); they are organised by technological schools or colleges/universities at the request of companies or based on learner interest. They provide secondary school graduates with an opportunity to advance in their qualifications (such as nursing and pharmacy technician).

### Continuing VET

Adult vocational training is offered by authorised private and public providers considering the needs of employers and basic skills needs of adults.

One- to three-year continuing 'apprenticeship at workplace' programmes have been managed by the public employment service since 2005. They offer adults (16+) without prior VET experience the chance to acquire a professional qualification at EQF levels 1 to 4, leading to nationally recognised qualification certificate of the same value as in initial VET. Theory and practical training (WBL at least 70%) is provided mainly by companies, in cooperation with authorised professional training providers.



NB: ISCED-P 2011.

Source: Cedefop and ReferNet Romania.



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