EARLY LEAVING FROM EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Lessons for Romania

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May 25, 2016
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1. The Importance of ELET Prevention
2. ELET in Romania
3. Barriers in Transition to Tertiary Education in Romania
1. The Importance of ELET Prevention

- ELET/dropouts represent **high cost** for governments, communities and families. Additionally, ELET/dropouts lead to:
  - Lower lifetime earnings and employment.
  - Greater incidence of anti-social behavior.
  - Poorer health.
  - Lower participation in civic activities.
  - Lower education rates for their own children.
1. The Importance of ELET Prevention

- Worldwide, 100 million (1 out of 6) children will dropout before completing primary education by the end of this year.

- In Latin America, 1 in every 3 youth do not reach upper secondary education.
  - 45% who begin this level do not graduate.
1. The Importance of ELET Prevention

- **Dropouts limit the skill sets** of new generations entering the work force.

- In the US, the **unemployment rate** for individuals with less than high school degree was 12.4% in 2012, compared to 8.3% for those with high school degree (2.1% for those with professional degree).
2. ELET in Romania

EU target for 2020 = 10%
Romania’s target for 2020 = 11.3%
2. ELET in Romania

• Why ELET prevention/mitigation is a top priority for Romania?

  ▪ Demographics: shrinking and aging population.
    o 10% decrease (23.2 mi to 21.3 mi) in 20 years (from 1990 to 2011).
    o Estimated decrease of 40% of student-age population by 2025 (compared to 2005).
    o 25% of labor force emigrated.
    o Every well-educated Romanian is important for economic growth!
2. ELET in Romania

- Why ELET prevention/mitigation is a top priority for Romania?
  - **Low investment in education:**
    - Romania: 3.61% of GDP (2016).
    - EU-28: 5.3% of GDP (2011); RO = 3.1% (2011).
    - **Low efficiency:** limited resources are spent in students who leave the system early!
  - **Social implications:** less than 1% of Roma youth complete tertiary education (Roma comprise between 3% and 12% of Romania’s population).
3. Barriers in Transition to Tertiary Education in Romania

- **100,000 Romanian youth** without the prospect of continuing on to tertiary education (2011/12).

- **High dropout rates**: average dropout rate increased from 2.2% (2009) to 3.8% (2011).
  - Higher rates in technological high schools (5.3%).
  - Higher rates in rural high schools (7% in grade 11).
3. Barriers in Transition to Tertiary Education in Romania

- **Failure at the Baccalaureate:** 82,000+ students failed in 2013/14.
  - Low pass rate: 58% in 2013/14.
  - Lower rates in counties such as Ilfov (29%) and Teleorman (43%)

- **Low retention in tertiary education:** approximately 83% in 2012/13.
  - 19.2% of students were at risk of dropping out of universities in 2010/2011.
  - 1 in each 4 students passed the Baccalaureate with low marks in 2013/14.
3. Barriers in Transition to Tertiary Education in Romania

**Pedagogical barriers**
- Low quality and relevance of education
- 37% and 41% without basic reading and numeracy skills

**Financial barriers**
- Fees
- Transportation
- Textbooks

**Personal barriers**
- Lack of motivation and information
- Migration of parents
- Discrimination
3. Barriers in Transition to Tertiary Education in Romania

- ROSE Project’s approach to facilitate the transition from upper secondary to tertiary education:

  **School-based interventions**
  - Grants to high schools (for pedagogical support)
  - Grants to universities

  **Systemic interventions**
  - Revision of curriculum
  - Teachers training
  - Students assessment
3. Barriers in Transition to Tertiary Education in Romania

• Impacts of School-based Decision-making:

  ▪ Devolving decision-making authority to schools increases accountability, efficiency and responsiveness to local needs.

  ▪ Impacts in low- and middle-income countries:
    - Reducing dropouts by 0.07 standard deviations.
    - Improving aggregate test scores on average by 0.21 standard deviations (in MIC and Kenya).
    - School management reforms may be impactful for younger students.