

# EARLY LEAVING FROM EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Lessons for Romania

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# **EARLY LEAVING FROM EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Lessons for Romania**

- 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

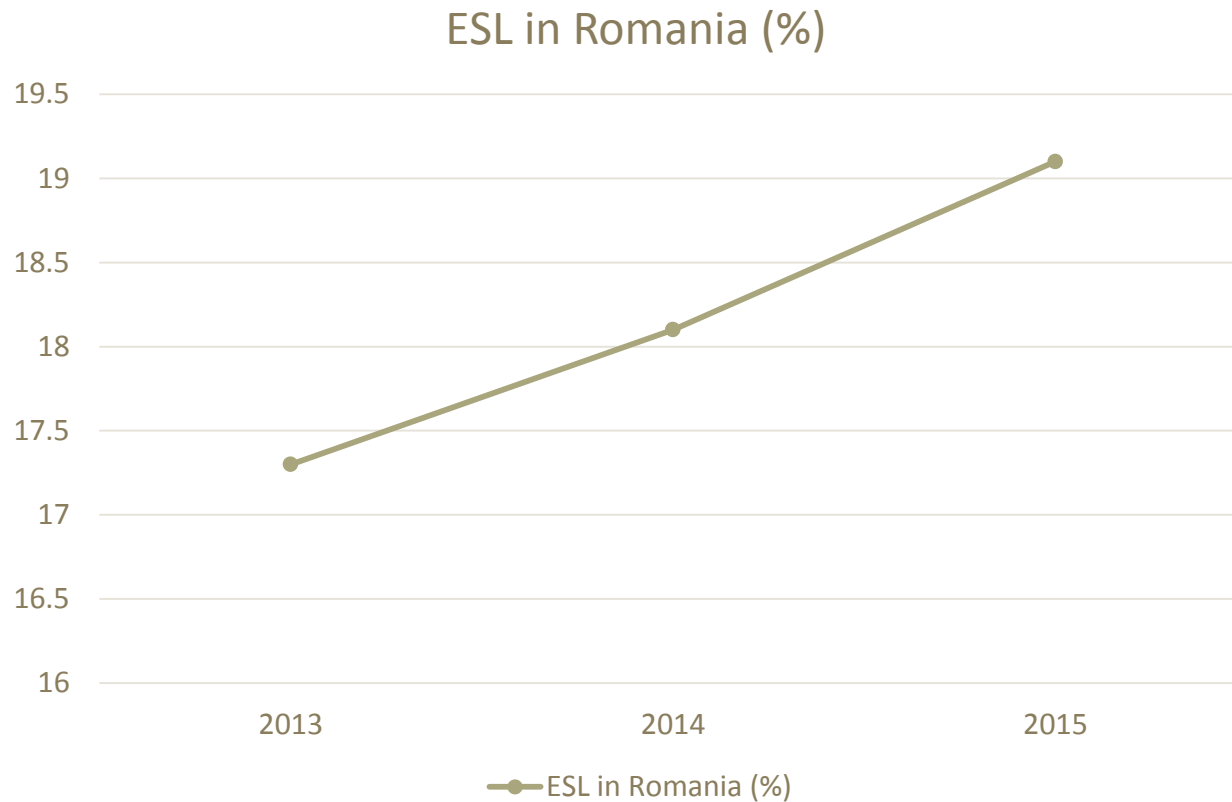
- **Dropouts limit the skill sets** of new generations entering the work force.
- In the US, the **unemployment rate** for individuals with less than high school degree was 12.4% in 2012, compared to 8.3% for those with high school degree (2.1% for those with professional degree).



## 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.**
    - 10% decrease (23.2 mi to 21.3 mi) in 20 years (from 1990 to 2011).
    - Estimated decrease of 40% of student-age population by 2025 (compared to 2005).
    - 25% of labor force emigrated.
    - **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 Bacalaureate:** 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 Bacalaureate 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.

