



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
AND TRAINING IN EUROPE

ROMANIA

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION



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CHAPTER 1.

Summary of main elements and distinctive features of VET

Summary of main elements (1)

Initial 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. Enrolment, including VET (grade 9), requires 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 Education and Research. The National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development (CNDIPT) coordinates the creation of training standards for qualifications, validated by sectoral committees (coordinated by the National Authority for Qualifications, NAQ) and approved by the ministry. Social partners participate in the committees and support VET implementation. Continuing VET is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

Initial VET

At upper secondary level there are:

- 3-year school-based VET programmes (ISCED-P 352), providing graduates with a professional qualification at EQF level 3 (such as cook). Programmes are offered by 'professional schools', cooperating with employers who provide compulsory in-company training for learners as part of work-based learning (WBL). WBL is also offered in schools, at an average of 50% per programme. Learners who interrupted their studies after completing lower secondary education may enrol in programmes up to age 26, free of charge. Since 2017/18, a dual form of VET is available, provided at the request of companies that participate in training provision. The share of learners in dual VET is 4.4% 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;
- 4-year technological programmes (ISCED-P 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-P 352) offering a professional qualification only;
- short VET programmes (ISCED-P 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;

- 4-year vocational programmes (ISCED-P 354, EQF level 4), providing graduates with a professional qualification in the 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 1- to 3-year higher VET programmes (ISCED-P 453), leading to a professional qualification at EQF level 5 (such as optician); these are organised by technological schools or colleges/universities. They provide secondary school graduates with an opportunity to advance in their qualifications.

Continuing VET

Adult vocational training is offered by authorised private and public providers.

1- to 3-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 a nationally recognised qualification certificate of the same value as in initial VET. Theory and practical training (WBL at least 70%) are provided mainly by companies, in cooperation with authorised professional training providers.

Distinctive features (2)

Distinctive features of initial VET are its inclusiveness and flexible pathways. Reflecting the double role of VET in promoting economic as well as social development, initial VET's main goals are to ensure:

- learners' personal and professional development;
- equal access opportunities to VET;
- high-quality provision, organisation and development.

Initial VET qualifications are based on training standards, including units of learning outcomes and, for each unit, an assessment standard. The standards were revised in 2016, to help increase VET labour market relevance by ensuring a better match between qualifications and the reality of working life after graduation.

Creating sector committees, which represent the various sectors of the economy, made the involvement of social partners in designing and assessing vocational qualifications more systemic. To ease education planning, social partners also participate in partnerships at regional level (regional consortia) and local level (local committees for social partnership development in VET).

Romania has developed a system for validating non-formally or informally acquired skills and competences. In line with guidelines adopted by the NAQ, procedures were put in place to create a network of providers acting as validation/ assessment centres. These centres are active in more than half of the counties.

CHAPTER 2.

Main challenges and policy responses

Investments to support the institutional development of education and training are still few, leading to unequal access to education and training and the high rate of early leaving from it; this particularly affects children in rural areas, from poor communities.

Another challenge is to reduce youth unemployment by supporting skills acquisition and securing smooth and sustainable transitions from education and training to the labour market. The CNDIPT introduced the dual form as part of initial VET, leading to level 3 EQF qualifications with a prospect to extend it to levels 4 and 5 EQF.

The VET Strategy 2016-20 supported by an ESF-funded project involves national authorities to help develop mechanisms for:

- monitoring VET and HE graduate insertion,
- anticipating labour market skills needs,
- evaluating and monitoring public policies on active measures and VET.

CVET also faces challenges such as unemployment and the lowest rates in lifelong learning participation in EU. The ministry of labour addressed them by:

- developing an elementary occupations list in November 2018, giving unskilled adults access to participate in 6-month apprenticeship programmes leading to EQF level 1 qualifications;
- creating a framework for variable duration training programmes linked to labour market needs; these can be from 180 hours for level 1 to 1 080 for level 4 EQF qualification (3).

CHAPTER 3.

External factors influencing VET

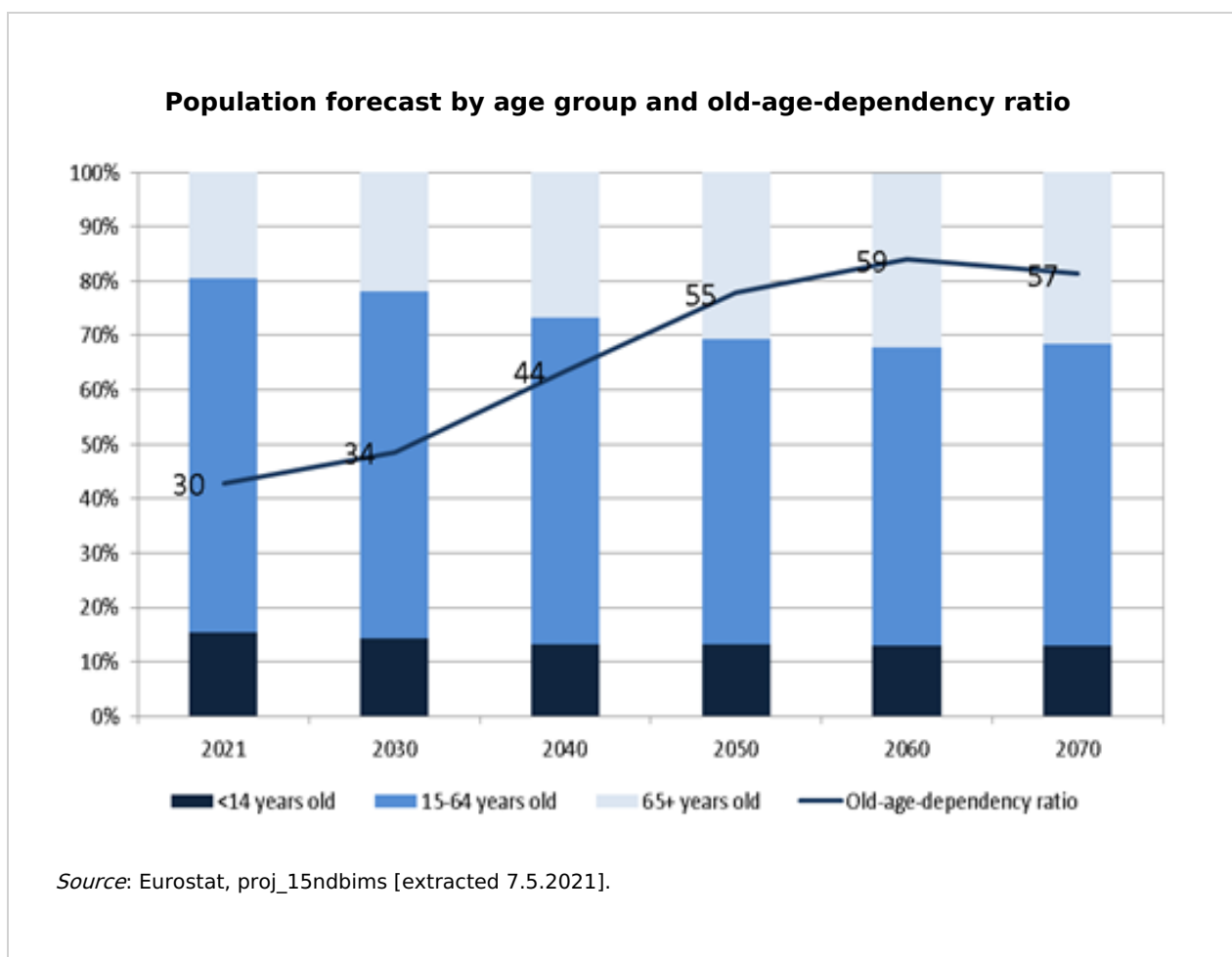
3.1 Demographics

Population in 2020: 19 328 838 (4)

It decreased since 2015 by 2.7% due to negative natural growth and emigration (5).

As in many other EU countries, the population is ageing.

The old-age-dependency ratio is expected to increase from 30 in 2021 to 57 in 2070 (6).



Demographic changes have an impact on VET.

Participation in secondary education has been decreasing, leading to optimisation of the school network: merging, and sometimes closing, schools.

The number of VET upper secondary schools has decreased by 0.99% from 2016 to 2020 (7).

School network optimisation required offering additional transportation for learners; this issue is addressed by local authorities.

The country is multicultural. According to the most recent census, 88.9% of the population declared themselves as Romanians, 6.1% as ethnic Hungarians and 3% as Roma (8). Their residential density varies across the country.

For the Hungarian population enrolled in initial VET, teaching may also be provided in Hungarian.

3.2 Economics

Most companies are micro and small-sized.

Services are the main economic sector in terms of contribution to gross value added to the national economy. They accounted for 67.4% of all economic activities in 2020. The share of industry was 19.7% and agriculture 3.8% (9).

The main export sectors are:

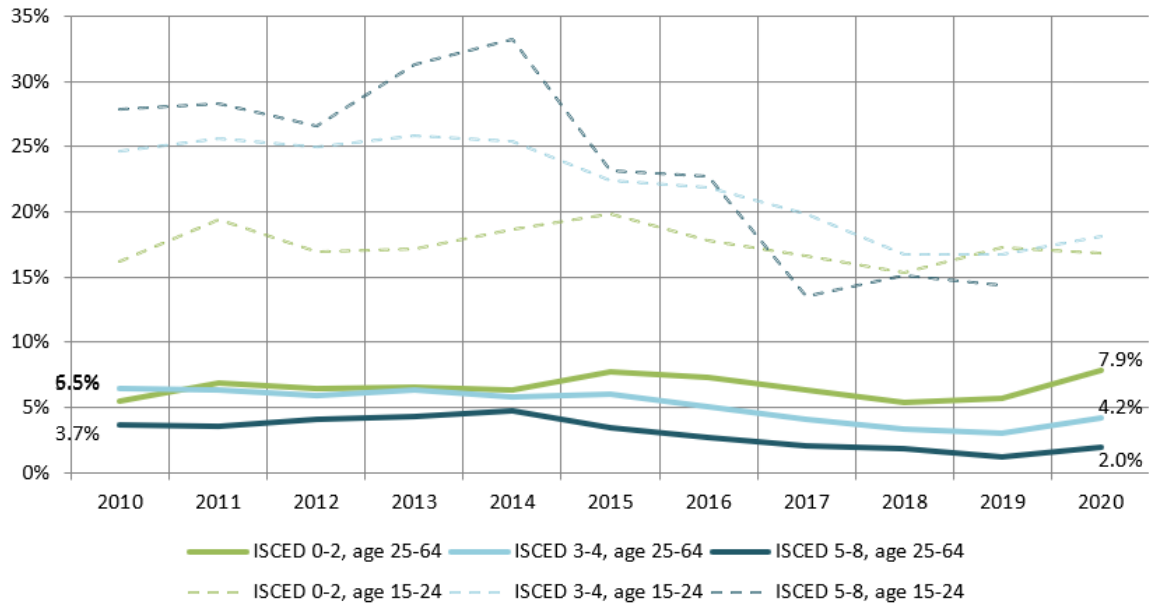
- machinery/mechanical appliances, electronics, electrical equipment and its parts, optical, medical technical equipment (33.4 % of total export in 2020);
- transportation means and associated equipment (17.2%);
- base metals and their products (5.6%).

3.3 Labour market

Employers value formal qualifications that are often a prerequisite for hiring qualified staff.

Total unemployment (10) in 2020: 4.1% (6.2% in EU 27); it decreased by 0.7 percentage point since 2008 (11).

Unemployment rate (aged 15-24 and 25-64) by education attainment level in 2009-20

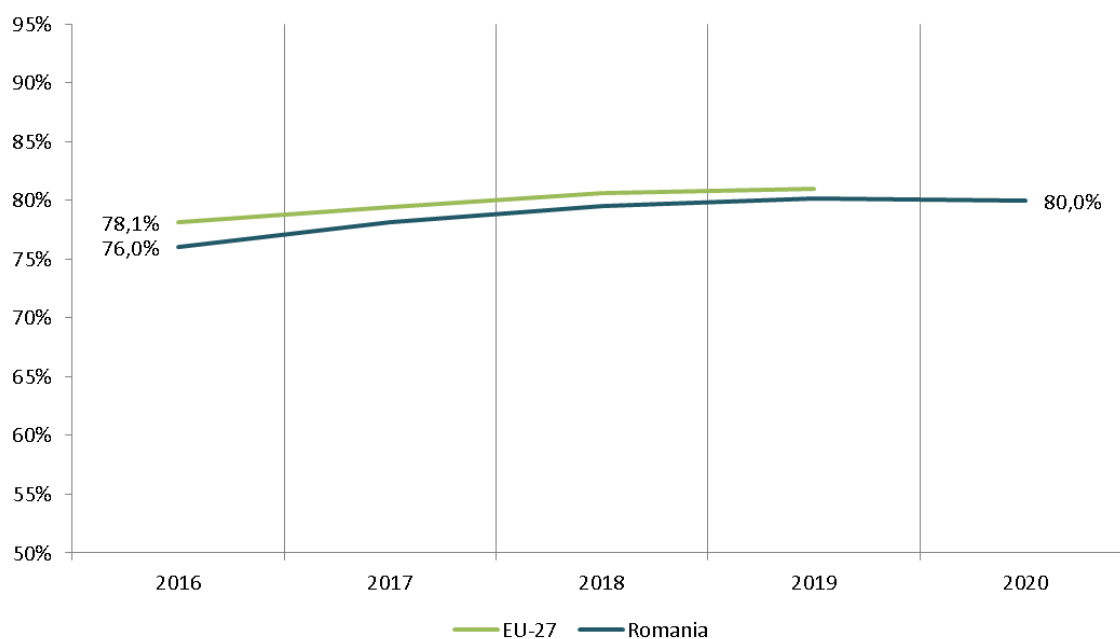


NB: Data based on ISCED 2011; breaks in time series; low reliability for ISCED 5-8, age 15-24.
 ISCED 0-2 = less than primary, primary and lower secondary education.
 ISCED 3-4 = upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education.
 ISCED 5-8 = tertiary education.
 Source: Eurostat, lfsa_urgaed [extracted 6.5.2021].

Unemployment is distributed unevenly between those with low- and high-level qualifications, but the gaps are small. The differences are bigger for the age group 15-24. There, people with higher qualifications (ISCED levels 5-8) were more exposed to unemployment than those with lower qualifications (ISCED levels 0-2) during the economic crisis years.

Unemployment levels have been steady since the pre-crisis period; ISCED level 5-8 graduates were affected the most by the crisis. In 2020, the unemployment rate of people with medium-level qualifications, including most VET graduates (ISCED levels 3 and 4), increased from 3.3% in 2018 to 4.2% in 2020 (12). The employment rate of 20 to 34-year-old VET graduates increased from 76.0% in 2016 to 80.0% in 2020 (13).

Employment rate of VET graduates (20 to 34 years old, ISCED levels 3 and 4)



NB: Data based on ISCED 2011; breaks in time series.

ISCED 3-4 = upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education.

Source: Eurostat, edat_ifse_24 [extracted 6.5.2021].

There was an increase of 4.0pp in employment of 20 to 34-year-old VET graduates at ISCED levels 3 and 4 in 2016-20.

However, the employment rate of 20 to 34-year-old VET graduates at ISCED levels 3 and 4 increased by 0.5pp between 2018 and 2020.

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- [4] NB: Data for population as of 1 January 2020; break in series. Eurostat table tps00001and proj 19 ndbi [extracted 7.5.2021].
- [5] NB: Data for population as of 1 January 2020; break in series. Eurostat table tps00001 and proj 19 ndbi [extracted 7.5.2021].
- [6] Old-age-dependency ratio is defined as the ratio between the number of persons aged 65 and more over the number of working-age persons (15-64). The value is expressed per 100 persons of working age (15-64).
- [7] INS-TEMPO-online database: education units, by categories of units, ownerships, macro regions, development regions and counties [SCL101A] at the beginning of school year; exclude 'vocational' high schools (military, theology, sports, music, visual arts, theatre, cultural heritage, choreography, pedagogy).
- [8] INS (2011). Recensământul Populației și al Locuințelor [Census of population and housing]. http://www.recensamantromania.ro/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/REZULTATE-DEFINITIVE-RPL_2011.pdf
- [9] NB: Provisional data. Source: Eurostat table, nama_10_a10 [extracted 20.8.2021].

- [10] Percentage of active population, 25 to 64 years old.
- [11] Eurostat table une_rt_a [extracted 20.5.2019].
- [12] Eurostat Unemployment rates by sex, age and educational attainment level (%) [lfsa_urgaed]
- [13] Eurostat table edat_lfse_24 [extracted 6.5.2021].

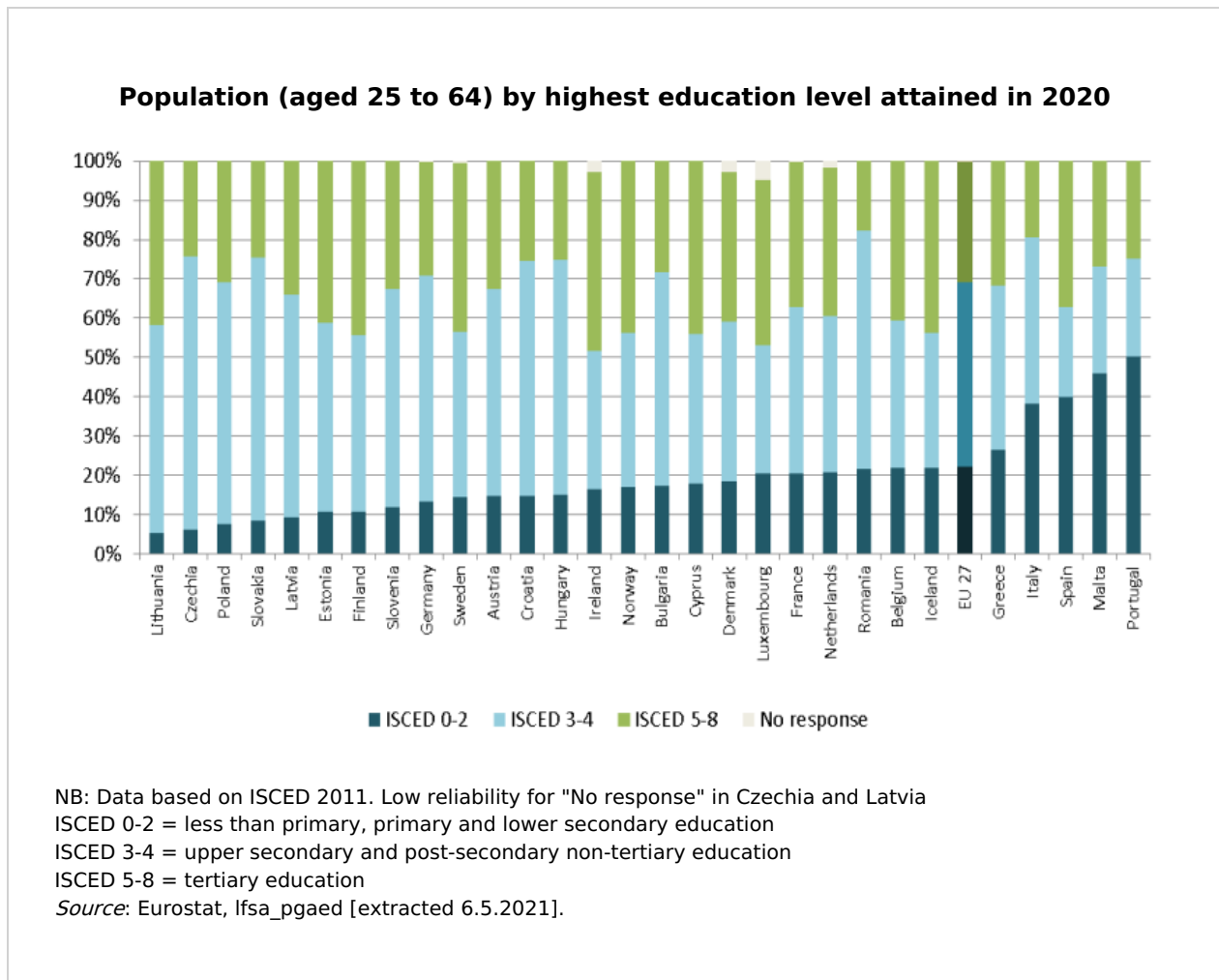
CHAPTER 4.

Education attainment

4.1 Share of high, medium and low level qualifications

In 2020, the share of population aged 25 to 64 with upper secondary education including vocational education (ISCED levels 3 and 4) was 61.7%.

The share of 25 to 64-year-olds with low or without education was 19.6% slightly less than the EU average. There was an increase of 1.1 pp of the population holding a higher education diploma from 17.8% in 2018 to 18.7% in 2020.

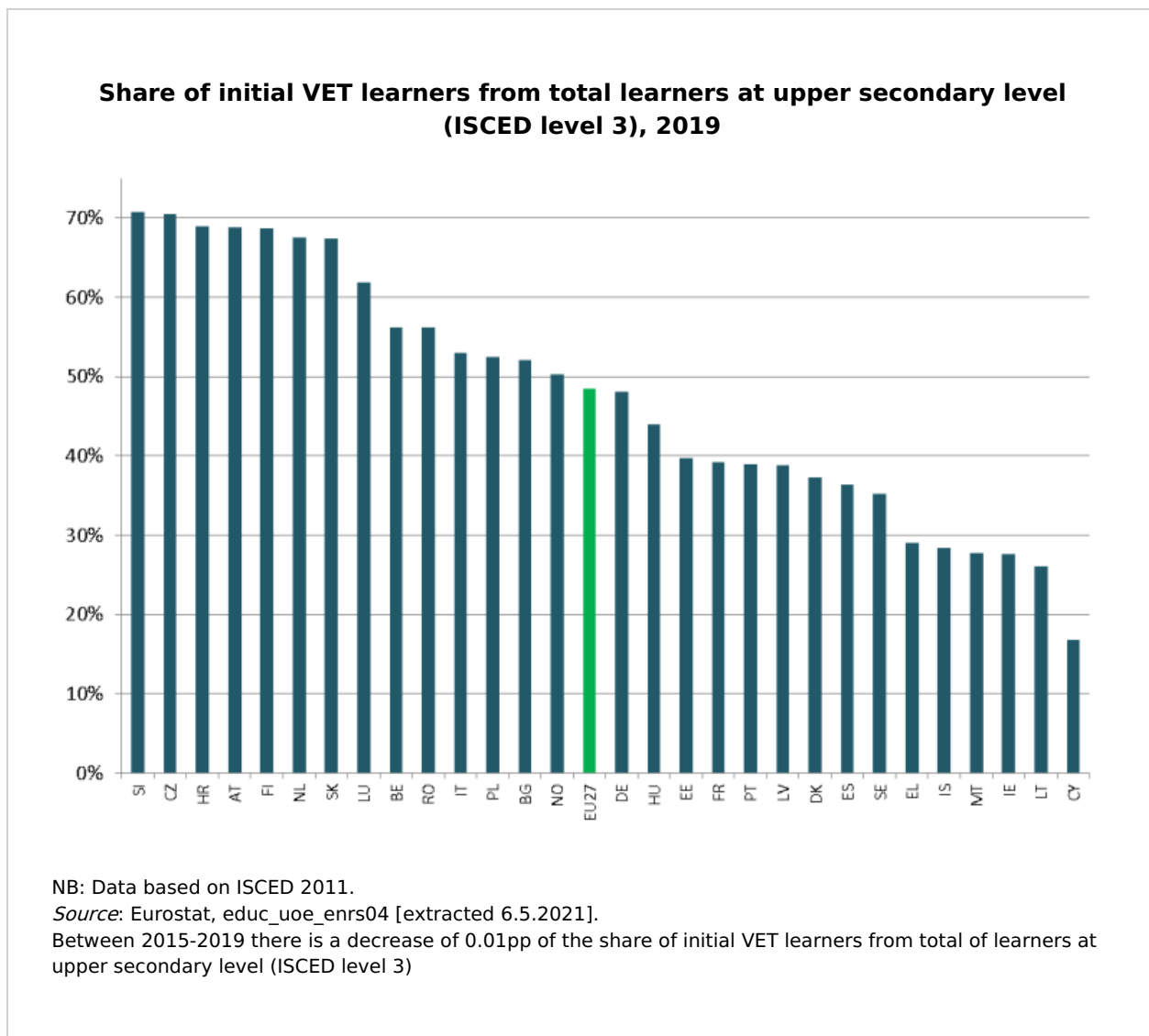


4.3 VET learners by level

Share of learners in VET by level in 2019

lower secondary upper secondary post-secondary
 not applicable 56.2% 100%

Source: Eurostat, educ_uoe_enrs01, educ_uoe_enrs04 and educ_uoe_enrs07 [extracted 6.5.2021].



4.4 Female share

Traditionally, there are more males in VET (54.78% in 2019 in upper secondary education), except at post-secondary level (14).

Romanian initial VET offer is provided within:

- the professional school (3-year VET programme, leading to level EQF level 3 qualification), and the dual initial VET that is currently provided at EQF level 3;
- technological high schools / colleges (4-year technological programmes leading to EQF level 4, ISCED 354 (*liceu tehnologic*);
- technological high schools / colleges (1- to 3-year higher VET programmes leading to a

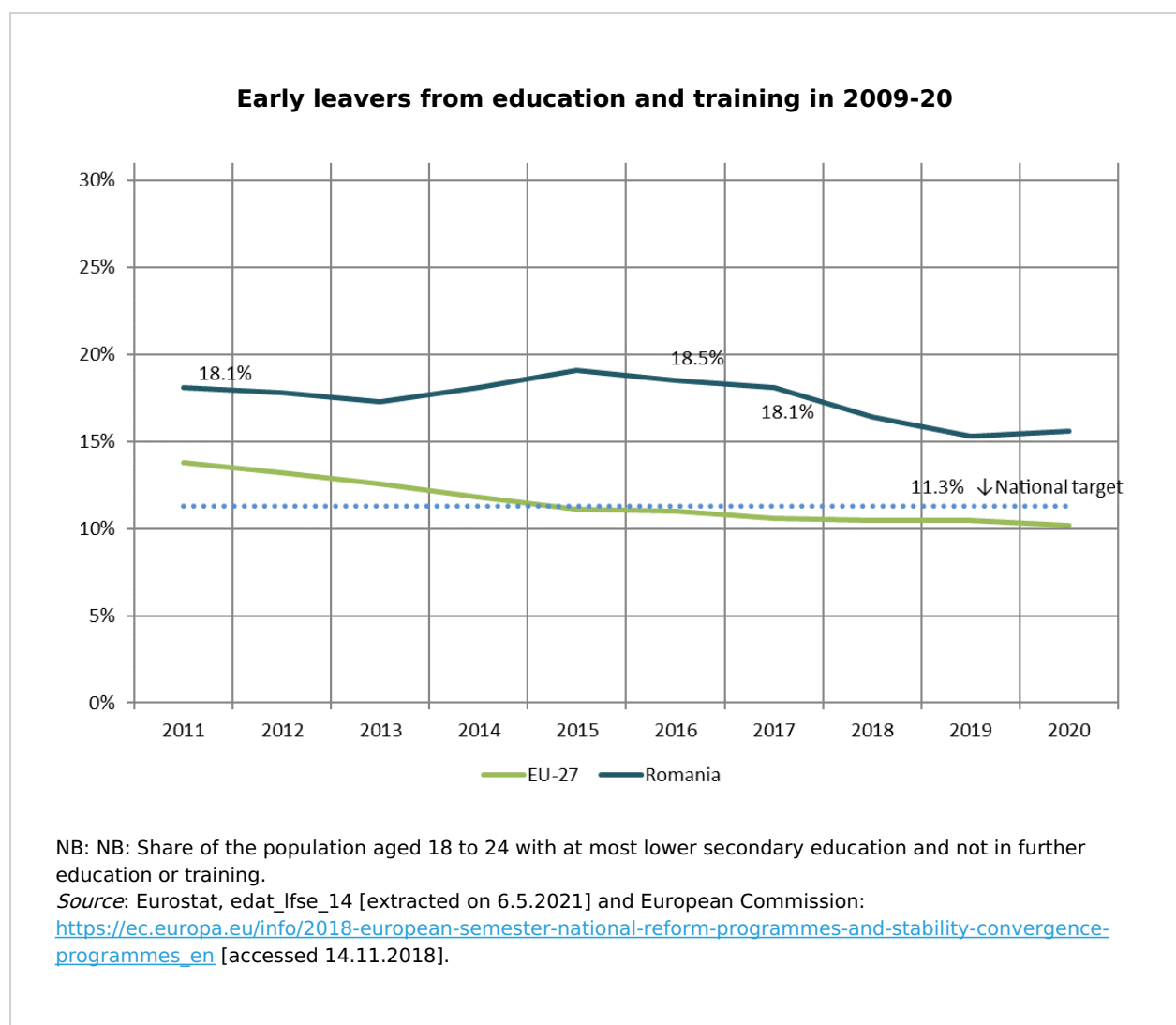
professional qualification at EQF level 5, ISCED 453).

There are three main study fields: technical, services, natural resources and environmental protection.

Males prefer the technical field, whereas females enrol more often in services and natural resources and environmental protection.

4.5 Early leavers from education and training

The share of early leavers from education and training has decreased from 16.6% in 2009 to 16.4% in 2018. In 2019 the decreasing trend continued, reaching 15.3% up to 2020 when it registered a small increase to 15.6%. In 2009-20, it has still been above the national target for 2020 of not more than 11.3% and the EU-27 average (10.2% in 2020).



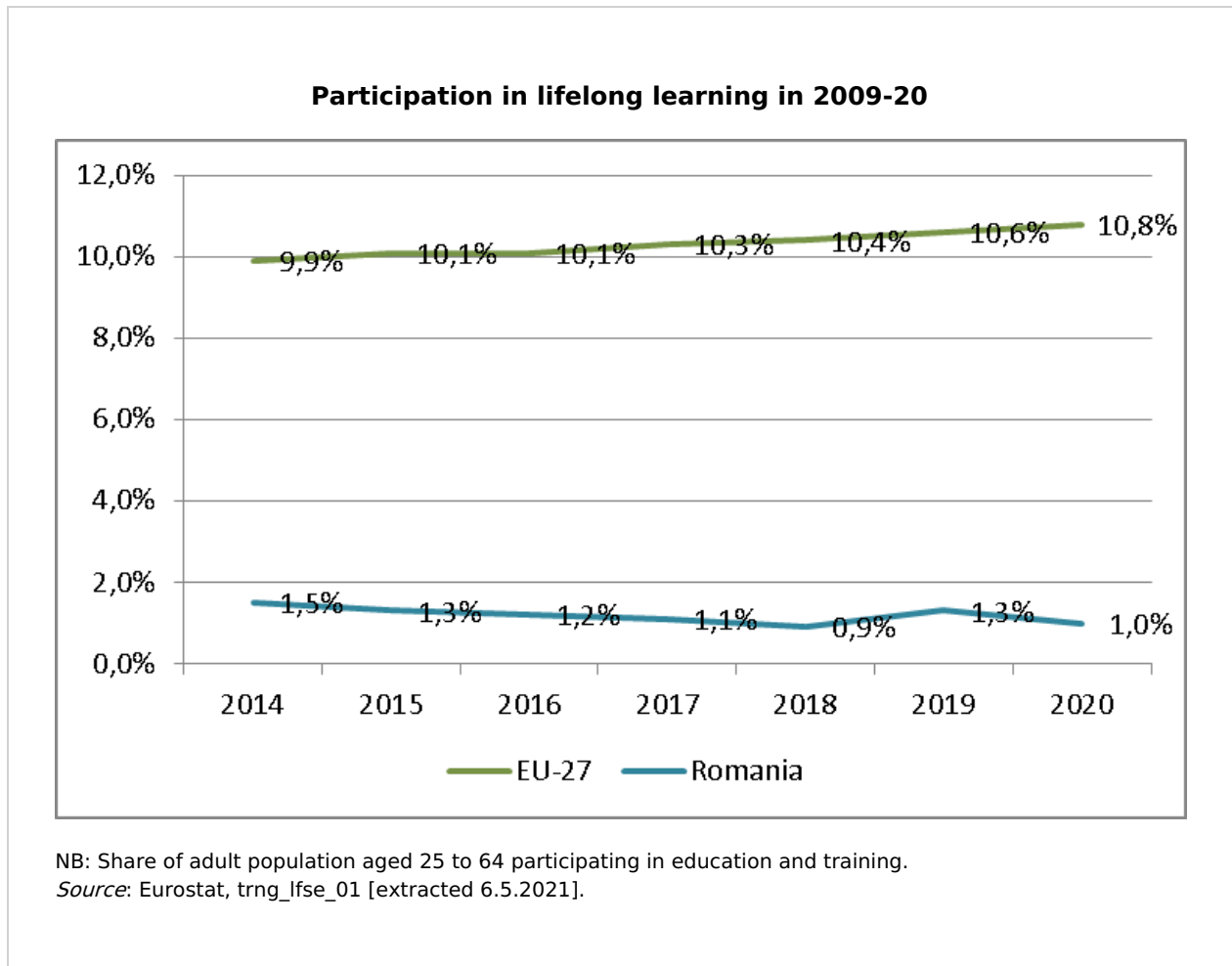
Drop-out rate (15) among VET learners is higher compared with general education and is predominant among groups at risk: young people in rural communities and/or from low-income families, Roma and other minorities, and those required to repeat the same grade because of poor performance. There are also disparities between regions. For example, in the north-east

region drop-out is 18.4% compared with 6.6% in the west region. It is also 1.5 times higher in rural than in urban areas in lower secondary education (16) (17).

The 2015-20 strategy (18) aims to address the issue of early leaving from education and training. It combines prevention, intervention (especially at school and learner levels) and compensation measures.

4.6 Participation in lifelong learning

Lifelong learning offers training opportunities for adults, including early leavers from education.



Participation in lifelong learning in Romania has decreased from 1.5% in 2014 to 0.9% in 2018 and registered 0.1 pp increase in 2020. It is still considerably below the EU average and Romania's objective 2020 of at least 10% (19).

Discussions between national policy makers and Cedefop (20) have revealed how citizens perceive participation in lifelong learning. While official certificates/diplomas are highly valued by learners and employers, non-formal training not offering such certificates is not always seen by learners as lifelong learning and is possibly not reported as such to the statistical authorities.

4.7 VET learners by age

Participation in initial VET

	Number of learners in public schools					Age
	2017/18	2013/14	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	
3-year programmes (ISCED-P 352, învățământ profesional) ([i])	87 841	26 361	90 396	100 693	102 965	14/15-16/17
Out of which: short VET programmes (ISCED-P 352)	671	2 056				
4-year technological programmes (ISCED-P 354, liceu tehnologic)	266 031	376 963	259 664	175 384	177 143	14/15-18/19
4-year vocational programmes (ISCED-P 354, EQF level 4)	50 915	49 395	51 323	52 964	54 651	14/15-18/19
Upper secondary education (total including general, vocational, technological and professional programmes)	715 151	786 815	626 511	614 767	730 346	17-18/19
post-secondary VET programmes (ISCED-P 403)	51 973	55 296	92 400	92 477	91 757	18/19+

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Education Statistics for School Years 2013/14, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21; high school education at the beginning of school year; professional, post-high school and foremen school at the beginning of school year.

[14] Source: Eurostat tables educ_uoe_enrs01, educ_uoe_enrs04 and educ_uoe_enrs07 [extracted 6.5.2021].

[15] School dropout rate is the difference between the number of learners enrolled at the beginning and registered at the end of the same school year divided by the total number of learners enrolled at the beginning of the school year.

[17] Eurostat, edat_ifse_16 [extracted on 07.10.2021].

[19] https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/lifelong-learning-strategy-64_en

[20] On 26 and 27 September 2018, in Bucharest.

[21] The figures for 2013/14 relate to the 2-year professional programmes organised after the ninth grade of technological high school that have been replaced starting with the school year 2014/15 with the current 3-year professional programmes organised after grade 8.

CHAPTER 5.

VET within education and training system

The education and training system comprises:

- early education (ISCED level 0):
 - early pre-school level (age up to three);
 - pre-school education (age three to six);
- primary education (ISCED level 1):
 - preparatory grade (age six to seven);
 - grades 1 to 4;
- secondary education (ISCED levels 2 and 3):
 - lower secondary education (ISCED 2, grades 5 to 8) (21);
 - upper secondary education (ISCED 3) (22), which comprises VET programmes;
- post-secondary VET programmes (ISCED level 4) (23)
- higher education (ISCED levels 5, 6, 7, and 8).

Early education is not compulsory and is divided into early pre-school level (age up to three), and pre-school education (age three to six).

Compulsory education starts at primary school (age six) and it includes primary, lower secondary and the first two years of upper secondary education (grades 9 and 10), for a total of 11 years. In 2021, compulsory education was extended. It is now 12 years, including the last year of pre-school education (age 5 to 6).

Primary education is divided into a preparatory grade (age six to seven), and in grades 1 to 4 (ages 7 to 11). Secondary education is divided into lower secondary education (ISCED level 2, grades 5 to 8, ages 11 to 15) (24), and upper secondary education (ISCED level 3, from grade 9 and age 15 onwards).

After completing lower secondary education, learners continue their studies in upper secondary education, in any of the following programmes: general, vocational, technological or school-based VET.

Higher education has no formal VET programmes. However, some bachelor and master programmes are more practice/technical-oriented than others.

Ethnic minorities have the right to study in their mother tongue in all types, forms and levels of education (including tertiary). Special needs education is provided based on type and degree of needs identified, either in regular or specialised schools. School boards may decide to provide activities after classes. Private education and training is organised by education institutions, at all levels and forms, according to current legislation.

Initial and continuing VET are regulated by the government.

Initial VET

Initial VET is provided at upper secondary and post-secondary levels. Qualifications can be acquired in upper secondary VET through vocational, technological and school-based programmes.

At upper secondary level, there are four types of VET programme:

- 4-year technological programmes (*liceu tehnologic*, ISCED level 354). They offer graduates an upper secondary school-leaving diploma and the EQF level 4 'technician' qualification (25);
- 4-year vocational programmes (*liceu vocational*, ISCED level 354). They provide graduates with a professional qualification in military, theology, sports, arts and pedagogy as well as with an upper secondary school-leaving diploma at EQF level 4;
- 3-year school-based VET programmes (*învăţământ profesional*, ISCED level 352) (26). They may also be offered as initial dual VET, and they provide graduates with a professional qualification (27) of 'skilled worker' at EQF level 3;
- short VET programmes (*stagii de practica*, ISCED level 352). They provide learners, who have completed two years of a technological programme (grade 10) with a professional qualification at EQF level 3, after 720 hours of practical training.

Post-secondary VET provides 1- to 3-year higher VET programmes (ISCED level 453), leading to a professional qualification at EQF level 5.

Initial VET learners may choose between the following study forms:

- daytime learning (most popular);
- evening classes (28);
- work-based learning;
- dual form.

Continuing VET

Continuing VET (also known as adult vocational training) (29) is available for learners from age 16. Training programmes help develop competences acquired in the existing qualification, the acquisition of new competences in the same occupational area, the acquisition of fundamental/key competences or new technical competences, specific to a new occupation.

It is provided by authorised private and public training organisations (30) considering the needs of employers and basic skills needs of adults in the form of:

- apprenticeship at workplace;
- traineeship for higher education graduates;
- adult training courses.

Apprenticeship at workplace

The public employment service has been managing continuing 'apprenticeship at workplace' programmes since 2005 (31). They are only available in continuing VET and are legally distinct from the dual form offered in initial VET. Apprenticeships offer adults (16+, minimum legal age for employment) a professional qualification at EQF levels 1 to 4.

Traineeship for higher education graduates

Traineeship for higher education graduates is regulated by the law on traineeships (No 335/2013)

and the Labour Code (No 53/2003). After graduation from a higher education institution, learners may take 6-month traineeship programmes to practice their profession in a real work environment. This does not apply in some professions, such as doctors, lawyers, and notaries, for whom special legislation provides different opportunities. This process is subsidised by the government. Employers may apply for the public employment service subsidy of approximately EUR 483 per month (RON 2 250) for each trainee for the duration of the programme.

Adult training courses

Adult training courses are offered by authorised training providers or by employers to adults willing to obtain a qualification, specialisation or key competences:

- authorised courses for the unemployed, employees, people who resume work after maternity leave or long sickness leave, Roma, groups at risk and other groups;
- courses organised by employers for their staff without issuing nationally recognised certificates;
- internship and specialisation, including periods of learning abroad;
- all other forms of training.

[21] Also called 'gymnasium' (gimnaziu).

[22] învățământ secundar superior/liceu.

[23] Postliceu.

[24] Gimnaziu.

[25] A qualifications certificate and, after passing a qualifications examination, a Europass supplement to the certificate.

[26] Available since 2014/15, approved by the Education Minister Order No 3136/2014.

[27] A qualifications certificate and, after passing a qualifications exam, a Europass supplement to the certificate.

[28] The 3-year professional programmes are organised only as daytime learning.

[29] Regulated by Government Ordinance No 129/2000 on adult vocational training and other acts.

[30] Also by individuals (trainers for adults, formatori de adulti) acting as vocational training providers.

[31] Currently apprenticeships are provided according to Law No 279/2005 (last amendments in November 2018).

CHAPTER 6.

Apprenticeship

Since 2017/18, a dual form of 'professional' VET has also been available (32). In this, the municipality (local authority) engages in the partnership agreement alongside the standard contract concluded in regular school-based VET programmes between school, employer and learner (or legal representative). Companies are also obliged to pay dual VET learners a monthly allowance that is not less than that provided by the government. Other features are equal to work-based learning in school-based programmes. The share of learners in dual VET was 1.5% of the total VET population enrolled at upper secondary level in the school year 2017/18 reaching 4.4% in 2019/20.

Learn more about apprenticeships in the national context from the European database on apprenticeship schemes by Cedefop: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-visualisations/apprenticeship-schemes/scheme-fiches>

[32] Based on the Government Emergency Ordinance No 81/2016.

CHAPTER 7.

VET governance

Governance in initial VET

Ministry of Education

The education ministry designs and executes legislation in cooperation with stakeholders (academia, trade unions, teachers' associations, students, parents, public administration, businesses and NGOs).

It approves financing and enrolment plans, it awards VET certificates (both in initial and continuing (33) VET), and it coordinates national exams.

It approves methodology for teacher enrolment, career advancement and transfers, and approves curricula through subordinate bodies, including school inspectorates.

National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development

The centre is accountable to the education ministry. It:

- evaluates and suggests changes to policies and strategies, and coordinates their implementation;
- coordinates the design, implementation and review of national curricula, assessment and certification for the initial VET component;
- supervises the development of professional training standards for qualifications validated by sectoral committees (coordinated by the National Authority for Qualifications) and approved by the education ministry;
- develops methodologies for the quality assurance and monitoring of programmes.

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-university Education

It is in charge of authorisation (licence), accreditation and external quality evaluation of schools at pre-university education level, including initial VET schools.

National Centre for Policies and Evaluation in Education (former Institute of Educational Sciences)

It is a national institution for research, development, innovation and training in education and youth. It:

- establishes and coordinates working groups for the development and review of the national curriculum component;
- develops various learning and curriculum resources.

Regional consortia (34)

They are advisory partnership bodies of the National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development. They update, implement and monitor regional education action plans.

County school inspectorates

They propose to the education ministry the VET enrolment plan for the next school year. This is

based on proposals from schools and taking into consideration labour market needs, defined through direct requests from employers. The inspectorates also organise the national recruitment of teachers, including VET.

Local committees for development of social partnerships

They are advisory managerial structures that aim at improving VET relevance and quality.

Teaching staff resource houses (35)

They organise continuing teacher training. There is one in each county and in the municipality of Bucharest. The teaching staff resource houses are subordinated to the education ministry.

County centres for resources and education assistance

The centres support learners with special needs, including those in VET. There is one in each county and in Bucharest. The centres are under the control of the education ministry.

Local authorities

They:

- support the implementation of national strategies on education;
- ensure the joint financing of projects sponsored by the EU and other funds;
- maintain school infrastructure.

VET school administration boards

They approve institutional development plans, local/school-based curricula and teacher training plans proposed by their schools.

Commissions for quality assurance and evaluation

In each VET school, a Quality Assurance and Evaluation Commission is appointed to supervise all quality assurance processes and activities, in line with the quality assurance law (36).

Governance in continuing VET

Ministry of Labour and Social Justice

The labour ministry develops and promotes policies in continuing VET, including training for the unemployed, apprenticeship at the workplace, actions for NEETs (not in employment, education and training) and traineeship for graduates of higher education.

It coordinates the authorisation of continuing VET providers, and it manages and updates the nomenclature of qualifications.

It also monitors, analyses, controls, and evaluates vocational training for the unemployed.

National and county agencies for employment

The National Agency for Employment coordinates vocational training of jobseekers at national level, carried out by the county employment agencies.

National Authority for Qualifications

It is responsible for:

- the national qualifications framework;
- the national registers of:

- qualifications in higher education;
 - professional qualifications.
- centres for the evaluation and certification of professional competences obtained outside formal education;
 - evaluators of competences, external evaluators and evaluators of evaluators.

The authority ensures the link between the standards used for defining qualifications and labour market needs, provides assistance for development of occupational standards, and registers the standards in the national register of professional qualifications in education.

The authority also approves the occupational standards for continuing VET, and endorses the professional training standards used in initial VET programmes.

County authorisation commissions

They are in charge of authorisation and monitoring of training providers, and they decide on the examination commissions at county level. County authorisation commissions are set up by the labour ministry.

Continuing VET providers

Adult vocational training providers carry out vocational training, after authorisation by the county commission (37).

[33] For continuing VET, certificates are awarded by both labour and education ministries.

[34] According to Order of the Ministry of Education No 4456/2015 for the approval of general framework of organisation and functioning of consultative partnership structures in VET.

[35] Casa Corpului Didactic (CCD).

[36] Law 87/2006.

[37] In line with Government Ordinance No 129/2000.

CHAPTER 8.

VET financing mechanisms

In 2009, total public expenditure on education and training reached 4.24% of GDP. It fell significantly in 2010-11 due to the economic crisis, and it reached 3.6% in 2019 (38). The National Law on Education of 2011 targets 6%, but this objective is not likely to be achieved before 2025.

In 2019, per capita financing was as follows (39).

- 3-year 'professional'/school-based programmes (all qualifications): approximately EUR 1 184. Programmes offered in minority language(s): EUR 1 374;
- 4-year technological programmes (all qualifications): approximately EUR 1 180. Programmes offered in minority language(s): EUR 1 321;
- 4-year vocational programmes (except music and sports): EUR 1 506. Programmes offered in minority language(s): EUR 1 675.

The budget for education and training, including VET, is approved annually. The financing mechanism (40) comprises per capita expenditure supplemented by coefficients (such as for rural/urban areas, number of students and climate area (41), EQF level, type of programme, total number of learners in the school, teaching language).

Financing is provided to schools by the education ministry from the State budget (main source: value added tax) based on actual enrolment. It covers:

- wages, allowances;
- staff continuous training;
- learner assessment expenditure;
- materials, services and maintenance.

The basic financing of a school unit is obtained by multiplying the standard cost per pupil by the specific coefficients mentioned above. This is approved annually by Government decision.

VET in public schools is free of charge. The State also provides financing for accredited private and religious education institutions to the same level as for public VET schools. In private education, institution learners pay fees.

Continuing VET is financed by (42):

- employers/enterprises;
- unemployment insurance budget;
- EU structural and cohesion instruments;
- personal contributions;
- other sources.

Jobseekers benefit from free continuing training financed by the unemployment insurance budget. The budget also provides subsidies to employers who provide continuing VET (apprenticeship, traineeship and vocational training programmes).

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- [39] Approximate values, based on euro exchange rate.
- [40] Government Decision No 72/2013 on the approval of the methodological norms for determining the standard cost per learner and the establishment of the basic financing of the State pre-university education units. This ensured from the State budget, from sums deducted from VAT through the local budgets, based on the standard cost per learner (last updated by Government Decision No 169/2019 and Government Decision No 107/2020).
- [41] This refers to geographic areas with difficult weather conditions, especially during winter.
- [42] According to Government Ordinance No 129/2000.

CHAPTER 9.

Teachers and trainers

9.1 VET teacher types

Initial VET

There are two teaching positions in initial VET:

- teacher;
- practical training instructor (43).

Requirements for VET teachers are the same as for teachers in general education.

At upper secondary and post-secondary VET, teachers require both:

- a master degree in a field related to the VET qualification(s) they teach;
- two psycho-pedagogical modules, totalling 60 ECTS (44), that can be obtained either during higher education studies (by enrolling for one module of 30 ECTS during the bachelor programme and for the second module of 30 ECTS during the master programme), or after graduation, by enrolling for both modules within a university department for Teacher Training.

Practical training instructors must have:

- a post-secondary education diploma in a field related to the VET qualification(s) they teach;
- psycho-pedagogical training of 30 ECTS provided by a higher education institution (45).

To become a certified teacher, new employees have two class inspections and produce a professional portfolio; this is an elimination stage, followed by the so-called teacher-confirmation exam (46) in the subject they will teach and its methodology, 12 months after their initial employment. During this period, they are supported by an experienced mentor and enjoy the same rights as other teachers with a labour contract. If they fail to pass the exam after 12 months, they may have another two attempts within a 5-year period. The share of qualified VET teachers and instructors (vocational theoretical subjects or practical training) is 98.75% of the total teaching staff in initial VET (47).

In 2019, a working group was established within the education ministry to find solutions for improving quality in initial teacher training. As a result, a master pilot programme for the teaching profession is being implemented from 2020/21, including a total of 400 candidates for the teaching profession enrolled in the form of full-time education, in eight universities in the country (48). They receive a monthly scholarship of approximately EUR 482.

Continuing VET

Continuing vocational training programmes are provided by trainers with a profile or specialisation relevant to the training programme. They should have:

- the national qualifications framework level of education equal to or higher than the level of the training programme they undertake;

- a qualification in the training programme's field of activity;
- any form of certificate for the following occupations: instructor/trainer/trainer of trainer or the certificates for the teaching profession (60 ECTS (49)).

9.2 Continuing professional development of teachers/trainers

Continuing professional development of teachers and instructors is a right defined by the Law of National Education (50) that supports career advancement and professional development. Advancement in a teaching career is ensured by acquiring the relevant degrees:

- the second teaching degree is awarded after at least four years of service (after passing the teacher-confirmation exam (51)), undergoing at least two school inspections and passing an exam in methodology and main subject (52);
- the first teaching degree is awarded after at least four years after awarding the second degree, undergoing at least two school inspections and defending orally a written thesis (53).

Professional development is compulsory by participation in accredited training courses (teachers have to gather minimum 90 ECTS every five years). The training is provided by public and private education institutions and by NGOs, and can be partially or fully covered by the State budget.

[43] Maistru instructor.

[45] Usually by the Department for the Teaching Staff Training within an accredited higher education institution.

[46] Definitivat.

[47] Based on data from National Institute of Statistics for the school year 2017/18.

[51] Definitivat.

[52] The Ministry of Education provides rules for promotion and methodologies for the exams.

[53] Regulation No 1/2011, Article 242.

CHAPTER 10.

Shaping VET qualifications

10.1 Anticipating skill needs

To supply the labour market with VET qualifications that are relevant, the National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development, supported by stakeholders and experts, has developed a strategic planning model for VET supply, approved by the education ministry.

Its main objective is to increase the contribution of VET in an efficient transition to an inclusive, participatory, competitive and knowledge-based economy that relies on innovation.

The term 'strategic planning' refers to a medium-term (five to seven years) forecast. The model analyses the relevance of supply to the (forecast) labour market demand from quantitative and qualitative perspectives and using the following sources:

- regional education action plans;
- local (county) education action plans;
- school action plans.

Regional education action plans (set out by the regional consortia) and local education action plans (by the local committees for development of social partnerships) include:

- analysis of the regional/county context from the point of view of demographic, labour market and economic changes and forecast;
- analysis of the capacity of VET to serve the identified needs of the labour market in the regional/county contexts;
- priorities, targets and actions for VET development at regional/county level;
- the contribution of higher education to regional development.

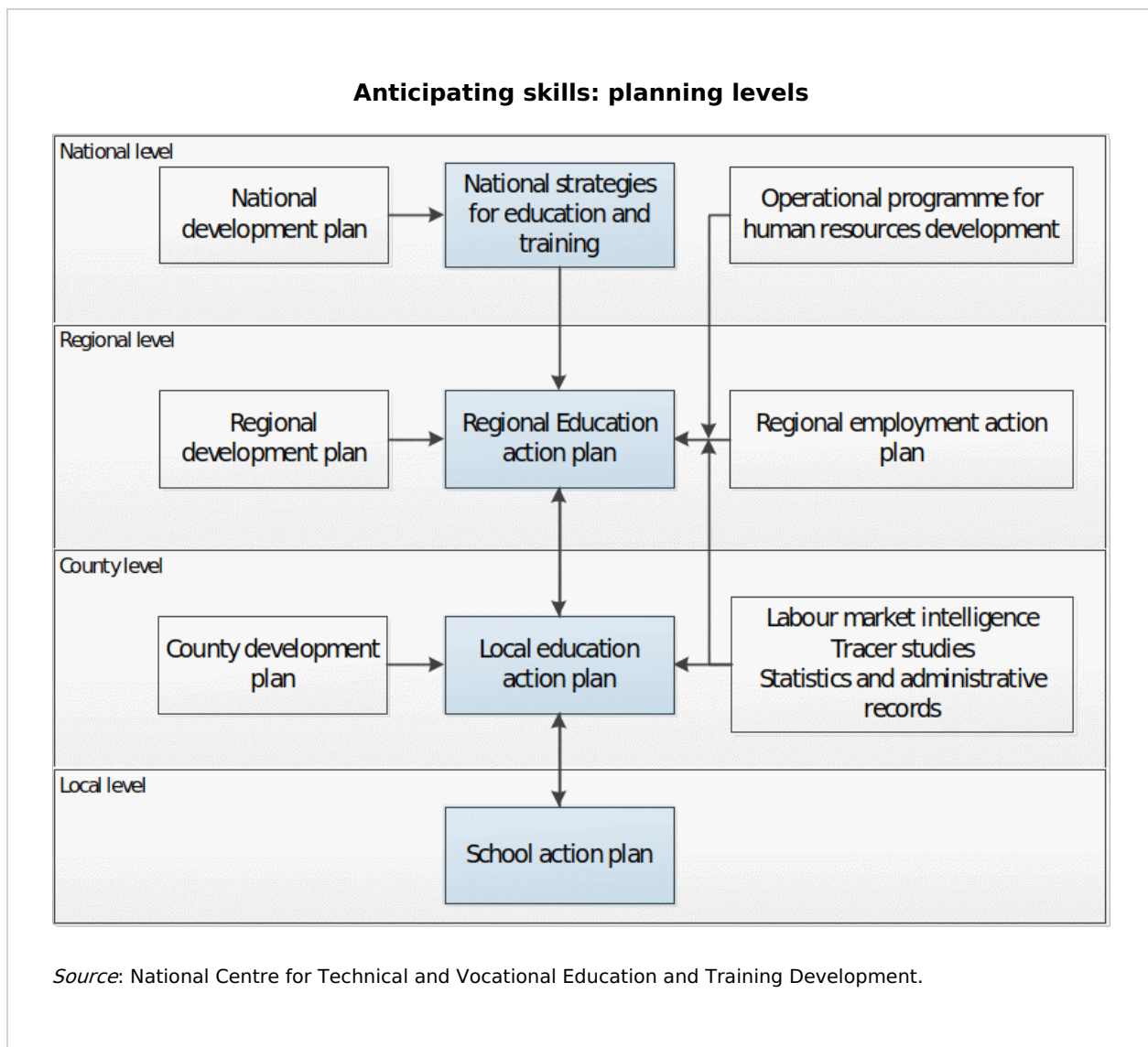
Desk research is carried out by regional consortia and members of local committees for development of social partnerships who analyse:

- the national development plan;
- the national strategy for human resources development;
- regional development plans;
- VET strategies and action plans;
- the national strategy for employment;
- labour market and training demand and supply forecasts;
- company surveys on short-term (6 months) labour demand.

The model is based on decentralised decision-making at regional, county and local levels. Strategic planning is characterised by the collective action of multiple social partners, representing the interests of employers, professional associations, employees/trade unions, public administration, relevant government and civil society organisations.

The model combines top-down and bottom-up decision-making processes as demonstrated in the

figure below, involving regional consortia at regional level, local committees for development of social partnerships at county level, and school boards at local area level.



See also Cedefop's skills forecast (54) and European skills index (55).

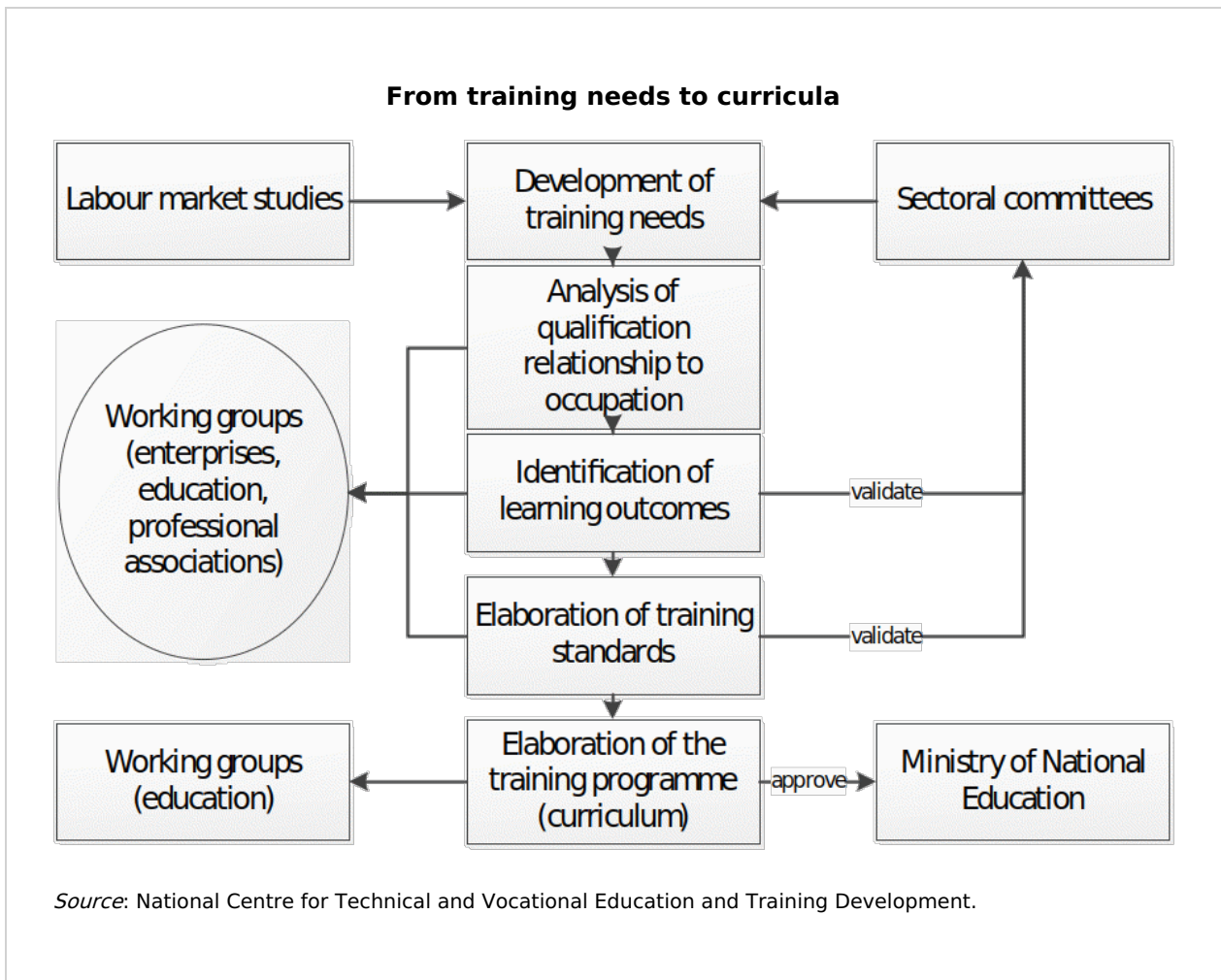
10.2 Designing qualifications

Initial VET qualifications

Initial VET qualifications (excluding vocational programmes) are based on training standards. The national qualifications register currently comprises 134 qualifications at EQF level 3, 69 at EQF level 4 and 203 at EQF level 5.

Training standards (56) describe learning units consisting of learning outcomes and are based on occupational standards. Training standards are developed by representatives of companies from the corresponding sectors and of VET providers, with the methodological support of the National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development, endorsed by National Authority for Qualifications. They are validated by employers and other social partners

through sectoral committees. The revision of standards is carried out at least every five years or at the request of economic operators.



Training standards

Training standards play a key role in designing VET curricula, assessing learning outcomes and awarding qualification certificates.

To design the training standards and to establish units of learning outcomes in its structure, one or more occupational standards concerned with the qualification need to be analysed as a starting point.

Each training standard comprises:

- introduction: description of qualification, occupation(s) the standard leads to;
- list of competences as in occupational standard(s) or considering recommendations of the sectoral committees, company representatives or other interested parties;
- learning outcomes units (a learning unit consists of a coherent set of learning outcomes) for the qualification:
- general (e.g. maths, language, sciences) and occupational learning outcomes;
- minimum equipment requirements for each learning outcome unit;

- assessment standard for each learning outcome unit.

Core and local curriculum

Curricula for each qualification have two main components:

- core curriculum designed at national level by education working groups;
- local (school) curriculum designed by schools and local businesses to adapt training to the requirements of the local and regional labour market.

The share of national and local curricula varies by qualification level. At EQF level 3, 20% of learning time is reserved for the local curriculum and 80% for national; at EQF level 4, the share is 30% for the local curriculum and 70% for national. At EQF level 5, all curricula are national.

Continuing VET qualifications

Continuing VET qualifications are based on occupational standards, validated by the sectoral committees and approved by the National Authority for Qualifications.

An occupational standard is a national instrument describing professional activities and requested abilities, skills and competences necessary to practise a specific occupation, defined in terms of autonomy and responsibility, and capacity to apply specific knowledge and understanding at the workplace.

Occupational standards stipulate two types of requirement:

- requirements linked to labour market needs in terms of skills:
 - occupation;
 - identification number from the classification of occupations;
 - qualification level;
 - specific activities to be carried out at the workplace;
 - skills and competences required to practice the occupation.
- requirements for provision of professional training:
 - established learning content;
 - duration of training and specific requirements for the assessment;
 - access/entry requirements;
 - necessary resources to organise the training.

[54] <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-visualisations/skills-forecast>

[55] <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/european-skills-index>

[56] Standard de pregatire profesionala

CHAPTER 11.

Quality assurance

Initial VET

At national level, the law on quality assurance of education (57) sets a series of basic principles applicable for all levels of pre-university education, including initial VET: focusing on learning outcomes, promoting quality improvement, protecting education beneficiaries (learners as priority), centring on the internal evaluation process (self-assessment) of providers.

Quality assurance in initial VET comprises:

- VET school self-assessment;
- programme and provider authorisation and accreditation;
- programme and provider external evaluation;
- programme external monitoring;
- monitoring of the quality of vocational certification exams.

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-university Education is responsible for authorisation, accreditation and external evaluation of pre-university education, including initial VET. Authorisation and accreditation are compulsory for each initial VET programme:

- authorisation (licence) grants the right to carry out the education process and to organise admission to new education and training programmes. It gives the right to operate for up to three years (58) after first graduation from the programme (59);
- accreditation follows authorisation and grants the right to issue diplomas/certificates recognised by the education ministry and to organise graduation/certification exams. Accreditation is compulsory after three years from the date of the first graduation from the programme.

Accreditation assures that providers and programmes meet standards approved by the government and defines requirements for:

- institutional capacity: administrative/management structures, logistics, and human resources;
- education effectiveness: learning facilities, equipment, human resources, the quality of the locally developed curricula, the quality of the teaching-learning-evaluation processes, financial activity;
- quality management (strategies and procedures for quality assurance, procedures concerning the design, monitoring and review of the school action plan.

Accreditation is granted by education ministry order, based on the recommendation of the quality assurance agency.

Every five years following accreditation, initial VET providers have to be externally evaluated by the quality assurance agency. External evaluation of VET providers and programmes is a multi-criteria assessment of the extent to which a VET provider and its programmes meet the quality standards. These standards describe the requirements that define an optimal level, compared to the accreditation standards that describe the minimum level for the existence and functioning of

a VET programme/ provider.

School inspectorates offer guidance and support to VET providers about the quality assurance process in initial VET. It is called external monitoring and comprises:

- validating VET provider self-assessment reports;
- verifying that quality requirements are met;
- proposing and approving improvement measures to address the identified quality assurance issues.

Self-assessment of VET providers and programmes is based on a set of quality descriptors (input, process and output), grouped in seven areas, several of which have a direct effect on the content of training and the qualifications acquired:

- quality management;
- resource management (physical and human);
- design, development and revision of training programmes;
- teaching, training and learning;
- assessment and certification of learning;
- evaluation and improvement of quality.

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-university Education publishes on their website decisions containing evaluation reports and decisions approved by the education ministry.

Quality assurance in continuing VET

Quality assurance in continuing VET comprises:

- programme and training provider authorisation;
- programme and training provider external evaluation;
- training provider self-assessment;
- programme external monitoring.

Authorisation of vocational training providers is coordinated by the labour ministry. It is made through county authorisation commissions and gives VET providers the right to issue qualification or graduation certificates with national recognition. To become authorised, training providers must meet certain eligibility conditions. Authorisation is based on the following criteria:

- professional training programme;
- the resources needed to carry out the training programme;
- experience of the training provider and results of previous work.

The training provider completes a self-assessment form that contains the name of the training programme, the occupation/qualification code, the level of qualification, the access conditions, the objectives expressed in the competences, the duration, the training plan, the evaluation modalities, the curriculum, the necessary material, and financial and human resources.

The external evaluation for authorisation is conducted by two independent specialists appointed by the county authorisation commissions. The specialists are selected from the list drawn up each year of those whose training and experience are directly related to the occupation for which authorisation is requested.

Authorisation of a training programme is based on occupational standards and professional

training standards, recognised at national level and with a validity of four years.

Periodic monitoring of authorised training providers is carried out by two external specialists appointed by the county authorisation commission in the list of specialists drawn up annually. Legislation requires at least three monitoring visits during the four years that authorisation lasts.

The methodology for certification of adult vocational training includes procedures authorised vocational training providers to organise and conduct the adult vocational training programmes graduation examination; it also covers the procedures for issuing, managing and archiving certificates of qualification and graduation with national recognition. The examination committee includes two independent experts selected by the county authorisation commissions from the lists of specialists approved annually.

[57] Law No 87/2006.

[58] Before June 2018, two years (Government Emergency Ordinance No 48/2018).

[59] Until the programme is accredited, examinations and issuing diploma/certificates take place in another (accredited) school.

CHAPTER 12.

Validation of prior learning

Validation of prior learning is done through assessment centres. The centres are local private or public bodies authorised to conduct validation procedures, for one or more occupations, developed at national level.

Since 2000, legislation on the national system for validation of non-formal and informal learning has been gradually developed and put in place (60). The National Authority for Qualifications, through the newly established National Centre for Accreditation, (61) coordinates and monitors the validation process. The centre is a specialised structure within the authority responsible for:

- authorisation of the assessment centres and staff involved in validating non-formal and informal learning of adults;
- coordination of assessment centre activities;
- quality assurance;
- managing the national register of the authorised centres and national register of evaluators (evaluators of competences, evaluators of evaluators of competences, external evaluators).

The validation procedures consist of well-defined national standards, criteria and guidelines. The assessment centres develop their own assessment instruments, based on national occupational standards and/or training standards, to evaluate the candidates. They are responsible for providing validation services following specific requests by beneficiaries/candidates who can acquire full or partial qualifications at EQF levels 1, 2 and 3. Certificates of competences are nationally and internationally recognised. As part of the validation process, the centres offer information and counselling to the candidates. Currently, there are 37 fully functioning local assessment centres that can validate prior learning of candidates, mainly in services, construction and agriculture.

For more information about arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning please visit Cedefop's European database (62).

[60] Government Ordinance No129/2000, Article 45; Law of National Education No 1/2011, Article 340-34; Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour joint Order No 468/2004 on validation procedures; Ministry of Education Order No 3629/2018 on national register of evaluators.

[61] Government Emergency Ordinance No 49 of 26.6.2014.

[62] <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-visualisations/european-database-on-validation-of-non-formal-and-informal-learning>

CHAPTER 13.

Incentives for learners

Professional scholarship for 3-year professional programmes

The professional scholarship is a national social protection programme (63) that offers approximately EUR 43 (RON 200) per month for all 3-year professional programme learners. This scholarship can be combined with grants provided by training companies.

Dual VET allowance

In addition to a professional scholarship, dual VET learners receive at least approximately EUR 43 (RON 200) per month in allowances from the company where they undergo training. Companies also pay for work equipment for learners.

High school scholarship

High school scholarship is a national social protection programme that offers approximately EUR 54 (RON 250 since 2018/19) (64) 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.

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 under Law No 269/2004, granting financial aid based on social criteria. In 2020, based on students' formal requests and in compliance with the corresponding methodology, the Government spent on this measure 1 445 000 EUR (7 225 beneficiaries (65)) compared to EUR 2.6 million in 2018.

Local public transport

All formal education learners, including VET, benefit from free local public transport services (66) based on the student card issued by the education unit and stamped for that current school year.

[63] Government Decision No 951/2017.

[64] See the press release published on the Ministry of National Education portal: 114 million euros of European funds for education through 'High school money' and 'professional bursa' : <https://www.edu.ro/114-milioane-euro-fonduri-europene-pentru-educa%C8%9Bie-prin-%E2%80%9Ebani-de-liceu%E2%80%9D-%C8%99i-%E2%80%9Ebursa-profesional%C4%83%E2%80%9D?fbclid=IwAR2yMchXsNmQU2wS4iTeOlzKKIjUrwbpqVYgyc4Z58OKLeTyVJuKMwA3U>

CHAPTER 14.

Incentives for enterprises to boost their participation in VET provision

Apprenticeship and traineeship cost reimbursement

Employers who sign an apprenticeship (67) or traineeship (68) contract may apply for subsidies to the public employment service (69). They can receive approximately EUR 483 (RON 2 250) per month for each apprentice/trainee for the entire duration of the programme (6 months to three years in the case of apprenticeship programmes and 6 months in the case of traineeship). The subsidies are financed from the unemployment insurance budget or ESF.

Employers who employ graduates from initial education are eligible for a public employment service monthly grant of approximately EUR 483 (RON 2 250) for each graduate for a period of 12 or 18 months (70), provided the employment is not terminated during 18 months from its start.

Tax exemption

Authorised VET providers are exempt from paying value added tax (71) for training operations. Companies may also deduct the training costs from their taxable income (72).

[67] Law No 279/2005 on apprenticeship.

[68] Law No 335/2013 on the completion of the traineeship for graduates of higher education.

[69] ANOFM.

[70] 18 months for disabled people.

[71] Article 58 of Government Ordinance No 129/2000 on Adult Vocational Training.

[72] Article 47 of Government Ordinance No 129/2000 on Adult Vocational Training.

CHAPTER 15.

Guidance and counselling

Two main strands of guidance and counselling are available, embedded in the:

- education system (university and pre-university levels);
- labour market services (e.g. public employment service).

Guidance and counselling include:

- information necessary to plan, obtain and keep a job;
- education on careers;
- counselling that helps understand individual goals, aspirations and the skills needed to find a job.

The national education law stipulates that:

- in primary education, counselling is provided by the teacher in cooperation with parents and the school psychologist;
- in lower and upper secondary education, guidance and counselling is provided mainly by the pedagogical assistance offices in schools with more than 800 pupils;
- in higher education, guidance and counselling is provided by career guidance and counselling centres in universities to aid the transition of graduates from education to work.

Most guidance and counselling staff in the education system are psychologists, teachers, sociologists and social workers. They are trained by the psychology, educational sciences, sociology and social work faculties. Many also follow post-graduate training modules in counselling and guidance, psychotherapy, management and school administration.

The National Centre for Policies and Evaluation in Education (former Institute of Educational Sciences) supports counsellors through research, working tools and information/training sessions. It is also a member of the Euroguidance network.

Within the initial VET system, the National Centre for Vocational Education and Training Development supports career guidance and counselling activities, aiming to raise young students and their parents' awareness about the importance of such coordinated support to the development of a professional career for young students.. The *Job orientation - training in businesses and schools* (73) project offered training to learners enrolled in the last years of lower secondary education and the first years of technological and professional VET programmes to help make well-informed decisions when choosing the VET or general pathway. The target groups also included teachers and companies involved in VET who needed to meet the challenges of continuously changing labour markets.

The novelty in the approach to teaching is in using student-centred methods such as task-based learning, which places students in the centre of their own learning process by setting them clear tasks: identify, explore, ask questions, find answers, give solutions and seize and understand the interrelationships between life and work roles, work opportunities and career building processes.

Initially the project was piloted in two schools of one county (*judet*). In 2017, it expanded to 180

schools from 19 counties, involving more than 800 teachers and 9 000 pupils. The duration of the project has been extended until 2019.

Labour market services

County (*județ*) agencies for employment are responsible for guidance/counselling for the unemployed, older workers, young graduates, former convicts and ethnic minorities. They provide information about training and job opportunities to their target groups.

Employment agencies also draw up an individual job-matching plan for every jobseeker. Professional information and counselling is carried out in specialised centres, organised within the employment agencies, as well as by other centres and accredited public or private service suppliers, who conclude contracts with the employment agencies. With the consent of the employer, employees may benefit from guidance services for up to 3 months from accepting a new job.

Please also see:

- guidance and outreach Romania national report (74);
- Cedefop's labour market intelligence toolkit (75);
- Cedefop's inventory of lifelong guidance systems and practices (76).

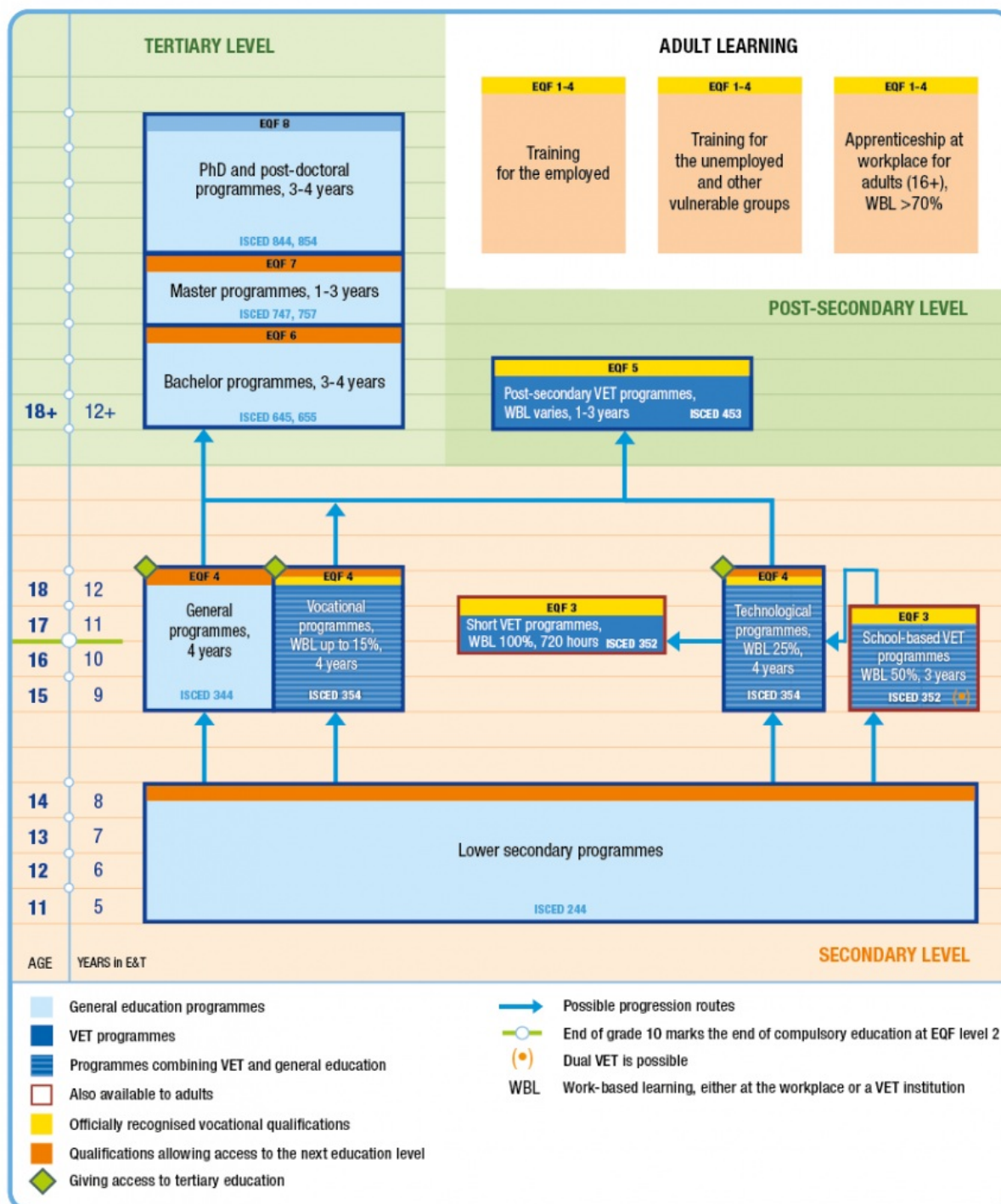
[73] www.jobsproject.ro

[74] <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/events-and-projects/networks/refernet/thematic-perspectives/guidance-outreach>

[75] <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/toolkits/resources-guidance/toolkit/where-can-you-find-more-information-in-your-country-and-elsewhere>

[76] <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/country-reports/inventory-lifelong-guidance-systems-and-practices>

Vocational education and training system chart









NB: ISCED-P 2011.

Source: Cedefop and ReferNet Romania, 2022.

VET Programme Types

EQF 3
School-based VET
Programmes,
WBL 50%,
3 years
ISCED 352

3-year school-based VET programmes, including the initial dual VET, leading to EQF level 3, ISCED 352 (învăţământ profesional)

EQF level	3	ISCED-P 2011 level	352
Usual entry grade	9	Usual completion grade	11
Usual entry age	15	Usual completion age	17
Length of a programme (years)	3		
Is it part of compulsory education and training?	 for grades 9 and 10 Grade 11 is not part of compulsory education.	Is it part of formal education and training system?	
Is it initial VET?		Is it continuing VET?	
Is it offered free of charge?		Is it available for adults?	
	Only in public schools, up to the age of 26		

ECVET or other credits Not applicable

Learning forms (e.g. dual, part-time, distance)

- daytime learning (most popular)
- work-based learning
- dual form

Main providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • school-based VET schools (also known as 'professional schools') or technological schools/colleges
Share of work-based learning provided by schools and companies	>=50% (77)
Work-based learning type (workshops at schools, in-company training / apprenticeships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • school workshops/laboratories • in-company training
Main target groups	Programmes are available for young people and also for adults.
Entry requirements for learners (qualification/education level, age)	<p>Lower secondary education certificate</p> <p>Minimum mark obtained in the national evaluation exam (at the end of grade 8).</p>
Assessment of learning outcomes	<p>Assessment is made based on the performance criteria in the training standard.</p> <p>Besides the formative assessment of work-based learning (portfolio of evidence and practical demonstration) and of classroom learning (combination of written and oral examination) learners need to pass a summative assessment at the end of the training programme.</p> <p>For impartiality and validity of this final examination, teachers are not allowed to assess their own students.</p> <p>The summative assessment for the certification of a qualification (EQF level 3) is performed by a team of external evaluators that form an independent examination committee including: director/deputy director of the VET school, vice-president who usually is a representative of social partners, evaluation members (representative from an employer in a related-field and a VET teacher from a school other than the one students come from). The certification exam consists of a practical test and the oral presentation of the final product.</p> <p>All the requirements and regulations (the general frame) for the assessment and certification of qualification in initial VET are set by the Ministry of National Education.</p> <p>Assessment is learning-outcomes-oriented, stands as the reference point in the certification and is also included in the training standards approved by the Ministry of Education.</p>

Diplomas/certificates provided	<p>Graduates receive a professional qualification certificate as 'skilled worker' if they pass the qualification certification exam. Specifically, they receive a qualifications certificate and, after passing a qualifications exam, a Europass supplement to the certificate.</p> <p>Graduates also receive a certificate attesting completion of compulsory education that allows access to the third year of EQF level 4 technological programmes.</p>
Examples of qualifications	Cook, welder, baker, carpenter
Progression opportunities for learners after graduation	<p>Graduates can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the labour market; • continue in the third year of EQF level 4 technological programmes.
Destination of graduates	Information not available
Awards through validation of prior learning	Information not available
General education subjects	

Key competences The Law of National education adopted all eight key competences within the curriculum for all learning programmes (general, vocational, technological and school-based VET programmes).

Initial VET programmes are delivered based on the general curriculum (common core for all learning programmes) and the training standards.

The training standards rely on the occupation standards.

The training standards are documents describing the competence units of a qualification that is an aggregated result of competences specific to one or more occupations, as defined by occupational standards.

In order to ensure the acquisition of the eight key competences, each training standard includes them to provide support for the general aim to ensure the personal and professional competence development of each learner.

Consequently, each training standard comprises:

- introduction: description of qualification, occupation(s) the standard leads to;
- list of competences as in occupational standard(s) or considering recommendations of the sectoral committees, company representatives or other interested parties;
- learning outcomes units (a learning unit consists of a coherent set of learning outcomes) for the qualification:
 - general (e.g. maths, language, sciences). They are common for all qualifications in the main three domains of initial VET (technical, services, agriculture and environment protection)
 - occupational / specialised learning outcomes. they are specific for each qualification supporting labour market immediate responsiveness.
 - they integrate the eight key competences
 - communication in mother tongue (Romanian);
 - communication in foreign language;
 - mathematic competences and basic competences in science and technology;
 - digital competence;
 - learning to learn;
 - social and civic competence;
 - sense of initiative and entrepreneurship.

Based on the type of qualification, some of these competences are strongly emphasised, others are transversal throughout the learning/teaching process and based on the teaching methods (work in pairs, project-based tasks, scenarios for marketing, role play);

- minimum equipment requirements for each learning outcome unit;
- assessment standard for each learning outcome unit.

Application of learning outcomes approach	Initial VET programme is learning-outcomes-oriented and is based on the training standards that include this approach.
Share of learners in this programme type compared with the total number of VET learners	27.68% (78)

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- [77] This is an average. Work-based learning is distributed as follows: 20% in the first year, 58% in the second and 72% in the third.
- [78] Combined and calculated data based on INS, internal data NCTVETD and Yearly Report on Progress on Education <https://edu.ro/rapoarte-publice-periodice> (please see table regarding Participation in Initial VET)

EQF 4







Technological programmes,

WBL 25%,


4 years

ISCED 354

4-year technological programmes leading to EQF level 4, ISCED 354 (liceu tehnologic).

EQF level	4	ISCED-P 2011 level	354
Usual entry grade	9	Usual completion grade	12
Usual entry age	15	Usual completion age	18
Length of a programme (years)	4 (79)		
Is it part of compulsory education and training?	 for grades 9 and 10 Grades 11 and 12 are not part of compulsory education.		Is it part of formal education and training system? 
Is it initial VET?			Is it continuing VET? 
Is it offered free of charge?	 Only in public schools, up to the age of 26		Is it available for adults? 
ECVET or other credits	Not applicable		
Learning forms (e.g. dual, part-time, distance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • daytime learning (most popular); • evening classes; • work-based learning. 		
Main providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technological high schools • colleges 		
Share of work-based learning provided by schools and companies	>=25%		

Work-based learning type (workshops at schools, in-company training / apprenticeships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical training at school • in-company practice
Main target groups	Programmes are available for young people.
Entry requirements for learners (qualification/education level, age)	<p>Lower secondary education certificate</p> <p>Minimum mark obtained in the national evaluation exam (at the end of grade 8).</p>
Assessment of learning outcomes	<p>Assessment is made based on the performance criteria in the training standard.</p> <p>Besides the formative assessment of work-based learning (portfolio of evidence and practical demonstration) and of classroom learning (combination of written and oral examination) learners need to pass a summative assessment at the end of the training programme.</p> <p>For impartiality and validity of this final examination, teachers are not allowed to assess their own students.</p> <p>The summative assessment for the certification of a qualification is performed by a team of external evaluators that form an independent examination committee including: director/deputy director of the VET school, vice-president who usually is a representative of social partners, evaluation members (representative from an employer in a related-field and a VET teacher from a school other than the one students come from). The certification exam for qualification (EQF level 4) consists of elaboration and presentation of a project (which may include also the practical elaboration of a product).</p> <p>All the requirements and regulations (the general frame) for the assessment and certification of qualification in initial VET are set by the Ministry of National Education.</p> <p>Assessment is learning-outcomes-oriented, stands as the reference point in the certification, and is also included in the training standards that are approved by the education ministry.</p>
Diplomas/certificates provided	<p>Graduates receive an upper secondary school-leaving diploma (baccalaureate diploma, if they undertake and pass the examination) and the EQF level 4 'technician' qualification certificate (if they pass the qualification certification exam) in services, natural resources and environmental protection, and technical study fields. Specifically, they receive a qualifications certificate and, after passing a qualifications examination, a Europass supplement to the certificate.</p>
Examples of qualifications	Technician in gastronomy, industrial design technician, computing technical supervisor, furniture designer.

<p>Progression opportunities for learners after graduation</p>	<p>Graduates can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the labour market; • enrol in higher education after passing the baccalaureate examination; • opt out after completing the first two years of the programme (80), and enrol in a short VET programme (ISCED level 352) offering a professional qualification only.
<p>Destination of graduates</p>	<p>Information not available</p>
<p>Awards through validation of prior learning</p>	<p>Information not available</p>
<p>General education subjects</p>	<p></p>

Key competences The Law of National education adopted all eight key competences within the curriculum for all learning programmes (general, vocational, technological and school-based VET programmes).

Initial VET programmes are delivered based on the general curriculum (common core for all learning programmes) and the training standards.

The training standards are documents describing the competence units of a qualification that is an aggregated result of competences specific to one or more occupations, as defined by occupational standards.

In order to ensure the acquisition of the eight key competences, each training standard includes them as support; the general aim is to ensure the personal and professional competence development of each learner.

Consequently, each training standard comprises:

- introduction: description of qualification, occupation(s) the standard leads to;
 - list of competences as in occupational standard(s) or considering recommendations of the sectoral committees, company representatives or other interested parties;
 - learning outcomes units (a learning unit consists of a coherent set of learning outcomes) for the qualification:
 - general (e.g. maths, language, sciences). They are common for all qualifications in the main three domains of initial VET (technical, services, natural resources and environment protection);
 - occupational / specialised learning outcomes. They are specific for each qualification supporting labour market immediate responsiveness;
 - they integrate the eight key competences
 - communication in Romanian;
 - communication in foreign language;
 - mathematic competences and basic competences in science and technology;
 - digital competence;
 - learning to learn;
 - social and civic competence;
 - sense of initiative and entrepreneurship. Based on the type of qualification, some of these competences are strongly emphasised, others are transversal throughout the learning/teaching process and based on the teaching methods (work in pairs, project-based tasks, scenarios for marketing, role play).
 - minimum equipment requirements for each learning outcome unit;
 - assessment standard for each learning outcome unit.
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Application of learning outcomes approach	All learning programmes in the pre-university system, including initial VET, are learning-outcomes-oriented and rely on the general curriculum documents; the initial VET training standards that is structured accordingly.
Share of learners in this programme type compared with the total number of VET learners	47.63% of the total number of VET learners in 2020/21 (total number of VET learners includes all learners at initial VET upper secondary and post-secondary education levels),

[80] Lower cycle, part of compulsory education.

EQF 3

Short VET
programmes,
WBL 100%,
720 hours
ISCED 352

Short VET programmes leading to EQF level 3, ISCED 352 (stagii de practica)

EQF level	3	ISCED-P 2011 level	352
Usual entry grade	It takes place after grade 10. But it is not considered as part of grade 11.	Usual completion grade	After grade 10 (for 6 months)
Usual entry age	17	Usual completion age	17
Length of a programme (years)	6 months		
Is it part of compulsory education and training?	✗	Is it part of formal education and training system?	✓
Is it initial VET?	✓	Is it continuing VET?	✗
Is it offered free of charge?	✓	Is it available for adults?	✓
	Only in public schools, up to the age of 26		
ECVET or other credits	Not applicable		
Learning forms (e.g. dual, part-time, distance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work-based learning 		
Main providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employers (81) • school-based VET schools (also known as 'professional schools') 		
Share of work-based learning provided by schools and companies	100% (82)		

Work-based learning type (workshops at schools, in-company training / apprenticeships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical training at school • in-company practice
Main target groups	Programmes are available for young people and for young and early leavers from education and training.
Entry requirements for learners (qualification/education level, age)	<p>Students must have completed two years of a technological programme (completed grade 10).</p> <p>Young and adult early leavers from education and training can also access these programmes after completing a second chance programme.</p>
Assessment of learning outcomes	Certification of qualifications at EQF level 3 includes elaboration and presentation of a practical test (which may include also the practical elaboration of a product).
Diplomas/certificates provided	Graduates receive a professional qualification certificate at EQF level 3 (if they pass the qualification certification exam).
Examples of qualifications	Cook
Progression opportunities for learners after graduation	Graduates can access the labour market.
Destination of graduates	Information not available
Awards through validation of prior learning	Information not available
General education subjects	✗
Key competences	<p>✓</p> <p>Some key competences are more emphasised, highly dependent on the qualification to be achieved.</p>
Application of learning outcomes approach	<p>✓</p> <p>All initial VET programmes are learning-outcomes-oriented and practical training greatly relies on the acquisition of learning outcomes.</p>
Share of learners in this programme type compared with the total number of VET learners	Information not available

[81] VET schools coordinate the programmes.

[82] I.e. 720 hours of work-based learning.

EQF 4







Vocational programmes,

WBL up to 15%,

4 years

ISCED 354

4-year vocational programmes leading to EQF level 4, ISCED 354 (liceu vocațional) (pedagogy, arts, music, sports, theology, military)

EQF level	4	ISCED-P 2011 level	354
Usual entry grade	9	Usual completion grade	12
Usual entry age	15	Usual completion age	18
Length of a programme (years)	4		
Is it part of compulsory education and training?	 Compulsory education is 11 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• preparatory grade and primary education (grades 1-4),• lower secondary education (grades 5-8) and• the first 2 years of upper secondary education (grades 9-10).	Is it part of formal education and training system?	
Is it initial VET?		Is it continuing VET?	
Is it offered free of charge?	 Only in public schools, up to the age of 26	Is it available for adults?	
ECVET or other credits	Not applicable		
Learning forms (e.g. dual, part-time, distance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• daytime learning (most popular)• practical learning in similar learning context / work-based learning		

Main providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high school • colleges
Share of work-based learning provided by schools and companies	<=15%
Work-based learning type (workshops at schools, in-company training / apprenticeships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical training at school • practice in institutions related to vocational domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for those studying theology, for example, they go in a church and perform specific activities; • for those enrolled in military schools they go to military departments/units and perform specific, practical tasks.
Main target groups	Programmes are available for young people.
Entry requirements for learners (qualification/education level, age)	Lower secondary education certificate Minimum mark obtained at the national evaluation exam (at the end of grade 8).
Assessment of learning outcomes	Project-based assessment
Diplomas/certificates provided	Graduates receive a professional qualification certificate in military, theology, sports, arts and pedagogy (if they pass the qualification certification exam) as well as an upper secondary school-leaving diploma, the baccalaureate diploma, if they enrol and pass the exam (the baccalaureate exam is not compulsory, but only after passing this exam learners may enrol in higher education/university programmes).
Examples of qualifications	Pedagogue, librarian, sports instructor, etc.
Progression opportunities for learners after graduation	Graduates can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the labour market; • enrol in higher education after passing the baccalaureate examination.
Destination of graduates	Information not available
Awards through validation of prior learning	Information not available
General education subjects	✓
Key competences	✓ Some key competences are more emphasised, highly dependent on the qualification to be achieved.

**Application of learning
outcomes approach**



All initial VET programmes are learning-outcomes-oriented and practical training greatly relies on the acquisition of learning outcomes.

**Share of learners in
this programme type
compared with the
total number of VET
learners**

7.48% (83)

[83] Combined and calculated data based on INS, internal data NCTVETD and Yearly Report on Progress on Education <https://edu.ro/rapoarte-publice-periodice> (please see table regarding Participation in Initial VET)

EQF 5

Post-secondary

VET programmes,

WBL varies,

1-3 years

ISCED 453

1- to 3-year higher VET programmes leading to a professional qualification at EQF level 5, ISCED 453

EQF level	5	ISCED-P 2011 level	453
Usual entry grade	12+	Usual completion grade	12+
Usual entry age	18+	Usual completion age	18+
Length of a programme (years)	1-3		
Is it part of compulsory education and training?	✗	Is it part of formal education and training system?	✓
Is it initial VET?	✓	Is it continuing VET?	✗
Is it offered free of charge?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State budget financed/free of charge • some are based on fees 		Is it available for adults? ✓
ECVET or other credits	Not applicable		
Learning forms (e.g. dual, part-time, distance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • daytime learning • evening classes • work-based learning 		
Main providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technological schools; • colleges/universities (84) (85). 		
Share of work-based learning provided by schools and companies	Varies		

Work-based learning type (workshops at schools, in-company training / apprenticeships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical training at school • in-company practice
Main target groups	Secondary school graduates
Entry requirements for learners (qualification/education level, age)	Secondary school graduation; the baccalaureate certificate is not required.
Assessment of learning outcomes	<p>To complete a post-secondary VET programme, learners need to pass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a written examination; • a practical examination; • project-based assessment. <p>All these steps form the examination for the professional qualification (EQF level 5).</p> <p>All forms of examinations are learning-outcomes-oriented.</p>
Diplomas/certificates provided	<p>Professional qualification certificate EQF level 5 (specialised technician) (if they pass the examination) and the descriptive supplement of the certificate based on Europass.</p> <p>https://www.edu.ro/invatamant-postliceal</p>
Examples of qualifications	Nursing and pharmacy, optician, analyst programmer, meteorologist.
Progression opportunities for learners after graduation	Graduates can access the labour market.
Destination of graduates	Information not available
Awards through validation of prior learning	Information not available

General education subjects	✗	<p>However, some general subjects may be part of these programmes and are usually strongly related to the domain. For example, for the qualification as general medical assistant the training standard includes theoretical subjects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anatomy or elements of bio-chemistry that are taught in a more in-depth/specialised manner. Yet, anatomy, biology, chemistry are also taught in high school, as part of general education subjects; • general psychology and also medical psychology, because they are necessary in their future work to know how to address patients; • elements of sociology, because they are necessary in their future work to know how to address patients; • communication in foreign language; • statistics/informatics/digital competences. <p>Other features are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • postsecondary education relies also on the training standards; • the training standards are learning-outcomes-oriented; • the eight key competences are integrated in the training standards throughout the learning outcomes units/modules.
Key competences	✓	<p>Some key competences are more emphasised, highly dependent on the qualification to be achieved; some of them are transversal.</p>
Application of learning outcomes approach	✓	<p>All initial VET programmes are based on training standards and are learning-outcomes-oriented; practical training greatly relies on the acquisition of learning outcomes.</p>
Share of learners in this programme type compared with the total number of VET learners		<p>24.67% of the total VET population (including 3-year school and work-based programme, 4-year technological programme, postsecondary education programme) in 2020/21</p>

- [84] Colleges and universities provide the programmes under independent departments. These departments are called post-secondary high schools.
- [85] Both provide the programmes at the request of companies or learners.

EQF 1 to 4

Training
for the employed

Training for the employed, leading to a qualification at EQF level 1 to 4

EQF level	1 to 4	ISCED-P 2011 level	Information not available
Usual entry grade	Not applicable	Usual completion grade	Not applicable
Usual entry age	16+	Usual completion age	Not applicable
Length of a programme (years)	<p>The duration depends on the EQF level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for EQF level 1: minimum 180 hours; • for EQF level 2: minimum 360 hours; • for EQF level 3: minimum 720 hours; • for EQF level 4: minimum 1 080 hours. <p>For participants that already have the necessary set of skills, the duration of the programme may be reduced by up to 50% following initial assessment.</p>		
Is it part of compulsory education and training?	✗	Is it part of formal education and training system?	✗
Is it initial VET?	✗	Is it continuing VET?	✓
Is it offered free of charge?	✗ (usually) Some of them are free of charge; depends on the employer if he takes over the costs and then if he requires the employee to perform activities for a minimum period of time.	Is it available for adults?	✓
ECVET or other credits		Not applicable.	
Learning forms (e.g. dual, part-time, distance)		• adult training courses	

Main providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorised private and public training organisations / employers • individuals (trainers for adults (86)) acting as vocational training providers
Share of work-based learning provided by schools and companies	>=67%
Work-based learning type (workshops at schools, in-company training / apprenticeships)	In-company practice/training
Main target groups	Employees
Entry requirements for learners (qualification/education level, age)	Age 16+
Assessment of learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical tests or other types of assessment.
Diplomas/certificates provided	Qualification and graduation certificates (87)
Examples of qualifications	Information not available
Progression opportunities for learners after graduation	Graduates can access the labour market (it is more for upskilling/reskilling)
Destination of graduates	Information not available
Awards through validation of prior learning	Information not available
General education subjects	✗ (88)
Key competences	Key competences may be integrated/transversal.
Application of learning outcomes approach	Adult learning programmes are learning-outcomes-oriented.
Share of learners in this programme type compared with the total number of VET learners	Information not available

[86] *Formatori de adulti.*

[87] Graduation certificates are issued at the end of around 40-hour specialisation programmes that do not provide learners with new qualification(s).

[88] There are some exceptions.

EQF 1 to 4

Training
for the unemployed
and other vulnerable groups

Training for the unemployed and other vulnerable groups, leading to a qualification at EQF level 1 to 4

EQF level	1 to 4	ISCED-P 2011 level	Not applicable
Usual entry grade	Not applicable	Usual completion grade	Not applicable
Usual entry age	16+	Usual completion age	Not applicable
Length of a programme (years)	<p>The duration depends on the EQF level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for EQF level 1: minimum 180 hours; • for EQF level 2: minimum 360 hours; • for EQF level 3: minimum 720 hours; • for EQF level 4: minimum 1 080 hours. <p>For participants that already have the necessary set of skills, the duration of the programme may be reduced by up to 50% following initial assessment.</p>		
Is it part of compulsory education and training?	✗	Is it part of formal education and training system?	✗
Is it initial VET?	✗	Is it continuing VET?	✓
Is it offered free of charge?	✓	Is it available for adults?	✓
	(provided through the National Agency for Employment and its territorial units, one in each of the 42 counties)		

ECVET or other credits Not applicable

Learning forms (e.g. dual, part-time, distance)	Specialised theoretical knowledge (lectures) and practical training. The duration depends on the EQF level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for EQF level 1: minimum 180 hours; • for EQF level 2: minimum 360 hours; • for EQF level 3: minimum 720 hours; • for EQF level 4: minimum 1 080 hours.
Main providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorised private and public training organisations; • individuals (trainers for adults (89)) acting as vocational training providers.
Share of work-based learning provided by schools and companies	>=67%
Work-based learning type (workshops at schools, in-company training / apprenticeships)	Information not available
Main target groups	Unemployed and other vulnerable groups
Entry requirements for learners (qualification/education level, age)	There are no minimum entry requirements for education and training, but learners must be at least 16 years old to enrol.
Assessment of learning outcomes	Written test and practical training (portfolios)
Diplomas/certificates provided	Qualification and graduation certificates (90).
Examples of qualifications	Qualified worker in various economic fields
Progression opportunities for learners after graduation	Graduates can access the labour market.
Destination of graduates	Information not available
Awards through validation of prior learning	Information not available
General education subjects	X (91)
Key competences	Key competences may be integrated.
Application of learning outcomes approach	These programmes are learning-outcomes-oriented.
Share of learners in this programme type compared with the total number of VET learners	Information not available

[89] *Formatori de adulti.*

[90] Graduation certificates are issued at the end of around 40-hour specialisation





programmes that do not provide learners with new qualification(s).

[91] There are some exceptions.

EQF 1 to 4

Apprenticeship
at workplace
for adults (16+),
WBL >70%

Apprenticeship at workplace for adults, leading to a qualification at EQF level 1 to 4

EQF level	1 to 4	ISCED-P 2011 level	Information not available
Usual entry grade	Not applicable	Usual completion grade	Not applicable
Usual entry age	16+	Usual completion age	Not applicable
Length of a programme (years)	<p>The duration depends on the EQF level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for EQF level 1: minimum 180 hours; • for EQF level 2: minimum 360 hours; • for EQF level 3: minimum 720 hours; • for EQF level 4: minimum 1 080 hours. <p>For participants that already have the necessary set of skills, the duration of the programme may be reduced by up to 50% following initial assessment.</p>		
Is it part of compulsory education and training?		Is it part of formal education and training system?	
Is it initial VET?		Is it continuing VET?	

Is it offered free of charge?	<p>Apprenticeship is free of charge for the apprentice.</p> <p>The apprentices conclude an apprenticeship contract with an employer and are remunerated while learning and working at the workplace.</p> <p>The apprenticeship scheme is based on a special type of labour contract supporting work and vocational training at the workplace. Employers may apply for the public employment service subsidy of EUR~483 per month (RON 2250) for each apprentice for up to three years (the duration of the apprenticeship programme) from the unemployment insurance budget or ESF.</p> <p>Training periods alternate with working time allocated for the tasks specified in the job description; the practical training of the apprentice is performed under the guidance and supervision of the training provider.</p>	Is it available for adults?	
ECVET or other credits	No credit system in adult learning		
Learning forms (e.g. dual, part-time, distance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apprenticeship at workplace 		
Main providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorised private and public training organisations / employers • individuals (trainers for adults (92)) acting as vocational training providers 		
Share of work-based learning provided by schools and companies	>=70		
Work-based learning type (workshops at schools, in-company training / apprenticeships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in-company practice 		
Main target groups	Adults (16+), the unemployed and early leavers from education and training		
Entry requirements for learners (qualification/education level, age)	For each qualification level there are minimum entry requirements, but learners must be at least 16 years old.		
Assessment of learning outcomes	Learners need to undertake a final, written examination and practical test in order to pass the professional qualification examination.		
Diplomas/certificates provided	Qualification and graduation certificates (93)		
Examples of qualifications	Cook		
Progression opportunities for learners after graduation	Graduates can access the labour market.		
Destination of graduates	Information not available		

Awards through validation of prior learning	Information not available
General education subjects	✗ (94)
Key competences	Key competences may be integrated.
Application of learning outcomes approach	These programmes are learning-outcomes-oriented.
Share of learners in this programme type compared with the total number of VET learners	Information not available

[92] *Formatori de adulti.*

[93] Graduation certificates are issued at the end of around 40-hour specialisation programmes that do not provide learners with new qualification(s).

[94] There are some exceptions.

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