2018

The Ministry of National Education continues the reforms in the field of education and training, in order to ensure an education adapted to the labour market requirements and focused on personal and social development.

Consolidation of the professional and technical education

The 2018 Action Plan for the implementation of the Vocational Education and Training Strategy in Romania in the period 2015-2020 and the report on the implementation of the 2017 Action Plan thereof were drawn-up.

To implement the programmes in the initial professional training system, the implementation of the Master-plan for the period 2015-2020 was agreed.

The Applicant's guide for the project Training the entrepreneurial skills - VET, from POCU and National Budget funding, has been completed. The general objective of the project is to improve the utility of the education and training systems for the labour market by developing the entrepreneurial skills in the secondary and vocational education and by facilitating the pupils’ transition from education to the labour market.

The National Competition Business Plan takes place annually, in partnership with the local public authorities, national or foreign higher education institutions and research institutions, non-governmental organizations, economic agents, employer associations from the economic fields for which vocational training is organised. In the competition Business Plan 2018, 301 practice firms have engaged in the local phase, with more 900 students.

The Ministry of National Education has submitted to the Ministry of European Funds the proposal for a project and a guide for the non-competitive project Systemic development of vocational and technical education in accordance with the needs of social and economic development at national, regional and local level, a project containing a component aimed at the development of entrepreneurship in Romania, with a view to the following:

- Development and improvement of the teaching-learning methods of teachers in vocational and technical education for the development of entrepreneurial skills – 6,100 trained teachers.

- Development of students’ entrepreneurial skills – 61,000 participants in the activities carried out for developing entrepreneurial skills.
Introduction of the dual professional education

Dual vocational education was introduced, where students benefit from vocational scholarships (200 lei – from the state budget) and from employers (between 200 and 600 de lei), as well as other facilities. In the 2018/2019 school year, there are 4110 students.

Through OMEN No 4798/2017, it was approved the **Agreement for the practical training of students in dual education**. The role of this contract is to ensure a quality training provision, so as graduates may be employed according to their level of education and the qualification they are awarded.

2017

The Ministry of National Education continues the reforms in the field of education and training, in order to ensure an education adapted to the labour market requirements and focused on personal and social development.

The year 2017 is dedicated to the promotion of the vocational and technical education in Romania.

Introduction of the dual professional education

OUG 81/23.11.2016 concerning the amending and supplementing the Law of National Education No. 1/2011 for supporting the dual education was adopted; tax incentives were introduced for the partner companies. The Fiscal Code was also supplemented by introducing the deductibility of the professional training costs for the companies supporting the dual vocational education.

The staff of the school inspectorates, of the vocational and technical education units, respectively the secondary education units was trained about the modality of organizing and functioning of the dual education.

The consultative partnership structures for the vocational and technical education units and those of the economic operators have been informed with regard to the stages of setting up the study teams in the dual education and the calendar for organizing and carrying out the admission in the dual education.

The National Centre for the Development of Vocational Education and Training is reorganised so as to include the field of entrepreneurship education, while the draft strategy to foster dual education is currently in the development phase. It was approved the **Agreement for the practical training of students in dual education**. The role of this contract is to ensure a quality training provision, so as graduates may be employed according to their level of education and the qualification they are awarded.

A number of 106 classes of dual education have been formed. It was approved the **Framework for the organisation and the timetable of the admission to public vocational education and dual education in the 2018/2019 school year**.

For the school year 2017-2018 a number of 3,466 places in classes/groups of dual education have been offered by companies.

According to the OMEN provisions No. 3556/2017 on the approval of the Framework methodology for the organization and carrying out of the admission in the dual education for level 3 professional qualifications and of the Calendar of admission in the level 3 state dual professional education, the admission is performed in two stages (July 2017 and September 2017, respectively).

Proposals of non-competitive projects

Increasing the relevance of the initial professional training by anticipating the professional
training needs for the labour market and developing the learning component at the workplace
(dual vocational and technical education) – POCU and National Budget funding. The following are aimed: the development of the mechanisms for anticipating the competences required on the labour market, the definition of the professional profiles, in order to develop/revise the qualifications in accordance with the relevant skills and the knowledge for the labour market needs and the adjustment of the education programmes to the labour market needs and trends.

Consolidation of the professional and technical education

By ministerial order, the year 2017 was declared the Year of the vocational and technical education. The order includes a Measure Plan with actions for promoting the vocational and technical education.

In the school year 2016-2017, for a number of 79,954 pupils registered in the vocational education in grades IX-XI, the practical training is carried out at a number of 6,680 companies.

By the OMEN order No. 3554/2017, the Methodology for organizing and functioning of the dual professional education was approved.

To implement the programmes in the initial professional training system, the implementation of the Master-plan for the period 2015-2020 was launched.

Projects supporting the measure

The Projects Erasmus+ Support for the National Point of Reference for quality assurance in the education and the professional training - 2016 and 2017, aim to: (1) elaborate a compendium of good practices for promoting the visibility and attractiveness of the vocational and technical education; (2) develop an institutional Guide for quality assurance in the initial professional training.

The Project Interreg Danube Transnational Programme “Learning by Doing” aims to perform transferable and accessible tools for the partner countries in order to support the vocational and technical educational in the Danube Region.

Proposals of non-competitive projects

Training the entrepreneurial skills through the training firm/simulated company – POCU and National Budget funding. The general objective of the project is to improve the utility of the education and training systems for the labour market by developing the entrepreneurial skills in the secondary and vocational education and by facilitating the pupils' transition from education to the labour market.

2016

The Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research continues the reforms in the field of education and training, in order to ensure an education adapted to the labour market requirements and focused on personal and social development.

Curricular policies

With regard to the professional and technical education (IPT), OMECS No. 5293/2015 for approving the structure of the professional training standard in the professional and technical education was endorsed. Subsequently, 200 standards of professional training for level 3 and 4 qualifications were approved.

A new Curriculum for grade 9, technological high school education and for vocational and technical education was elaborated.
Consolidation of the professional and technical education

The normative framework regarding the organization and functioning of the dual vocational education was supplemented in the Government meeting of the 16th of October 2016, by an Emergency Ordinance updating the relevant regulations, in the Law of National Education, regarding:

- the duration of studies for the dual vocational education will be 3 years and will allow the access to a various range of quality professional training opportunities for secondary education graduates (which the local offer, especially in the small towns, cannot cover)

- the graduates of this form of education will acquire knowledge, skills and competences which will allow them to fill a position for level 3, 4 and 5 professional qualifications according to the National Qualifications Framework

- the modality of settling the transportation expenses and the facilities regarding the free accommodation and meal which are granted to the pupils attending the dual education in other locality than the one in which they reside, regardless of the education and professional training offer available in the residence locality

- the possibility of the professional education/dual education graduates to continue the studies in the high school education

- granting fiscal facilities to the economic operators interested in professional qualification programmes (the companies that will get involved in a better professional training of the youth).

Concerning the consolidation of the professional and technical education, especially of the learning component at the workplace, the feasibility study Terms of reference for introducing dual/apprenticeship-type of programmes in the initial professional training in Romania was completed. Based on the study, a preliminary version of the Master plan for the period 2015-2020 for implementing the recommendations of the feasibility study was elaborated, with a view to implement the dual/apprenticeship education-type of programmes in the initial professional training system.

Also in order to strengthen the vocational and technical education, especially the learning component at the work place the concept document “Options of education and professional training of VIII grade graduates” has been launched in public consultation, in order to introduce the professional path and to create a complete route of training in dual-vocational system, so that the pupils’ training should be provided, after completing the VIII grade, for professional qualifications up to level 5, inclusively (path directed to the immediate needs of the labour market).

Until the end of the II quarter/2017 the completion of the documents by which the vocational dual education will be regulated and implemented is wished (including the definition of the professional training contract in dual system by the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research together with the companies interested in this type of professional training).

National Registry of Qualifications in Romania

Government Decision concerning the establishment of the National Registry of Qualifications in Romania is included in the Government’s Annual Work Plan (PALG 2016) and its term assumed by the National
Authority for Qualifications (ANC) is IVth quarter 2016.

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