



Youth Wiki national description

Youth policies in Romania

2017

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ROMANIA

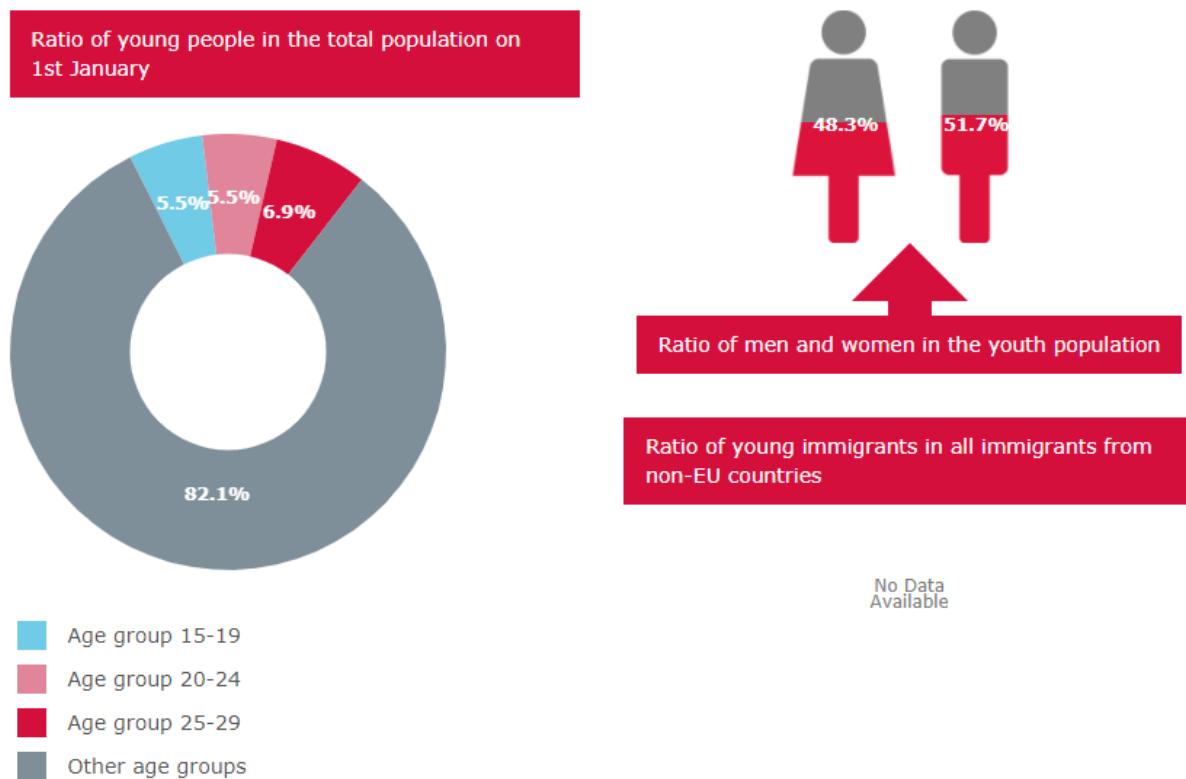
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Overview

Young People in Romania



Total number of young people: 3 520 009

References:

- Ratio (%) of young people in the total population (2016): Eurostat, yth_demo_020 [data extracted on 21/09/2017].
- Absolute number of young people on 1 January for the age group 15-29 (2016): Eurostat, yth_demo_010 [data extracted on 21/09/2017].
- Ratio (%) of men and women in the youth population (2016): Eurostat, yth_demo_020 [data extracted on 21/09/2017].
- Young immigrants from non-EU countries (2015): Eurostat, yth_demo_070 [data extracted on 21/09/2017].

Youth Policy in Romania

In Romania, the responsibility for youth policy is divided between the central level authorities and the local authorities. Within the limits of the [Youth Law](#), the local authorities are free to develop initiatives, and there is seldom coordination at national level. Moreover, one of the most important instruments used for the implementation of the youth policy, by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, but also by the Ministry of Culture and National Identity, is the allocation of grants for small projects of youth NGOs. On the other hand, the county offices for youth and sports, the cultural student centres, as well as the county offices for culture, the cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and National Identity, the Universities and to some extent the schools have a large degree of autonomy in establishing their activities and calendars in working with the young people. While this strategy ensures the accessibility to youth work of a large number of young people from many regions, cities, towns and villages, the whole national territory is not covered in the same manner and in fact the level of accessibility to youth work the young people varies largely across the country. The national coordination is made more difficult by the absence of strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the field of youth policies.

While a dedicated institution for youth policy, the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#), has been established in 1990, youth policy measures are scattered through other policy domains such as education, social affairs and culture. Since 2001, strategic documents in the field of youth, including the current [National Strategy in Field of Youth Policy 2015-2020](#) are reuniting youth policy general and operational objectives. However, the National Strategy in Field of Youth Policy 2015-2020 lacks an action plan, clear budget allocations and a monitoring plan. Therefore coordination between top-level authorities responsible for the youth policy is not systematic, and their lack control over the timely and full implementation of actions to meet the established objectives.

1. Youth Policy Governance

Taking into account the objectives of the [National Youth Strategy](#) (as presented in [section 1.3 National Youth Strategy](#)), Romanian youth policy includes measures in the field of education, culture, volunteering, public and political participation, sports, health, leisure, employment, entrepreneurship and social inclusion. While the Ministry of Youth and Sports is the main top-level responsible authority in the field of youth, only five of the main priorities of the youth policy are in its direct responsibility. These themes are: (1) Non-formal learning; (2) Youth volunteering; (3) Youth public and political participation; (3) Youth sport; (4) Youth leisure.

In none of the other policy fields the youth is not central and there are very few policy measures directly dedicated to young people, as presented in the following chapters. The Youth Strategy was developed according to a cross-sectorial approach. However, in the absence of an action plan of the Youth Strategy the interventions planned by different ministries are isolated.

For all these policy initiatives, the main information sources on the Romanian youth are the Youth Barometers commissioned by the Ministry every two years, as presented in [section 1.6 Evidence-based Youth Policy](#).

1.1 Target population of youth policy

The Romanian Youth Law ([Legea Tineretului](#)) defines the age limits for the youth from 14 to 35.

The National Strategy on Social Inclusion and against poverty 2015-2020 ([Strategia Națională privind incluziunea socială și combaterea sărăciei pentru perioada 2015-2020](#)) and the National Strategy on Employment 2014-2020 ([Strategie Naționale pentru Ocuparea Forței de Muncă 2014-2020](#)) define youth between 15 and 24 for some of the measures to encourage employment in connection with the labour legislation and taking into account the statistics available.

1.2 National youth law

Existence of a National Youth Law

Romania has a Youth Law: Law no. 350/2006, adopted by the Parliament and published in the Official Journal of Romania on July 27th 2006 ([Lege nr. 350 din 21/07/2006 Legea Tinerilor](#)) The law is available online (*in Romanian*) on a web platform developed by the Ministry of Justice to make publically available the most important legal documents in Romania.

Scope and contents

Summary

The Youth Law 350/2006 is the main document that sets the youth policy framework in Romania. The document is clarifying the terminology defining the age of young people

(14-35), the youth activity as well as the responsibilities of central and local authorities in the field of youth policy.

The Youth Law defines the youth non-governmental organisations in Romania: organisations having young people as members (over 50%) or organisations aiming at supporting and promoting rights of young people.

The state authorities are responsible for developing programmes that would ensure the social inclusion of young people. The law establishes rights and facilities for young people in several domains:

- Education
- Culture
- Research
- Health
- Economy (facilities for young entrepreneurs)
- Housing
- Employment
- Volunteering

A special section of the Youth Law is dedicated to financing the youth activities in Romania. The local and county authorities have to create a special fund for youth activities and they have to support youth groups and youth NGOs by providing space (if the local infrastructure exists) for youth projects.

Rights and obligations of young people

According to the principles set in Article 4 of the Youth Law, youth people have the right to:

- be part of the decision making processes, especially when the decisions affects them
- participate in public life and taking individual responsibility
- be beneficiaries of support and counselling regarding their education, their economic and cultural life
- participate in education, instruction and professional training
- access information and the information technology
- volunteer for any cause they chose or participate in mobility projects
- be beneficiaries of programmes promoting intercultural dialogue and combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance

According to the law, the state authorities are stimulating the youth entrepreneurship initiatives through offering financial support and guaranteeing their right to consultancy services to start-up a business especially to the rural youth and to youth coming from geographically isolated areas.

The law provides that any young people has the right to access the resources of the public libraries, while vulnerable youth has free access to university education. Also, the state structures have to provide opportunities for talented young researchers.

Young people enrolled in formal education are entitled to free medical services.

Young people and young families are entitled to family planning services as well as to preferential bank loans and priority to social housing. In order to reduce the risk factors, the state authorities are obliged to develop programmes aiming at preventing and reducing the consumption of alcohol and drugs and to offering medical treatment and promoting the social reinsertion of young people. The relevant stakeholders in the field of youth are to offer young offenders and young people that were part of educational and medical restorative programmes support for their social and professional reinsertion.

Key policy domains

The key policy domains relevant for the youth policy field and defined by the Youth Law are the following:

- Youth participation - all the youth policy measures and programmes development are to be involved with young people, with a participatory manner.
- Intercultural dialogue and combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance.
- Social inclusion and employment.
- Youth participation to education and cultural life.
- Youth Volunteering.

Target groups

The Youth Law targets all young people, with a special attention to vulnerable young people at risk. For this target group the law provides several rights: housing, access to free education, access to educational counselling, employment counselling, and family planning.

One article of the law targets young entrepreneurs special support for them from the state institutions.

Revisions/updates

In October 2017 the Youth Law is under revision.

1.3 National youth strategy

Existence of a National Youth Strategy

A National Youth Policy Strategy 2015-2020 ([Strategia Națională în domeniul politicii de tineret 2015-2020](#)) was adopted by the Romanian government, by government decision, in 2015. The Youth Strategy covers the timeframe 2015-2020.

Scope and contents

Summary

The Strategy aims at supporting youth to participate to the economic, social, cultural and political life, ensuring equal opportunities to education, employment and decent life conditions to all youth, including vulnerable youth groups.

The Strategy integrates several policy domains in 5 main pillars/key areas of intervention:

1. culture and non-formal education;
2. health, sports and leisure;
3. participation and volunteering;
4. employment and entrepreneurship;
5. the social inclusion of young people.

In the Strategy text, the situation of Romanian youth in 2014 and the years before the approval of strategy is fairly detailed presented. Consultation of young people took place in the form of debates before the adaptation of the strategy.

Although the Ministry of Youth and Sports has to monitor and evaluate the strategy implementation, a monitoring plan has not been formulated until October 2017. The Youth Strategy is closely interrelated with the national strategies on employment, social inclusion, health, administration and education. However, none of these strategies is directly referring to an overall national development policy.

Key objectives

Under each of the 5 key areas of intervention of the strategy, specific objectives and lines of actions are established. However, an action plan allowing systematic

implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation the strategy, was not adopted until December 2016.

1. Under the pillar culture and non-formal education the specific objectives of the strategy are:

- a. Ensure access to quality formal and non-formal training and education for all adolescents and young people;
- b. Improve the non-formal education offer;
- c. Raise young people's interest in participating in non-formal education activities;
- d. Ensure more practical relevance of the skills acquired through formal and non-formal education;
- e. Facilitate youth access to quality culture and cultural creation;
- f. Improve funding of cultural activities;
- g. Support youth health and quality of life and prevent injuries, eating disorders, substance use and addiction.

2. Under the pillar health, sports and leisure the specific objectives of the strategy are:

- a. Support youth health and quality of life and prevent injuries, eating disorders, substance use and addiction
- b. Deliver education through sports and physical activity with the aim of fostering a healthy lifestyle and development as active and responsible citizens, and encourage young people to engage in sports and exercise in their spare time
- c. Improve leisure time opportunities for young people through both organised and informal means

3. Under the pillar participation and volunteering the specific objectives of the strategy are:

- a. Increase youth participation in community life, in all its social, educational, cultural, economic and health aspects
- b. Increase youth participation in political life
- c. Increase participation of youth-led and youth-serving non-governmental organisations in the structured dialogue
- d. Create an environment that fosters volunteering in Romania
- e. Improve the system of volunteer work certification and public recognition
- f. Raise public awareness of the importance of volunteer engagement

4. Under the pillar employment and entrepreneurship the specific objectives of the strategy are:

I. For employment

- a. Increase youth employment, with a focus on the 15-24 and 25-29 age groups
- b. Promote existing legal measures in favour of youth to ensure a smooth transition from education to the labour market.
- c. Promote and support work-life balance for youth
- d. Stimulate youth mobility on the domestic labour market
- e. Foster Romanian young people's mobility on the European labour market, including through programmes that combine work and training and through integration programmes, in the post-pilot phase of the 'Your first EURES job' Programme
- f. Ensure better opportunities for youth access to and retention on the labour market through acquisition and development of skills and competences
- g. Develop social economy and increase youth participation in this area

I. For entrepreneurship

- h. Increase self-employment among young people
- i. Increase self-employment among young people in rural area
- j. Promote entrepreneurship at all youth education and training levels
- k. Help young entrepreneurs adjust to European integration and globalisation processes

5. Specific objectives for the strategy contribution to social inclusion are:

- a. Promote inclusive measures for youth with the aim of facilitating access to the formal labour market
- b. Direct non-formal education at the social reintegration of socially excluded youth, maintain or restore access to formal education while effectively promoting non-formal and informal learning and the recognition of acquired competences
- c. Promote equal access to health for young people, maintain free access to the basic healthcare package, and improve the quality of medical procedures benefiting children and youth in difficulty
- d. Promote the 'voice' of and empower the poor communities with high shares of children and young people, as well as the socially excluded youth
- e. Re-launch policies that combat poverty and promote social inclusion in Romania, with a focus on youth and children, to reduce any gaps accumulated in the early life stages which can adversely affect an individual's entire future course and be difficult to offset later on
- f. Develop new programmes aimed at building or retrofitting social housing so as to enable the implementation of the legal provisions that entitle disadvantaged young people to a dwelling
- g. Create and implement special support measures for socially vulnerable youth groups, in partnership with all the competent institutions from all sectors

Target groups

The target group of the strategy are young people in general defined accordingly to the [Youth Law](#) in Romania, between 14 and 35. Moreover, the Strategy defines clearly specific target groups within each of the 5 key areas of intervention.

1. The target groups of the lines of actions under the key area of intervention: culture and nonformal education are:

- students and pupils
- young people who left school early
- graduates of general education forms (middle school, high school) without a qualification
- young people with problems of access to education
- NEET young people
- young people with educational deficits

2. The target groups of the lines of actions under the key area of intervention: health, sports and leisure are:

- young people with drug and / or alcohol addictions
- young people with unhealthy diet habits
- young people with disabilities
- mothers at the age of 15-19
- young people with HIV / AIDS
- young people affected by various mental illnesses
- young people with a lifestyle that does not include sports or cultural activities

3. The target groups of the lines of actions under the key area of intervention: participation and volunteering are:

- young people involved in the NGO sector
- volunteers and young people who developed skills outside recognised forms of education and need a recognition of their skills

- young people with low levels of participation in associative , social and political life

4. The target groups of the lines of actions under the key area of intervention: employment and entrepreneurship are:

- unemployed and long term unemployed young people and
- young people trapped in forms of subsistence self-employment
- NEET young people
- young people involuntarily employed in forms of temporary employment or part-time employment
- young people employees with low and very low wage earners
- young people in forms of informal employment
- young people who are overqualified or underqualified for the job and young people working in other areas than those for which they have been trained
- young people wanting to start a business , but without the resources

5. The target groups of the lines of actions under the key area of intervention: social inclusion are:

- young homeless
- young people leaving social protection institutions
- young people from poor areas
- Roma youth
- teens with at least one parent working abroad
- young people with HIV / AIDS
- victims of exploitation
- teenage mothers
- young victims of discrimination
- young people with disabilities
- young people without access to housing and no prospect of one

Responsible authority for the implementation of the Youth Strategy

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is the main government authority responsible for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the national Youth Strategy. It is in charge with:

- drafting the Action Plan of the Strategy
- drafting and implementing a monitoring and evaluation plan of the Strategy
- designing and implementing the actions under the key area of intervention on participation and volunteering
- designing and implementing the actions under specific objectives related to non-formal education, sport and leisure

However, an action plan allowing systematic implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation the strategy, was not adopted until December 2016. For the development and adopting of the action plan and for monitoring the Youth Strategy implementation the Ministry of Youth and Sport needs cooperation and support from other sectorial ministries (Education, Employment, Health, Economy etc.).

Revisions/updates

No updates have been made to the present Youth Strategy.

The present Youth Strategy have been preceded by the National Action Plan for Youth (PNA-T) 2001 and its revised version for 2005-2008. [Their evaluation](#)have been done by the Institute for Educational Sciences in 20011.

The PNA-T 2001 was designed in order to stimulate youth participation to the economic and social life as well as to come up with a set of measures aiming to reduce

marginalization and social exclusion. The Plan starts with a socio-economic analysis of the situation and concludes that the main risk factors when it comes to the youth group are the following: the regional disparities, the quality of life, poverty, youth unemployment, lack of access to education, delinquency and corruption. The main groups affected by these factors are: rural youth, unemployed youth, young girls, early school drop outs. It is highlighted the need to stimulate youth participation to the economic, civil, political and cultural life and, in order to follow up the implementation process, the creation of a monitoring and coordination unit for the Plan – through the Inter-Ministries Committee on Youth Matters and a Management Unit to follow up the Plan as well as an info unit is put in place. More than this it is also mentioned a financial allocation of 900 000 Euro to implement the action plan.

The main actions following up the Plan were the following:

I. *For 2001:*

1. *Facilitating* the participation of young people in economic life
2. *Establishing* and developing of a network of youth centres
3. Preventing and combating the risk of marginalization and social exclusion of young people
4. Capitalizing and stimulating the creative potential of young people in the technical-scientific field
5. Stimulating the civic participation and youth associativity
6. Reorganising the National Youth Council
7. Designing a programme to encourage youth participation to the cultural life
8. Creating a programme to encourage nonformal education
9. Developing a territorial network of information and counselling centres
10. Creating a social research program in the youth field
11. Supporting youth initiatives
12. Creating a youth information programme
13. Boosting up the international cooperation in the youth field.

II. *For 2002:*

1. *Developing* the youth centres' network
2. stimulating and capitalizing on the creative potential of young people in the technical-scientific field
3. Designing a program to support the actions of the County Departments for Youth and
4. Developing the social research program in the youth field
5. Providing information, consultancy and documentation program for youth
6. Supporting the initiatives of the associative youth structures
7. Developing the international relations in the youth field.

But none of the programmes and measures had clear results in implementation and few of the measures were put in place. In 2005-2008 the Plan was reorganised, according to the cited study, and a new set of specific objectives and measures were set:

- Increased youth participation to the social, economic, political and cultural life and developing the learning mobility opportunities
- Reducing the risk factors that determine the exclusion of youth people
- Developing the institutional framework through investing in youth policy development and updating the existing legislative framework.
- Compared to the 2001's Plan, the new Youth Action Plan was not stating any financial allocation for the proposed actions and the implementation mechanisms as well as the monitoring and evaluation processes were not mentioned.

1.4 Youth policy decision-making

Structure of Decision-making

The decision-making process rests to the central authorities – Ministry on Youth and Sports. At the local level, the [Counties' Structures on Youth and Sports](#) are the decentralized services of the central authority that cooperates with the central administration bodies for organising and promoting the activities for young people.

According to [Government decision regarding their organisation](#), Counties' Structures on Youth and Sports have the following responsibilities in the field of youth:

- implementing the national programmes in the field of youth and sports,
- monitoring the implementation of the legislation in the field of youth and sport,
- cooperating with other local and central structures to organise cultural, artistic, leisure, educative, touristic activities for youth, both local and international,
- offering specialized support to other public bodies to create programmes for youth,
- offering counselling and information services for young people,
- creating a data-base of youth NGOs in the county,
- organising activities, seminars, camps and trainings based on non-formal education methodologies
- organising social programmes for vulnerable young people and children.

The [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) was initially funded in 1990, but reorganised several times. After the last reorganisation on January 19th 2013, according to [the Government Decision on the organisation of the Ministry of Youth and Sport](#), in the field of youth, the ministry has the following responsibilities:

- ensures the implementation of the governmental programme in the field of youth and sport,
- initiatives or approves legislative initiatives that aim at ensuring the achievement of the strategic objectives of the Ministry,
- ensures the representation of Romania to the national and international events in the field of youth,
- monitors the implementation of the legal framework in the field of youth,
- cooperates with the other ministries or public bodies, at the central or local level,
- ensures the implementation of the international agreements on youth.

Main Themes

While the [National Youth Strategy](#) covers a very large set of themes, only five of the main priorities of the strategy are in the direct responsibility of the main decision making structure in the field of youth in Romania: the Ministry of Youth and Sports. These themes are:

- Non-formal learning
- Youth volunteering
- Youth public and political participation
- Youth sport
- Youth leisure

Other themes of interest for the youth policy are employment, education, entrepreneurship and social-inclusion. However, in none of these fields the youth is not central and there are very few policy measures directly dedicated to young people, as presented in the following chapters.

For all these teams, as for the other in the Youth Strategy, the main information sources are the Youth Barometers commissioned by the Ministry every two years.

The National Agency for Youth

In 2010 the National Agency for Youth and the National Agency for Youth and Sport merged and became the Ministry of Youth and Sports, as provided by the [Government Ordinance on the measurements to reorganise some activities in the field of youth and sport no. 15/2010.](#)

Policy monitoring and evaluation

According to the Youth Strategy, the Ministry of Youth and Sports has to draft a monitoring and evaluation plan of the Strategy. However, such plan is not in place in October 2017. As a result, a evidence-based monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the national Youth Strategy has been conducted until October 2017. [An evaluation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Programmes for Youth](#), including actions implementing the Youth Strategy have been commissioned in 2016 and published by the December 2016.

Monitoring of projects and actions under the Ministry of Youth and Sports Programmes for Youth is only financial and records are not centralised for evaluation purposes, this practice creating difficulties for the subsequent evaluations, as experienced in 2016. In the absence of a monitoring and evaluation plan of the Youth Strategy, all evaluations made until October 2017 by the Ministry of Youth and Sport are ad-hoc and not periodical. Moreover, the results of the only evaluation available have not been used for the design of future Youth Programmes, as their framework remained unchanged in 2017.

On the other hand, The Ministry of European Funds conducted evaluations regarding the European programmes targeting young people:

- [an evaluation report on the European Social Fund interventions targeting youth](#) was commissioned by the in 2014 and delivered in 2015
- an [evaluation report on the Youth Employment Initiative](#) implementation until the end of 2015 and lessons learned from European Social Fund projects targeting NEETs was commissioned by the in 2015 and delivered in 2016

Both these evaluations had an ad-hoc status, not being repeated.

However, until October 2017 these reports where only used in programming and organising the implementation of the European Social Fund programme on human capital for the period 2014-2020 and not by other policy makers.

The culture of monitoring and evaluation public policies is rather week in Romania. As a result, among the different policy fields relevant for the young people evaluations are only common for the European funded programmes supporting financial a policy or public project and in this case they are used for the programming of European Operational Programmes, rather than for the design of national policies.

All evaluations carried out in the field of youth are commissioned research papers providing empirical evidence to the decision makers. Consultation of young people targeted by policies and programme is carried out to ensure empirical data, but this consultation isn't the only information source for the evaluations carried out, including the [Evaluation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Programmes for Youth](#) or the European Programmes targeting young people (solely or among other target groups).

1.5 Cross-sectoral approach with other ministries

Mechanisms and actors

The Youth Strategy was developed according to a cross-sectorial approach. However, in the absence of an action plan of the Youth Strategy the interventions planned by different ministries are isolated.

A common policy is implemented by the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with the Ministry of European Funds, providing the framework for funding the policy of youth employment, including the [Youth Guarantee](#) and the Youth Employment Initiative.

An inter-ministerial committee on youth is not established. The inter-ministerial council for education, culture, research, youth and minorities included in the [Youth Law](#) does not include the Ministry of Youth and Sport, according to the [Government Decision establishing it](#), and is not focused on youth policies, but rather on education and research. There is not a clear distribution of responsibilities between departments, ministries or agencies in regard to youth policy making, beyond the responsibilities of each ministry according to its own regulations. For instance policies on youth volunteering can be developed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport and/or by the Ministry of Labour, without a clear distribution of responsibilities between them.

In 2017 cross-sectorial cooperation between all advisory Ministers of the draft proposal of a new Youth Law started working together in a Coordination Committee of Public Policies in the Field of Youth having as main cooperation subject the Youth Law. The council includes: the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finances, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, the Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Truism, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Public Consultation and Social Dialogue.

1.6 Evidence-based youth policy

Political Commitment to Evidence-Based Youth Policy

The Ministry of Youth and Sport implements [4 framework programs every year](#):

1. a programme supporting Youth Centres
2. a programme supporting youth work and youth projects
3. a programme supporting student projects
4. a programme for youth research.

This last programme is meant to inform national youth policies. The Ministry of Youth and Sports commissions every two years a Youth Barometer (a representative survey in order to have a diagnosis of the youth situation). However, the budget available for other research doesn't allow large-scale research and most of the policies developed and drafted are also based on other sources. National statistics and the Eurobarometer have been extensively used to inform and support the National Youth Strategy drafting process.

According to the [Youth Law](#) one of the principles of the youth policy is: drafting and promoting a global and integrated youth strategy based on results of social research. The existence of an annual programme that is systematically repeated each year is an indicator of the Romanian Government commitment for research-informed youth policy. However, the programme is not defined in details, stating just that different kind of research methods and approaches (quantitative and qualitative etc.) are eligible. As a result, there is not an official understanding of how the research will contribute to policy making.

Cooperation between policy-making and research

The Institute of Educational Sciences (IES), ([Institutul de Științe ale Educației – ISE](#)) is a national research, development, innovation and training public institution functioning as a unit of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. The role of the institute is to actively contribute to innovation in education in Romania through developing research methodologies, expertise and studies. The Institute had been implementing national and international projects in the field of youth and education, developed national educational curricula and training modules for teachers and piloted highly innovative learning

methodologies. One of the main departments of the Institute is the Youth Research Laboratory, but the cooperation of the Ministry of Youth and Sport with the youth research community in the Institute is rather reduced.

The team of the Youth Research developed the survey that is currently used by the research companies contracted by the Ministry for the Bi-Annual Youth Barometers. For 2009/2010, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Institute of Educational Sciences (IES), had a working protocol for methodological guidance for the Bi-Annual Youth Report but the Protocol had not been prolonged.

Based on a general framework partnership between the Romanian Government and UNICEF, the later provides research input for the Ministry of Youth and Sports to support the youth strategy drafting in 2014 and the preparation of the action plan of the youth strategy in 2016. The revision of the Youth law has been an emerging issue for the research in the field of youth. However, the research was not undertaken or commissioned by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, but by an NGO, in partnership with UNICEF. The [Romanian Youth Forum](#), through the project the [Teenagers' Initiative Network](#), project granted by UNICEF Romania, proceeded to the analysis of the existent framework in the youth policy domain in Romania and came up with a set of recommendations that had been integrated to the revision process of the Youth Law.

Beside the input for youth policies resulted from the cooperation with UNICEF, the Youth Report/Barometer (most recent in [2012](#), [2014](#) and [2016](#)) commissioned by the Ministry of Youth and Sport every two years is meant to support any emerging policy, being a comprehensive analysis of the situation of young people in Romania.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports contracted an external evaluation of 3 (out of 4) of its programmes in October 2016 and the results have been published at the end of December 2016.

National Statistics and available data sources

Specific statistics on youth are collected through the Youth Barometer, commissioned by the Ministry of Youth and Sports every two years. The responsible body to actually carry out the research is selected every time by the Ministry through public procurement. Data for last three barometers were collected in [2012](#), [2014](#) and [2016](#), by different market research institutes, but using the same questionnaire.

The most recent statistics dating from 2016 includes information on life quality, employment, entrepreneurship, mobility, education, support for democratic and European values, youth values, health and sport, public participation, political participation, volunteering, tolerance, opinion on environment, youth services.

A national youth report is not drafted in Romania.

No specific indicator has been established precisely for the youth population by the National Institute of Statistics. The most important data source on youth being the above mentioned Youth Report/Barometer.

Budgetary Allocations supporting research in the youth field

According to data published on the website of the Ministry, [budget allocations for the Youth Research Programme](#) dropped from 1 000 000 lei (about 222 000 Euro) in 2006 to 350 000 lei (about 77 000 Euro) every year from 2011 until 2016, with no allocation at all for research in 2015, as no research was programmed for that year.

The Ministry on Youth and Sports is not operating any budgetary allocations for the research activities of the Laboratory on Youth Research of the Institute for Education Sciences, that is financed by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and by other non-reimbursable funds for projects (European and national grants for scientific research).

There is no specific line of funding aimed at the evidence-based evaluation of Government and/or the Ministry activities and policies.

1.7 Funding youth policy

How Youth policy is funded

At national level the Ministry of Youth and Sport administers the budget for youth policy. Part of this budget is allocated to administrative and staff costs for the Ministry and for the County offices for Youth and Sport. This part of the budget cannot be separated from the allocations for sport and an exact figure cannot be evaluated. The budgets for [the 4 framework youth programmes](#) are separated and publicly available on the website of the ministry.

In 2015 the [budget allocated](#) for programmes and projects was 22 112 000 lei (under 5 000 000 Euro), including funding for a national and 41 local (at county level) project global grants for youth NGOs, a national global grant for student projects of NGOs. Youth projects implemented by the Ministry itself and by its structure: county offices and students culture houses, funding of youth centres managed by the County Offices for Youth and Sport and the youth camps organised by the Ministry for young people and students.

The same activities are funded under the 2016 budget of under 17 000 000 lei (under 3 800 000 Euro). An addition of 350 000 lei was allocated to the youth research programme.

According to the Youth Law local communities (local and county councils) have to allocate local budget for local youth policies and activities, based on the consultation of the local youth civil society. However, there are not aggregated data on the level of budgets allocated at local level for youth local policies.

What is funded?

The Ministry of Youth and Sport (and the National Authority on Youth, before the Ministry's establishment) implements [4 framework programs every year](#): a programme supporting Youth Centres, a programme supporting youth projects, a programme supporting student projects and a programme for youth research.

The Budget is also financing the functioning the Ministry of Youth and Sport and of its offices at county level. It is also supporting the organisation of youth and students camps and of students cultural events organised by students organisations and funded through 15 Students Culture Houses in the most important university towns in the country.

Financial accountability

The [Romanian Court of Accounts](#) is the public body to which all public institution are accountable for their use of public funding, including the Ministry of Youth and Sport, and private institutions receiving public grants (including NGOs receiving grants for their projects from the Ministry). Its mission is to conduct the control function over the way state and public sector financial resources are established, managed and used. It subsequently provides the Parliament, authorities, public institutions and taxpayers with reports on the sound use and management, so as to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Taking actions according to the recommendations of the Court of Accounts is mandatory for any institution or organisation spending public money.

Use of EU Funds

The EU funds used for youth policy are the funds of Erasmus Plus programme - the field of Youth. A dedicated [evaluation for the use of European Social Fund \(ESF\) for youth beneficiaries in Romania](#) revealed that no policy activities in the field have been funded. The ESF had been mainly used for scholarships, trainings and active measures for

employment (counselling, employment mediation etc.) and for projects aiming at preventing school dropouts.

Under Erasmus Plus, the main activities are the national events and the transnational and international activities that offers the space for information and also for debates having as theme active youth participation, opening up as well a dialogue space with the decision makers. The other activities are related to organising consultation activities with young people, aiming at identifying the youth needs related to their participation to the democratic life. The reunions, seminars and information events as well as the debates involving both young people and decision makers are also notable activities that aim at boosting up youth participation. Within Erasmus Plus, the Romanian participants were part of training courses and international activities tackling the theme of active youth participation. Under Erasmus Plus a KA3 project was implemented and is considered very important by the National Agency. The project [Structuring the Dialogue](#) included activities that had as aim to develop sustainable projects framing up structured dialogue principles and projects that aim at promoting active youth participation to the democratic life. The training course aimed as well to create a dialogue structure between young people and decision makers and at transforming this type of dialogue into a coherent and sustainable one.

On Erasmus Plus - Youth, a total number of 234 projects - learning mobility activities for young people - had been approved for 2014 and 201 for 2015. In 2014, a total number of 5438 young people were part of the approved projects (4961 participants in youth exchanges and 477 in EVS - European Voluntary Service). In 2015, a total number of 4445 young people participated in the 201 approved projects (4013 in youth exchanges and 432 in EVS).

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The following tables present the number of projects approved in the last two years 2014 and 2015 and their themes, according to the National Agency communication to the Youth Wiki National Correspondent.

Topics of projects approved in 2014	
Topics	Projects
Creativity and culture	79
Youth (Participation, Youth Work, Youth Policy)	77
Entrepreneurial learning - entrepreneurship education	55
Labour market issues incl. career guidance / youth unemployment	44
Inclusion - equity	39
Health and wellbeing	33
Access for disadvantaged	31
EU Citizenship, EU awareness and Democracy	29
Environment and climate change	25
Intercultural/intergenerational education and (lifelong)learning	23
New innovative curricula/educational methods/development of training courses	22
Romas and/or other minorities	21
Healthy lifestyle, active ageing	19
International cooperation, international relations, development cooperation	18
ICT - new technologies - digital competences	17

Rural development and urbanisation	13
Enhance social inclusion, equal opportunities and participation in sports	13
Gender equality / equal opportunities	10
Early School Leaving / combating failure in education	10
Social dialogue	10
Disabilities - special needs	8
Key Competences (incl. mathematics and literacy) - basic skills	5
Quality Improvement Institutions and/or methods (incl. school development)	5
Home and justice affairs (human rights & rule of law)	4
Grassroots sports	4
Pedagogy and didactics	3
Recognition (non-formal and informal learning/credits)	3
Fighting discrimination and intolerance, usage of drugs/doping, match fixing, violence in sports	3
Teaching and learning of foreign languages	2
Ethics, religion and philosophy (incl. Inter-religious dialogue)	1
Overcoming skills mismatches (basic/transversal)	1
Quality Assurance	1
Reaching the policy level/dialogue with decision makers	1
Transport and mobility	1

Topics of projects approved in 2015	
Topics	Projects
Youth (Participation, Youth Work, Youth Policy)	96
Creativity and culture	61
Labor market issues incl. career guidance / youth unemployment	33
Entrepreneurial learning - entrepreneurship education	32
Access for disadvantaged	27
Inclusion - equity	27
Environment and climate change	26
Health and wellbeing	25
ICT - new technologies - digital competences	23
Intercultural/intergenerational education and (lifelong)learning	22
International cooperation, international relations, development cooperation	21
EU Citizenship, EU awareness and Democracy	17
Rural development and urbanisation	15
Healthy lifestyle, active ageing	13
Ethics, religion and philosophy (incl. Inter-religious dialogue)	13
New innovative curricula/educational methods/development of training courses	12
Early School Leaving / combating failure in education	10
Gender equality / equal opportunities	8
Recognition (non-formal and informal learning/credits)	8
Teaching and learning of foreign languages	7
Disabilities - special needs	6
Romas and/or other minorities	6
Social dialogue	6
Home and justice affairs (human rights & rule of law)	5

Within Key Action 3 (Youth) - Support for policy reform, a total of 238 408 Euro was allocated in 2014 for implemented projects and in 2015 the amount was 282 716 Euro.

1.8 Cross-border cooperation

Cooperation with European countries

According to the Ministry of Youth and Sport presentation and communication to the National Correspondent, several cooperation activities with EU and EU-candidate countries were implemented for policy-coordination and capacity building. The cooperation activities have been also carried out in the benefit of young people, this involvement of young people in international relations activities of the Ministry being one of the ways of informing and involving young people in the youth policy.

- Long term cooperation programmes were implemented with France, Italy and Belgium, both Flemish and Walloon Communities, Hungary and Moldova. Among the most important long time programmes the Ministry of Youth and Sports mentions:
- France – Bilateral Youth Exchange Programme - dedicated both to youth and governmental experts - (1991-2005). Topics: Volunteering Camps, Art and Cultural Traineeships, Cultural and Language Courses etc.
- Italy – Social and Cultural Youth Exchanges - dedicated both to youth and governmental experts (1992 – 2008). Topics: Cultural and Language Courses for youth workers (socio-cultural youth animators), European identity, Intercultural and Interethnic Dialogue, Environment, Women's Rights, Folklore, Volunteering Camps
- Belgium, Flemish Community –Bilateral Cooperation Programme on Youth - dedicated both to youth and governmental experts - (1999-2012). Topics: Youth Work, Socio-Pedagogical Education and Animation for Children with Disabilities, Youth Centres and Youth Camps, Volunteering, Entrepreneurship.

Romania is also part of multi-country initiatives within EU. Between 2004-2012, Romania participated to the [Central European Initiative](#) (CEI) Youth Forum. Delegations were composed of one governmental representative and 2 Youth NGO representatives. The outcome was a declaration on a certain topic established by the Presidency. In 2009, Romania held the CEI Presidency and, at that time, the Ministry of Youth and Sports organized the [IX CEI Youth Forum - Supporting Youth Access on Labor Markets](#).

Starting with 2015, Romania is invited, as an observer, to the Visegrad Group on youth Affairs (which is further named Visegrad Group + Romania). In this respect, in October 2015 Romania was invited to the Seminar Health and Well-being of Young People, held in Prague, Czech Republic. From that moment Romania is integrated in the Visegrad Group agenda (youth domain).

International cooperation

According to the Ministry of Youth and Sport presentation and communication to the National Correspondent, the Ministry carry out numerous activities of policy coordination with third countries and/or other international organisations in the field of youth and youth policies. It worth mention the long term cooperation activities and initiatives, as the following:

- Youth Exchange Programmes with Tunisia - dedicated both to youth and governmental experts (1996-2006). Topics: Volunteering, Information Visits, History, Youth Centres, Intercultural Dialogue
- Youth Exchange Programmes with Morocco - dedicated both to youth and governmental experts (1994 – 2006). Topics: Volunteering, Information Visits, Youth Centres, Intercultural Dialogue

- Cooperation Agreement on Youth with the Republic of Moldova - dedicated both to youth and governmental experts (1993 – 2005). Topics: non-formal education, volunteering, information visits, youth research, youth policy
- Cooperation Agreement on Youth with China – until 2008 with All China Youth Federation. The programme was dedicated to governmental experts.
- Cooperation Agreement on Youth with Israel
- In September 2011, after the earthquake which struck Tohoku Region, Romania invited 18 students from Fukushima University. It was a cultural visit. In March 2012, an official delegation from the National Authority of Youth and Sports was invited in Japan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- As part of the International Francophone Organization, in March 2008, the National Authority of Youth organized a [CONFEJES](#) training for young entrepreneurs from SE Europe.

Also in the field of international relations, since 2009, The Ministry of Youth and Sports organizes the [UN Youth Delegate Programme](#). 2 young people, gender balance, aged between 18 and 25, represent the Romanian Youth Voice to the General Assembly (September-October) and ECOSOC- Economic and Social Council-(February, the following year). The programme is carried out in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1.9 Current debates and reforms

After debates in 2016 on several amendments of the [Youth Law](#), the Ministry of Youth and Sports drafted and [proposed for consultation in May 2017 a new Youth Law](#):

- introducing a section devoted to community youth centres, setting them up for young people to benefit from integrated and personalized youth services
- introducing measures will be put in place to ensure the social protection of young people, foster social inclusion and professional insertion. The draft Law on Youth will prevent and sanction any form of discrimination.
- establishing consultative councils at the level of the county's county municipalities, the county councils and the Ministry of Youth and Sports with the purpose of an effective implementation of the youth policy.
- proposing the financial support of youth activities by central and local authorities (at least at 25% of the county funds for youth work).

The law has been presented to the government in September 2017 and it has to be adopted by the government and sent for vote in the Parliament, after October 2017.

2. Voluntary Activities

Youth volunteering is not regulated separately from volunteering in general in Romania. Host organisations of volunteers, NGOs or public institutions, have a great autonomy in organising voluntary activities, provided that they are following rules established by the [Volunteering Law](#). The law states the main rights and obligation of volunteers and host organisations, mainly obligations on correct treatment and safety insurance. The law does not provide for a governmental authority directly responsible for volunteering or youth volunteering.

Beside the [Volunteering Law](#) there is no national policy, programme or strategy dedicated to youth volunteering. However, youth volunteering is one of the main objectives of the [National Youth Strategy](#). The main instrument used by the Ministry of Youth and Sports to encourage youth volunteering according to the Youth Strategy is granting funds for small projects (about 5 000 euro) to youth NGOs. There are no strong monitoring and evaluation measures and programmes in place to provide enough knowledge on the success of these projects. However, according to the Youth Barometer commissioned by

the Ministry of Youth and Sport in [2016](#) and [2014](#), 30% of young people have been participating in volunteering activities, compared to only 13% in [2012](#).

2.1 General context

Historical developments

Volunteering is not popular among Romanian people and not even among Romanian youth, although a law on volunteering exists. During the communist regime, *mandatory voluntary* 'patriotic' work was organised for pupils in high schools and for students, mainly in agriculture for manual and non-qualified work. This context generated the rejection of voluntary work during the 90s and early 2000. After 2000 the development of the sector was slow and it remains in great proportion under documented (there is little or no research concerning this field).

Main concepts

In accordance with the law on volunteering ([Legea nr. 78/2014 privind reglementarea activității de voluntariat în România](#)), the voluntary activity represents the participation of a natural person to general interest activities for the use of other persons and for the general use of the society, without remuneration. The host organisation of a volunteer can only be a public institution or an NGO (non-profit organisation). Youth volunteering is not defined differently from the general volunteering activity.

2.2 Administration and governance of youth volunteering

Governance

Youth volunteering is not regulated separately from volunteering in general. Host organisations of volunteers, NGOs or public institutions, have a great autonomy in organising voluntary activities, provided that they are following rules established by the Volunteering Law ([Legea nr. 78/2014 privind reglementarea activității de voluntariat în România](#)). The law states the main rights and obligation of volunteers and host organisations, mainly obligations on correct treatment and safety insurance.

There is no governmental authority directly responsible for youth volunteering according to the Volunteering Law.

Beside the Law on Volunteering there is no national policy, programme or strategy dedicated to youth volunteering. The Volunteering Law was initiated by an NGO and assumed in the Parliament by a young Member of the Parliament.

Volunteering is part of the Youth Strategy and the Ministry of Youth and Sports is the governmental authority taking action to inform young people on volunteering. One of the eligible objectives for project funded by the Ministry is informing on volunteering and promoting it is.

The [Ministry of Youth and Sport](#) is the main governmental partner in implementing the Law on Volunteering and, at the local level, the County Departments on Youth and Sports are supporting the implementation process. According to the Law, the local public authorities are to include volunteering activities in their local development strategies both for the communities' development but also to support citizens' participation to the community life.

The most important non-public actor taking part in the regulation and implementation of youth volunteering is [VOLUM Federation](#) - the Federation of Organisations Supporting Volunteering in Romania. This non-state actor promoted the law on volunteering in 2013-2014 and due to their advocacy campaign a young member of the Parliament assumed and promoted the law to the legislature. Although it is not the only non-public actor relevant in the field, VOLUM is the umbrella organisation for all the relevant NGOs working with volunteers and is the official partner of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in its initiatives to inform young people about volunteering.

Cross-sectoral cooperation

No existing mechanism of cross-sectorial cooperation between Ministries, Departments, Agencies involved in defining policies and measures on youth volunteering are established in Romania.

2.3 National strategy on youth volunteering

Existence of a National Strategy

There is no stand alone National Strategy on Youth Volunteering in Romania. Youth volunteering is one of the key areas of the Youth Strategy, as presented in the dedicated section on [National Youth Strategy](#). The main elements concerning volunteering in the Youth Strategy are focusing on informing the public and young people about volunteering, raising awareness and support for youth volunteering and improving the certification system of voluntary work.

Scope and contents

For volunteering the specific objectives of the strategy are:

- a) Create an environment that fosters volunteering in Romania
- b) Improve the system of volunteer work certification and public recognition
- c) Raise public awareness of the importance of volunteer engagement

Responsible authority

The responsible authority for the promotion of youth volunteering is the Ministry of Youth and Sports. However, in order to better define the certification and recognition system for voluntary work the Ministry of Youth and Sports has to work closely with the [National Authority for Certification](#).

Revisions/ Updates

No updates have been made to the present Youth Strategy.

2.4 Laws and regulations on youth volunteering

Stand-alone law

A law on volunteering was adopted in 2014 ([Law no. 78/2014 regulating the volunteering activity in Romania](#)). The law is replacing an older law from 2001 (amended in 2006). No stand-alone law on youth volunteering or other regulation dedication to youth volunteering is in force in Romania. The law was published in the Official Journal, but the text of the law is not available online.

Other official documents containing guidelines on youth volunteering

The new legislative act, which replaced Volunteering Law no. 195 /2001 (republished) is providing consistent and harmonized solutions at European level to problems of organizations working with volunteers and thus creating a modern legal framework, appropriately adapted to the national and European context in the field of volunteering.

The volunteering law governs the unpaid participation of physical entities, based on their coerced decision, to volunteering activities organized in Romania by legal persons of public or private law, non-profit organizations.

In the contents of the first article of the new law we can notice that volunteering is an important factor in creating a competitive European labour market and also in the development of education and training, and to increase social solidarity, so that it can be drawn the obvious conclusion that the Romanian legislator wanted to highlight the important role that this activity has to have, as well as the recognition of its value '*as an expression of active citizenship, solidarity and social responsibility, and also professional*

value as an expression of personal, professional, intercultural and language development of persons performing these activities.'

Moreover, the whole article 2, which has no counterpart in the old law, emphasizes the state's role in sustaining and supporting voluntary movement at all levels (local, national and international) through all its institutions working in areas where voluntary activities are required.

Total new elements compared to the old law are the groups as organizational form of volunteering activity, the existence of a volunteer coordinator (who may be an employee or a volunteer), and last but not least, the compulsion of concluding a volunteering contract.

In this regard, Law no. 78/2014 on the regulation of volunteering activity in Romania, in the content of article 3 letter a, defines volunteering as being the activity of public interest, non-obligatory, unpaid, fulfilled by the voluntary decision, supported and promoted by the Romanian state, based on a volunteering contract, according to which the volunteer undertakes to perform the activity, and the host organization offers an activity proper to the person's application and preparation, ensuring the expenses incurred. In the same article there are defined other terms with which the law operates i.e. activity of public interest, the host organization, volunteering contract, the volunteer, beneficiaries of volunteering activity and volunteers' coordinator.

Regarding the definition of volunteer we can say that the new law brings a radical change compared to the previous situation, as it introduces as requirement for the volunteer the acquisition of labour capacity, according to the laws in force. According to the Labour Code in Romania a person becomes able to work at the age of 16, being able to start working from the age of 15, but only with the consent of parents or legal representative.

The two new principles introduced by Law no. 78/2014 i.e. the principle according to which the *volunteering activity does not substitute paid work* and also the *public interest feature of volunteering activity* are meant to help clarifying the types of actions that are voluntary or not, especially when the public benefit is indirect or extremely difficult to identify.

The new law introduces new elements also on the functioning of organizations working with volunteers. Thus, they are obliged to include explicit provisions regarding the involvement of volunteers and how their activity is being administered in the contents of its status or the internal rules of organization and operation, including the conditions under which the organization may refuse with reasons the cooperation with a volunteer.

Law no 78/2014 contains important new elements on the demand of the fact that supporting volunteering by local public administration should not represent a means of reducing costs, indicating the annual meetings of local public administration authorities with representatives of local host organizations of volunteers in order to organize effective cooperation and the involvement of local public administration in promoting and supporting the International Day of Volunteers on 5th December.

If in accordance with previous legislation, the volunteers were entitled to a 'nominal certificate recognizing the volunteering activity and the acquired experience and skills', a provision which has been applied very different in the absence of detailed methodological rules or a model as good practice accepted and promoted by organizations working with volunteers, Law no. 78/2014 makes real progress towards the recognition of the experience acquired through volunteering. This quality leap is stipulated in article 10, paragraph 2 of the law, namely that volunteering can be considered as '*professional and / or specialty experience, if it is achieved in the field of study*', stipulation that will determine a more strategic choice of the involvement opportunities by young people starting out in different professions.

Also, another provision of the analysed legislative act refers to competitions organized by public institutions, i.e. employers, physical or legal entities, from the private sector,

where two or more candidates obtain equal scores and they can decide between the two by granting additional scoring for fulfilling volunteering activities.

Moreover, Law no 78/2014 defines more specifically the content of the certificate that is now called *volunteering certificate* provided to include unique identifiers (such as the identification number of the certificate and its correspondence with number of volunteering contract), transforming such a volunteering certificate into a tool that can play a more important role for the recognition of volunteering activity as professional and / or specialized experience, the procedure for issuing it has become more important in this context.

In turn, the voluntary contract, beyond the fact that its conclusion becomes mandatory, has a much more clearly defined content in the new law, with clearly defined rights and duties for both the volunteer and the host organization. The law requires for the volunteering contract to be accompanied by two other new instruments the *volunteering sheet* and the *volunteer protection sheet*. The Volunteer sheet is a document that inserts details on the duties and responsibilities of the volunteer and the volunteer protection sheet is a document that should provide aspects of health and safety during working.

The new law extends the categories of personnel who cannot have applied the provisions including the staff of the voluntary *emergency services* established by law, and the persons to whom there are applied the legal provisions relating to *military service* based on volunteering.

Regulations on standards of quality

There are not specific regulations on standards of quality of youth volunteering or of volunteering in general. The volunteering contracts regulated by the Law on Volunteering is regulating minimum rights and obligations of both the host institution/organisation and the volunteer, but no other mechanisms beside the law are available to ensure the quality of the voluntary work and of the relationship with the host organisations.

Target groups

There are no official documents identifying specific target groups within the youth population whose participation in voluntary activities shall be fostered, excepting the [Youth Strategy](#).

The target groups for policy measures on youth volunteering, as identified by the Youth Strategy are:

- young people involved in the NGO,
- volunteers and young people who developed skills outside recognised forms of education and need a recognition of their skills.

2.5 Youth volunteering at national level

National Programme for Youth Volunteering

There is no National Programme for Youth Volunteering developed in Romania.

Funding

There is no specific budget allocated at the central level for youth volunteering. If budget allocations are made at local level, there are isolated initiatives of municipal councils and they are not integrated in a volunteering programme.

Characteristics of youth volunteering

According to Eurobarometer data from the spring of 2010, Romania had approximately 4.4 million volunteers i.e. about 20% of the population being involved in such activities specific mainly to people under 35 years, and those involved or included in the educational system. According to a study of the [European Parliament in 2011](#) the level of

participation to volunteering activity in Romania was 14%. 27% of the volunteers were working for religious organisation, that being one of the greatest proportions of volunteers for religious organisation in Europe.

According to the Youth Barometer commissioned by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in [2016](#) and [2014](#), 30% of young people have been participating in volunteering activities, compared to only 13% in [2012](#).

Support to young volunteers

According to the law on volunteering, host organisations have to cover all incurring expenses of the volunteers. No public programme or support is available for this, the host organisations being fully responsible.

Volunteers are entitled to work protection training just as paid employees. Insurances for health and accidents is optional and it is fully the responsibility of the host organisations. The state or other public bodies are not supporting volunteering through social security provisions, for example volunteers are not eligible for unemployment insurance.

Quality Assurance (QA)

Host organisations are responsible for establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assure the quality of volunteering programmes and activities for young people, and their functioning.

One public authority is monitoring volunteering. It is focused on the compliance of working conditions and on the simulation of labour contracts as volunteering contracts. The [Labour Inspection](#) is the institution mainly responsible for ensuring minimum criteria for volunteers.

There is no mechanism in place for collecting young volunteers' feedback on their experiences.

As a result of the lack of the QA mechanism, no outcomes are published on the youth volunteering in general, the social inclusion of volunteering programmes, in terms of fostering inclusiveness, diversity and accessibility.

Central authorities do not monitor the degree of social inclusion of volunteering programmes at local level - where these programmes exist - or of programmes implemented by private organisations.

2.6 Cross-border mobility programmes

EU programmes

The only EU mobility and volunteering programme for youth to which Romania participates is Erasmus+. The monitoring is being ensured through the reports uploaded by the participants in the [Mobility Tool](#). Information have not been used until December 2016 in order to correlate with the one used by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in order to shape a national youth volunteering policy in the implementation of the Youth Strategy.

The main agency in charge of organising and monitoring the EU programmes at national level is the National Agency: [Agentia Națională pentru Programe Comunitare în Domeniul Educației și Formării Profesionale](#).

The number of participants to mobility and voluntary programmes are presented in the table below, according to information provided by the National Agency.

	Participants in youth projects	2014	2015
Learners	EVS	477	432
	Youth exchanges	4961	4013
	Subtotal	5438	4445
Staff	Youth workers	1847	1894

Other Programmes

No other governmental/official programmes for youth volunteering mobility is available.

Legal framework applying to foreign volunteers

For the non-EU citizens and for the EU citizens young volunteers hosted in Romania for more than 90 days, the temporary residence permit is required.

2.7 Raising awareness about youth volunteering opportunities

Information providers

According to the [Youth Strategy](#) the Ministry of Youth and Sport is responsible for implementing the priority on development of young volunteering. Still until the development of the action plan of the strategy no clear and concrete task are under the Ministry responsibility.

There are no State-funded national and/or regional volunteer centres or agencies working in Romania.

At local level in some municipalities volunteer centres were opened, promoting volunteering at local level and doing matching of volunteers for local institutions. Their work, however, is not systematic.

Key initiatives

A public campaign was carried out by the national TV station (TVR) in 2014, during the debates on the Law on Volunteering. The [reportage: 'Help Romania' \('Ajută România'\)](#) was awarded a price for TV reportage at European level.

As the campaign was made and broadcasted by the national TV station there was no specific target group addressed. The campaign had was meant for the general public.

2.8 Skills recognition

Policy Framework

The [Volunteering Law](#) regulates the recognition of skills developed by volunteers. The law (a Parliament bill) is in force since 2014. The mechanism of skills recognition is based only on the evaluation of the host organisation and the self-evaluation of the volunteer (similar to the Youthpass). Therefore, no public official authority is responsible for the validation and recognition of skills.

The Law on adult education ([Government Ordinance no. 129/2000 on the professional training of adults](#)) regulate the official (state endorsed) recognition of knowledge, skills and competences acquired in any way, based on an evaluation organised by a certified training provider on the same way the training provider evaluate its trainees. Skills and competences acquired through volunteering can be certified in this way, as a result of a test presented and evaluated by a committee of trainers and experts in the field during an exam organised by a Certified Competences Recognition Centre.

Existing arrangements

Young people having participating in voluntary activities can validate the knowledge, skills and competences acquired both based on a certificate endorsed by the host

organisation (similar to the Youthpass) or based on an exam and formal evaluation organised by a certified training provider, being able to get a certificate endorsed by the Ministry of Labour through the National Authority on Qualifications.

The recognition of knowledge, skills and competences acquired by volunteers is useful on the labour market, but is not used systematically within the system of formal education.

There is no special regulation of the possibility for young volunteers to obtain ECTS and/or ECVET credits. For the Vocational Education, the [Law of Education \(Law no. 1/2011\)](#) does not provide the legal framework necessary for the synergies between national validation arrangements available to young volunteers and European credit system. For the university level, universities are free to regulate their system of European credits. However, as the recognition of skills acquired through volunteering based on the volunteering certificate is not endorsed by public authorities no university decided to give ECTS for young volunteers.

Verifications are made on a randomly selected sample of exams by the National Authority on Qualifications for QA of the system of validation of skills acquired in different contexts.

2.9 Current debates and reforms

The [Youth Strategy](#) includes as one of its four main priorities the Youth Volunteering. The drafting process for the action plan of the Youth Strategy started in March 2016 and a draft action plan have been published in consultation in October 2016, including a measure proposing the creation of a National Voluntary Programme following the model of EVS. However, the initiative was not continued in 2017.

3. Employment & Entrepreneurship

Beside small subsidies for employing young graduates offered to employers according to the [law on employment and unemployment](#), most of the measures specific to the Romanian employment policy are not directly and exclusively targeting young people. However, starting in 2009, the National Employment Agency implemented in a large number of projects funded by the European Social Fund, streamlining youth in employment policies.

All these measures and measures to develop youth entrepreneurship have been included in the [Youth Guarantee national scheme](#) and in some cases allocation and subsidies have been raised as a result of this focus on young people. But European Funds remain the most important funding source and incentive for the continuation of youth employment and entrepreneurship policies.

3.1 General context

Labour market situation in the country

The youth unemployment rate in Romania in June 2017 was 15.3%, for the 15-24 years old age segment, according to the [Romanian National Institute for Statistics](#). There is a decrease of the youth unemployment percentage since 2015 and 2016, since in October 2015 the rate was of 21.8% and in October 2016 the youth unemployment rate was 20.4%. So it is to be concluded that the rate was increasing. However, this has to be put in the context of a general unemployment value of 4.8% in Romania for June 2017, young people being the age group the most affected by unemployment.

The [Romanian National Institute for Statistics](#) provides the following information for 2015. The average data per 2015 is the following:

- Youth (15-24 years of age) employment rate of 20.6%
- The unemployment affects mostly young people, respectively 20.6% compared to the general unemployment rate at 5.9

- For young people (15-24 years), the long term unemployment rate (unemployed for six months or more) was of 13.0%, and within this group, over 63.1% were dealing with long term unemployment.

The information and data available are relevant only for the age segment 15-24.

Main concepts

According to the [law on employment and unemployment, law no. 76/2002](#), 'Unemployed' is the person who cumulatively fulfils the following conditions:

- a. Is 16 or older, is looking for a job and does not meet the retirement conditions;
- b. The state of health and the physical and mental capacities allow the person to perform a job;
- c. he/she does not work, does not earn any income from authorized activities according to the law, or has lower income than the country-wide minimum gross salary guaranteed in payment scheme
- d. Is available to start work in the immediate period if there is a vacancy.

According to the [law on employment and unemployment, law no. 76/2002](#), 'Registered unemployed' is the person who cumulatively fulfils the conditions set out previously and is registered with the employment agency in whose territorial range resides.

3.2 Administration and Governance

Governance

Main actors and the general distribution of responsibilities

The main top-level governmental authority responsible for youth employment and entrepreneurship are:

1. the **Ministry of Labour and Social Justice**, responsible for policy design, monitoring and evaluation on youth **employment**;
2. the **National Employment Agency (NEA)** responsible for the implementation of most of the **employment** policies. The National Employment Agency functions under the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice and has county offices and local offices responsible for the direct provision of services to unemployed persons, including youth;
3. The **Ministry for the Business, Commerce and Entrepreneurship Environment** is responsible for policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation on youth **entrepreneurship**. Local offices for SMEs are implementing the youth entrepreneurship programmes of the MBCEE in direct relationship with the young entrepreneurs.

Trade unions and employers organisations participate in policy making in the field of youth employment and entrepreneurship using two main methods:

1. ad-hoc consultative meetings
2. the [Economic and Social Council](#), a consultative body of the Parliament and the Government, organised as an autonomous tripartite public institution of national interest, having the function of an advisory board for all bills in the social or economical field.

There are three type of organisations participating in both the ad-hoc consultative meetings and the Economic and Social Council:

1. nationally representative trade unions, according to the [Law no. 62/2011 on social dialogue](#);
2. nationally representative employers associations, according to the [Law no. 62/2011 on social dialogue](#);

3. NGOs appointed by the Minister of Labour, according to representation criteria. However, the criteria are not public. An umbrella youth organisation: the [Romanian Youth Council](#) is part of the Economic and Social Council.

The main governance approach to youth employment and entrepreneurship is top-down, as both youth and employment are subject to the national policies.

There are no large-scale initiatives of local authorities in the field of youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

There are three mechanisms of cross-sectorial cooperation between ministries, departments, agencies involved in defining top-level policies and measures on youth employment and entrepreneurship:

1. Ad-hoc meetings
2. Ad-hoc inter-ministerial committees organised on different topics according to the bill in preparation. For example in 2016 the Ministry of Labour created an inter-ministerial committee for jobs creation, with responsibilities on jobs for young people
3. The [Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme Human Capacity \(OPHU\)](#), the programme including employment, education, training, social support and social entrepreneurship support from the European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative. The Monitoring Committee of OPHU is an important cooperation mechanism, as this programme funds many strategic initiatives and projects in the field of youth employment.

3.3 Skills Forecasting

Forecasting system(s)

As a result of the European funded project '[Partner system of analysis and forecast for the labour market, constantly adapted to the economic dynamics](#)', the National Employment Agency benefited from a series of national, regional and county level research studies on labour market evolution. Similar studies are planned for the next period, still with European funding, under the Romanian Operational Programme Human Capital, co-funded by the European Social Fund.

Moreover, according to the [law on employment and unemployment, law no. 76/2002](#), in order to keep the track record, employers have to report to the local offices of the National Employment Agency the job vacancies. Otherwise they lose the right to benefit from state subsidies for young or vulnerable new employees.

Skills development

When designing the training and counselling services available for unemployed persons, the National Employment Agency takes into account job vacancies registered by employers and the labour market evolution studies. Therefore trainings are organised and opened for free to registered unemployed persons for the qualifications that are needed according to employees' declarations. Special measures for young people are not designed.

There is no information on a systematic mechanism taking into consideration labour market or labour market forecast when designing school and university curricula in Romania.

3.4 Career Guidance and Counselling

Career guidance and counselling services

The National Employment Agency functioning under the Ministry of Work and Social Justice, offers through its local offices career guidance and counselling services for each unemployed person, including for young people.

These counselling services targeting young unemployed people have been included in the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan, and therefore there are closely monitored, being reinforced by this plan and supplementary monitoring.

Career guidance and counselling services are also provided for young people in education and training.

Public career guidance and counselling services targeting young people take place:

- mainly, within the premises of local offices of the National Employment Agency, for young unemployed people through providing information regarding the [available schemes](#): Youth Guarantee, career counselling, internship opportunities.
- secondary, within the formal education institutions, if a counsellor is employed by the local council for the school and by the universities. [The counsellor](#) is an education specialist who plans and carries out counselling individual or group education aimed at adapting the pupil to specific problems in school environment; implements career education programs for the purpose of training competencies in the fields covered by the curricular area 'Counselling and guidance'; organises programs extracurricular of vocational orientation; promotes and implements education programs for health care aimed at training and developing students' lifestyle management skills.
- tertiary, within the information and counselling centres organised by the county offices of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, if qualified staff is employed by these county offices for counselling youth on career. However, for this type of counselling, there is no formal or systematic informal cooperation between the Youth and Sports County Offices and the County and Local Employment Agency Offices.

There is no specific group in the youth population targeted by career and job search guidance. However, for young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) special funding is available for these services provided by the local offices of the National Employment Agency, making this target group one of the most important.

Funding

Funding for career guiding and counselling provided by the public employment services is ensured by a special budgetary fund of social insurance. The value of funding for the career guiding and counselling for young people cannot be determined in the total budget of the National Employment Agency for active employment measures. According to the [2016 budget](#) published by the National Employment Agency, the total amount allocated for employment measures have been over 273 million lei (about 60 million Euro). The amount grew from 178 million lei (up to 40 million Euro) used in 2012 for the same measures, according to [the 2012 annual report of the NEA](#) to 273 million lei (about 60 million Euro) in 2016.

Due to the form of budgets of public institutions in Romania, It is not possible to determine the amount allocated only for career guidance and counselling services for young people in schools, universities and the information and counselling centres.

In schools and universities the costs for these services are included in staff wages.

In the information and counselling centres these costs are included in the total subsidy from the Ministry of youth and Sport, and in the staff wages of the county offices for sport and youth. These subsidies reached 200 000 Euro in 2016.

Quality assurance

The quality assurance mechanisms and results used by the National Employment Agency or by the schools in providing career counselling, if any, are not publically available.

For the information and counselling centres organised by the county offices of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry monitors and can inspect the centres. The outcome of this monitoring process have been centralised and made publically available only in 2016. The [result of this monitoring](#) has been a set of general recommendations for the centres regarding their infrastructure and the need to employ qualified youth workers and counsellors.

3.5 Traineeships and Apprenticeships

Official guidelines on traineeships and apprenticeships

The [law no. 279/2005](#) with extensive amendments from 2013 regulates apprenticeship. The [law no. 335/2013 regulates traineeship](#) only for university graduates.

For both of these working-learning arrangements written contracts are mandatory. There are no specific regulation transparency of the working conditions and job description in traineeships' and apprenticeships' notices.

Participants in apprenticeship and traineeship have **social security coverage ensured** by their employer, but according to the law, the employer can receive a subsidy from the National Employment Agency monthly for each apprentice or trainee. **This subsidy are of 65 Euro** (300 lei) each month for each apprentice and **160 Euro** (750 lei) each month for each trainee. The subsidies are not determine as a part or percentage of the employers costs and are not varying in accordance to the real costs. Therefore, for fields of work where production costs are higher, like in some industries, the subsidy is the same as in some service fields where production costs are very low. In this context, employers in industry are not motivated at all to train apprentices.

Evaluations in the field of employment show these benefits are **not motivating** employees to implement apprenticeship and traineeship, considering the administrative burden of asking and receiving the subsidies.

Traineeships and apprenticeships are **not a requirement in the curricula**.

Traineeship and apprenticeships are part of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan and eligible activities in European funded projects, under the Youth Employment Initiative and the European Social Fund. They have not been introduced in Romania as part of the Youth Guarantee scheme, but have been reinforced and the apprenticeships have been reformed in application of the scheme.

Until 2015 different funding was available for employers, apprentices and trainees benefiting from state budget subsidies and for those benefiting from European funded projects for the same activities. For the projects implemented starting in 2017 the subsidies will be equalised, according to programming documents in consultation.

Promoting traineeships and apprenticeships

Promotion of traineeships and apprenticeships have been envisaged by the government only as part of the European funded projects, under the Youth Employment Initiative and the European Social Fund. Therefore no large-scale communication or awareness raising initiative have been implemented and no massive campaigns had been organised neither by the public authorities nor the non-governmental organisations.

Recognition of learning outcomes

A formal evaluation is demanded at the end of both of these working-learning processes and a certification is issued for the person passing the evaluation. The employer pays the evaluation and the procedure is organised:

- by [specialised evaluation centres](#), in the case of the apprenticeship
- by the employer, through a specially organised committee, in the case of traineeship, but no cooperation mechanisms are put in place between the two measures.

The certification is used:

- as an official full qualification for a specific job, when released as a result of an apprenticeship process
- as a recognition of specialised practical experience, when released as a result of an traineeship process

Funding

Funding for traineeship and apprenticeship programmes provided within the legal framework is ensured by a special budgetary fund of social insurance and paid by the National Employment Agency.

Funding from European funds, namely the Youth Employment Initiative and the European Social Fund is also available for traineeship and apprenticeship. However, in the total budget of the Operational Programme Human Capital is impossible to determine the amount for these activities.

Quality assurance

[Labour inspection](#) is in charge with ensuring the quality of labour conditions for the trainees and apprentices. There are no information available on the evaluation of the quality of the training.

3.6 Integration of Young People in the Labour Market

Youth employment measures

The main policy measures for youth employment, according to the [law on employment and unemployment, law no. 76/2002](#), include:

- young unemployed graduates (from secondary or tertiary education) have the right to an employment bonus of 500 lei (about 110 Euro)
- employers of young unemployed graduates (from secondary or tertiary education) have the right to a monthly state subsidy for 12 months of 900 lei (about 200 Euro)
- employers of young unemployed vulnerable persons have the right to a state subsidy of 1000 lei (about 220 Euro)
- employers of school or university students during school holidays have the right to a monthly state subsidy of 250 lei (about 55 Euro) for the employment period
- all unemployed persons (including young people) that are employed at more than 50 kilometres from their home have the right a mobility bonus of about 15 000 lei (about 3 300 Euro)
- all unemployed persons (including young people) that change their residence in order to find a job have the right a mobility bonus of about 3500 lei (about 770 Euro)
- competences evaluation centres can access funding and provide free competences and skill evaluations to young people.

All these measures have been included in the [Youth Guarantee national scheme](#) and in some cases allocation and subsidies have been raised as a result of the streamlining of youth in employment policies as part of the Youth Guarantee scheme.

On the other hand, no information is available considering the following policy measures (both short-term and structural) implemented at top-level to foster the access of young job-seekers to employment:

- direct job-creation schemes;

- adapted measures to specific target groups identified within the youth population (e.g. long-term unemployed, low-skilled job seekers, NEETs, etc.);
- large-scale outreach strategies to disseminate information about job opportunities and employment support services (e.g. youth employment focal points, dedicated offices or agencies, awareness raising initiatives, etc.)

Flexicurity measures focusing on young people

There are no flexicurity measures focusing on young people implemented in Romania.

Reconciliation of private and working life for young people

Young people under 18 have the right to a shorter working time than older persons, namely 6 instead of 8 hours a day, and cannot be employed for night work, according to the [Labour code](#).

Funding of existing schemes/initiatives

Funding for integration policy measures provided by the public employment services is ensured by a special budgetary fund of social insurance.

Quality assurance

[Labour inspection](#) is in charge with ensuring the quality of working conditions and contracts and it is also checking the conditions meet by employees in order to receive subsidies for the integration of young people. It is a specialized body of the central public administration subordinated to the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice. The institution shall ensure the exercise of control in the areas of labour relations, occupational safety and health and market surveillance.

3.7 Cross-Border Mobility in Employment, Entrepreneurship and Vocational Opportunities

Programmes and schemes for cross-border mobility

The National Employment Agency from Romania is also counselling and mediating jobs abroad. A [special section of their website](#) is dedicated to working abroad. These opportunities for jobs abroad are available in Romania thanks to the participation to the EURES network. Jobs available in the European Economic Area are regularly published in Romania, and the counselling services are available for these jobs.

Moreover, Romania participate to the 'targeted mobility scheme': '[Your first EURES Job](#)' in a [project](#) implemented until January 2017 in Sweden, Slovenia, Ireland, Romania, Denmark, Finland and Azores using the EURES portal.

[Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs](#) – the mobility programme of the European Commission for young entrepreneurs participating to a learning and best practice sharing experience with more experienced entrepreneurs in other European countries – is implemented in Romania. No data are available concerning the implementation of the programme.

National contact points are private organisations (although some of them with public participation):

- the Association for Sustainable Development Slatina
- Danis Foundation for Managerial Development, from Cluj-Napoca
- Neamț Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- University Stefan cel Mare Suceava

Funding for Mobility in Employment, Entrepreneurship and Vocational schemas is ensured by the European Union. No information is available on national budget funded mobility programmes for working, training or entrepreneurial learning abroad.

Legal framework

No specific legal framework exists in Romania for cross-border mobility of young workers, trainees/apprentices and professionals/entrepreneurs and no national regulations are put in place for cross-border mobility.

3.8 Development of Entrepreneurship Competence

Policy Framework

The Youth Strategy includes development of entrepreneurial skills and youth entrepreneurship among its main objectives. The Youth Strategy is a legal document adopted as a Government Decision (no. 24/2015). The specific objectives in this area are:

- a. Increase self-employment among young people
- b. Increase self-employment among young people in rural areas
- c. Promote entrepreneurship at all youth education and training levels
- d. Help young entrepreneurs adjust to European integration and globalisation processes

However, an action plan allowing systematic implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation the strategy, was not adopted until December 2016. For the development and adopting of the action plan and for monitoring the Youth Strategy implementation the Ministry of Youth and Sport needs cooperation and support from other sectorial ministries (Education, Employment, Economy etc.).

Formal learning

Entrepreneurship education is organised and regulated in the formal education system only at the secondary level of education, being a mandatory class for some secondary education specialisations, for pupils being 16-17 years old. However, analysing the [curricula](#) one can observe that the focus is on competences and skills and less on the attitudes that young entrepreneurs should have or should acquire.

At the level of higher education, all the major universities in Romania offer business classes, including an introduction to entrepreneurship. However, given the cultural traditions prevailing in the Romanian university system, the greatest impact stems from the separation between theoretical and practical knowledge, the former being considering superior to the latter. This is reflected not only in the content of courses but also in the teaching methodology, which is almost exclusively based on lectures with less consideration for the active role of students.

Analysing the presentation of university courses on business including entrepreneurship education in Romanian universities based on the information published online by the Universities (websites of 10 biggest universities in Romania have been analysed), one can note three aspects that characterize entrepreneurship courses:

1. they are present almost exclusively in economics and management faculties;
2. their main focus is on the start-up of new businesses;
3. their main aim is to transfer knowledge and skills to the development of the business plan.

Non-formal and informal learning

As part of the Government programme, the Ministry of Youth and Sports launched in 2017 a large [project of entrepreneurship training](#), targeting 200 young people in 8 counties: Bihor, Covasna, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Iași, Satu Mare, Teleorman and Vrancea.

Until 2015, while funding was available, entrepreneurship education has been a priority of the Romanian main youth and youth work organisations, but their initiatives were only project-based and did come to an end as soon as the granting scheme came to an end,

having no follow up plans in place. European programs implementation in Romania included and funded training for young people willing to be entrepreneurs, but evaluations shows that the lack of targeting these activities generated their lack of effectiveness. The strengths of entrepreneurship learning are mainly determined by the extensive investment done to support start-ups and youth entrepreneurship initiatives through the European Social Fund projects. But, at the same time, this investment also came with a challenge – the lack of systematic entrepreneurship education made in schools and universities leads to a sluggish development of entrepreneurial culture in Romania.

The efforts that the young entrepreneurs' associations with private funding have been doing in order to create schemes for young entrepreneurs should be appreciated, as well as the specific schemes to young women entrepreneurs. More than this, important the peer education programmes for young entrepreneurs were also appreciated by the public.

Educators support in entrepreneurship education

In order to support educators (teachers and youth workers) in developing skills for entrepreneurship education, Romania is promoting the implementation granted by Erasmus+ programme. No systematic information is provided on the number of teachers or youth workers benefiting from training projects in the field within Erasmus+. After participation in trainings on entrepreneurship education, the multiplication phases depended on teachers' willingness and motivation to transfer the methods of non-formal learning and training education in class and to promote entrepreneurship among young people.

No other top-level national Romanian initiative has been launched for the educators support in entrepreneurship education.

3.9 Start-up Funding for Young Entrepreneurs

Access to information

While most of the support for young entrepreneurs have been available in packages: training and small start-up funding, within EU funded project under the European Social Fund, the communication in this respect have been only project based and no long term strategy was designed.

No other information is available about top-level policy measure implemented to ensure that young people know about the opportunities, funding and services they can receive as young entrepreneurs.

Access to capital

In 2017 the Ministry for the Business Environment, Commerce and Entrepreneurship launched a programme dedicated to funding new business: the programme [Start-Up Nation - Romania](#). The programme is similar with the programmes implemented in the past, using funding from the European Social Fund. Although opened and promoted as a programme for young people, is not designed specially for young people, and older entrepreneurs can apply as well.

Funding for start-ups and training have been available in for hundreds of young people within [a programme](#) of the Ministry of Economy, Commerce and the Relationship with the Business Environment between 2010 and 2014. In 2015 and 2016 the programme was not targeting young people, but all start-ups, for all ages entrepreneurs.

There is no information on top-level policy measure to facilitate access to debt financing, such as specific loan schemes for start-up creation.

3.10 Promotion of Entrepreneurship Culture

Special events and activities

A wide range of initiatives in the field of entrepreneurial education and start-up funding were implemented, most of them targeting young entrepreneurs and granted through European Social Fund and all of them were project based. Each of these projects had a communication budget available but none of them was specially designed to inform young entrepreneurs about the existent opportunities.

Networks and partnerships

Young entrepreneurs are organised in Romania, in several associations, functioning either as NGOs or as employers' organisations. These young entrepreneurs organisations are one of the most active in implementing the projects funded by European Social Fund mentioned in this section.

For example, '[Trial Firms, the first step for a career](#)' has been implemented by the Romanian Business Association of Young Entrepreneurs with funds from the European Social Fund through the Human Capacity Development Sectoral Operational Programme and targeted 500 high school students that received training and counselling in order to pilot a trial firm. The project has been implemented in 2015 and followed several other projects of the organisations having the same targets.

Youth and junior organisations in Romania promoting entrepreneurship – such as [Junior Achievements Romania](#) and [Junior Chamber International Romania](#) – are also implementing entrepreneurship learning programmes funded by the members and sponsors. However, information on these projects and programmes is not easily available and few of the interviewees for the present report consider these programmes as having an impact at a larger scale. They are, on the other hand, very well appreciated by the participants and in terms of long term impact for their participants.

3.11 Current Debates and Reforms

No information on current debates and reforms on the field of youth employment and entrepreneurship is available.

4. Social Inclusion

Traditionally, the Romanian social policy focuses on social benefit payments to people in need and risk of social exclusion, and less on social services. Social services are provided according to the [Law no. 292/2011 of social assistance](#). There are three service types regulated: (1) Personal care services; (2) Recovery services; (3) (Re)integration social services. Although young people can benefit from these services, in none of the services designed by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, young people are not specially targeted and none of these services is specially designed for young people.

Analysing the social inclusion measures included in the [National Strategy on Social Inclusion](#) the [Youth Strategy](#) and reunited under the [Anti-poverty Package](#) in 2016, one can observe most of the measures are designed around schools in less favoured areas. Social services for the inhabitants of the LFA (less favoured area) are centered around school, so it becomes a motor of social inclusion, by supplementing the activity of Public Social Assistance Services and by giving information, counselling and social, health and educational services to the children and young people attending school and their families. By means of: (1) social and medical office (including dentist's office) in schools; (2) specialised staff (psychologist, school counsellor, speech therapist); (3) schools canteen. However, there are few places where these services have been already developed in 2017.

4.1 General context

Main challenges to social inclusion

According to the analysis for the [National Strategy for Social Inclusion](#), probably the main challenge to social inclusion in Romania is poverty. Starting in 2009, young people have had the second highest poverty rate, being the main group affected by the economic crisis. In 2012, youths between 18 and 24 years old had an [extremely high poverty rate](#), very close to the high risk of poverty experienced by children. What is worrying is that in the case of youths, the poverty rate increased significantly over time (by 7 percentage points during the 2008 to 2012 period). This increase may have been due to the growing vulnerability and risk of youths on the labour market during those years.

Roma have a much higher risk of being in poverty, irrespective of their age, education, or area of residence. Based on the national absolute poverty threshold measured using the consumption level from 2013, Roma citizens have a ten times higher risk of being poor than the rest of the population (the rate for the Roma population was 33% compared with only 3.4% for the whole population). What is worrying is that the poverty risk is extremely large for Roma children and young people - their poverty rate is 37.7%, while the national poverty rate is only 4.3%. Being young Roma are therefore at double risk.

In-work poverty affects one in two adults in Romania, including young adults. The large majority of in-work poor combine earnings with social protection transfers (80% of the total), the child allowances being the most common form of support.

Children and youth deprived of parental care and support are among the most vulnerable groups in Romania identified by research and strategic planning.

While during the 1990s the special protection system for children separated from their families have been the source of internationally known scandals in Romania, the conditions in the orphanages being outrageous, the system has been reformed in Romania over the last 15 years. Placement, foster families or small placement houses for children and young people under 18 separated by their families have been generally taken the place of large orphanages.

Main concepts

[Social assistance law in Romania](#), other regulations and the entire system operate with the concept of 'young people leaving the special protection system', regarding to young people over 18 that are leaving any form of protection while separated from their parents, either by placement in the extended family (grandparents or other relatives), or by placement to foster families or to orphanages.

Acknowledging the fact that discrimination is one of the main causes that generate or maintain situations of exclusion and marginalization, the disadvantaged category is defined by the [special law on combating discrimination](#) as being that category of people who are either in a position of inequality compared to the majority's situation, due to differences in identity or are facing rejection and marginalization when it comes to others' behaviour. The vulnerable groups include: children at risk of poverty, vulnerability to social disintegration processes, juvenile delinquency; young people over 18 who are no longer covered by the family protection system; people with disabilities; persons belonging to the Roma population in high risk situations; the elderly in high risk situation and the homeless.

4.2 Administration and Governance

Governance

In the field of social inclusion the responsibilities are divided between several institutions:

- the **Ministry of Labour and Social Justice** is the main central authority responsible for the development of the national policies. It also has a coordination

role over the county offices implementing social inclusion policies and a monitoring role over the implementation of policies at national, county and local level;

- the **National Authority for Children Protection and Adoptions (NACPA)** is the central institution under the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice in charge with policy making (while decision on these policies lies with the Ministry) for the social protection of young people under 18;
- the **General Offices for Social Assistance and Children Protection (GOSACP)** are implementing the ministry policies at county level in the field of social inclusion and child protection, including young people under 18;
- the **National Agency for Payment and Social Inspection (NAPSI)** is an institution under the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice in charge with the coordination of social benefit payments and inspecting these payments. The institution has **county offices** that are directly communicating with the local services and carrying out the inspections;
- the **Public Social Assistance Services (PSAS)** are departments at the level of local authorities, in charge with direct provision of services and direct distribution of social benefits.

Central authorities have a regulatory responsibility in the field of services and can also allocate limited financial resources from the central state budget for accredited organisations that provide such services, according to [Law no. 34/1998 on providing subventions to Romanian associations and foundations with legal personality, which establishes and administers social assistance units](#).

Trade unions, employers' organisations and NGOs participate in policy making in the field of youth social inclusion using two main methods:

1. ad-hoc consultative meetings, mainly with NGOs
2. the [Economic and Social Council](#), a consultative body of the Parliament and the Government, organised as an autonomous tripartite public institution of national interest, having the function of an advisory board for all bills in the social or economic field.

There are three types of organisations participating to the Economic and Social Council:

1. nationally representative trade unions, according to the [Law no. 62/2011 on social dialogue](#);
2. nationally representative employers associations, according to the [Law no. 62/2011 on social dialogue](#);
3. NGOs appointed by the Minister of Labour, according to representation criteria. However, the criteria are not public. An umbrella youth organisation: the [Romanian Youth Council](#) is part of the Economic and Social Council.

In ad-hoc meetings the participation of NGOs is more important.

UNICEF office in Romania is also active, providing information, studies and advices at the level of policy planning as well as testing and piloting social assistance models at local level. Their models are targeting primarily children, but young people (14-35 years old) are also an important target group for UNICEF office in Romania.

The governance approach to youth social inclusion is top-down concerning policy development and decentralised in implementation. Local Public Assistance Services in the structure of local administration and authorised certified NGOs are directly providing social assistance and paying social benefits.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

There are three mechanisms of cross-sectorial cooperation between Ministries, Departments, and Agencies involved in defining top-level policies and measures on youth employment and entrepreneurship:

1. Ad-hoc meetings
2. Ad-hoc inter-ministerial committees organised on different topics according to the bill in preparation.
3. The [Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme Human Capacity \(OPHU\)](#), the programme including social assistance and social inclusion measures from the European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative. The Monitoring Committee of OPHU is an important cooperation mechanism, as this programme funds many strategic initiatives and projects in the field of youth social inclusion.

No evidence and public documents are available on the results of the cross-sector cooperation mechanisms presented.

4.3 Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Young People

Existence of a National Strategy on social inclusion

A [National Strategy on Social Inclusion](#) exists in Romania and the Youth Strategy has a dedicated pillar to youth inclusion. A separate strategy on the social inclusion of young people as such does not exist in Romania.

Both strategic documents have been approved by Government Decisions in 2015: the Youth Strategy by Government Decision no. 24/2015 and the National Strategy on Social Inclusion by Government Decision no. 383/2015.

All measure for social inclusion stipulated by different governmental strategies and programmes have been reunited in 2016 in *the Anti-poverty Package*. The package includes several provisions for young people. For young people who dropped out of school and have reduced chances to get a job, developing programmes to assist their professional development as well as to continue their studies were planned. *The Anti-poverty Package* is not a legal document by itself. It is an instrument used to organise all the government strategies, initiatives and programmes regulated by law or Government Decision.

Scope and contents

In the field of social inclusion of youth the anti-poverty package has measures targeting children and young people under 18 and measures targeting young adults. These measures are:

1. School – the inclusion motor in disadvantaged areas

The initiative is centring social services for the inhabitants of the LFA (less favoured area) around school, so it becomes a motor of social inclusion, by supplementing the activity of Public Social Assistance Services and by giving information, counselling and social, health and educational services to the children and young people attending school and their families. By means of:

- a. social and medical office (including dentist's office) in schools;
- b. specialised staff (psychologist, school counsellor, speech therapist);
- c. schools canteen

2. School after school – national program in the less favoured schools

The [programme](#) aims at educational support for vulnerable children and young people in order to prevent school dropout by providing after school programmes, including hot meals. The programme will establish the mechanism to extend the existing programme at national level. The programme was to be piloted in 50 schools and expanded then at the national level.

3. Second Chance – national program in the LFA

The [programme](#) aims at increasing the number of schools offering the Second Chance. The programme offers a flexible school approach to bring children, young people and adults back to school in order to graduate mandatory education levels.

4. Grants for schools in LFA

The [initiative](#) is following an implementation plan model from the World Bank, by

- a. Revising the per capita financing formula
- b. Grants for increasing the efficiency of disadvantaged schools
- c. Grants for school – community partnerships
- d. Prizes for talented teachers in disadvantaged schools

5. National programme following the 'Teach for Romania' model

The initiative aims at developing a national program consisting of recruiting highly talented young people, including teachers already employed in the education system, training them, offering support scholarships and grants and a mentoring program for teaching for 2 years in disadvantaged, vulnerable and/or remote schools.

6. Schools accessible to children

The initiative aims at ensuring enough and proper spaces for classes by also stimulating entrepreneurship in vulnerable areas in:

- a) construction, extension and/or repairing works in kindergartens and schools with a high number of less favoured children.
- b) ensuring local transportation (school buses or minivans) by providing vouchers to pupils

7. Preventing early dropout through sport

This is a pilot program aimed at attracting and keeping children and young people in school through sport activities development. The initiative is be funded by the European Economic Area programmes.

8. Integrated national program for young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs)

The initiative offers individual assistance for each case: registration, profiling, information and counselling, monitoring the measures dedicated to NEETs, including either employment measures (including auto-employment) or measures to get young people back to education, using initiatives like the Second Chance school programme.

9. Revival of vocational and technical education in urban and rural areas

The initiative aims at developing the professional and vocational education – scaling pilot projects of vocational schools, in partnership with the employers.

10. The socio-professional insertion of young people leaving the special protection system

The initiative aims at developing Transit Centres, Social Apartments, social housing and support for socio-professional inclusion, measures for mentoring in the placement period

and foster care centres. Moreover, the initiative aims at developing of quality standards and monitoring of institutionalised persons (children in foster care, children with disabilities).

Specific objectives of the Youth Strategy in the area of social inclusion of youth include:

- a. Promoting inclusive measures for youth with the aim of facilitating access to the formal labour market;
- b. Promoting direct non-formal education at the social reintegration of socially excluded youth, maintain or restore access to formal education while effectively promoting non-formal and informal learning and the recognition of acquired competences;
- c. Promoting equal access to health for young people, maintain free access to the basic healthcare package, and improve the quality of medical procedures benefiting children and youth in difficulty;
- d. Promoting the 'voice' of and empower the poor communities with high shares of children and young people, as well as the socially excluded youth;
- e. Re-launching policies that combat poverty and promote social inclusion in Romania, with a focus on youth and children, to reduce any gaps accumulated in the early life stages which can adversely affect an individual's entire future life course and be difficult to offset later on;
- f. Developing new programmes aimed at building or retrofitting social housing so as to enable the implementation of the legal provisions that entitle disadvantaged young people to a dwelling;
- g. Creating and implementing special support measures for socially vulnerable youth groups, in partnership with all the competent institutions from all sectors.

All these objectives were to be carried out through the action plan of the Youth Strategy, action plan that is still under development.

Responsible authority

There is no unique responsible authority for the implementation of the social inclusion measures. Different measures are in the responsibility of different authorities, as follows:

- all measures regarding activities in schools are supervised by the [Ministry of Education](#) and Scientific Research, and implemented by the County School Inspectorates;
- the [National Employment Agency](#) and its local offices, under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice has to implement all measures including activities aiming at the employment of vulnerable young people
- the [General Offices for Social Assistance and Children Protection](#) under the [Ministry of Labour and Social Justice](#) has to implement all measures regarding young people from the special protection system
- the [Ministry of Health](#) has to implement measures to ensure health protection of vulnerable youth
- the [Ministry of Youth and Sport](#) has to implement measures to ensure the participation of vulnerable young people in their communities, in addition to projects implemented by the local communities with the support of the European Social Fund (project aiming at community development for social inclusion of all their members, including young people).

Revisions/Updates

No updates have been made to the present [Youth Strategy](#), to the [National Strategy on Social Inclusion](#) or to the [Anti-poverty Package](#) since their adoption or drafting.

4.4 Inclusive Programmes for Young People

Programmes for vulnerable young people

Several strategic programmes included in the *Anti-poverty Package* are established programmes for vulnerable children and youth, as follows:

1. **School after school** – the programme aims to prevent school dropout by providing after school programmes organised by the schools themselves, with the participation of teachers with additional payment for these activities and including providing meals for children and young people.
2. **Second Chance** – the programme is organising remedial classes.
3. **Social benefit programmes.** Legislation in the field of social benefits has the purpose of improving the living standards of young people. However, one has to notice these measures are not targeting only young people, but all vulnerable people. Several legal provisions targeting especially reduction of (monetary) poverty regulate the social benefits, as follows:
 - The family allowances (provided by [Law no. 277/2010](#)) are granted and paid to families with low revenue per family member calculated according to the social indicator - set threshold - 500 lei (about 110 Euro).
 - The guaranteed minimum income (provided by [Law no. 416/2001](#)) is paid to all persons with monthly revenue under a set threshold.
 - The heating aid (provided by the [Emergency Government Ordinance 70/2011](#)) is paid to support heating expenses for families with low revenue per family member.
4. Benefits for disabled persons (including young people) under 18 and their caregivers (granted by [Law no. 448/2006](#)):
 - Disabled persons have the right to special treatment (free healthcare, free transportation, free education etc.) and the right to an allowance for them and if needed for a caregiver, at request.
 - The family or the guardian of a child (including a young person under 18) with disabilities has the right to receive social assistance during the period when the child is in their care, supervision and support.

Funding

The School after School and Second Chance programmes are funded by the State budget and the European Social Fund within the Operational Programme Human Capital will fund them. Due to the way the budgets headings are provided by the national budget, there is impossible to determine the overall budget for these programmes, as they have two funding sources and the programme implementation is divided among the 41 counties.

The support measures for young people leaving the special protection system and the benefits for disabled persons are included in the state budget. On the other hand, the local authorities pay the social benefits, from local budgets. Due to the way the budgets headings are provided by the national budget, there is impossible to

Due to the form of the budgets published it is impossible to isolate the amount of funding of these programmes going to young people, in the total funding including children and adults as well.

Quality assurance

[Social inspection](#) is in charge of quality assurance for the programmes of social benefits and benefits for disabled persons. Fund cuts and even lawsuits in court of embezzlement against people receiving social benefits without right can be the result of these inspections.

Quality of School after School and Second Chance programmes is assured by the school inspection. When the European Social Funds will fund these programmes quality assurance will be part of the grant rules and breaking any quality standard will determine proportional cut of funds.

4.5 Initiatives promoting social inclusion and raising awareness

Intercultural awareness

Intercultural awareness as such has not been promoted by government initiatives. The Council of Europe '[No Hate](#)' campaign, including intercultural elements, has been heavily promoted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2016, by organising the Non-Formal Learning Laboratory targeting young leaders and youth workers in order to multiply the message and other events promoting the 'No Hate' message.

Young people's rights

One of the most important actions within the '[No Hate](#) campaign in Romania', together with the 'No Hate' Non-Formal Learning Laboratory, was the partnership of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in organising the 'No Hate' Youth Roma Forum in November 2016. Over 100 young people participated in the forum.

The Youth Summit took place in Timisoara in November 2016. It was organised by several youth NGOs, but the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and representatives of the Romanian Presidency participated in the event.

Key initiatives to safeguard democracy and prevent radicalisation leading to violent extremism

Similar to the initiatives to raise intercultural awareness, the closest governmental initiative to the goal to prevent radicalisation leading to violent extremism is the active participation of the Ministry of Youth and Sport to promote the 'No Hate' message.

4.6 Access to Quality Services

Housing

A special housing programme for young people (older than 21 years old), allowing young people and families to rent or buy apartments at low prices is implemented by the Romanian Government, through the [National House Agency](#), under the [Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds](#). The houses are built by the National House Agency, but the local authorities, which can decide to rent or to sell the apartments, ensure their administration. In both cases the prices are fixed by the state. Even if one has to be young in order to sign a renting or buying contract, he/she can benefit from the low rent and keep the apartment both without a difference in payment after the age of 35 (the age of youth).

The local authorities provide social houses, but the programmes don't target young people, and there is no available data on the proportion of young people benefiting from social housing.

Social services

Social services are provided according to the [Law no. 292/2011 of social assistance](#). There are three service types regulated:

1. Personal care services
2. Recovery services
3. (Re)integration social services

Social services providing according to the social assistance law target the following groups:

- children and their families, including young people under 18 and young families;
- disabled persons, including young people with disabilities;
- elderly;
- victims of family violence, including young people;
- homeless people, including young homeless;
- people with various addictions (alcohol, drugs and other toxic substances, internet, gaming, etc.), including young addicts;
- victims of human trafficking, including young victims;
- detainees, including young persons;
- persons under probation, including young persons;
- people with mental disorders (including young people);
- people in isolated communities (including young people);
- long term unemployed (including young people)

All target groups, but the elderly, can include young people. Still, in none of the services designed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, young people are not specially targeted and none of these services is specially designed for young people.

Services include:

- accommodation in residential centres
- protected houses for persons with disabilities
- integration centres through occupational therapies for persons with disabilities
- special accommodation for victims of violence or trafficking
- aid services provided at the beneficiary home
- social canteens

Only certified providers can offer social services. Certification is issued based on quality standards drafted by the MLFSPE and the verification of social inspection to:

1. Public institutions, organised by the local public authorities
2. NGOs

Social services aiming at young people with a focus on the young people leaving the special protection system, providing them with support measures (housing or accommodation, daily allowance), at request and for a limited period of time, in accordance with the [Law no. 292/2011 of social assistance](#).

Any social service is only provided at request. Not all certified services are available in all communities, not even in big cities. A [map of certified social services](#) providers have been released by the MLFSPE in December 2016.

Health care

Young people until 26, if they are attending any school or educational institution, benefit from state health insurance.

Services for substances addicts and campaigns to prevent addictions are including young people among their target groups, but they are not primarily and specially designated for young people. Services are provided in certified centres managed by public authorities or NGOs, as described in the previous section. Probably the campaigns against addictions are the most visible public campaigns funded by the government.

Recovery services for persons with disabilities, including young people are also available in the certified centres managed by public authorities or NGOs.

Health mediators are regulated in Romania and they can be professionally trained in a training programme. But there is not a visible campaign to develop a national health mediators network.

Financial services

There are no information on financial services designed for vulnerable young people.

Quality assurance

For housing quality is ensured by the local authorities, based on autonomous systems. Local authorities have an inspection service. There is no information on the amount of work done by this service in order to ensure quality of housing provided for vulnerable young people.

Quality assurance for the social and health services is provided via the certification based on quality standards and the inspection of the social inspection. The social inspection works within the National Agency for Payment and Social Inspection (NAPSI) conducting inspections based on an annual plan and unannounced controls.

4.7 Youth Work to Foster Social Inclusion

Policy/legal framework

In terms of institutional arrangement, no institution - neither public nor non-governmental - is exclusively in charge youth work implementation and advancement (in terms of policies, programmes, working tools and methodologies). Since social inclusion is one of the most important elements in the Youth Strategy, the Ministry of Youth and Sports took the responsibility to promote inclusive youth work, and its main instrument is working through its county offices and providing grants to youth NGOs for inclusive youth work projects. However, no systematic monitoring is done at the level of funded projects in order to be able to provide information and data on the outcomes and results of these funded projects.

The most important legal framework for youth work to foster youth inclusion is the Youth Law. Moreover, an important policy and legal document used to increase public capacity for the social inclusion of youth is the public budget grant law ([law no. 350/2005](#)).

Main inclusive Youth-Work programmes and target groups

The most important policy framework to foster social inclusion is the Ministry's [grants programme](#). Implemented on the basis of the public budget grant law ([law no. 350/2005](#)) and a methodology approved by Minister of Youth and Sports Order (third level legislation), the grant programme is funding small projects (maximum 5 500 Euro) for youth NGOs and NGOs working with young people. Priority or extra points are given to projects targeting vulnerable young people.

Youth work providers in the field of social inclusion for young people

Main youth work providers in the field of social inclusion for young people are the NGOs. However, no list of such NGOs is available in order to present the exact name of these providers. Many of them are small and working at local level.

There are two ways of conducting activities of social inclusion for young people by the NGOs doing this kind of youth work:

1. Providing social services, on the basis of the certification presented in section 4.6 and including youth work activities in the residential or non-residential centres of social services
2. Fundraising for grants for time-limited projects.

Public funds are not allocated in order to build capacity for the youth work providers towards social inclusion. Funds are available for activities, but a fundraising effort is needed from these NGOs.

Training and support for youth workers engaged in social inclusion programmes

The Ministry of Youth and Sports organises annually several projects for training youth workers, including projects for training youth workers involved in social inclusion activities such as:

- [Training for educators](#) on combating hate speech.
- [Training](#) for social animators
- Non-formal education [Laboratory](#).
- [tineRetea](#) - the national youth workers network.

In 2016, the Ministry of Youth and Sports organised a [training](#) for youth workers implementing activities for vulnerable young people, including NEETs.

Moreover, in 2016 the West University in Timisoara, have been launching an [MA programme](#) for youth workers, including youth workers in the field of social inclusion. The programme will start with the first classes in 2017/18.

Financial support

Several grant-makers and funds are available for social inclusion projects, including the European Social Fund, the European Economic Area grants for NGOs and social inclusion, grants from the Ministry of Youth and Sports. There are no available data and is impossible to compute on the basis of public data the exact amount of funding available for these projects or for the social services targeting youth among the general social services.

Quality assurance

Inspection, monitoring and control from the funding authority ensure quality assurance in NGOs projects or social services implemented by NGOs with public funding.

For the Ministry of Youth and Sports training projects for youth workers only a financial control is provided by the Ministry of Public Finances for expenses over 5 500 Euro. No other mechanism of quality assurance is put in place.

For the MA programme for youth workers at the West University in Timisoara the quality assurance is conducted according to special rules applied for higher education by a special agency: [Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education](#).

4.8 Current Debates and Reforms

There are two reforms in debate in the field of social inclusion, one of them directly regarding young people and the other affecting them:

1. The development of a Ministry of Youth and Sports large training project for institutionalised young people, of 15 to 17 years old. The project title is 'prepared for life' and it aims at developing life skills for these vulnerable young people who will leave the state protection system in a few years and who are usually lacking any kind of life skill.
2. The creation of a programme for young people leaving the special protection system to support them with rent for a house when they turn 18 and cannot benefit from accommodation in state facilities. The programme is going to be named 'the first room' and the European Social Fund will fund the programme.
3. The unification of the three social benefits in one unique payment for socially excluded people for economical reasons: the social inclusion aid.

5. Participation

Most of the consultation of young people concerning youth policies in Romania is organised according to the [law no. 52/2003](#) on decisional transparency, providing two important regulation on participation. The two main rules provided by the law no. 52/2003 on decisional transparency are: (1) all public institutions initiating a normative act (with general applicability to a given territory, therefore a national or local legal regulation), has to publish a draft legislative proposal at least 30 days before its adoption and to be opened to receive comments and suggestions/amendments to the draft

regulation from any citizen; (2) if a legally established organisation (NGO, trade union, employers organisation etc.) requires, the public institutions have to organise a public debate as a face-to-face opened meeting for all organisations and citizens interested in the legislation proposed.

At national level the Consultative Council on Youth Issues (CCYI) is the advisory structure of the Ministry of Youth and Sports with youth associations on developing and monitoring implementation of the youth policy at central level. The Ministry of Youth and Sports provides the secretariat of the Consultative Council. The Consultative Council is regulated by a [Ministry Order establishing the Consultative Council on Youth Issues](#). **At local and county level** consultative councils have been funded and they are active and functional only in some municipalities or counties, depending on the commitment of the local authorities. About 10 Counties Councils in Romania regulated the existence and functioning of county level consultative councils by County Council Decision (an official document at county level). Local Councils are also free to regulate consultative councils by their decision, but only a dozen of them established a formal consultation mechanism with the youth. County and local councils are regulated following the model of the national one. However, these are consultative bodies, not representative bodies, as presented in [sections 5.3. Youth representation bodies](#) and [5.4. Young People's Participation in Policy-Making](#).

A [law establishing the National Council of Youth from Romania](#) was adopted in 2006 creating a representative structure of youth organisations (NGOs, trade unions, political parties youth branches etc.). However the law is not implemented from 2006 until 2017. The council was supposed to have both a representation and consultation role, but due to its very complicated and non-functional regulation it was never actually established.

5.1 General context

Main concepts

In Romania there are no specific concepts regarding youth participation. Although the [Youth Strategy](#) is promoting public, civic and political participation, the concepts are not officially defined in a document, not even in the Youth Strategy.

Citizens' participation to decision making is regulated in Romania by the [law no. 52/2003](#) on decisional transparency, providing two important regulation on participation, relevant for the participation of young people, as the law no 52/2003 is the main instrument of public consultation used in Romania, including in the dialogue with young people. The two main rules provided by the law no. 52/2003 on decisional transparency are:

1. all public institutions initiating a normative act (with general applicability to a given territory, therefore a national or local legal regulation), has to publish a draft legislative proposal at least 30 days before its adoption and to be opened to receive comments and suggestions/amendments to the draft regulation from any citizen;
2. if a legally established organisation (NGO, trade union, employers organisation etc.) requires, the public institutions have to organise a public debate as a face-to-face opened meeting for all organisations and citizens interested in the legislation proposed.

Institutions of representative democracy

Constitutional structure

Romania is a centralized state and a parliamentary democracy. However, the president is directly elected by the people.

Main representative institutions

According to the [Romanian Constitution](#), the main representative institution at national level is the Parliament, with a 4 years mandate, with two chambers.

1. [The Chamber of Deputies](#)
2. [The Senate](#)

The two chambers are both elected on party lists at the level of the state counties and mandate distribution is proportional to votes. The number of members generates the differences between the two chambers: the Chamber of Deputies has 332 members and the Senate has 137 members. From a functional point of view, a law has to be voted by both chambers in order to be adopted, but the last chamber voting is the decisional one and it can overrule the vote of the other chamber. The exact order of the voting in the two chambers for each law depends on the field regulated by the law. E.g. Senate is decisional chamber for education policies and laws, the Chamber of Deputies is decisional chamber for employment policies and laws.

The party or the party coalition holding the majority of seats in the two chambers of the Parliament proposes the prime minister and he or she is appointed by the president. The appointed prime minister forms a government and presents his/hers cabinet and a government programme to the reunited chambers of the Parliament for a trust vote. The voted government is taking a solemn oath in front of the president.

President of the republic is directly elected by the people, for a 5 years mandate

At local level there are two layers of administration with different representation through autonomous institutions, as follows:

- At county level (Romania has 41 counties) the representation is ensured by County Councils, with a 4 years mandate;
- At the level of the capital city the representation is ensured by the General Council of the Municipality of Bucharest, with a 4 years mandate;
- The locality/municipality level, including the 6 sectors of Bucharest, the representation is ensured by the local councils, with a 4 years mandate.

A Mayor, having responsibilities in executing decisions of the Local Council is also directly elected, for a 4 years mandate. In Bucharest a General Mayor is elected and 6 Mayor for the 6 sectors of the city.

Main legal principles concerning elections

The elections are organised in a universal, equal, direct, secret and free suffrage. The vote is cast in all cases on paper ballots by stamping the party or the candidate. Special stamps with the text: "voted" are manufactured for each election.

According to [the electoral legislation](#), the place where a citizen can vote varies according to the elections:

- At the Parliamentary elections, Romanians can only vote in their residence county, as the party lists are proposed at county level;
- Elections for the Local and County Councils and for Mayors are held together, and people can only vote in their residence municipality;
- At Presidential elections and at the elections for the European Parliament the constituency is national and people can vote anywhere in the country.

The vote is not mandatory in Romania and no proxy voting is possible. Since 2016 the electoral legislation introduced a form of voting by correspondence available only for Romanians leaving abroad and only after prior registration and request to use the voting by correspondence system to Romanian consular offices.

5.2 Youth participation in representative democracy

Young people as voters

Voting age limit

The voting age limit is 18 in Romania. It coincides with the legal age of maturity and it is fixed by the [Constitution](#). Through the Art. 36 of the Constitution is stipulated the right to vote but the obligation to vote is not mentioned.

There are no imminent plans to lower the voting age limit or special provisions for young voters.

Turnout of young people

Turnout among young people in Romania is generally lower than the turnout of elder people. Official statistics on the turnout calculated by age is available in Romania only since 2016, for the local elections in June and the parliamentary elections in December. For Presidential elections in 2014 data for young people participation are estimated by the exit pools. Data on the general population participation are provided by the [Permanent Electoral Authority](#).

Youth turnout in the context of the general proportion of youth in the population is presented in the table:

Age group	% in total voting population	Turnout for Parliamentary election 2016	Turnout for Local election 2016	Turnout for Presidential elections 2014 (2 nd round)
18-24	9.4%	29.6%	42.0%	64.9%
25-34	16.7%	33.8%	43.5%	66.8%
General population	100%	39.49%	48.17%	64.11%

Young people as political representatives

Young people as party members

Party members can only be persons with voting rights, therefore over 18, according to the [law on political parties](#). No other discrimination, positive or negative, is made by the legislation regarding to young people participation in political parties.

Political parties have formal party youth wings, for party members until 35, but no age limit is stipulated by the statutes of parliamentary parties according to young people participation to party life and leadership and no special provisions are stipulated in the law on political parties or the parties statutes for the youth wings of parties

Young candidates

Age limits are fixed for candidates, by [Constitution](#), varying according to the election types:

- At 23 for candidates in local elections (County and Local Councils and Mayors)
- At 23 for candidates for the Chamber of Deputies, the lower chamber of the bicameral Parliament
- At 33 for candidates for the Senate, the upper chamber of the bicameral Parliament
- At 35 for candidates for the President of Romania.

The age limit is calculated taking into account the election day, so if a candidate for a Local Council turns up 23 on election day he is eligible.

No quota of seats reserved for young people or other existing provisions aiming at facilitating young people standing as political candidates are implemented in Romania.

Young representatives

Parliamentary elections have been organised in Romania on December 11, 2016. The Parliament formed on December 20, 2016 has 1 senator and 50 deputies under 35, out of a total number of 466 MPs. This means 10.94% of the members of the Parliament under 35, therefore young people according to the Romanian legal definition of youth.

Young people have no reserved functions within the Parliament.

5.3 Youth representation bodies

Youth parliament

A youth parliament is not organised in Romania.

Initiatives named 'Youth Parliament' are organised by NGOs, e.g. [Asociatia Pro Democratia](#), sometimes with public funding support. However, these are not representative bodies of young people, but educational projects of mock parliaments where participants that are not selected by their peers, but by the organisers based on an application-selection process are participating for a few days to simulated parliamentary debates.

Youth councils and/or youth advisory boards

Structure

At national level the Consultative Council on Youth Issues (CCYI) is the advisory structure of the Ministry of Youth and Sports with youth associations on developing and monitoring implementation of the youth policy at central level. The Ministry of Youth and Sports provides the secretariat of the Consultative Council. The Consultative Council is regulated by a [Ministry Order establishing the Consultative Council on Youth Issues](#).

At local and county level consultative councils have been funded and they are active and functional only in some municipalities or counties, depending on the commitment of the local authorities. About 10 Counties Councils in Romania regulated the existence and functioning of county level consultative councils by County Council Decision (an official document at county level). Local Councils are also free to regulate consultative councils by their decision, but only a dozen of them established a formal consultation mechanism with the youth. County and local councils are regulated following the model of the national one.

A [law establishing the National Council of Youth from Romania](#) was adopted in 2006 creating a representative structure of youth organisations (NGOs, trade unions, political parties youth branches etc.). However the law is not implemented from 2006 until 2017. The council was supposed to have both a representation and consultation role, but due to its very complicated and non-functional regulation it was never actually established.

Composition

According to the Ministry Order, members of the CCYI are the presidents or representatives of:

- Romanian Youth Council (one of the largest youth NGO federation in Romania, but without a special status under the youth law)
- NGOs with legal personality and established at national level
- students' federations
- youth organisations of the Parliamentary political parties
- trade unions for youth
- employers' organisations for youth

Role and responsibilities

Both at national and local level, the role of Youth Consultative Councils is to inform the national and local authorities on the opinion of young people on the policy initiatives.

A second role of these councils is the communication outreach on youth issues. The main domains of its activity of Youth Consultative Councils are youth-specific topics.

The meetings are the main tools used by the Consultative Council on Youth Issues as regulated by the Ministry Order. Meetings are also the main tools used by the youth consultative councils existing at local or county level.

Funding

At national level, the Ministry of Youth and Sports ensures basic funding for meeting organisation (supplies and coffee breaks). Other costs are not covered by public budgets.

At local level, Youth Consultative Councils are rarely funded. Meetings are held in the premises of local institutions and no other costs are related to these meetings.

Higher education student union(s)

Structure

Students Unions are organised in Romania on the basis of the general legislation for NGOs, the [Government Ordinance no. 26/2000](#).

They are recognised as student representatives by the [Education Law no. 1/2011](#), but their functioning is regulated by the general legislation on NGOs. Therefore, student organisations or union have the right to choose their organisational status, with the only obligation to nominate a representative and to ensure a treasurer for financial issues.

The student unions active at national level are the following:

1. ANOSR - The National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania
2. USR - The Romanian Students' Union
3. UNSR - The Romanian National Students' Union

Composition

Students union are composed of students in a Faculty or in and University. Students' Federations reunite at national level students organisations.

Role and responsibilities

The role of the student organisations/unions is to represent students in their rapport with the faculty, university and the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research.

Funding

Funding of student organisations is ensured generally through grants for projects. Other funding possibilities are available for NGOs, as member contributions, but they are rare in Romania.

The Students Cultural Centres subordinated to the Ministry of Youth and Sports ensure a small part of funding for cultural and training projects implemented by student organisations.

School student union(s)

Structure

The [National School Students Council](#) officially represents school students and is defined as a consultative structure of the Ministry of Education. The organisation of the National School Students Council is established by [Order of the Minister of Education and Scientific Research \(third level legislation\)](#). According to this the National School Students Council works in three main organisations:

1. The General Assembly
2. The Executive Office
3. The Ethics Committee

Composition

Each school unit should establish the School's Student Council. Each classroom should have a representative in the School Council and then each School Council should have a representative in the County School Students' Council. Each County should have a representative in the National School Students Council. Each of these bodies serves as consultation body for the decision makers at the respective level: school, county and national. Members of the school students' councils are elected by their peers.

The School's Student Council does not provide public data on the number of the school student union members at any level, excepting the executive board, of 9 members.

Role and responsibilities

The National School Students Council is the official consultative body of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and the official representative of the school students in their relationship with the central administration.

Local, county and regional school students' councils function at the respective levels with similar functions.

The main objectives and activities carried out by the School Councils are the following:

- developing a functional educational partnership in the Romanian pre-university system, where students express their interests freely and participate actively in the decision-making process;
- Informing students on their rights and responsibilities
- Organising projects on civic, cultural, educational, sports, recreational themes;
- Organising extra-curricula activities and activities aimed at developing civic attitudes, non-discrimination, fair competition, teamwork;
- Collaboration with other NGOs, Student Clubs, Cultural Centres, Media Editors, for organising projects and information activities, public debate, communication;
- Producing informative materials on civil society, school and extra-curricula activities;
- Identifying the causes of school dropout, low school performance and organising specific programs to prevent them;
- Organising discussions and forums on combating violence, drug use, school dropout or other social issues in pupils' lives;
- Promoting the opportunities for scholarships, grants and other rewarding opportunities for students;
- Involving students in non-formal education activities related to professional orientation and career planning;
- Attracting specialists into actions that will lead to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle;
- Developing and implementing of education, culture, sports and environment projects;
- Organising artistic cultural activities such as camps, trips, shows, balls, etc.
- Promoting and supporting young talent among students;
- Editing and editing of magazines for students;
- Creating and managing a site and a forum;
- Carrying out actions with charitable purpose
- Building up partnerships with social, administrative, cultural and educational institutions, such as: Police, County Council, Prefecture, City Hall, or other institutions for conducting actions;
- Performing school-based programs in partnership with one of the radio or television stations;
- Carrying out specific activities to strengthen the school-community-family partnership;
- Conducting studies and surveys on respecting the rights and obligations of students in educational institutions;

- Drafting legislative and organisational proposals and amendments to support students' rights.

Funding

The National School Students Council is funded by the national budget. However the amount of the funding is not public and the financial execution of the budget is not available.

Other bodies

No other youth representation official bodies have been identified in Romania, neither networks of youth clubs or associations of youth centres.

5.4 Young people's participation in policy-making

Formal Mechanisms of Consultation

Regulation

No special provisions on the consultation of young people exist in Romania.

Consultation of citizens on policy issues is implemented according to the [Law no. 52/2003 on decision making transparency](#). The law provides for the publication of all normative decisions at local and central level for consultation for at least 10 days and the organisation of a public debate if a registered NGO is asking for the debate.

According to the [Youth Law](#), local authorities must consult with youth organisations in all meters of interest for the youth. However, when a consultative youth council is not organised the obligation is considered met only by complying with the provisions of Law no. 52/2003.

At national level, the Consultative Council on Youth Issues (CCYI), including the National Youth Council and other Youth NGOs is holding meetings monthly or every two months organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and consultation on the policies initiated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports is done through the activity of this council. No particular mechanisms of youth participation exist for specific policy fields, as employment, education or the voting systems.

Levels of consultation

For the Ministry of Youth and Sports and for some local authorities the creation of the Consultative Youth Councils is the most important formal mechanism of consultation used but no guidelines on how to organise and structure the consultation at the regional or local level had been put in place.

Consultation methods

The most important consultation method used is the face-to-face meeting, bot the meetings of the Consultative Council on Youth Issues (CCYI) and the debates organised according to law no. 52/2003 on decisional transparency are face to face meetings organised at the premises of the central institutions initiating them.

According to law 52/2003 on decisional transparency, before organising a public debate, a national authority has to receive suggestions and comments on draft legislation proposals. Suggestions and comments are received by e-mail.

Regularity of consultations

Consultations according to the [Law no. 52/2003 on decision making transparency](#) are organised every time a new regulation (normative act) is initiated.

On the other hand, the frequency of the Consultative Youth Councils meetings varies from one every month or two months (at national level), to once every three or six months at local level, depending on the local regulations.

Actors

Youth actors

Generally participation in Youth Consultative Councils is opened to all organisations showing an interest in youth issues, both at national and local level. At national level the number of organisations participating is not limited, but de facto about 25 are actively taking part at meetings.

Most important actors participating in consultations are youth NGOs and students unions. According to the [Minister Order](#), members of the CCYI are the presidents or representatives of:

- Romanian Youth Council (one of the largest youth NGO federation in Romania, but without a special status under the youth law)
- NGOs with legal personality and established at national level
- students' federations
- youth organisations of the Parliamentary political parties
- trade unions for youth
- employers' organisations for youth

Public authorities

The key public authority represented in youth consultation processes is the Ministry of Youth and Sport. Some local authorities and some County Offices for Sports and Youth (subordinated to the Ministry) are also present in the consultations, as they created consultative youth councils. However, this is not an obligation.

No information are available on top-level authorities involved in consultation of particular youth groups, as young people with fewer opportunities or young people with a migrant background.

Information on the extent of youth participation

The Ministry did not monitor the level of participation of young people to public consultation of any type described above and no data are available for the period before 2016. For 2016 the Ministry of Youth and Sports published on its website the reports of the Consultative Council on Youth Issues (CCYI) meetings. In average about 20 people representing youth NGOs and students organisations participated in the 6 meetings organised in 2016.

Outcomes

Main outcomes

Most often, young people and youth organisations are consulted for feedback on the initiatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sport and Local and County Councils initiatives in the field of youth.

According to the Secretary of State for youth representing the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2016, M. Andrei Popescu, the main factors that contributed to the success of consultation processes is participating actors' determination to have a constructive dialogue and to focus on results at policy level. Policy makers are usually expecting an input from young people organisations and representatives on the needs they want to be addressed and specific comments and suggestions on the proposed policy and legislative drafts put forward by the authorities.

The lack of monitoring and reporting on previous consultations is an obstacle on building further the cooperation of the responsible authorities with young people, as the consultation have been always started from the beginning and no progress was formally recorded over time.

Public availability of outcomes

After January 2016 the Ministry of Youth and Sport started publishing on its website the [reports on meetings](#) of the Consultative Council on Youth Issues.

Large-scale initiatives for dialogue or debate between public institutions and young people

In 2016 the Ministry of Youth and Sports implemented an online survey in order to establish preferences of young people regarding some provisions of the [Youth Law](#), including the moment of the national youth day.

Moreover, in 2016, the Ministry of Youth and Sports organised a youth workers network in order to organise consultations with young people within the framework of structured dialogue. About 120 youth workers organised 79 debates (using open space technology and the World Café method), with the participation of 1537 young people, in order to determine Romanian youth position on the European Council priorities on youth and Romanian youth priorities for the moment when the country will have the presidency of the European Council, in 2019.

The initiative was continued in 2017, but outcome data are not available in October 2017 regarding the number of consultations organised.

This initiative is developed within a Structured Dialogue project funded by Erasmus+ and, although is the largest initiative for dialogue or debate between public institutions and young people, it is developed outside the regular consultation mechanisms based on the activity of the Consultative Council on Youth Issues (CCYI) and the implementation of the procedure provided by the law no. 52/2003 on decisional transparency.

5.5 National strategy to increase youth participation

Existence of a national strategy to increase young people's political and civil society participation

There is no separate strategy to increase young people's political and civil society participation in Romania. However, a special section of the [Youth Strategy for 2015-2020](#), adopted in 2015 through Government Decision no. 24/2015 refers to youth participation.

Scope and contents

The strategy aims to address national and local level participation, and public, civic and political participation.

The specific objectives of the Youth Strategy on youth participation are:

- a) Increase youth participation in community life, in all its social, educational, cultural, economic and health aspects
- b) Increase youth participation in political life
- c) Increase participation of youth-led and youth-serving non-governmental organisations in the structured dialogue

The lines of action of the Youth Strategy on youth participation are:

- Create more opportunities for youth participation in community life;
- Support seminars, conferences and similar events to promote adolescent and youth participation;
- Promote successful models of participation to encourage youth to get involved in community life;
- Present to youth and parents the benefits, competences and skills they may gain through volunteer engagement;
- Reward the best initiatives and decisions involving youth participation at local level as part of project competitions;

- Set up research and consultation groups consisting of young people at the level of territorial and administrative divisions (communes, towns, counties);
- Increase youth motivation to participate in community life through project involvement;
- Create funding opportunities for setting up or improving sustainable youth facilities at local level;
- Develop civic education in the formal education system;
- Promote activities of interest for young people and tailor volunteering opportunities to various youth groups;
- Improve youth policy regulation, governance, transparency, and accessibility;
- Ensure that, at the level of youth centres, student cultural centres and leisure facilities for youth, strategic management is primarily conducted by YNGO representatives and that executive management is exclusively appointed based on competence and utmost transparency;
- Create platforms that enable young people to report cases of abuse, corruption and fraud in public institutions and run campaigns to encourage the use of such platforms;
- Measure the impact of volunteering on individual performance and the personal perception of gained experience from the economic agents' perspective.
- Add political education notions to the civic education curriculum in the formal education system;
- Actively involve youth-led and youth-serving non-governmental organisations in working to introduce civic and political education in the formal curriculum;
- Increase voter turnout among young people with the help of mass media and information points;
- Ensure students' right to vote in the community where they live throughout their studies;
- Encourage youth involvement in mock decision-making processes to facilitate their understanding of democratic mechanisms.
- Make transparent decisions in the areas that directly affect young people;
- Promote the involvement of youth-led and youth-serving non-governmental organisations in the co-management of youth work and programme implementation;
- Start and establish a dialogue with young people, allowing all stakeholders to contribute with ideas in order to develop, agree on, implement and monitor youth policies and programmes at all levels;
- Promote a structured dialogue between political decision makers and the civil society in order to effectively ensure youth involvement in the decisions that affect them.

The target groups of the lines of actions under the key area of intervention on participation and volunteering are:

- young people involved in the NGO sector
- volunteers and young people who developed skills outside recognised forms of education and need a recognition of their skills
- young people with low levels of participation in associative, social and political life

No further targeting is envisaged at the level of the Strategy.

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

The [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) is the main government authority responsible for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the national Youth Strategy. It is in charge with:

- drafting the Action Plan of the Strategy
- drafting and implementing a monitoring and evaluation plan of the Strategy
- designing and implementing the actions under the key area of intervention on participation and others

However, an action plan allowing systematic implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation the strategy, was not adopted until October 2017.

Revisions/Updates

No updates have been made to the present Youth Strategy concerning the chapter on youth participation (or other chapters).

5.6 Supporting youth organisations

Legal/policy framework for the functioning and development of youth organisations

The [Youth Law](#) recognizes two types of youth organisations:

1. organisations **of young people**, having the majority of their **members** between 14 and 35
2. organisations **for young people**, having the **mission** and the **majority** of their objectives, according to statutory documents, dedicated to young people and youth work.

According to the Youth Law, youth organisations are the most important representatives of young people in consultation processes.

In order to become a youth organisation an NGO has to be founded according to the NGO specific regulation: the [Government Ordinance no. 26/2000](#).

Public financial support

Youth organisations are eligible for public funding for youth projects if the public authority providing the funds has allocated a budget for youth projects. There is no obligation for public authorities at central or local level to provide funding for youth organisations.

The Ministry of Youth and its county offices for youth and sports award grants for youth projects implemented by youth and students organisations. The allocation varied over years. The amount allocated for 2016 has been about 150 000 Euro, according to the [budget published by the Ministry](#). The source of these funding are two budgetary programmes, having as the only source the state budget, and dedicated to the youth and respectively students projects. A very large variety of activities are supported by these grants, according to each youth NGO project design, including seminars, workshops, trainings, consultation, information campaigns, resources centres etc.

Other public funds can be awarded to youth organisations in competition with other NGOs for cultural projects funded by the Ministry of Culture and National Identity, its subordinated institutions or local authorities.

Local authorities have the obligation to create a youth fund in the local budges, but there are no provisions on the value of the fund and no obligation to provide financial support for youth organisations using these funds.

Initiatives to increase the diversity of participants

There is no information on national or large-scale initiatives aiming to increase the diversity of young people participating in youth organisations. The notable initiatives are the ones of the [National Agency](#), initiatives aligned with the priorities of the [European Youth Weeks](#).

5.7 “Learning to participate” through formal, non-formal and informal learning

Policy Framework

There is no specific national strategy or regulation concerning the development of social and civic competences in Romania. Civic or citizen education is mentioned among other elements in the Youth Strategy. Civic education is a mandatory subject for primary and lower secondary education (until the 8th grade, when pupils are 14-15 years old). Citizen education is an optional subject for upper secondary education.

Formal learning

Optional stand-alone subjects regarding social and civic education are available for upper secondary education. Schools can choose to integrate the subject in their curricula, usually taught by professors of history or social sciences. Sociology, economy and philosophy are mandatory subjects in upper secondary education. For all optional and mandatory subjects, the Ministry of National Education develops and approves the curricula and publishes it on its website.

Non-formal and informal learning

Participative structures within formal education settings

According to the Education Law no. 1/2011, pupils delegate their representatives to the School Councils and students vote on their representative on the faculty councils and the University senate of their respective faculty and University.

The main mechanism ensuring non-formal and informal learning, through practice, by direct participation, at the level of educational institutions, is the School Students Council. It was reorganised in 2016.

No information is available on top-level or large-scale publicly funded programmes aiming at training school staff and pupils to enhance their skills to participate in decision-making structures

Measures to encourage student participation in the local community and wider society

The Ministry of Youth and Sports organises every year Summer Schools and Summer Universities, having an important component of civic non-formal education.

In Romania, there are no provisions forming part of national curricula or education regulations/guidelines encouraging pupils at upper secondary level to take part in activities serving the (local) community outside school. Moreover, no information is available on top-level policy on partnerships between formal education providers, youth organisations and youth work providers.

Supporting non-formal learning initiatives focusing on social and civic competences

Among the projects financed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport through the grant schema described in chapter '5.6 Supporting Youth Organisations', projects promoting and contributing to the development of civic and social competences are funded. However, there is no systematic monitoring and data are not published on the number of these projects, their outcomes and results.

Quality assurance/quality guidelines for non-formal learning

There is no dedicated mechanism for ensuring the quality of any civic, social or citizens education initiative.

Educators' support

A laboratory of non-formal education is annually organised by the [National Agency for Erasmus+](#) or by the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) (it varies in different years). The event is a learning opportunity for trainers and educators and covers a large number of methods, including very useful methods for civic education.

There are no other officially endorsed specific websites, guidelines, handbooks and other pedagogical material and tools supporting educators.

5.8 Raising political awareness among young people

Information providers / counselling structures

According to the [Youth Strategy](#), the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research are responsible for disseminating information about democratic rights and democratic values for young people

However, no official contact point exists for young people to access information about their democratic rights.

Young people information and counselling is regulated by a special law: [Law no. 333/2006](#). This law is dedicated to the organisation of Youth information and counselling centres, by the county offices of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. In total 33 such centres are function and in 2016 the total budget for these centres have been about 900 000 lei (about 200 000 Euro).

Youth-targeted information campaigns about democratic rights and democratic values

Youth-targeted information campaigns about democratic rights and democratic values supported by public institutions are only aiming at raising youth participation in elections. A '[Go Vote](#)' campaign has been implemented in 2016 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, using mainly online communication tools, implemented between March 2016 and December 2016 in order to get as many young people as possible to vote to the local and parliamentary elections. No monitoring and evaluation have been conducted on the main outcomes and results of the campaign.

Moreover, the [National Electoral Authority](#) implements each elections year a [First Vote Campaign](#), dedicated to informing young voters on their rights and the voting process.

Promoting the intercultural dialogue among young people

Intercultural education is an optional stand-alone subject in secondary education curricula in schools. A curricula is approved by the Ministry of National Education and schools can decide if they introduce the subject within their schedule. The subject is generally though by history or social sciences teachers.

The [No Hate](#) campaign represents the implementation in Romania of the Council of Europe campaign fighting against hate speech among young people. The campaign is coordinated by a National Committee and endorsed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The campaign started in June 2016 and continues, using mainly social media and events organised by NGOs members of the national action group. No monitoring and evaluation have been conducted on the main outcomes and results of the campaign in Romania.

Promoting transparent and youth-tailored public communication

Romania has no special policies regarding transparent public communication targeting young people and no national or large-scale programmes or initiatives on providing training for policy-makers at various levels on suitable and youth-tailored communication.

5.9 E-participation

There is no information on existing legal frameworks and key policy programmes, projects or initiatives enabling or encouraging young people to participate in political processes electronically.

While implementing the [law no. 52/2003](#) on decisional transparency, all public institutions are accepting suggestions and comments to their published draft legislation via e-mail. In 2016, the Ministry of Youth and Sports used Google Forms to collect such suggestions and comments on the draft amendments to the Youth Law. However, no one of these initiatives represents a policy or programme to encourage e-participation on a larger scale.

5.10 Current debates and reforms

After debates in 2016 on several amendments of the [Youth Law](#), the Ministry of Youth and Sports drafted and proposed for consultation in May 2017 a new Youth Law, establishing consultative youth councils at the level of the county's county municipalities, the county councils and the Ministry of Youth and Sports with the purpose of an effective implementation of the youth policy. The law has been presented to the government in September 2017 and it has to be adopted by the government and sent for vote in the Parliament, after October 2017.

6. Education and Training

Education is a priority in Romanian policy and preventing early leaving from education and training and rising education quality are streamlined in the education policy. The general responsibilities for the education policies is coordinated at the national level by the [Ministry of Education](#), at the regional level the policies being implemented by the Counties' School Inspectorates. Through its sub-ordinated units, the Ministry of Education ensures the [quality in education](#), [supports student mobility schemes](#), and responds to the identified needs of pupils and students for [counselling and educational support services](#). While a wide range of policies and strategies are aimed to ensure the access to education of all pupils and students, a large number of young people are still facing barriers in education. In order to support equal access to education and to prevent early school leaving, [the Strategy on Preventing Early School Leaving](#) comes up with identifying the groups that are mostly exposed to exclusion and sets the objectives to tackle ELET. The national coordination is made difficult by the lack of strong monitoring and evaluation working mechanisms in education policies' field. But lacking the action plans and clear budget allocations, all the set measures are still under development.

However, there are very few policy measures supporting the development of non-formal education. While specially licensed evaluation providers can validate competences acquired through non-formal education, the system is fairly difficult and bureaucratic.

6.1 General context

Main trends in young people's participation in education and training

Education in Romania is based on a free-tuition and egalitarian system. Access to free education is guaranteed by [Article 32 in the Constitution](#). Each phase of the educational path has its own form of organization and is subject to different laws, directives, programmes and strategies.

The [National Law on Education in Romania](#) sets the framework, the structures, the values and the main principles in education. The document aims to guarantee the fundamental right to education targeting lifelong learning. The compulsory educational path one must follow is 10 years including the primary and the upper-secondary educational stages.

By 2020, the National Law on Education sets as target introducing the highschool studies as compulsory. The law is set on a vision that aims to promote an educational system based on values, creativity, cognitive capacities, volitional capabilities and action capabilities, knowledge fundamentals skills and essential abilities both in the professional and personal spheres.

Prior to higher education, Romanian pupils attend primary and secondary school for a combined total of 12 years (K-12). These years are referred to as the first through twelfth grades. The educational K-12 system includes of all the state education units, private and confessional / accredited. Schooling is compulsory until the tenth grade (corresponding with the age of sixteen or seventeen). The school educational cycle ends in the twelfth grade, when students graduate the baccalaureate. The system is structured on levels and, where appropriate, branches to ensure the necessary conditions for acquiring key competences and for professional development. National K-12 education system is organized as following:

- Early education stages (0-6 years old) including the pre-elementary school (0-3 years old) and elementary school – kindergarten (3-6 years old)
- The primary education includes the preparatory year and other 4 schooling years (1st to 4th grade)
- The secondary school (Gymnasium) composed of the secondary inferior schooling years (5th to 9th grades) and the upper-secondary years or high school – 10th to 12th/13th grade with the following educational paths available: Theoretical, Vocational and Technological.
- The vocational education with a duration of 6 to 12 months
- The non-higher education tertiary education path – commonly named as post-high school studies.

The above described educational paths are organized and coordinated by the [Ministry on National Education](#).

The compulsory educational stages are the primary and the secondary stages (up to the 10th grade). The technical education (technological pathway) includes the 12th and 13th grades of the high school education. Vocational and technical education consists of: vocational education, technical education and post-high school studies.

Curricula in High School: Each type of high-school is free to offer one or more academic programs (profile). These are:

- Theoretical program - Science and Humanities – including Philology and Social Studies
- Technical programs - will give a qualification in a technical field, services, natural resources.
- Vocational programs —will give a qualification in a non-technical field, such as kindergarten educator, assistant architect, or pedagogue, training and education in sport, theology, studies of arts or pedagogy and military studies.
- Services and Economics programs —will give a qualification in the fields of services, such as waiter, chef, tourism operator.

For pupils with different abilities, special educational measures are put in place. For pupils with special educational needs, classes of special education and integrated education are organized. As for pupils with exceptional results additional support is being offered through the [Excellency Training Centres](#).

Where and when needed, through the school decisional acts, the daily educational activities within the primary and secondary education can be prolonged through the [School after School \(afterschool\)](#) programmes aiming to offer additional educational support or leisure time activities offered either by the teachers in school or on partnership basis with the non-governmental organizations.

Organisation of the education and training system

The schooling network is defined through the [National Law on Education](#) as being composed of all the teaching units both accredited and only under temporary authorization. The network is being organized by the local public authorities under the supervision of the Counties' School Inspectorates. The network includes as well the private schooling structures primary, secondary or post-high school ones. All schooling structures are permanently evaluated and monitored by the [Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-Higher Education](#).

The study groups, for every phase, are organized as following:

The teaching and learning curricula is elaborated and organized in order to respond both to the personal and professional development needs of the final beneficiaries – the pupils and to the labour market's requirements. The national curricula is focused on the [8 key competencies](#) that determines the development profile of each pupil.

Each school unit's activity is decided and monitored by a [board](#) led by a director and a deputy-director. The board works closely with the teachers' council, with the representatives of the parents and with the representatives of the local authorities. The board is normally composed of 7.9 or 13 members and has monthly meetings or it can meet whenever required. The board approves the budget and the budget's execution, approves the institutional development plan, the curricula decided by the school, organizes the procedures for the director's selection, approves the professional development plans of teachers, develops the sanctions mechanisms when required, approves the schedule proposed by the school, has the public responsibility for the school performance.

The teachers are organized within the Teachers' Council led by the director. The Council meets every month or whenever required. The Teachers' Council ensures the quality of that the quality criteria for teaching are met, evaluates teachers' activity, drafts proposal to the School Board in order to optimize the teaching process, coordinates the elaboration of the optional curricula, proposes to the School Board the training and development programmes for the teachers as well as the sanction mechanisms for the teachers who do not meet the teaching quality criteria as well as for the pupils who are not following the school internal rules.

In every country, a [County Centre for Resources and Educational Assistance](#) ensures the delivery of psychological support and counselling through its centres, speech therapy activities for pupils, individual evaluation and career counselling, school mediation and consultancy for inclusive education strategies.

The Higher Education system in Romania is aligned onto the European Higher Education Area and is organised in universities, academies of studies, institutes, schools of higher education. These institutions can be public, private or confessional bodies, all non-profit, of public interest and non-political and nonpartisan. The higher education system includes all the accredited institution.

The University Autonomy give the right to its' academic community to set its own mission, strategy, structure, activities, working mechanisms and procedures for human resources and financial resources' management, attentively following the legal procedures. All the aspects related to the University Autonomy are marked in the University Chart that is approved by the University's Senate.

In order to complete its' mission and strategy, the University can have as working structured: faculties, departments, institutes, center and laboratories, research institutes, consultancy centers, university clinics, studios, artistic workshops, theatres, museum, centers for human resources' development, micro-business activities, experimental areas or other entities that can ensure the transfer of technologies, knowledge and knowhow. At the faculty's level, other sub-entities can be organized: departments, doctoral school, post-doctoral schools, training and learning centers, research laboratories, etc.

The higher education studies are defined as a group of curricula units of teaching, learning, research, practice and evaluation planned in order to get one to academic certification through a diploma and a diploma supplement. The curricula designed within the studies is in accordance with the general qualification framework defined by the National Qualification Framework ([Hotașarea nr. 918/2013 privind aprobarea Cadrului național al calificărilor](#)) and the University's Senate approves the proposed curricula. The higher educational programmes are grouped in 3 study programmes: Bachelor's Degree (BA), Masters' Degree (MA) and Doctoral Degree (PhD).

The relationship between the learner – the student and the training provider – the University – is regulated through a study contract.

[The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education \(ARACIS\)](#) was established in 2005 and is an autonomous public institution, of national interest, whose main mission is the external evaluation of the Romanian higher education's quality, at the level of study programmes, as well as from the institutional point of view.

The BA studies corresponds to minimum of 180 to 240 ECTS and will get one to level 6 of [EQF/CEC](#). The length of the BA studies is of 3 or 4 years, each year corresponding to a minimum of 60 ECTS. For engineering, legal studies and pastoral theology the duration of the BA studies is of 4 years.

The MA studies have duration of 1-2 years and correspond to a minimum of 60 ETCS and the diploma will get one to level 7 of EQF.

The doctoral studies represent the 3rd level of the higher educational system and determine a level 8 of EQF.

The leading structures of the universities are the following:

- The University's Senate – composed 75% of the academia's representatives and 25% of the students' representatives. The Senate is the highest decision fora and approves the development and execution plans of activities, the budget and the overall activity of the University.
- The Faculty's Council
- The Department's Council

And the leading roles are:

- The rector, the deputy rectors, the general director on administrative matters – for the University. The rector has a mandate of 4 years and ensures the overall operative management of the University.
- The dean and the vice-dean – For the Faculty. The Dean is responsible for the general management and implements the Senate's and the Rector's decisions.
- The department's director

The counselling services are delivered within the specialized centres – training and employment centres, training departments in companies, universities, schools, etc. The support one could get can be: information regarding the career options, the steps required to enter the labour market, information about the curricula that the educational institutions are offering and the skills and competencies one could acquire by the end of the studies, counselling for employment and support in finding a job.

Main concepts

[Education](#) is a service of public interest and is carried out, under the terms of existent law on education, in Romanian, as well as in the languages of national minorities and in languages of international circulation.

[Education and Training](#) of children and youth people and adults have as main purpose the formation of competences, understood as a multifunctional and transferable set of knowledge, skills / abilities and skills, necessary for:

- a) personal fulfilment and development by realizing their own goals in life, according to each one's interests and aspirations and the desire to learn throughout life;
- b) social integration and active citizens' participation in society;
- c) employment and participation in the functioning and development of a sustainable economy;
- d) the formation of a life concept, based on humanistic and scientific values, on the national and universal culture and on the stimulation of intercultural dialogue;
- e) education in the spirit of dignity, tolerance and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- f) cultivation of sensitivity to human issues, to moral-civic values and respect for nature and the natural, social and cultural environment.

Special and integrated education is a form of differentiated, adapted schooling as well as a form of comprehensive educational, social and medical assistance for people with special educational needs. The state guarantees the right to education of all persons with special educational needs. Special and specially integrated education is part of the national pre-university education system.

Lifelong learning includes all the learning activities of each individual, starting with early education, in order to acquire knowledge, skills training and the development of significant personal, civic, social and / or occupational skills.

Compulsory general education is of 11 grades and encompasses primary education, gymnasium education and the first two years of upper secondary education. High school education is compulsory until 2020 at the latest. The obligation to attend the compulsory education of 11 classes in the frequency form shall cease at the age of 18 years.

Early school leaving represents the proportion of the 18-24 year old population not having completed secondary education and not attending any form of education and training, of the total age population of 18-24.

6.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Main actors

The Ministry of Education organizes and leads the national education system, the scientific research, technological development and innovation. The Romanian Ministry of Education having the following responsibilities ensures the general coordination of the Romanian educational system:

- Elaborates, applies, implements and evaluates the national public policies in the field of education
- Monitors the external activities of other stakeholders
- Coordinates and controls the national educational system
- Has the final decision on the national organization and functioning mechanisms of the schooling network
- Coordinates the elaboration process of the national curricula, approves the curricula, monitors its implementation, evaluates the implementation and ensures the quality criteria
- Evaluates, approves and procures the manuals for the pupils
- Approves the internal organization procedures of the coordinated unites
- Elaborates studies and prognosis in the field
- Ensures the framework for pupils' recruitment and training
- Ensures the proper teaching conditions for the pupils with learning difficulties/ special learning needs.

- Analysis the way social protection measures are delivered within the educational system and approaches the Government and the local authorities if special or additional measures are required.
- Coordinates, monitors and controls the initial training of teachers and supervises their continuous training procedures
- Elaborates the national policies in human resources
- Ensures the evaluation of the national educational system based on the existent national standards
- Sets the procedures and mechanisms for diploma, studies and other certificates' recognition
- Sets the structure of the schooling year
- Elaborates methodologies and working mechanisms to ensure a common and coherent framework for the national policies' implementation.
- Develops and ensures the functionality of the e-learning platforms and Virtual School Library initiative
- Elaborates special norms for the construction of new buildings and on new equipment for schools
- Prepares and presents to the Parliament and to the public the annual report on national education situation in Romania.
- Coordinates the data collection and the proper interpretation of data when it comes to the indicators regarding education.

General distribution of responsibilities

The Ministry has both subordinated units and the and institutions it coordinates:

The subordinated institutions are the following:

- The Unit for Financing the Pre-University Education ([Unitatea pentru Finanțarea Învățământului Preuniversitar](#))
- The National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training ([Agentia Națională pentru Programe Comunitare în Domeniul Educației și Formării Profesionale](#)) (ANPCDEFP)
- The Agency for Study Credits and Scholarships ([Agenția de Credite și Burse de Studii](#)) (ACBS)
- The National Center for Evaluation and Examination ([Centrul Național de Evaluare și Examinare](#)) (CNEE)
- The National Center for The Vocational and Technical Education System ([Centrul Național de Dezvoltare a Învățământului Profesional și Tehnic](#)) (CNDIPT)
- The National Institute for Educational Sciences ([Institutul de Științe ale Educației](#)) (ISE)
- The Romanian Language Institute ([Institutul Limbii Române](#)) (ILR)
- The County School Inspectorates ([Inspectorate școlare județene și Inspectoratul Școlar al Municipiului București](#))
- The Romanian National Commission for UNESCO ([Comisia Națională a României pentru UNESCO](#))
- European Center for Higher Education ([Centrul European UNESCO pentru Învățământul Superior](#)) (CEPES)
- [Biological Research Center Jibou](#) ([Centrul de Cercetări Biologice din Jibou](#))
- The Federation of School and University Sports ([Federatia Sportului Școlar și Universitar](#)) (FSSU)
- [Center for Continuing Education in German Language](#) ([Centrul pentru Formare Continuă în Limba Germană](#))
- The Romanian National Secretariat of the Black Sea University Network ([Secretariatul Național Român al Rețelei Universităților de la Marea Neagră](#))
- [National Children's Palace in Bucharest](#) ([Palatul Național al Copiilor din București](#))
- Central University Library ([Biblioteca Centrală Universitară din București](#))
- Central University Library 'Mihai Eminescu' in Iasi ([Biblioteca Centrală Universitară 'Mihai Eminescu' din Iași](#))

- Central University Library 'Lucian Blaga' in Cluj-Napoca ([Biblioteca Centrală Universitară 'Lucian Blaga' din Cluj-Napoca](#))
- Central University Library 'Eugen Todoran' in Timisoara ([Biblioteca Centrală Universitară 'Eugen Todoran' din Timișoara](#))
- Students' Culture Centre/House of Suceava

The Units having the activities coordinated by the Ministry of Education are the following:

- National Qualifications Authority (NCA) (Autoritatea Națională pentru Calificări) (ANC)
- Autonomous 'Didactic and Pedagogical' (Regia Autonomă 'Editura Didactică și Pedagogică')
- Agency Management National Network for Education and Research (ARNIEC) (Agenția de Administrare a Rețelei Naționale de Informatică pentru Educație și Cercetare) (ARNIEC)

Cross-sectorial cooperation

There are two mechanisms of cross-sectorial cooperation between Ministries, Departments, and Agencies involved in defining top-level policies and measures youth education and training.

1. Ad-hoc meetings
2. Ad-hoc inter-ministerial committees organized on different topics according to the bill in preparation.

This cooperation mechanism is specific to most of the policies in the field of youth and is used by the governmental bodies in charge with youth education and training, mainly the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education cooperates with:

- The Ministry of Labour and Social Justice and with the [Ministry of Health](#) on implementing the [Framework Cooperation Protocol for an integrated approach to community services to prevent social exclusion and combat poverty](#) establishes that the social assistant, the community health nurse / health mediator, the school counsellor / school mediator and the employment counsellor should intervene together for supporting the poor in each community.
- [The Ministry of Justice](#) to support the core values of the rule of law and democracy, including through the promotion of legal education in schools
- [The Presidential Administration](#) on implementing the [multi-annual integrated plan on health and education for health](#)
- With the [Ministry for the Business, Commerce and Entrepreneurship Environment](#) to promote [the common interests regarding the development of the scientific research and technological development sector, of the small and medium enterprises in Romania](#) aiming to correlate the efforts of both institutions to promote and develop innovative small and medium-sized enterprises through research and development, innovation and technology.

As both the mechanisms are used ad-hoc public information on their results are not always released.

6.3 Preventing early leaving from education and training (ELET)

National strategy

Official document, timeframe, scope and contents

In mid 2000s, Romania had one of the highest rates of economic growth in Europe. But, in the same time, the public expenditure had an underestimated growth. In 2008, the global financial crisis had a visible impact on the Romanian economic and social system. The government implemented an austerity plan in the second part of 2010, plan that also

dramatically reduced the population's income. Even if the poverty rate was in decline in 2000-2008 it still continues to be one of the highest in Europe.

Facing the demographic decline and dealing with the gaining population and with massive migration, the Romanian schooling population is less every year. [Research](#) shows that by 2025 the school population will decrease by 40%. That also determines the need for reform in education, a reform that would tackle the quality, efficiency, equity and relevance of the educational process.

In the above-described context, the most affected groups are young people from the rural areas. Even if 46% of the Romanian youngsters live in the rural areas, when counting the school population, only 24% of the pupils and students are the ones coming from the rural areas.

The [PISA studies results'](#) of 2006-2012 are showing a permanent growth of illiteracy rate as well as a constant decline of the mathematical competencies of the Romanian pupils: 41% of the ones attending the test do not have the basic mathematic skills while over 37% are functionally illiterate.

The early school leaving has been defined as the percentage of youth 18-24 years old who did not finalize the upper-secondary education (corresponding to the 8th grade) and who are not following any other educational path or are not enrolled in any other vocational training. Over 17% of the Romanian pupils are in this situation, Romania being one of the countries with the highest rates when it comes to early school leaving. The country target is set to reduce ELET to 11.3% by 2020.

The pupils are abandoning their studies for a wide range of social and economic reasons. The major factor that determines their decision in the social exclusion. But not completing their studies, their chances to get a job are reduced and even if able to enter the labour market, they would have to accept low paid jobs. Every year, over 12.000 pupils are leaving school in their primary school years while 28.000 pupils are not completing their upper-secondary studies.

The groups that are mostly exposed to the risk of ELET are the minorities and other marginalized groups, pupils in the rural areas, pupils who are not able to pass their studies and have to repeat a class, youth and children with special educational needs.

The main guiding principles of the Strategy are the following:

- a. an integrated answer and a coherent governmental strategy to reduce ELET, strategy that perfectly integrates the social policies, the youth policies and family policies.
- b. An educational answer coordinated and comprehensive and in line with the LLL strategies
- c. Evidence based policies
- d. Sustainable financing – granting long term initiatives
- e. Learning from the national and international good practices
- f. Identifying a set of good practices at the regional level and learning from these practices.

The short-term objective of the strategy is to 'implement an effective policy of prevention, intervention and compensation - policy to address the root causes of ELET, focusing on young people 11-17 years old.'

The medium-term objective: 'By 2020, the reduction to a maximum of 11.3% of the 18-24 year olds who have completed at most the lower secondary education and are not enrolled in any form of further education or training.'

The long-term objective: 'Contributing to smart and inclusive growth in Romania by reducing the number of people at risk of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion.'

Strategic pillars and representative programs

The main programs and measures proposed to achieve the objectives of this strategy are grouped into four (4) strategic pillars:

Pillar 1: Ensuring the access to education and quality education for all children (measures aimed at increasing access to primary education and supporting schools in communities with fewer opportunities)

Pillar 2: Ensuring the completion of compulsory education by all children (remedial education programs, student counselling)

Pillar 3: Reintegration of the early school leavers into the education system (Second Chance Program)

Pillar 4: Developing adequate institutional support (strengthening the administrative capacity)

Government authority responsible for the implementation

At the central, regional and local level, a number of key institutions are involved in the formulation and implementation of ELET policies. At the central level, the [Ministry of Education](#) is the main actor in both the formulation and implementation of ELET policies, through two of the major directorates of its structure, namely:

- Directorate-General for Pre-Higher Education (DGEIP), which has a key role to play in defining policy guidelines, programming and monitoring at national level;
- Directorate General for School Management and Schools' Network (DGMRS), which monitors and evaluates the management of the inspectorates, schools and the Teaching Staff Houses at the pre-university level.

There are also public institutions of national interest working under the Ministry of Education, including the following:

- [The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-Higher Education \(ARACIP\)](#)
- The National Center for the Development of Vocational and Technical Education (CNDIPT)
- [The Institute of Educational Sciences](#)

Other ministries play an important role in addressing multiple factors influencing ELETL: the Ministry of Labour through the County Payments and Social Inspection Agencies (AJPIS)

At the local county and level other institutions are involved:

- The counties' schools inspectorates
- The Teachers' Houses
- County Resource and Educational Assistance Centers (CJRAE)
- Schools are the main entity responsible for implementing education programs, working directly with pupils and parents.
- Non-governmental organizations
- Local government authorities

Monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the strategy

The monitoring and evaluation process has been designed around the concept of management based on results as the main working principles. The permanent progress' monitoring of the main representative programmes is stipulated in the Strategy. The monitoring measures are based on annual planned activities. A progress report and planning the activities for the next year are set as targets.

In the monitoring process, the Ministry of Education cooperates with other 6 ministries of governmental agencies: the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Work and Social Justice, the Ministry of European Funds, the Management Authority and the National Institute of Statistics. Moreover, other stakeholders are to be involved with the M&E processes: schools, the counties' school inspectorates, the parents' organizations, the business sector and the NGOs.

Major revisions/updates

No updates have been made to the current strategy by October 2017.

Formal education: main policy measures on ELET

Measures in general formal education

In formal education, the [strategy](#) planned to reduce early school leaving are the subject of the entire institutional development policy. They aim is to a positive learning environment, to enhance quality and innovation at the pedagogical level, to enhance the quality and training of teachers in order to properly approach the social and cultural diversity, and to develop effective strategies to combat violence in schools. The interventions include:

- Transforming schools into learning communities based on an image of shared institutional development for all beneficiaries, using the experience and knowledge of all of them by creating a comfortable environment that inspire and encourage freedom of thought, motivating young people to continue their education and training.
- Establishing systems to identify risk, providing the possibility to take prompt action before the problems occur even before the pupils begin to distance themselves from school, absent or abandon it.
- A close relationship with parents and other relevant non-school organizations such as community services in the area, representing immigrants or minorities, sports and cultural associations, employers or civil society organizations, which makes it easier to find holistic solutions to help those students in risk groups and mediating external support, psychologists, social workers, community services, or cultural associations. The process can be facilitated by community mediators able to support communication with parents and children in these risk groups and reduce their mistrust in school.
- Continuously supporting and supporting the efforts made by teachers in their work with pupils in risk groups, a basic condition for the effectiveness of the measures taken at the institution level. Pedagogy courses as well as further training courses for teachers and school administration staff are designed to help them address the issue of classroom diversity and to support pupils from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, leading to solving any difficult situations that may arise in the teaching process.

Measures in vocational education and training (VET)

The main objective of the [Strategy](#) is related to contributing to the attractiveness, inclusion, quality and relevance of vocational and technical education improved proposed measure to enhance the vocational and technical education system through reform curricula, teachers' training and management consolidation through stronger and creative links with the potential employers and the labour market.

Activities planned are:

- Curricula revision and revised and upgraded qualifications with the participation of the employment sector
- Providing training programs for school principals, teachers, trainers and company tutors to better respond to the needs of the labor market;
- Providing support for practice internships and create workshop facilities for school education and training

The activities are in line with:

- The [Strategy for National Competitiveness](#), a strategy Promoting the knowledge economy and research, in terms of orientation towards the development of new technology applications based on models in the natural world and providing education and training to meet local job demand and implementing a flexible and innovative teaching system to create a balance between skills and competencies –
- The [National Employment Strategy in 2020](#)
- The [Strategic Vision for Promoting Social Inclusion](#) and Poverty Reduction
- The [Strategic Framework for Lifelong Learning](#)
- The [Strategic Framework for Tertiary Education](#)

Specific target groups identified in the youth population

Main target groups are:

- Target group 1: Children and young people aged 18-24 in 2020. In order to achieve the target of reducing the ELET to 11.3% by 2020, the strategy needs to address the immediate needs of the ones who will be 18-24 years old in 2020. According to official population prognosis (this age group includes 1,505,796 people. Given that the ELET rate is maintained at 17.4% then about 262.008 of the group will be early school leavers by 2020. To reach the desired target of 11.3% in 2020, this number can not be more than 170. Of these two figures it is about 92,000 people, representing the minimum number of 11-17 years that the strategy should be able to support, to avoid them being people who leave before completing their studies.
- Target group 2: Children and young people in families with low socioeconomic status. The learning outcomes of pupils from poor families remain far behind the outcomes of pupils in wealthier families, and their access to high school education and beyond is limited. Measures to support students in families with low socio-economic status will therefore contribute to the success of the overall policies and main measures suggested in this strategy. Regional and even county differences will require personalizing the implementation of the policy measures recommended in this strategy. There are regional differences due to the fact that poverty is very concentrated in some regions (Northeast, Southeast, Southwest), and in this case more comprehensive solutions are needed to compensate the discrepancies between the different regions, especially with regard to resources (both at central and local level).
- Target group 3: Children and young people in rural areas - Another key target group refers to young people and children in rural areas. Rural areas remain behind urban areas in terms of overall school results. The actions needed to reduce poverty in rural areas are transversal and go beyond the limits of the education sector. Important investments will be needed to improve access to and quality of education and reduce early school leaving. Limited access to quality infrastructure and human resources (especially school principals and teachers) is far more evident in vocational and technical education. The ELET strategy can not therefore be addressed in particularly, but rather it should complement other key national priorities: easier access to labour market, investment in VET structures etc.
- Target group 4: Roma population and other marginalized and underrepresented groups - The under-representation of the Roma population in all educational fields will be addressed through the prevention, intervention and compensation measures proposed in the strategy. Particular attention will be paid to increasing rates of enrolment of Roma children in early childhood education and care. Ministry of Education estimates that in the preschool age group of 3-5 years, where the enrolment rate is generally 77%, the total number of Roma children enrolled represents only 32%. Solutions aimed at improving the situation of this target group respond to a wide variety of situations: supporting communities with a high proportion of Roma; addressing the needs of Roma in urban areas.

Among other groups at risk, the strategy underlines the importance of education, training and social integration of children with special educational needs. The main objective of the proposed measures will be to strengthen the reforms introduced after 1998, focusing on the enrolment of as many students as possible in mainstream education. In this respect, the different programs will consider improving and implementing the specific curriculum, programs, manuals, technologies and techniques designed according to the type or degree of disability diagnosed. The strategy will also focus on improving the funding of children with special educational needs to provide the necessary resources, support services, tailored transport facilities, access technologies and assistive devices and other types of specific programs.

Addressing ELET through non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work

Description of the policy/programme/project/initiative

Addressing ELET through non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work were only organized by NGOs and the identified ones benefit of and were implemented with the support of ESF – European Social Fund (e.g: as in [Campulung](#)) or [EEA Grants](#).

Source of public funding

No public funding had been allocated.

Cross-sector coordination and monitoring of ELET interventions

Multi-agency partnerships - Monitoring and evaluations

In the monitoring process, the Ministry of Education cooperates with other 6 ministries of governmental agencies: the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Work and Social Justice, the Ministry of European Funds, the Management Authority and the National Institute of Statistics. Moreover, other stakeholders are to be involved with the M&E processes: schools, the counties school inspectorates, the parents' organizations, the business sector and the NGOs.

Links with the implementation of the national Youth Guarantee

The primary objective of the [Youth Guarantee](#) is to reduce unemployment among young people aged 16-24 by facilitating the acquisition of quality jobs. Specifically, young people aged less than 25 years who lose their jobs or who do not find one after completing their studies are entitled to receive a good offer of either employment or continuing education or entry apprenticeship, or an internship. The offer will be received within 4 months of registration with the employment agencies. All measures under the [Youth Guarantee scheme](#) are supported by various forms of financial support, either for future employees or for employers.

6.4 Validation of non-formal and informal learning

Arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning

Procedures for the validation of skills and competences

The [Education Law](#) aims to facilitate the completion of the European educational goals through content explicitly devoted to aspects of the importance of lifelong learning, defined as: 'all the learning activities undertaken by each person in the formal, non-formal and informal contexts, in order to acquire or develop competences from a multiple perspective: personal, civic, social or occupational' (Article 328 (2)) at all levels of education and training (early education, upper-secondary education, higher education, adult education and training).

Other important legal for the validation of learning are:

- [Government Ordinance no. 129/2002](#) on Adult Vocational Training, approved with amendments and completions by [Law No 375/2002](#)
- [Methodology on the recognition of competencies acquired](#) in the formal, non-formal or informal learning by teachers who occupy positions of educators / educators, institutes / institutes, teachers / instructors, master instructor, coaches, in order to fill the position didactic teacher of pre-school education, teachers for education or teachers of practice training, respectively teacher-coach in clubs school sports, palaces and children's clubs
- [Methodology for using the Europass and Youthpass tools](#), approved by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Family and Social Protection ()

Policy/programme/project/initiative for the development of the professional competences of staff involved in the validation process across all relevant sectors

No policy/programme/project/initiative for the development of the professional competences of staff involved with the validation process across the relevant sectors is available.

Target group(s) within the youth population

No information on target group(s) within the youth population is available.

Information and guidance

Outlets and services for disseminating information

No information on outlets and services for disseminating information is available.

Large-scale initiatives for promoting the value of non-formal and informal learning and informing about validation of their outcomes

No information on large- scale initiatives for promoting the value of non-formal and informal learning and informing about validation of their outcomes is available.

Quality assurance

No information on quality assurance is available.

6.5 Cross-border learning mobility

Policy framework

In formal education, [The Agency for Credits and Scholarship](#) manages the learning mobility activities for students while the learning mobility activities for individuals opportunities offered through Erasmus + are managed by the [National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#) (The National Agency).

Main cross-border mobility programmes for students in formal education

[The Agency for Credits and Scholarships](#) provides access to various categories of beneficiaries to scholarships offered by the [Ministry of Education](#), as well as the management of the student credit system.

The following mobility schemes are available for Romanian students:

- 'Bilateral Agreement' Scholarship - [Bursa „Acord bilateral”](#)
- 'HG 697/1998' Scholarship - [Bursa „H.G. nr. 697/1998”](#)
- 'BSGR' Scholarship [Bursa „B.S.G.R.”](#)
- 'Nicolae Titulescu' Scholarship - [Bursa „Nicolae Titulescu”](#)
- 'Theodor Aman' Scholarship - [Bursa „Theodor Aman”](#)
- 'Titu Maiorescu' Scholarship - [Bursa „Titu Maiorescu”](#)

- 'V Parvan and N Iorga 'Scholarship - [Bursa „V.Pârvan și N.Iorga”](#)
- 'I.U.E' Scholarship - [Bursa „I.U.E.”](#)

Otherwise, most of the Romanian Universities had been establishing partnerships aiming to support student learning mobility activities within Erasmus + Programme .

Other student mobility opportunities are being offered through [EEA Grants](#).

Promoting mobility in the context of non-formal learning, and of youth work

The only available learning mobility in the context of non-formal learning and of youth work are the ones offered through [Erasmus +](#).

Quality assurance

The ECTS User Guide is used by external quality assurance agencies as the basis to [assess the implementation of ECTS in all higher education institutions](#).

Through the quality criteria mechanisms put in place within the programme Erasmus +.

6.6 Social inclusion through education and training

Educational support

Policies in the context of formal education

The [Education and Training Strategy in Romania](#) for the period 2016-2020 proposes a coherent approach to initial vocational training and continuing vocational training leading to the development of an accessible, attractive, competitive and relevant vocational training system for the requirements of the labor market. The strategy integrates initial and continuing vocational education and training and follows the public policy cycle 2007 - 2013 in the field of human resource development and has been developed in line with Europe 2020's objectives. The school drop out rate increased when the vocational schools were reopened in 2013-2014. Nevertheless, in 2013-2014, 4.2% of the pupils studying in the technological schools drop out. The aim of the strategy is to reduce to 2% this rate by 2020 by offering quality training, adapted to the requirements of the labor market. Moreover, the specific objectives include the development of measures aimed to support vulnerable youth to get involved with the vocational and training programmes.

The target groups identified in official documents

The target groups identified in official documents include:

- Children and young people aged 18-24 in 2020
- Children and young people in families with low socioeconomic status
- Children and young people in rural areas
- Roma population and other marginalized and underrepresented groups
- Youth people with special education needs.

No information on programme/projects or initiatives either directly organized or funded by public authorities – helping young people overcome obstacles to their participation in non-formal and informal learning and youth work is available.

No information on public funding devoted to the measures of educational support is available.

Social cohesion and equal opportunities

Policies in formal education

For over 12 years, the Ministry of Education is implementing the programme [Money for Higschool](#).

The programme aims to financially support pupils to continue their studies through offering them a social stipend.

Students with fewer opportunities are also entitled to receive the [social scholarships](#).

Programmes/projects/initiatives – either directly organised or funded by public authorities – in the context of non-formal and informal learning, and youth work

In 2017, [the Ministry of Youth and Sport](#) and the [National Authority for Child Rights' Protection and Adoption](#) implement the project [Ready for Life](#) aiming to design and implement activities for over 200 young people (15-17 years old) living in the foster care system.

In line with the Youth Strategy's objectives, one of the key themes tackled within the [Summer Camps](#) organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sport was social inclusion.

6.7 Skills for innovation

Innovation in formal education

[The National Strategy for Research Development and Innovation](#) (2014-2020) states the fact that Romania spends almost 20 times less than the European average on research and development and sets as objective for 2020 transforming Romania competitive at the regional and global level, through innovation fed by research and development, generating wealth for citizens. For the formal education system, the Strategy is targeting education in science and technology and communication of science. For 2000-212, the ratio of science and technology graduates to total population has risen above the European average. At the same time, science does not have an adequate public presence in Romania, despite the wide popularity enjoyed by some scientific performances. Scientific literacy of the population of all ages continues to be low, a reality that is reflected especially among young people.

The strategy supports measures to attract young people to science, in formal education and beyond, through measures such as:

- Attracting talented young people to the research career by organizing competitions with prizes for innovative solutions.
- Establish a Science City in the proximity of an innovation cluster or major infrastructure.
- Organizing tours, exhibitions, open days, to promote science to the public, including and promoting the outstanding results of Romanian research.
- Promote interest in science and innovation in pre-university education by including recent findings in textbooks and electronic didactic materials by including in the curriculum some elements of education on innovation-based entrepreneurship through collaboration with technical magazines addressed to pupils and publications popularization of science.

Fostering innovation through non-formal and informal learning and youth work

Fostering innovation through non formal and informal learning and youth work is only targeted through the [Erasmus +](#) granted projects implemented by nongovernmental organizations.

6.8 Media literacy and safe use of new media

National strategy

Official document and timeframe

[The National Strategy for the Digital Agenda \(2014-2020\)](#) developed in line with the [Digital Agenda for Europe](#), aims to impact public policies and to boost up the investment in information and communication technology in order to generate economic development.

Scope and contents

In education, the investment in information and communication technology supports pupils' involvement in the learning process and helps them reach their full potential. More than this, the digital competencies became essential to teaching-learning processes and the eLearning methodologies had a great impact on the educational system. The interventions when it comes to the digital agenda in education are mainly designed on 3 lines:

1. Information and communication technology in school curricula through using OER
– Open Educational resources and Web 2.0 as well as e-Portofolia to track students' results
2. Information and communication technology in extra-curricula activities – mainly in summer camps, youth exchanges, international study visits.
3. Continuous learning activities – lifelong learning schemes having information and communication technology integrated.

The action plan includes:

1. Equipping schools with the needed digital infrastructure
2. Putting in place digital competencies development schemes for pupils and teachers – through training activities
3. Using OER and Web 2.0 tools in organizing the teaching-learning activities as well as integrating the digital instruments in lifelong learning activities.

Government authority responsible for the implementation

[Ministry of Education](#) and the [Ministry of Communications and Information Society \(MCSI\)](#) are in charge with implementing the designed actions.

Monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the strategy

The main authority responsible for the monitoring process is the [Ministry of Communications and Information Society \(MCSI\)](#) and the two indicators that are to be followed are:

1. Having at least 50% of the school units using OER
2. Integrated e-Learning and Lifelong Learning mechanisms to the educational processes.

Major revisions/updates

No major revisions and updates had been done by October 2017.

Media literacy and online safety through formal education

No information is available on policies and national programmes for media literacy and online safety through formal education.

Promoting media literacy and online safety through non-formal and informal learning

No information is available on promoting media literacy and online safety through non-formal and informal learning.

Raising awareness about the risks posed by new media

No information is available on raising awareness about the risks posed by new media.

6.9 Awareness-raising about non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work

Information providers / counselling structures

No information is available on information providers and counselling structures.

Awareness raising initiatives

No information is available on awareness raising initiatives.

6.10 Current debates and reforms

Important debates started in Romania in 2017 related to the reform of the Handbooks system. The Ministry of National Education proposes restarting using a single handbook for all pupils, while the current system favours the use of alternative Handbook at the choice of the teachers. The Ministry proposal is under consultation in October 2017.

7. Health and Well-Being

Initiatives for health and well-being of young people are coordinated at national level by the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#), the [Ministry of Health](#) and the [Ministry of Education](#). While this ensures the existence of a large number of strategic and policy documents, the coordination in the field of health and well-being of young people is not generalised and it is still done on specialised policy fields, as it is in accordance with the [Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020](#).

Sport and physical activities among the young people are promoted by the Sports for All Programme of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The programme is granted to the [National Federation of Sports for All](#) and it was launched in 1998. A [Multiannual Plan for Health and Health Education](#) have been developed in 2016 by the Ministry of Health and the Presidential Administration. The Multiannual Plan includes as the first activity the development of the legal framework for planning and managing national initiatives in the field of health promotion and health education, this field being decentralised at the moment in Romania. According to [Law no. 272/2004 on the Protection and Promotion of Child Rights](#), article 46, life education, including sex education shall be provided in schools. However, health education is an optional subject that can be chosen by the schools as a separate subject, usually taught by professors of biology or other related mandatory disciplines.

7.1 General context

Main trends in the health conditions of young people

According to the [Youth Barometer](#) commission by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2016, and comparing results with the Youth Barometer of 2014 and 2012, a healthy lifestyle is important and very important for over 90% of the young people in Romania. 83% of young people were content and very content with their health in 2016, compared to 76% in 2014.

With nearly one in ten children born in 2010 to a teenage mother aged 15-19, Romania registers the highest birth rate in this age category in the EU-28, alongside Bulgaria and the situation did not change in 2015, with 39 live births per 1 000 girls / women aged 10-19 years according to the [Eurobarometer](#). As a result of insufficient family planning and reproductive health education, abortions to adolescents aged 15-19 accounted, on average, for approximately 10% of all abortions recorded annually in between 2010 and 2015 according to the same document. In 2011, 1 in 10 Roma young women had their first child at the age of 12-15 and almost half of them at 16-18, according to the [Partnership Agreement of Romania with EU](#).

The persons living with HIV/AIDS are primarily young people aged 20 to 29 according to the [Partnership Agreement of Romania with EU](#).

The incidence of suicides among adolescents aged 15-19 was 6.3 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants in 2010, approximately 50% higher than the European average. Romania

reports a 7.2% rise compared to 2005, while the EU rate has seen a slight decline, according to Eurostat, cited by the [National Health Strategy 2014-2020](#).

More than half of the young interviewed in 2016 for the [Youth Barometer](#) declared they are active (including practicing sports or walking) at least 30 minutes a day and avoid alcohol and tobacco to have a healthy lifestyle.

According to the 2017 [Sports Yearbook](#) data, there are major differences between counties as regards the availability of sports facilities and sport organisations, from 98 clubs participating to sports events in Giurgiu County, to 418 in Timiș county and 419 in Cluj country, and 1158 in Bucharest. A total of 9 581 sport structures/organisations are actives in sport competitions and 84 252 young people participate to sport activities. Out of these numbers, 623 sport structures/organisations are participating to events organised by the National Federation Sports for All. No data are available concerning the number of young participants in sports for all events. All these data show a slow a slight increase in participation in sport in Romania in general and of young people in particular, an increase of about 10% in 2016 compared to data form 2012 [Sports Yearbook](#).

Daily consumption of fruit and vegetables is a habit for 43% of young people according to their replies to the 2016 [Youth Barometer](#). The figure decreased from 56% of young people eating daily fruits and vegetables in 2014, according to their own declaration. Moreover, daily consumption of fast food among the young people increased from 5% in 2014 to 10% in 2016 and the constant consumption (2-3 times a week) also increased from 18% to 31% of young people.

According to the [Youth Barometer](#) smoking among young people is constant at 34% in 2016 and 35% in 2014 and the intensity of cigarettes consumption is also constant, with 53% of smokers young people smoking more than 10 cigarettes a day in 2016 and 54% in 2014.

2% of young people declared in 2016 they drink alcohol daily, compared to 3% in 2014. Recreational alcohol consumption is constant with 24-25% young people drinking a few times a month and 20-26% a few times a year. However, constant alcohol consumption, a 2-3 times a week, increased from 9% in 2014 to 11% in 2016 according to the [Youth Barometer](#).

Daily use of light drugs is reported by 2% of young people, while another 2% declare they use light drugs a few times a week, and another 1% uses light drugs a few times a month and 2% a few times a year. In 2016 the same indicator of the Youth Barometer sowed only 1% of young people used drugs daily, 1% a few times a week, 1% a few times a month and 3% a few times a year. The total number of drug users did not changed, but the trend shows the frequency of drugs use increased among the youth according to the [Youth Barometer](#).

According to a [UNICEF study](#), 90% of adolescents spend over eight hours a day involved in the following activities: watching TV, surfing the Internet, and playing video games. Half of the adolescents engage in all three types of activities every day for more than 8 hours.

The dynamic of children and youth morbidity according to [the Assessment of the Physical Development and Health Status of Children and Youth, Based on Medical Exams in Urban and Rural Schools – 2014/2015 school year](#) is stationary, varying between 26% in 2002 to 25,31% in 2015

Between 2002 and 2015, one can observe the of morbidity increases with age for all categories is highlighted. Young adults examined in the 12th grade (18-19 years) have a morbidity of about 30%. The most frequent affections, present at about 20% of young people, are refractive affections, especially myopia. On the other hand, obesity frequency is constant among young people over the years, at about 10% according to the same statistics.

According to the report of the [National Centre for Mental Health and Anti-Drug Fighting](#) report in 2014, over 6 433 young people between 15 and 19 suffered from a mental health disorder, including anxiety, depression, autism, behavioural disorders or nutrition disorders.

Main concepts

Health care in Romania is dominated by a public system which is financed mainly through mandatory social health insurance contributions. Employees contribute 5.5% of their monthly wage and employers add an extra 5.2% for each employee (according to the [Fiscal Code](#)). Children under 18, students, the unemployed and low-income persons are exempted from health insurance contribution. Adults are considered uninsured if they do not contribute to the health care fund, meaning they can only benefit free of charge from a basic health package which covers emergency care, pregnancy care, communicable disease diagnosis, prevention and treatment. The [National Health Insurance House](#) administers health care funds ([according to the Law no. 95/2006 on Health Care System Reform](#)).

Romanian General Practitioners are family doctors and have a gatekeeper role for the public system but not for the private system. This means that those benefiting from free services can't access any other service unless they are seen first by their family doctor. Most patients in Romania are registered with a family doctor of their choice, without limitations regarding the area in which they live. Patients can change the family doctor after a 6 month minimum period.

There are [approximately 11 400 family doctors in Romania](#), of which less than 10% did not follow a specialist training in family medicine. The average patient list size is 1 600, with some family doctors caring for just 1 000 patients (minimum accepted limit for a contract with the Health Insurance House being 800 in urban areas with no limit for rural practices) Most family doctors work in single-handed practices.

7.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Main actors

In the field of youth health and well-being the responsibilities are divided between several institutions:

- the **Ministry of Health** is the main central authority responsible for the development of the national policies in the field of health, including all policies and programs targeting youth and/or in the benefit of youth. It also has a coordination role over the county offices implementing health policies at local level and a monitoring role over the implementation of policies at national, county and local level;
- the **Public Health Offices** are implementing the Ministry of Health policies at county level;
- the **Specialised committees for health** organised by the Ministry of Health, responsible for the substantiating the decisions of the Health Minister on policies, strategies and action programs in the field of public health, identifying and proposing national priorities, developing proposals for health care services within the public health system;
- the **Ministry of National Education** is responsible for organising formal learning and education on health and classes of sports and physical education in schools;
- the **Ministry of Youth and Sports** is the main central authority responsible for the development of the national policies in the field of youth and sports, with a specialised department for the 'sports for all'. It also has a coordination role over the county offices implementing both youth and sport policies at local level and a

monitoring role over the implementation of policies at national, county and local level;

- the **National Sport Complexes** and **Public Sport Clubs**, subordinated to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, are the administrators of public sport infrastructure.
- the **County Offices for Youth and Sport** are implementing the Ministry of Youth and Sports policies at county level;
- the **National Federation of Sports for All**, the sport federation responsible for organising sporting activities for non-professional atlats, including young people and targeting, in practice, manly young people;
- the **National Federation of School and University Sports**, the sport federation responsible for organising sporting activities for professional and non-professional atlats enrolled in formal education institutions: schools and universities, manly young people;

The Federations are private entities benefiting from public funding and accountable to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, due to the funds received from the ministry.

Regarding sport private organisations, any private sport structure have to be registered in a public registry administered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports: the **Sport Registry**. Only the organisations recognised by the Sport Registry can apply for public funding and they are, also, possible dialogue partners for the policy makers. [The Romanian law no. 52/2003](#) regulates decisional transparency and participation to policy making of all organisations. However, participation to decision making regarding sport policies is generally intermediated by sports federations, including the **National Federation of Sports for All** and the **National Federation of School and University Sports**.

Trade unions, employers and NGOs with activities relevant for the youth health participate in policy making using two main methods:

1. the participation mechanism provided by the [law no. 52/2003](#) on decisional transparency (providing the obligation of any regulatory authority to publish draft legislation, to receive and analyse comments and amendments from citizens and to organise a public debate at demand of an NGO or other legally constituted organisations). Although the law provide for this mechanism, debates are rarely requested and organised (e.g. in total the Ministry of Health organised 15 debates in 2017 between the January 1st and September 30th)
2. the [Economic and Social Council](#), a consultative body of the Parliament and the Government, organised as an autonomous tripartite public institution of national interest, having the function of an advisory board for all bills in the social or economic field.

There are three types of organisations participating to the Economic and Social Council:

1. nationally representative trade unions, according to the [Law no. 62/2011 on social dialogue](#);
2. nationally representative employers associations, according to the [Law no. 62/2011 on social dialogue](#);
3. NGOs appointed by the Minister of Labour, according to representation criteria. However, the criteria are not public. An umbrella youth organisation: the [Romanian Youth Council](#) is part of the Economic and Social Council. No NGO specialised in health policy is a member of the Economic and Social Council.

UNICEF office in Romania is also active, providing information, studies and advices at the level of policy planning as well as testing and piloting social assistance models at local level. Their models are targeting primarily children, but young people between 14 and 18 are also an important target group for UNICEF office in Romania

Probably the most preeminent health NGO active in the field of health policies, including health policies with young beneficiaries is the [Centre for Health Policies and Services \(CHPS\)](#). It acts as a think tank and advocacy NGO being both a dialogue partner and a

funds receiver for assessments needed to develop health policies. Among CHPS activities it worth mentioning: 'Developing a costing model for the primary health care services for mothers and children' (in partnership with UNICEF), 'Promoting a healthy lifestyle in schools' – project resulting in an educational toolkit for children and for young people between 14 and 15, parents and teachers.

The governance approach to youth health and well-being is top-down for policy development and partly top-down in implementation. Beside the implementation of ministerial programmes by the county offices in their structure, health institutions subordinated to local authorities, family doctors and authorised certified NGOs are directly providing health assistance and counselling to young people.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

There are two mechanisms of cross-sectorial cooperation between Ministries, Departments, and Agencies involved in defining top-level policies and measures on youth health and well-being:

1. Ad-hoc meetings
2. Ad-hoc inter-ministerial committees organised on different topics according to the bill in preparation.

This cooperation mechanism are specific to most of the policies in the field of youth and are used by both ministries in charge with youth health and well-being, namely the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

As both the mechanisms are used ad-hoc public information on their results are not always released.

7.3 Sport, youth fitness and physical activity

National strategy(ies)

Official document and timeframe

The [Youth Strategy](#), adopted by Government Decision no. 24/2015 has a dedicated pillar to youth health and well-being, including specific objectives to promote sport, youth fitness and physical activity among young people. A separate strategy on youth sport, fitness and physical activity as such does not exist in Romania.

A National Sport Strategy for 2016-2032 has been launched in public debate in 2016 but it is not adopted as an official document in 2017.

Main elements and key objectives

Specific objective of the Youth Strategy in the area of youth sport, fitness and physical activity is to deliver education through sports and physical activity with the aim of fostering a healthy lifestyle and development as active and responsible citizens, and encourage young people to engage in sports and exercise in their spare time. Planned actions include:

- a. Increase the number of children and young people who participate in sports, including by developing the mainstream sporting competition system (for all);
- b. Ensure pupils and children access to sports facilities and offer young people the chance to spend their spare time in the existing sports facilities;
- c. Maintain physical education as a mandatory subject matter and encourage pupils and students to practice a sport, and make physical education school classes more attractive by including sporting activities favoured by youngsters – fitness, aerobics;
- d. Combat youth overweight and obesity through special fitness programmes;
- e. Promote Romanian professional athletes as role models for young people;

- f. Draw more on the opportunities created under European youth programmes in order to encourage the practice of sports, experience exchanges and training in education through sport;
- g. Grasp the opportunities created under the 'Europe for Citizens' programme to support youth practice of sports at beginner level;
- h. Ensure that increasingly more young people engage in moderate intensity physical activity for 30-60 minutes a day (including in sporting activities);
- i. Attract young people with disabilities into practicing sports by offering them adequate access, including in properly equipped youth and student centres;
- j. Create the conditions for the entities involved in youth education to ensure the practice of mainstream sports through community involvement in local, regional and national competitions.

National Sport Strategy for 2016-2032 project include a general objective for the development of sport, including the following specific objectives:

- a. Raising the level of information and education of citizens on the importance and benefits of practicing physical activity and sport
- b. Removing obstacles to the practice of mass sports, including both renovating sports facilities for mass sports and preparing qualified human resources to support amateur athletes
- c. Development of public programmes for mass sports, including organising and funding these programmes
- d. Encouraging practicing sports on age groups, including among young people. But in the strategy draft it is unclear what actions are planned in this respect.
- e. Social reintegration through sport of people with special needs and disadvantaged people.
- f. Reviving volunteering in sport

Target groups

While the Youth Strategy has a general target group among the young people, as defined by the [Youth Law](#): 14-35, the National Sport Strategy for 2016-2032 has no specific target group among youth, but most of its objectives are beneficial for the development of youth sport, fitness and physical activity.

Government authority responsible for the implementation

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is the main government authority responsible for the implementation of the Youth strategy, including the specific objective of developing the education through sports and physical activity.

The same ministry is the government authority responsible for the project adoption and implementation of the National Sport Strategy for 2016-2032.

However, an action plan allowing systematic implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation the strategy, was not adopted until October 2017. For the development and adopting of the action plan and for monitoring the Youth Strategy implementation the Ministry of Youth and Sport needs cooperation and support from other sectorial ministries (Education, Employment, Health, Economy etc.).

Monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the strategy

No evidence-based monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the national Youth Strategy has been conducted until October 2017.

Major revisions/updates

No updates have been made to the present Youth Strategy. As mentioned, the National Sport Strategy for 2016-2032 is in the stage of a project of the Ministry of Youth and Sport and has not been adopted until October 2017.

Promoting and supporting sport and physical activity among young people

Sport and physical activities among the young people are promoted by the Sports for All Programme of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The programme is granted to the **National Federation of Sports for All** and it was launched in 1998. Programmes objectives include:

- increasing the participation of the population, of all categories, to the activities of free exercise of the physical exercise;
- ensuring the specific conditions for the systematic practice of physical exercise by people with special needs;
- increasing the number of people with special needs who regularly practice sport, appropriate to the needs of each category;
- promotion of permanent education in and through sport.

The Federation manages a small number of sports facilities opened to everybody, including to young people and organises sports events for unprofessional athletes. The most important of these sport events being organised during the BEACTIVE – the European Sports Week, September every year since 2015.

According to the reports published online by the National Federation of Sports for All, 300 sport events have been organised in most of the Romanian counties in 2017 during European Sports Week. In 2016 the number of events was over 190, with about 37 000 participating unprofessional athletes and 1 750 volunteers for organising the events. In 2015 during the European Sports Week the number of events was over 130, with about 20 000 participating unprofessional athletes and 1 500 volunteers for organising the events.

The events of the Sports for All Federation have double purpose: encouraging participation in sport events and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. These events have no specific target groups addressed within the youth population, being in fact opened to young and older people, although the majority of the participants are young as observed in the multimedia materials published online by the Federation.

The budget for the Sports for All programme was 540 000 lei (about 120 000 euro). No other public funds are provided for mass sport or youth sports activities. On the other hand, promoting sport among the young people can be funded by the Youth Programmes of the Ministry of Youth and Sports if such projects are submitted by youth organisations at the annually calls for projects.

According to the funding methodology for sports programmes of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, all National Federation, including the Sports for All federation, have to submit reports to the Ministry of Youth and Sports on activities and expenses, ensuring monitoring of the programme implementation and activities. But these reports are not made public.

Physical education in schools

Physical education is a mandatory subject and class in the curriculum in secondary education, including upper secondary education at national level. A total of 2 hours/week is included in the mandatory curricula. High schools can decide to add one hour/week in their curricula for physical education classes. The grading system is the same as in other compulsory subjects, based on a progression scales for national-level assessment of attainment in physical education.

The Ministry of Education, through the Institute of Education Science develops the mandatory curricula, including mandatory competences and skills and activities to be carried out during physical educational classes.

Physical education is an optional class in tertiary education curriculum, including universities curriculums for all departments and faculties, for one hour/week, being

therefore encouraged among young people, irrespective of their major specialisation of studies.

No top-down guidelines, recommendations or large-scale initiatives on the inclusion of physical activities outside the curriculum but within the school day (e.g. in school breaks) or on extracurricular sports activities in schools have been developed in Romania.

Collaboration and partnerships

No specific top-down policy initiatives aiming to encourage the formation of partnerships between formal education providers, youth workers, health professionals and sporting organisations have been developed in Romania, although both the Youth Strategy and the Sport Strategy include this objective. These partnerships can be developed as specific projects within the [Sport for All Programme](#) under the coordination of the National Federation of Sports for All.

Sport associations can be funded in schools and universities, according to the [Physical Education and Sport Law no. 69/2000](#), becoming a real partnership for sport between youth sports professionals and schools. However, there is no policy encouraging the development of such associations. According to the law they have no juridical personality, but schools can be funded by municipalities for the activities of their sport associations. The decision on funding sport activities in schools belongs to local or county councils and is totally autonomous.

7.4 Healthy lifestyles and healthy nutrition

National strategy(ies)

Official document and timeframe

A national [Health Strategy 2014-2020](#) have been adopted by Government Decision no. 1028/2015. The Strategy have no dedicated objectives or activities for young people, and no objective dedicated directly to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and healthy nutrition. The strategy includes among its actions the standardisation of the schools evaluation of health condition for children and adolescents until 19.

The [Youth Strategy](#), adopted by Government Decision no. 24/2015 has a dedicated pillar to youth health and well-being, including specific objectives to promote healthy life and healthy nutrition among the young people. A separate strategy on healthy life and healthy nutrition as such does not exist in Romania.

Main elements and key objectives

Specific objective of the Youth Strategy in the area of healthy life and healthy nutrition among the young people is to support youth health and quality of life and prevent injuries, eating disorders, substance use and addiction. Planned actions include:

- a. Run school and high school campaigns on topics like health education, including healthy eating and reproductive health;
- b. Promote road safety education and defensive driving among youngsters;
- c. Facilitate youth access to youth-friendly medical services and support enhanced accessibility, efficiency and quality of public health education services, including their delivery by the private sector or social enterprises;
- d. Encourage peer health education by supporting projects aimed at STD prevention and HIV harm reduction;
- e. Carry out actions in line with the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2013-2020 to prevent drug, alcohol and tobacco use among adolescents and young people.

Another relevant objective of the Youth Strategy is the one aiming at improving leisure time opportunities for young people through both organised and informal means. Planned actions to achieve the result determined by this objective include:

- a. Extend the network of centres, clubs, leisure facilities managed by public and private entities or under public-private partnerships, with low costs and utmost effectiveness in attracting youth to different leisure activities;
- b. Make more of the education system infrastructure after school for the leisure activities conducted by youth and/or YNGOs, in accordance with the applicable laws;
- c. Involve Youth NGOs and youth in leisure facility development and management, including on a volunteer basis;
- d. Develop and improve the quality of holiday camps, student cultural centres, sports facilities for youth, children's clubs and centres, school sports clubs, and ensure improved use of the already existing ones through their joint management by Youth NGOs – public government authorities or through public-private partnerships;
- e. Provide facilitators and youth workers with professional training, development and skills to attract young people to leisure activities that have a positive impact on their personal development;
- f. Provide guidance and support to local public government authorities in order to develop the infrastructure needed for the practice of proximity sports: playfields, swimming pools, skate parks, bike lanes, etc.;
- g. Enable young people to get closer to active generations by organising meetings within ALUMNI centres or professional clubs.

Target groups

According to the Youth Strategy, young people that are the main target group of the actions under the specific objective on health among young people of the Youth Strategy are:

- young drug and/or alcohol users
- young people with unhealthy eating habits
- young persons with disabilities
- young mothers aged 15-19
- young people infected with HIV/AIDS
- young people affected by different mental illnesses
- young people whose lifestyle doesn't include sporting or cultural activities

Government authority responsible for the implementation

The Ministry of Health is the main government authority responsible for the implementation of the Health Strategy 2014-2020. County offices of the Ministry of Health: Directorates of Public Health are responsible to carry out most of the activities planned.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is the main government authority responsible for the implementation of the Youth strategy, including the specific objectives on health and quality of life and on leisure time of young people.

An action plan allowing systematic implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation the strategy, was not adopted until October 2017. For the development and adopting of the action plan and for monitoring the Youth Strategy implementation the Ministry of Youth and Sport needs cooperation and support from other sectorial ministries (Education, Employment, Health, Economy etc.).

Monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the strategy

No evidence-based monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the national Youth Strategy has been conducted until October 2017.

Concerning the Health Strategy 2014-2020, in September 2016 the Ministry of Health published a report on the strategy's implementation in 2015.

Major revisions/updates

No updates have been made to the present Health Strategy 2014-2020.

No updates have been made to the present Youth Strategy.

Encouraging healthy lifestyles and healthy nutrition for young people

A [Multiannual Plan for Health and Health Education](#) have been developed in 2016 by the ministry of Health and the Presidential Administration. The Multiannual Plan includes as the first activity the development of the legal framework for planning and managing national initiatives in the field of health promotion and health education, this field being decentralised at the moment in Romania.

The Ministry of Youth and Sport funded projects implemented by youth organisations and dedicated to young people in the area of health, sport and leisure, supporting therefore 163 small projects (up to 5,000 euro/project) for a healthy lifestyle and health education. The project's implementation is monitored by the funding authority: the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Their impact have not been evaluated separately, but an [overall evaluation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports programmes for young people](#) have been conducted and published in 2016. Moreover, the impact of these projects can be observed in the results of the [Youth Barometer](#).

Health education and healthy lifestyles education in schools

Health education

According to [Law no. 272/2004 on the Protection and Promotion of Child Rights](#), article 46, life education, including sex education shall be provided in schools. However, health education is an optional subject that can be chosen by the schools as a separate subject, usually taught by professors of biology or other related mandatory disciplines.

A [national curricula](#) approved by the Ministry of Education is available for the optional subject, covering issues as:

- Hygiene
- Work-rest balance
- Environmental health
- Mental health
- Nutrition health
- Sexual health and family life
- Use of substances (including Tobacco, alcohol, drugs)
- Accidents
- Violence and abuses
- Bioethics

According to the curricula, at the end of the health education programme, young people of 19 should be able to:

- Identify the factors that influence the physical and mental development of the individual;
- Use the notions of anatomy, genetics, legislation to explain some aspects of bioethics;
- Analyse the consequences of decisions concerning sexual life at individual, family level;
- Investigate the influence of environmental factors on individual and collective health;
- Explore the impact of risk situations on the individual and the community;
- Evaluate the reproductive health information and services;
- Build personal strategies to support a healthy lifestyle;
- Evaluate some concepts, theories and personal opinions on health issues;
- Analyse the interrelations between physical, mental, mental and personal health;

- Assess the conditions for maintaining a healthy relationship between partners;
- Apply strategies to minimize the effects of potentially dangerous situations;
- Assess the socio-cultural influences on the expression of sexuality;
- Analyse the incidence of abuse and violence on personality development in adolescence.

No other pedagogical tools and support provided to teachers responsible for health education, including specific training programmes, web tools have been developed as top-down and generally used initiatives.

Sex education and personal relationships education

Sex education is not provided separated from health education.

Peer-to-peer education approaches

No top-level guidelines, programmes, projects or initiatives facilitating or relying on peer-to-peer education as a form of non-formal or informal learning have been developed and implemented in Romania.

Collaboration and partnerships

No top-level support for collaboration and formation of partnerships between schools, youth workers and health professionals promoting youth health is developed and implemented in Romania.

Raising awareness on healthy lifestyles and on factors affecting the health and well-being of young people

Information providers / counselling structures

Among the [29 national programmes on health](#) funded by the Ministry of Health (15 programmes) and by the National Health Insurance House (14 programmes), one of the programmes is dedicated to the assessment and promotion of health and health education. Funds are allocated from the national budget of the Ministry of Health to the Public Health Directorates at county level. The Directorates have autonomy to develop their own projects/activities to promote a healthy lifestyle at local level and have to report back to the Ministry.

At national level, the Romanian National Council for Audiovisual approved the free broadcasting of advertisements including the following messages promoting a healthy lifestyle:

- 'The excess of salt, sugar and fats severely damage health'
- 'Consume daily fruits and vegetables!'
- 'Move at least 30 minutes each day!'
- 'Drink daily at least 2 liters of liquid!'
- 'Respect the main meals of the day!'

Youth-targeted information campaigns

No large-scale, youth-targeted information campaigns on healthy lifestyles and factors affecting the health and wellbeing of young people have been implemented in Romania.

The advertisements including messages promoting a healthy lifestyle have no specific target groups, being addressed to the general public.

7.5 Mental health

National strategy(ies)

Official document and timeframe

A [Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020](#) have been adopted by the Romanian Government in November 2016 through Government Decision.

Young people over 19 are not among the target groups of the Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020, but they are targeted by the [Health Strategy 2014-2020](#), that includes a specific objective of promoting mental health.

Main elements and key objectives

The needs identified by the [Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020](#) are:

- Developing services to promote the mental health of the child and adolescent and to prevent mental disorders of children and adolescents through partnership between the education system, the health system, the social services system and the justice system by developing parenting information and counseling services, implementation of mental health prevention programmes such as prevention of anxiety and depression, prevention of suicide, prevention of aggressive behaviours and development of social and emotional intelligence of children and adolescents;
- Developing and implementation of a comprehensive and complex database and establish methods and rules for collecting and processing target group data;
- Developing of child psychology modules in medical education curricula and programmes and in the training of teachers;
- Development of early identification and intervention services for children at risk of developing mental health disorders and children with a diagnosed mental health disorder by family doctors and school doctors;
- Improving the infrastructure and services of Mental Health Centres;
- Development of hospital services as specialized services for children and adolescents with mental health disorders by forming and training multidisciplinary teams in the hospitals;
- Continuous training of professionals.

The objectives targeting young people (adolescents) of the [Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020](#) are:

- Rising awareness of the population at national level on the well-being of children and adolescents and their mental health, through national campaigns and locally organised events;
- Promote and develop the mental health protection factors of children and their parents, through training of all involved professionals: teachers, family doctors, paediatric doctors etc.
- Early identification of children and adolescents at risk of developing mental health disorders, through developing and implementation of a comprehensive and complex database and establish methods and rules for collecting and processing target group data
- Early identification of socio-emotional and behavioural difficulties of children and adolescents
- Early interventions for children and adolescents at risk of developing mental health disorders and socio-emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Prevention of anxiety disorders and depression of children and adolescents at risk, through seminars
- Prevention and early interventions in aggressive physical and verbal behaviour of the child and adolescent
- Development of specialized services integrated into mental health centres
- Development within the mental health centres of evaluation and intervention services for the mental health of children and adolescents
- Development and implementation of educational interventions for children with mental health disorders in kindergartens, schools and detention centres (educational centres, detention centres) for juvenile delinquents
- Developing complex services and interventions for children with severe mental health disorders in institutions that hold children

- Development of specialized crisis intervention services in juvenile delinquency sections and detention facilities / probation services

The specific objective of promoting mental health in the National Health Strategy 2014-2020 proposes as main elements:

- Increasing the access to mental health services by developing standards for mental health services, specialised training of professionals and information campaigns;
- Diversification of mental health available services.

Target groups

The target groups of the Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020 are:

- Children and adolescents, their parents;
- Children and adolescents at risk of developing mental health disorders (children exposed to verbal and physical violence, alcohol abuse and psychotropic substance abuse, chronic somatic diseases of parents, disorganised families, extreme poverty, children with somatic diseases chronic children, children with parents working abroad) and their parents;
- Children and adolescents whose parents are diagnosed with mental health disorders;
- Children and adolescents diagnosed with mental health disorders and their parents;
- Children and adolescents with special protection measure;
- Children and adolescents from the units under the National Administration of Penitentiaries;
- Children and adolescents in probation services supervision;
- Children and adolescents with mental health disorders who have committed criminal offenses.

Government authority responsible for the implementation

The Ministry of Health is the main responsible authority for the implementation of the Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020, mainly through the [National Centre for Mental Health and Anti-Drug Fighting](#). Other authorities are also responsible for activities planned:

- the [General Secretariat of the Government](#)
- the [Ministry of Education](#)
- the [National Authority of Child Protection Rights and Adoptions](#)
- the [National Prisons Administration at the Ministry of Justice](#)
- the [National Directorate of Probation](#)
- the [Prosecution Office](#)
- the [Ministry of Internal Affairs](#) and the National Police

Monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the strategy

The [National Centre for Mental Health and Anti-Drug Fighting](#), subordinated to the Ministry of Health is responsible for the elaboration of an annual report on the implementation of the strategy. As the Strategy have been adopted in November 2016 no implementation report have been drafted until October 2017.

Major revisions/updates

No updates have been made to the present Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020.

Improving the mental health of young people

Mental Health legislation was significantly changed in Romania in 2002 upon approval of the [Mental Health and Protection of Persons with Mental Disorders Law - Law 487/2002](#).

This law created a legal framework for actions in Mental Health. The law established that responsibility for promotion and prevention of mental health lies with the Ministry of Health and Family, Ministry of Education and Research, Intern Ministry, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity, National Council of Audio-visual, non-governmental associations, professional associations and others. This law protects the rights of mental health service users and establishes the criteria for admission to a psychiatric unit, including the criteria for compulsory admission.

The National Programme of Mental Health has 2 sub-programmes: one for psychiatric and psycho-social pathology and another for sub-programmes for prevention and treatment of drug dependence. The sub-programmes are delivered in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric departments of the General Hospitals and Mental Health Centres.

The major activities, coordinated from the sub-programmes for prevention and treatment of drug dependence, are: substitution treatment with opioid agonists, testing the drugs metabolites in specialised units and treatment of intoxication with drugs. The objectives of this sub-programme are to increase social rehabilitation of the patients and the decrease the relapse rate of patients with drug dependence.

The National Programme of Mental Health is funded by the state budget through the budget of the Ministry of Health and its implementation is coordinated by the National Centre for Mental Health and Anti-Drug Fighting.

The number and types of mental health services targeting all patients (including young people) include:

- psychiatric hospitals: (i) acute psychiatric departments in general hospitals (75), (ii) psychiatric hospitals (34 acute and chronic).
- 20 Day Care Centres
- 52 Mental Health Centres (36 for adults and 29 for children)
- 4 specialised addiction units and forensic psychiatric hospitals
- 150 private ambulatory offices, authorized by the Ministry of Health

The National Centre for Mental Health and Anti-Drug Fighting can develop policies/programmes/projects/initiatives especially targeting young people. According to the institutions [annual reports](#), representing the main monitoring tool, activities in 2015 included the training of school and family doctors for early detection of mental health problems among children and young people. No other youth targeted activity has been reported (with the exception of the development of the Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020).

7.6 Mechanisms of early detection and signposting of young people facing health risks

Policy framework

Since 2002 the prophylactic medical examinations of the health conditions are carried out annually for kindergarten children (at the entrance to the kindergarten), pupils of 7, 11, 15 and 19, pupils in vocational school. The examinations are carried out at in the school collectives by the school doctor and nurse, both in urban and rural areas, in order to find out the level of physical development, for the prevention of illnesses, the early detection of diseases or deficiencies, the application of rehabilitation treatment, school and professional orientation depending on the state of health.

The examinations are coordinated by the [National Centre for the Evaluation and Promotion of Health](#), which publishes [annual reports](#).

In the 2014/2015 school year, the exams included 666 869 pre-schoolers and pupils from urban and rural areas (urban 39 counties and rural 27). The dynamics of the number of children examined in the 2002-2015 has an oscillating evolution, with an increase from 480 693 children examined in 2002 to 666 869 in 2015.

However, these examinations have mainly a statistical aim of informing the policy makers on the health condition of children and young people until 19 and due to the limited coverage have no impact in the detection and signposting of young people facing health risks.

On the other hand, among the national health programmes funded by the Ministry of Health, four include clear early detection components, respectively:

1. the national HIV prevention, surveillance and control program;
2. the national program for prevention, monitoring and control of tuberculosis;
3. the national program for surveillance and limitation of infections associated with medical care and microbial resistance, as well as for the monitoring of the use of antibiotics;
4. national program for early detection of cancer through organised screening;

Five other programmes funded by the Social Security Budget through the National Health Insurance House include screening components, respectively:

1. the national cardiovascular disease program;
2. national oncology program;
3. the national diabetes program;
4. the national program for the treatment of neurological diseases;
5. the national program for the treatment of haemophilia and thalassemia;

All the above mentioned programmes include free screening components for all patients, including young people, available on state or authorised institutions with a recommendation from the family doctor.

Stakeholders

Doctors and health practitioners are the main stakeholders for the mechanisms of early detection and signposting of young people facing health risks. Among these the most important are family doctors, school doctors and nurses.

Health care in Romania is dominated by a public system that is financed mainly through mandatory social health insurance contributions. Family doctors a gatekeeper role for the public system but not for the private system. This means that those benefiting from free services can't access any other service unless they are seen first by their family doctor, according to regulation in the system, mainly the [Law no. 95/2006 on Health Care System Reform](#).

School medicine is a separate specialization and schools should have employed school doctors. However, a school doctor is available at every 2 500 pupils, making the system generally inefficient.

Guidance to stakeholders

Within a project funded by the Norwegian and EEA Grants, the National Institute of Public Health developed [Guidelines for Health Nutrition and Physical Activities in Schools and Kindergartens](#), covering activities that can also be implemented for young people in the secondary schools.

Target groups

The prophylactic medical examinations of the health conditions are carried out annually for kindergarten children (at the entrance to the kindergarten), pupils of 7, 11, 15 and 19, pupils in vocational school.

All young people have access to the screening measures included in the national health programmes. Pupils or students, employed or unemployed young people are insured according to the law. The young NEETs that are not registered to the Public Employment Services (the County Employment Agencies) are not insured in the national system, but they can be included in the national health programmes at request.

Funding

Among the national health programmes some are funded by the state budget and others are funded by the social security budget, as follows:

1. National health programmes funded by the Ministry of Health, including screening and detection components are:
 - the national HIV prevention, surveillance and control program;
 - the national program for prevention, monitoring and control of tuberculosis;
 - the national program for surveillance and limitation of infections associated with medical care and microbial resistance, as well as for the monitoring of the use of antibiotics;
 - national program for early detection of cancer through organised screening;

2. National health programmes funded by the Social Security Budget through the National Health Insurance House include screening components, are:
 - the national cardiovascular disease program;
 - national oncology program;
 - the national diabetes program;
 - the national program for the treatment of neurological diseases;
 - the national program for the treatment of haemophilia and thalassemia.

7.7 Making health facilities more youth friendly

No top-level policies, programmes, projects or initiatives aiming to make health facilities more youth friendly have been implemented in Romania.

7.8 Current debates and reforms

Mechanisms for early detection and signposting of young people facing mental health risks and addiction risks are under development in 2017 as part of the Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020.

8. Creativity and Culture

Cultural participation of young people is coordinated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports through the [15 Students Cultural Centres](#) active in 14 university cities and the Student Cultural Centre in Suceava, under the Ministry of Education.

With few exceptions, including mainly the initiatives of the Students Cultural Centres and the programs dedicated to young creators, most of the programmes and projects targeting the young cultural public target both children and young people, without discrimination. Therefore, most of the initiatives promoting culture and cultural participation, social inclusion through culture or non-formal education in cultural fields target children and young people alike. The lack of monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives makes the estimation of the impact of these initiatives among young people impossible.

8.1 General context

Main trends in young people's creativity and cultural participation

According to the [**Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016**](#), conducted by the [National Institute for Cultural Research and Training](#), the cultural infrastructure in Romania included in 2015:

- 10 111 libraries
- 431 museums and public collections

- 82 cinemas with a total number of 11 166 861 spectators in 2015, compared to 8 348 538 spectators in 2012 in 81 cinemas
- 174 performing arts and concert institutions and companies
- 5319 historical monuments
- 818 historical ensembles
- 738 historical sites

The number of cultural infrastructure objectives is constant, varying with less than 10% in between 2012 and 2015 (the period considered by the Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016 for comparisons).

According to the same Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016, in the general population, 77% of the respondents have a low level of cultural engagement, for 19% of them this level is medium, 3% have a high level of engagement and only 1% of the respondents have a very high level of cultural engagement.

The Barometer is conducted only on adults (over 18), but it shows a higher level of cultural engagement (cultural participation) among young people. Within the 1% of the population with a very high level of cultural engagement all are under 40 and 80% are under 30 years old. Within the 3% with a high cultural engagement, 59% are under 40 and 43% are under 30 years old. Within the 19% with a medium cultural engagement, 64% are under 40 and 40% are under 30 years old.

However, the [Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016](#) does not uses ages categories that could allow us present statistics for the total youth population as defined by the [Youth Law](#) (from 14 to 35 years old), as the survey only included adults (over 18) and data analysis have been made for the following age groups: 18-24 years old, 25-29 years old, 30-39 years old, 40-49 years old, 50-64 years old, over 65 years old. Moreover, due to different age groups and indicators used, there is no possibility to compare the results of the Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016 with the ones in 2015, 2014, 2012 or 2010.

Having these limits in mind, considering the distribution of domestic cultural socialisation activities among young people, the Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016 presents the following figures:

In the last 12 months, how often...?	18-24 years old	25-29 years old	30-39 years old
Have you invited friends/acquaintances over to your house to watch movies, movie serials or various clips on the Internet	58%	40%	25%
Have you invited friends/acquaintances over to your house for music/dance parties etc.	33%	32%	25%
Have you invited friends/acquaintances over to your house for games (rummy, board games etc.)	53%	36%	29%
Have you watched movies, together with family members	64%	68%	79%
Have you talked with your family members about books or magazines	18%	30%	38%
Have you talked with your family members about movies, music or games	41%	51%	51%

The [Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016](#) created clusters of culture consumers. According to this research, one can identify 2 clusters of young culture consumers:

- **Young people from cities and rural areas, with medium education, (pop) music-oriented**, living in household that are well-connected to telecommunications networks (79% of this cluster's members have an Internet connection at home), including large segments of population who possess objects incorporating smart technologies (smartphone – 75%, tablet – 36%) and pieces of equipment that allow the Internet access (62% have a computer, 55% have a laptop). 50% of these young people have less than 20 books at home, but 26% have more than 50 books at home. 11% of the young people in this category are going to cinema, 71% are listening to music, 67% are watching movies.
- **Young people from urban areas, with medium or high education, living in households with many objects, with a diverse and substantial consumption of culture**, leaving in household connected to the internet (99%) and owning smartphones (90%), computers (80%), laptops (75%), tablets (73%). 24% among these young people possess up to 500 books, 26% up to 100 books, 23% up to 50 books at home.

The main trends in the field of cultural consumption are explored via specific sections of the European Commission's Eurobarometer. According to the latest studies conducted at European level in 2016, a higher degree of cultural consumption can be noticed among youngsters between 25-34 years old. Romania appears among the counties with the lowest values regarding the population's engagement in cultural activities. According to the previously mentioned source, the types of activities that recorded a significant decrease of participation are: visiting museums or historical places, reading in public libraries, participation in theatre, ballet or opera performances, participation in music performances. Although generally the lack of time and lack of interest were the most frequently mentioned reasons, Romania stood out through the high frequency of answers mentioning the high cost of participation and particularly the limited choice or the poor quality of the cultural products' contents.

However, according to the data of the Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016, participation in cultural activities of young people in 2016 is higher than the one of the older people, as presented in the table below.

% of persons who at least once in a year (2015) have attended...	...theatre	...Opera / Operetta	...Philharmonics	...public libraries	...museums / exhibitions
18-24 years old	54%	17%	10%	43%	55%
25-29 years old	43%	21%	14%	32%	44%
30-39 years old	39%	18%	14%	28%	55%
40-49 years old	33%	11%	13%	22%	43%
50-64 years old	23%	10%	8%	11%	34%
65 years old and above	14%	6%	7%	8%	20%

The same Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016 reports that 70% of the young people under 25 years old, 60% of the young people under 30 and 58% of the people under 40 attended at least once a music or entertainment show during the previous year (2015).

According to the [Youth Barometer 2016](#) over 49% of the Romanian young people are visiting historical monuments or sites at least a couple of times on a year, 43% are visiting museums and 29% participate in cultural events. According to the [Youth](#)

Barometer 2014 over 53% of the Romanian young people are going to cinema at least a couple of times on a year, 51% attend musical concerts.

According to the same **Culture statistics 2016 of the Eurostat**, Romania is by far the last European country as proportion of cultural jobs within the total employment, with little over 1%. The figure is constant since 2008. However, almost 24% of the people having a cultural job are under 30. But the proportion is decreasing, as in 2008 over 25% of the people with a cultural job were under 30 years old. Moreover, the Eurostat document stresses that, 'with notable exceptions in Romania, artists and writers were less likely than other workers to have only one job.'

5.3% of the total number of businesses in Romania is considered cultural enterprises. They had a total revenue of 1,360 million euro in 2013, with over 8% lower than in 2008 for their cultural services.

On the other hand, Romania is leading in the European ranking considering new jobs created in the new fields of specialised design' and 'creative, arts and entertainment' activities, in 2013, with 26% of total employment in the cultural sector of activity, for each of the 2 specialisations.

Main concepts

While there are no specific concepts for the creativity and culture fields in Romania, an important note has to be made related to cultural policies, programmes and initiatives dedicated to young people in Romania. With few exceptions, including the initiatives of the Students Cultural Centres and the programs dedicated to young creators, most of the programmes and projects targeting the young cultural public target both children and young people, without discrimination. Therefore, most of the initiatives promoting culture and cultural participation, social inclusion through culture or non-formal education in cultural fields target children and young people alike and the lack of monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives makes the estimation of the impact of these initiatives among young people impossible.

8.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Main actors

In the field of creativity and culture for young people the responsibilities are divided between several institutions:

- the **Ministry of Culture and National Identity** is the main central authority responsible for the development of the national policies in the field of culture, including all policies and programs targeting youth and/or in the benefit of youth. It also has a coordination role over the county offices implementing cultural policies at local level and a large number of state museums, theatres and musical performance institutions: operas, operetta, philharmonics etc. The Ministry of Culture and National Identity is, in the same time, the monitoring authority over the implementation of policies at national, county and local level;
- the **County Culture Offices** are implementing the Ministry of Culture and National Identity policies at county level;
- 43 cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and National Identity, have the autonomy to organise their own activities, under the general coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry of Culture and National Identity. Their list is presented hereunder.
- the **Ministry of Youth and Sports** is the main central authority responsible for the development of the national policies in the field of youth and sports, including programmes and projects for young people access to culture. It also has a coordination role over the county offices implementing youth policies at local level

and a monitoring role over the implementation of policies at national, county and local level;

- the **County Offices for Youth and Sport** are implementing the Ministry of Youth and Sports policies at county level;
- the **16 Students Cultural Centres** are organised in 15 university cities to carry out cultural projects for students.

The Student Cultural Centre in Suceava is subordinated to the Ministry of Education. The other 15 Student Cultural Centres are subordinated to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, organising cultural projects in:

1. [Alba Iulia](#)
2. [Brașov](#)
3. [Bucharest](#)
4. Bucharest, the Students Cultural and Sports Centres "Tei"
5. [Cluj-Napoca](#)
6. [Craiova](#)
7. [Galati](#)
8. [Iasi](#)
9. [Mures](#)
10. Petroșani
11. [Pitești](#)
12. [Ploiești](#)
13. [Reșița](#)
14. [Sibiu](#)
15. [Timișoara](#)

The 43 cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and National Identity mentioned above are:

1. [The National Centre of Cinematography](#) (Bucharest)
2. [The National Library of Romania](#) (Bucharest)
3. [The National Art Museum of Romania](#) (Bucharest)
4. [The National Museum of Contemporary Art](#) (Bucharest)
5. [The National Museum of Maps and Old Books](#) (Bucharest)
6. [The National History Museum of Romania](#) (Bucharest)
7. [The Brukenthal National Museum](#) (Sibiu)
8. [The "Peleș" National Museum](#) (Sinaia, Prahova county)
9. [The National Village Museum "Dimitrie Gusti"](#) (Bucharest)
10. [The National Museum of the Romanian Peasant](#) (Bucharest)
11. The Bran National Museum (Bran, Brașov county)
12. [The National Museum of History of Transylvania](#) (Cluj-Napoca)
13. [The National Museum Complex "Moldova"](#) (Iași)
14. [The National Museum of the Eastern Carpathians](#) (Sfântu Gheorghe, Covasna county)
15. The National Museum of Natural History "Grigore Antipa" (Bucharest)

16. The Museum of Art "Vasile Grigore - painter and collector" (Bucharest)
17. The George Enescu National Museum (Bucharest)
18. The "I. L. Caragiale" National Theatre (Bucharest)
19. The "Lucian Blaga" National Theatre (Cluj-Napoca)
20. The "Vasile Alecsandri" National Theatre (Iași)
21. The "Mihai Eminescu" National Theatre (Timisoara)
22. The "Marin Sorescu" National Theatre (Craiova)
23. The National Theatre in Târgu Mureș
24. [The Hungarian State Theatre in Cluj](#)
25. [The Bucharest National Opera](#)
26. [The Romanian National Opera in Cluj-Napoca](#)
27. [The Hungarian Opera House in Cluj-Napoca](#)
28. [The Romanian National Opera in Iasi](#)
29. [The Romanian National Opera in Timisoara](#)
30. [The National Opera and Ballet Theatre "Oleg Danovski" in Constanta](#)
31. [The National Theatre of Operetta and Musical "Ion Dacian"](#) (Bucharest)
32. [The George Enescu Philharmonic](#) (Bucharest)
33. [The National Dance Centre](#) (Bucharest)
34. [The National Centre of Art "Tinerimea Română" \("Romanian Youth"\)](#) (Bucharest)
35. [The "George Apostu" Cultural Centre in Bacau](#)
36. The "Arcus" Culture Centre in Covasna
37. [The Toplita Cultural Centre](#) (Tiplița, Harghita county)
38. [The National Heritage Institute](#) (Bucharest)
39. The Cinematographic Creative Studio in Bucharest
40. [The "VIDEOART" Publishing House](#)
41. [The Administration of the National Cultural Fund](#)
42. [The Madrigal Choir](#)
43. [The National Institute for Research and Cultural Training](#)

The National Centre of Art "Tinerimea Română" ("Romanian Youth") performs its activity including the following activities:

- it organises and carries out shows and music concerts (choral, chamber, contemporary, symphonic, instrumental, pop, jazz), apart from folkloric concerts in collaboration or with other entities;
- it organises and carries out educational programs;
- it promotes Romanian and universal choral, classical and contemporary music, authentic Romanian folklore, classical and contemporary Romanian and universal music, Romanian and universal contemporary music, Romanian and international pop music, jazz music (blues, traditional jazz).

The artistic groups of the National Centre of Art "Tinerimea Română" ("Romanian Youth") are:

- "Preludiu" chamber choir
- "Cununa Carpaților" folk ensemble

- "Archaeus" contemporary music ensemble

Regarding cultural private organisations, no specific registration is needed in order to carry out cultural activities for NGOs or private enterprises. Therefore, any NGO or private enterprise with a declared objective in a cultural field can participate to consultations in the field of cultural policies and can apply for funding for cultural projects.

[The Romanian law no. 52/2003](#) regulates decisional transparency and participation to policy making of all organisations in all policy fields, including culture. Therefore, trade unions, employers and NGOs with activities relevant for the creativity and culture for young people participate in policy making using two main methods:

1. the participation mechanism provided by the law no. 52/2003 on decisional transparency (providing the obligation of any regulatory authority to publish draft legislation, to receive and analyse comments and amendments from citizens and to organise a public debate at demand of an NGO or other legally constituted organisations). Although the law provide for this mechanism, debates are rarely requested and organised (e.g. in total the Ministry of Culture organised only one debate in 2017 between the January 1st and September 30th)
2. the [Economic and Social Council](#), a consultative body of the Parliament and the Government, organised as an autonomous tripartite public institution of national interest, having the function of an advisory board for all bills in the social or economic field, including culture.

There are three types of organisations participating to the Economic and Social Council:

- nationally representative trade unions, according to the [Law no. 62/2011 on social dialogue](#);
- nationally representative employers associations, according to the [Law no. 62/2011 on social dialogue](#);
- NGOs appointed by the Minister of Labour, according to representation criteria. However, the criteria are not public. An umbrella youth organisation: the [Romanian Youth Council](#) is part of the Economic and Social Council. No NGO specialised in health policy is a member of the Economic and Social Council.

The governance approach to creativity and culture for young people is top-down for policy development and partly top-down in implementation. Beside the implementation of ministerial programmes by the county offices in their structure, cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and National Identity and the Ministry of Youth and Sports (Students Cultural Centres) and the ones subordinated to local authorities are initiating and carrying out autonomous cultural projects for young people.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

There are two mechanisms of cross-sectorial cooperation between Ministries, Departments, and Agencies involved in defining top-level policies and measures on creativity and culture for young people:

1. Ad-hoc meetings
2. Ad-hoc inter-ministerial committees organised on different topics according to the bill in preparation.

This cooperation mechanism are specific to most of the policies in the field of youth and are used by both ministries in charge with creativity and culture for young people, namely the Ministry of Culture and National Identity and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

As both the mechanisms are used ad-hoc public information on their results are not always released.

8.3 National strategy on creativity and culture for young people

Existence of a national strategy

A Strategy for Culture and National Heritage have been drafted for the period 2014-2020 and reviewed in 2016 for the period 2016-2020, including objectives to raise youth participation to culture, to support young creators and cultural entrepreneurs. However, until October 2017, the Government has not adopted the strategy.

The [Youth Strategy](#), adopted by Government Decision no. 24/2015 has a dedicated pillar to youth education and culture, including specific objectives to facilitate youth access to quality culture and cultural creation. A separate strategy on creativity and culture for young people as such does not exist in Romania.

Scope and contents

The specific objectives of the Youth Strategy in the area of culture are:

- To facilitate youth access to quality culture and cultural creation
- To improve funding of cultural activities

Planned actions include:

Boost youth interest in exploiting local cultural traditions, including through training in traditional trades (arts, crafts);

Stimulate youth interest in reading and literary creation;

Support and stimulate youth creativity and performance in various creative industries (advertising, visual arts, performing arts, research and development, software, etc.);

Promote, support and reward the work of young talented artists and technical-scientific innovators; encourage intercultural education both through traineeships and learning experiences in other countries (youth exchange programmes) and by providing opportunities for getting to know the culture of national ethnic minorities;

Protect children and youngsters from the risks posed by new media usage, particularly through relevant skills development, while recognising the benefits and opportunities that such media can offer to young people;

Facilitate access to quality culture for rural youth through special measures aimed at local cultural participation;

Offer support to youth-oriented forms of cultural expression, reflecting young people's concerns and interests;

Grant youth NGOS projects that tap into the tourist and cultural potential of the country;

Enhance media and online (social media) promotion of non-formal training and education opportunities;

- a. Encourage the private sector to contribute to the financing of cultural events;
- b. Launch national programmes aimed at discovering and promoting highly creative young people in cultural-artistic areas and at granting scholarships to valuable young artists;
- c. Ensure profitable financial arrangements for the participation of talented young people from disadvantaged background in the activities carried out by professional arts training institutions;
- d. Provide financial support to the establishments which promote cultural and artistic activities for youth (youth centres, student cultural centres, YNGO) in order to ensure better and more attractive conditions for youth participation in such activities.

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is the main government authority responsible for the implementation of the Youth Strategy, including the specific objectives on culture.

An action plan allowing systematic implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation the strategy, was not adopted until October 2017. For the development and adopting of the action plan and for monitoring the Youth Strategy implementation the Ministry of Youth and Sport needs cooperation and support from other sectorial ministries (Culture, Education, Employment, Health, Economy etc.).

Rewrites/updates

No updates have been made to the present Youth Strategy.

8.4 Promoting culture and cultural participation

Reducing obstacles to young people's access to culture

Policies/programmes/initiatives, their objectives and outcomes, and target groups

The **Students Cultural Centres (SCCs)** subordinated to the Ministry of Youth and Sports organise every year a large number of cultural events opened to young people. According to their communication to the National Correspondent for Youth Wiki, **each of them organises over 40 events every year, with an average number of 2,000 young people benefiting from each of the cultural activities, with 5,000 to 10,000 individual beneficiaries and with several hundreds of young creators involved**. Activities include all cultural fields: different music genres (folk, pop, rock, classical), visual arts with a special focus on photography, theatre, dance, literature and poetry.

Moreover, the SCCs, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education are supporting Students Organisations to implement two National Students Festivals: [Unifest](#) (organised by the Union of Students in Romania) and [Studentiada](#) (organised by the National Union of Students in Romania). During the two festivals several events are organised and over 100,000 students per year have free access to movies, theatres, concerts, museums and exhibitions.

The "[George Apostu](#)" Cultural Centre in Bacău implements every year the project 'The Book Show. Public Readings', aiming to involve as many young people as possible in public readings. Thus, young people have the opportunity to get in touch directly with the Centre's guest writers. The project is implemented as an itinerary in several Moldovan (East Romania) cities, making it possible for the Romanian writers to meet with a diverse audience and for a larger number of young people to have access to contemporary literature. However, data are not available regarding the total number of participants to the project.

On the other hand, all the cultural institutions subordinated to the [Ministry of Culture and National Identity](#) are offering access to their activities and exhibitions with reduced prices for pupils and students. However, free access for young people is not a common practice among cultural institutions and there are no programmes implemented with this aim. On the other hand, free access to cultural events, museums and exhibitions is generally granted to young people that are pupils or students to culture related specialties at the secondary or tertiary education level.

Main lines of public funding

For the respective institutions (the SCCs and the cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and National Identity) fund all the initiatives mentioned above, using two different fund sources:

- the transfers from the state budget, received from the coordinating Ministry

- their own revenues from tickets to cultural events or exhibitions or other activities (renting their spaces)

The student festivals of the student organisations are funded by the Students Cultural Centres (SCCs) with subsidies from the state budget transferred directly for the purpose by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Disseminating information on cultural opportunities

Description of the policies/programmes/initiatives, their objectives and outcomes, and target groups

Based on the communication of the National Correspondent for Youth Wiki with the Ministry of Culture and National Identity and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, no initiative could be identified having as main aim informing young people about opportunities to access cultural environments. All projects funded by the Students Cultural Centres (SCCs) and having as aim increasing the access to cultural events included activities to inform on cultural opportunities.

Knowledge of cultural heritage amongst young people

Policies/programmes/initiatives, their objectives and outcomes, and target groups

Under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, 4 out of the 15 Students Cultural Centres organise each year large festivals of folk Romanian music with the participation of several hundreds young artists and a public of over 5,000 students to each of these festivals (according to their communication to the National Correspondent for Youth Wiki).

Excepting the dedicated funding of the Administration of the National Cultural Fund (presented in chapter '8.5. Developing cultural and creative competences'), no national policy or programme is dedicated to the support for young people to discover and appreciate the cultural and artistic heritage of European countries in general and of Romania especially.

Cultural institutions under the Ministry of Culture and National Identity carry out several initiatives for knowledge of cultural heritage amongst young people (as they reported to the Ministry of Culture after the request sent by the National Correspondent for Youth Wiki):

- Two multiannual projects implemented in Bucharest named: '5 Museums, 5 High Schools' and '5 Theatres, 5 High Schools' allow the access and organisation of educational activities for pupils from 5 high schools (upper secondary education) from Bucharest;
- The Cinematographic Creative Studio in Bucharest organises in October, since 2015, a series of workshops under the title: 'Cinema for all' opened for free to the public;
- The National Museum Complex "Moldova" organises museum pedagogy programs, with periodically updated themes;
- The National Museum of Natural History 'Grigore Antipa' implemented 9 projects in 2016 representing temporal exhibitions targeting essentially young people;
- The National Museum of the Eastern Carpathians (Sfântu Gheorghe, Covasna county) implemented 11 museum pedagogy programs in 2016, independent or in partnership with high schools in Covasna, Brașov and Harghita counties;
- The National History Museum of Romania (Bucharest) implemented 4 museum pedagogy programs in 2016 and receive young volunteers to be involved in its activities;
- The National Museum of History of Transylvania (Cluj-Napoca) implemented 21 projects in 2016 representing temporal exhibitions targeting essentially young people;

- The "George Enescu" National Museum (Bucharest) implemented 5 museum pedagogy programs in 2016, independent or in partnership with high schools;
- The National Village Museum "Dimitrie Gusti" (Bucharest) implemented 5 museum pedagogy programs in 2016 with several components
- The Hungarian State Theatre in Cluj implements since 2015 an educational project for children and young people, including workshops having young people as the main target;
- The "Marin Sorescu" National Theatre (Craiova) implements a programme including workshops having young people as the main target named "SpectActor Meetings";
- The National Theatre in Târgu Mureş organises theatre classes in the schools and high schools in the town and county and receives young volunteers (reporting 124 young volunteers in 2016) to be involved in its activities;
- The "Mihai Eminescu" National Theatre (Timisoara) organises theatre classes in the schools and high schools in the town and county and implements two programmes including workshops having young people.
- The "George Apostu" Cultural Centre in Bacău implements every year the programme 'Culture-Education, Education-Culture', organising workshops and cultural events for young people
- The National Museum of Maps and Old Books (Bucharest) organised trainings for creativity in painting, graphics, sculpture, drawing in partnership with an art high school and other projects as: 'the class in the museum' for children and young people.

However, data are not available regarding the total number of participants to all these projects and programmes.

Main lines of public funding

All the programmes and projects presented above are funded by the state budget, through the budgets of:

- the Ministry of Youth and Sports, transferred to its subordinated Students Cultural Centres;
- the Ministry of Culture and National Identity, transferred to its subordinated cultural institutions.

The museums and theatres subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and National Identity are funding their activities using their own revenues, in order to complement available funds from the national budget.

According to Ordinance no. 51/1998 on the funding of cultural projects, programmes and activities, the [Administration of the National Cultural Fund](#) grants funding, including for „Education through culture”, from the National Cultural Fund. The Fund is built by transfers from the state budget and by regulated proportional contributions on revenues of cultural enterprises, e.g.:

- 3% of the revenues of economic operators from the sale of postcards or postcards, posters, posters and stickers
- 2% of the revenues of economic operators from the sale imported cultural goods
- 2% of the revenues of economic operators from the sale of popular art products
- etc.

8.5 Developing cultural and creative competences

Acquiring cultural and creative competences through education and training

Formal education

Visual arts (drawing and painting) and music are mandatory subject in the curriculum in secondary education at national level until the 10th grade (for young people of 15-16

years old). A total of 1 hour/week is included in the mandatory curricula for each of the two subjects. High schools can decide to add one hour/week in their curricula for arts education classes. The grading system is the same as in other compulsory subjects, based on a progression scales for national-level assessment.

The Literature is a mandatory subject for all educational levels until tertiary education (exclusively), with 5 up to 8 hours/week. Universal literature is studied in the 9th grade (for young people of 14-15 years old), while Romanian literature is studied in the 10th, 11th and 12th grade of the upper secondary education.

The Ministry of Education develops the [mandatory curricula](#), including mandatory competences and skills and activities to be carried out during physical educational classes.

Classes with philological profile, including in their curricula an intensive study of literature and foreign languages, are organised in most of the theoretical high schools in Romania.

Vocational education is available for all cultural/art fields, including visual arts and design, theatre, music, choreography and architecture in most of the large cities of the country. Vocational education at the level of includes intensive training in the field of specific arts.

Romania is under the European average in the field of cultural formal education, with 13.1% out of the total number of tertiary education students enrolled in culture-related fields of education, according to the [Culture statistics 2016 of the Eurostat](#). Broken down by field, 2% of the students are following art specialisations, 7.1% are following humanities specialisations, only 1.7% study architecture and town planning and 23% study journalism and information sciences. In this last field Romania being the European country with the second largest proportion of students after Croatia.

No top-down guidelines, recommendations or large-scale initiatives on the inclusion of cultural activities outside the curriculum but within the school day (e.g. in school breaks) or on extracurricular cultural activities in schools have been developed in Romania.

Non-formal learning and youth work

Since 2016 the [Administration of the National Cultural Fund](#) is funding projects for „Education through culture”, 11 projects receiving funds for educational activities through and for culture in 2016 and 48 in 2017, according to results published on the website. However, data are not available regarding the total number of participants to all the projects funded by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund, as the monitoring data or a general programme evaluation are not structured in a publicly available document.

Specialised training for professionals in the education, culture and youth fields

The calendar of activities of cultural institutions shows their focus is on the training of young creators and professionals in the culture fields, and less on the training of teachers or youth worker for using culture in their activities. Among the few exceptions are the Madrigal Choir programme, Cantus Mundi and the international projects of the "George Apostu" Cultural Centre in Bacau.

The Madrigal Choir programme, Cantus Mundi, includes two components, one for social inclusion and one for training of professionals in the education, especially music teachers. The program includes country-wide training workshops for teachers who are keen to learn and perfect in the field of coral guidance and special events such as gala concerts and festivals with and for young people.

The "[George Apostu](#)" Cultural Centre in Bacau implements the Erasmus+ KA2 project, in partnership with 'Paysage et patrimoine sans frontiere', France, the Cultural Association Art, Heritage, Traditions without Borders, Romania, S.E.P. Pablo Freire Maracena, Spain, Fondazione A. Tagliolini, Italy, Universita Popolare 'La Sorgiva', Italy, SISAM Ravenna, Italy and Agrupamento de Escolas Joao de Deus, Portugal. The project: '[The roads of the](#)

[Blue in Europe, transversality of learnings and transculturality of languages'](#), aiming at developing innovative educational practices and exchanges of experiences for the acquisition of key cultural competences and at promoting culture under its different aspects by comparing the various civilizations according to the learning/teaching methods of 'permanent training' and at motivating, from this cross-cultural cooperation, the involvement of learners in a range of activities where information and communication technologies are used in creative and rewarding ways to build a virtual and collective logbook, which would provide between partners 'a European route of blue'. The project is improving and expanding high quality learning opportunities adapted to adult learners, including through educational approaches on the learner, to reach adults including the most disadvantaged. The results of the projects will be used for the benefit of all professionals in the education, culture and youth fields promoting and implementing cultural education.

For young creators, the Administration of the National Cultural Fund is funding every year projects within two calls for 'Creative residences'. 11 projects have been funded in 2016 and 5 in 2015 within this call. However, data are not available regarding the total number of participants to all the projects funded by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund, as the monitoring data or a general programme evaluation are not structured in a publicly available document.

On the other hand, most of the cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and National Identity implement cultural mobility/residency projects, supporting young artists to learn and create with peers and/or experienced professionals in the cultural fields. Institutions implementing the cultural mobility/residency projects are:

- The "George Apostu" Cultural Centre in Bacau implements from 2005 the artistic residences project 'Artist(N)est', continued since 2013 by the project 'E-Motional: rethinking dance'. Both projects had international funding from the Swiss government (Swiss Cultural Program for South-Eastern Europe and Ukraine Pro Helvetia) or the European programme: Culture;
- The "George Enescu" National Museum (Bucharest) organises artistical residences for young composers, performers, plastic artists and choreographers, offers scholarships and organises trainings and recitals of young graduates, master students etc. in the museum;
- The National Dance Centre (Bucharest) offers residences and other learning opportunities to young artists;
- The Hungarian State Theatre in Cluj and the "Mihai Eminescu" National Theatre (Timisoara) organise activities for young actors with a specific learning objective.

Another national initiative for young creators is the organisation of creation camps. [The National Cultural Program for the Financial Support of National and International](#) plastic creation camps supports the production of cultural goods in national or international events organised in Romania for professional artists. The programme is granting contracts for the organisation of a specific creation camp to NGOs or cultural enterprises.

On the other hand, the cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and National Identity implement tradition projects organising creation camps. For instance, the National Museum of History of Transylvania (Cluj-Napoca) organised in 2016: (1) the annual camp at the archaeological site of Taga (Cluj county) for students and high school pupils and (2) The International Archeology Camp at Dacia Sarmizegetusa Colony, organised within the project From Theory To Practice - International Teaching in Field Archeology in Roman Sarmizegetusa, funded by the EU through KA2 of the Erasmus+ Programme.

Providing quality access to creative environments

No information have been available for the National Correspondent on policy, programme, project or initiative conducted by top-level authorities for widening the access of young people to creative environments.

8.6 Developing entrepreneurial skills through culture

Developing entrepreneurial skills through cultural activities

No information is available on policies, programmes projects and initiatives (either directly organised or funded by public authorities) supporting the development of entrepreneurial skills by participating in cultural and creative opportunities during formal education or through non-formal education. A component of non-formal education for the development of entrepreneurial skills for cultural and creative industries is part of the Creative Romania programme presented below.

Support young entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative sectors

Policies/programmes/initiatives, their objectives and outcomes, and target groups

Two programmes are available in Romania for young entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative sectors:

1. The CultIn program, initiated by the Ministry of Culture in 2016;
2. The Creative Romania programme within the Operational Programme Human Capital 2014-2020.

The CultIn program is addressed to entrepreneurs working in the cultural and creative industries, personal initiatives organised in companies, hubs, project and business incubators, creative studios, which have the potential to generate prosperity by capitalizing on intellectual property. The total budget allocated to a CultIn Program cultural selection session is 500,000 lei/year (about 100,000 euro/year). The cultural domains for which applicants may submit bids for grants are: architecture, crafts, design (graphic, clothing, product, etc.), digital media and organisation in creative communities (cultural hubs). The program pays special attention to those projects that identify and address the dominant cultural and creative industries in the localities and regions where funding seekers come from, and which make the most of local creative resources. 11 projects have been funded in 2016 with an average budget of 45,000 lei/project (about 10,000 euro). The call for projects within the programme has not been launched in 2017.

The Creative Romania programme grants projects for natural persons will be available to support start-up initiatives in creative industries in Romanian less developed regions (all Romanian regions but the capital region: Bucharest-Ilfov). The main stages and groups of activities within the program are mentoring and professional training of the beneficiaries in the field of entrepreneurship, tailored to the specifics of the cultural and creative sectors; counselling / consulting for the development of the business plan; support for initiating and starting a business in a cultural-creative area; exploitation and sustainability of the business idea (activities specific to each field). The call for application within the programme has not been launched until October 2017.

Main lines of public funding

While the CultIn program is funded by the national Romanian budget, the Creative Romania programme will be co-funded by the European and Social Fund and the national Romanian budget under the Operational Programme Human Capital 2014-2020.

8.7 Fostering the creative use of new technologies

New technologies in support of creativity and innovation

No information is available on top-down policies or programme having as main purpose making new technologies readily available to empower young people's creativity and capacity for innovation.

Facilitating access to culture through new technologies

Policies/programmes/initiatives, their objectives and outcomes, and target groups and main lines of funding

A project under development by the [Project Management Unit of the Ministry of Culture and National Identity](#), the '**Digital Library of Romania**' aims to implement an advanced and easy-to-use digitisation tools for the digitisation and online exposure of analogue cultural products in all cultural institutions under the Ministry. The project is under design and will be launched at the beginning of 2018, according to Ministry of Culture and National Identity representatives. The "Digital Library of Romania" will be co-funded by the European Fund for Regional Development and the national Romanian budget under the Competitiveness Operational Programme 2014-2020.

The Programme Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage funded by the EEA Financial Mechanism for 2009-2014, funded 45 large projects and 36 small projects starting with 2009. No data or statistic is available on the involvement of young people in these projects. Among these projects, a small number have been implemented Facilitating access to culture through new technologies, as the project '**Cultural Agora @ Your Library**', digital storytelling in order to reflect history and culture, and community beliefs and values. Digital storytelling involves multiple disciplines, including literary and artistic skills, legal issues and information technology, giving libraries an opportunity to promote the knowledge surrounding these topics. Digital storytelling provides a way for the collective memory of communities to be shared. Any library seen as a community space is able to facilitate the knowledge sharing using digital story, whose construction is a creative process that requires the use of imagination and develops communication skills. The expected overall result is to demonstrate the potential of the digital communications in order to revolutionize the sharing of knowledge, ideas and culture. Furthermore, the project will promoted the community involvement in digital storytelling, which will stimulate the sharing of some "universal" human experiences in order to reveal the individual's power to generate positive changes in society. The project actions will take place in Bucharest, Sibiu, Cluj, Brăila and Oslo.

8.8 Synergies and partnerships

Synergies between public policies and programmes

Policies/programmes/initiatives, their objectives and outcomes, and target groups

As partnership between cultural institutions is common in Romania and local cultural institutions, cultural institutions under the Ministry of Culture and the Students Cultural Centres under the Ministry of Youth and Sports are cooperating, these partnerships are not guided by a national policy, with one exception: the "Centenary" Programme 1918-2018

The implemented "Centenary" Programme 1918-2018 in 2017-2020 to celebrate 100 years from the formation of the modern unitary national Romanian state. The "Centenary" Programme is a platform for a very large number of projects implemented in partnership by public institutions, especially central institutions, celebrating modernity in Romania in all fields: culture, education, technologies, society etc. In 2017 one of the funding programmes of the Ministry of Culture, the **ACCES programme**, was implemented under the "Centenary" label. The Funded projects will be the first events celebrating the Great Union Centenary and are implemented between October 1st and November 30th 2017. 20 projects have been funded, with a total of 577,611 lei (about 125,000 euro).

Main lines of public funding

Public funding, especially state budget is the main funding source for cooperation initiatives in the field of culture with impact over the young people.

Partnerships between the culture and creative sectors, youth organisations and youth workers

Policies/programmes/initiatives, their objectives and outcomes, and target groups and main lines of public funding

Partnership between cultural institutions, schools and youth organisations are frequent at local level. However, they are not guided by a national policy and they are not monitored and evaluated systematically.

Beside the state and local budgets, two main sources of funding are encouraging partnerships between the culture and creative sectors, youth organisations and youth workers in Romania, although none of them is directly targeting young people. The two programmes are:

- **The European programme: Creative Europe** funded 14 projects promoted by Romanian organisations since 2014 with over 1,500,000 euro. No data or statistic is available on the involvement of young people in these projects.
- **The Programme Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage** funded by the EEA Financial Mechanism for 2009-2014, funded 45 large projects and 36 small projects starting with 2009. No data or statistic is available on the involvement of young people in these projects.

Among the funded projects:

- [Carol Factory Halls](#), a pioneering project in Bucharest, a project discussing the issue of industrial spaces as a valuable component for the city and bringing to the front a new type of collaboration between the entrepreneurial sector and the cultural one, a cooperation to be sustainable and effective.
- [TIMAF Cultural Platform](#), the project aimed to widen the general access of the public of Cluj-Napoca in the cultural events of the International Festival of Music and Arts Transylvania – 2015, by increasing the understanding level of art, reducing the distance towards central cultural events by activation of public spaces from districts and increasing the public participation in multicultural events.
- [European Cultural Diversity Hub](#), a project creating a local structure, along with the Project Partners: Gilding Association of Sibiu, ASTRA National Museum Complex – Sibiu and Copșa Mică Municipality, that will guide, skill and assist the community in finding real solutions and sustainable revenue diversification in order to improve general life conditions
- [Multicultural centre Arts Citadel](#), a favourable environment for young people to practice their artistic skills, create valuable artistic products, and also organise events and exhibitions, thus aiming to promote multiculturalism. The events organised within the Centre or the ethnically diverse communities contributed to the development of intercultural dialogue, as a response to the need for social cohesion, antidiscrimination and acceptance of diversity. The project involved 105 young students and pupils studying in the fields of Arts, communication, journalism and letters who have been trained in multiculturalism, diversity and cultural management, and participated in Art workshops. 500 people attended the events and exhibitions: 300 at the 6 events organised within the Centre and 200 people at the events in the ethnically diverse communities with low access to cultural activities. The outcomes of the project are: 384 creative workshops, 2 drama plays, 2 audiovisual products, 40 traditional costumes, 12 visual arts products, 12 musical compositions and 6 public events.

- [Hotspot.art - Art And Contemporary Culture For Communities](#). Since its establishment, the Paintbrush Factory – space for contemporary arts – has assumed an important role in the creative sector as a space of debate on relevant issues for the Romanian society and urban communities in Cluj, as a dynamic interdisciplinary platform of art production and cultural activities. Through Hotspot.art, the cultural capital developed and promoted by the Paintbrush Factory extends in the direction of encouraging creativity in various artistic fields, including: contemporary theatre and dance, visual arts, mobility for young artists, cultural education and training, research and documentation of contemporary art.

8.9 Enhancing social inclusion through culture

Fostering equality and young people involvement through cultural activities

Policies/programmes/initiatives, their objectives and outcomes, and target groups and main lines of funding

According to the European Economic Area Agreement between the European Union, on the one hand, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, on the other hand, Romania benefited from the Programme: '[**Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage**](#)'. The Programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Culture from Romania, through the Project Management Unit (PMU) as Programme Operator, in partnership with Arts Council Norway as Donor Programme Partner. The aim of the "Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage" Programme referred to:

- increasing cultural dialogue and fostering the European identity through understanding of cultural diversity;
- helping reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area;
- strengthening the relations between the Donor States and Romania.

While no systematic evaluation of the programme have been conducted, the website presents success stories of funded projects, as:

- [**Another face of the Roma culture**](#), a project proposed to all of the jazz lovers, jazz manouche and ethno-jazz, concerts of talented and well-known Roma jazz artists together with artists from all over Europe, particularly Norway. RoManouche band has been put together for the project alone, performing for the Explosive Jazz concert.
- [**The Political Theatre Platform 2015**](#), a project aiming at promoting cultural diversity through performances about vulnerable groups, the cultural representations of the Jewish minority through performances enacted by the residents of the "Dr. Moses Rosen" Home for the Elderly, raising awareness about civic issues among young people through participatory art, facilitating free access to theatre performances in Bucharest and 4 other Romanian cities, enhancing the artist's experience through Forum Theatre, developing bilateral relations by working with a Norwegian theatre company.
- [**Art Education Program for Roma Children**](#), a project including the training of 16 socio-cultural animators through practice and mentorship; the training of 16 professionals from the field of culture and education for cultural expression; the participation of 400 Roma children to 6 camps and 3 visual arts workshops throughout a period of 6 months with the support of the 16 animators and 16 professionals; the promotion of education through art and culture as an instrument for social inclusion and consolidation of multiculturality by means of a street exhibition, short movie, website and an online brochure.
- [**Art doesn't hate - celebration of value**](#) has promoted the role of art and of an inclusive multicultural environment in the development of ethnic tolerance in schools. Specifically, the project has stimulated the intercultural dialogue in schools in order to promote the inclusion of children of Roma origin. The project

has enhanced the capacity of the primary target group of 25-30 pupils of Roma origin, aged 11-18 years, from 5 art schools or high-schools from Bucharest, to access inclusive artistic education. This has included supporting their development and recognizing their achievements in various arts through their participation to a series of thematic workshops (acting, music, painting, photography or journalism). These workshops reunited children of Roma origin alongside colleagues of Romanian and other ethnic backgrounds under the supervision and guidance of specialists in the respective fields of the workshops.

- [**Roma Culture- Learn. Explore. Experiment**](#), a project reducing the knowledge gaps related to roma history and culture that lead to discriminatory attitudes. Target groups include ten Roma artists, 500 people, roma and non-roma from the vicinity exhibition space in Bucharest, Giuleşti Sârbi district, local authorities, organised groups of visitors, about 400 people, students and pupils, cultural experts from Romania and abroad and, of course, the mass-media.
- [**Balkanik: Arts and Culture Festival**](#), a project aiming at bringing to light the rich cultural traditions of minorities and the most expressive cultural manifestations of these traditions and to disseminate minorities' stories and culture, offering them an opportunity to exhibit themselves.
- [**ART ROM**](#), a project aiming at to develop and promote artistic and socio-cultural interventions, methods and practices necessary to understand the Roma culture from the Romanian urban territories, to encourage intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and to develop a culture of inclusion at local level, based on pilot-approaches in Turnu Magurele and Alexandria. The main results of the project include: two groups of approx. 20 young Roma and non-Roma from Turnu-Magurele and Alexandria, who participated in the elaboration of community theatre plays and 8 performances of the community plays in Turnu-Magurele, Alexandria, Bucharest and Cluj- Napoca.
- [**Minorities Film Festival**](#), a project aiming at creating a better understanding among and of the cultural identities of ethnic minorities in Romania. The project is designed as an open "window" towards minorities. Through this "window", the majoritarian group will see and understand cultural aspects in the life of minorities, and therefore contribute to more tolerant attitudes and an increased appreciation of their traditional goods.
- [**Beiuş Door- the door to promoting multiculturalism in Beiuş**](#), a project promoting multiculturalism in Beiuş area and including the most expected local festival, by creating a public-private partnership between the Municipality of Beiuş, the local cultural institutions and the local schools, involving most of the five thousand students from the kindergartens, schools and colleges in Beiuş.
- [**Amalgam International theatre festival**](#), a project celebrating multiculturalism through a variety of activities, ranging from a scientific research, a complex communication campaign, a 5-day festival, workshops and seminars dedicated to professionals.
- [**Dobrudjhan Diversity for the European Community**](#), putting up of a theatre structure that will produce cultural activities promoting the identity of the Dobrudjhan Russian lipovans, Roma and Turkish ethnics. The target groups consists of 15 high school students from Tulcea acting in and producing the plays, on the one hand, and on the other hand, Russian lipovans from Sarichioi (2,328 people), Roma from Ciucurova (238 people) and Turks from Babadag (395 people). At a larger scale, the project targets over 11,000 people living in these communities.
- [**Celebrating Multiculturalty - Here & Now**](#), a project promoting the cultural diversity and intercultural dialog, stimulating the public activities through youth involved in activities to promote culture. Those actions are a way to strengthen the European identity, to grow the public access to many kind of modern culture, developing the interest of youth for culture and strengthen cultural relations and the civic involvement in 3 European countries - Romania, Republic of Moldova and Norway. Within the project 2 intercultural and international festivals have been

organised in Iași & Bălți, festivals that included shows of dance & theatre, concerts, movies, photo expositions and craft fairs.

- [Theatre Dialog Box](#), a caravan in which 28 students from Bucharest, selected on the basis of an application form, performed a play conceived by themselves, which highlighted the role of ethnic minorities and the commitment to equal opportunities in access to culture. The play have been represented in ten schools, eight in Romania and two in Norway.

On the other hand, with funds from the European Union through the CBC Program ENPI 2007-2013 Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine, CREST Resource Centre in partnership with the Resource Centre for Education, Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion (CREDDIS), Star Association and Down Carei Foundation (Romania), ÉFOÉSZ Association in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County (Hungary) and the Civil Organisation for Tourism Development Rural and Agrotourism "In the Transcarpathian Valleys and Mountains" (Ukraine) carried out the project entitled '[Cross-border Cultural Bridge for Social Inclusion](#)'. The specific objectives of the project and the activities were as follows:

- Developing the core competencies of 14 experts / volunteers from partner organisations for the use of expressive art therapy technology as therapeutic and educational tools working with disadvantaged children / young people in the first quarter of the project implementation;
- Improve cooperation between partner organisations to develop personal development programs for disadvantaged children and young people during project implementation;
- Facilitating the access of 50 disadvantaged children / young people to cultural and educational activities, discovering the multiculturalism of the Romania-Hungary-Ukraine border region during the last three quarters of the project implementation;
- Developing the artistic abilities of 50 disadvantaged children / young people with special needs keeping and transmitting the traditional cultural elements for 4 months of the project;
- Promote the social inclusion of disadvantaged children and young people in the cross-border region through a special atristic performance by 20 disadvantaged children / young people in the second semester of project implementation.

Combating discrimination and poverty through cultural activities

Policies/programmes/initiatives, their objectives and outcomes, and target groups

While most of the projects presented above include activities combating discrimination and poverty through cultural activities, a national programme of a public can be added as one of the few Romanian initiatives with the same purpose. Initiated in 2011 by conductor Ion Marin, based on the volunteering of the members of the Madrigal Choir, the Cantus Mundi National Program was institutionalized by Government Decision no. 821/2014, thus becoming, from a simple idea, a Directorate of the institution subordinated to the Ministry of Culture: Madrigal National Chamber Choir - Marin Constantin. The Cantus Mundi National Program aims to unite all children and young people of Romania through music, and aims to create an online platform that includes an extensive online scorecard, video lessons and audio scores, as well as a socializing and promoting motor the Romanian choral movement. The mission of the program includes several directions. First of all, social inclusion, so that, through the Cantus Mundi program, social inequities are overcome, children and young people from all walks of life and from different backgrounds singing together. Secondly, it is important to stimulate the choral movement in the rural area, encouraging young people to participate in joint activities and facilitating the interaction between the vocal groups in different localities. Thirdly, we count greatly on overcoming any form of discrimination, the choral chorus, as a group activity helps, through non-verbal communication, to create a social identity without distinguishing between race, religion, social affiliation, economic condition.

Main lines of public funding

Cantus Mundi is funded by the state budget.

8.10 Current debates and reforms

No current debates and reforms are taking place in Romania in the field of creativity and culture in October 2017.

9. Youth and the World

Development education is one of the strategic areas for Romania's development cooperation policy. Romania works to educate its own citizens, experts and practitioners, for ensuring a good understanding of the values and needs of our partner countries and delivering efficient development cooperation programmes. Development education targets groups and individuals, youths and adults, juniors and experts in the field, by using methods and tools specific to each target group, mainly through granting funds to projects implemented by NGOs. Most of the activities relevant to the theme are the projects and initiatives that RoAid implements on partnership basis with the non-public actors.

Excepting development education, however, participation of young people to global issues and initiatives is generally weak in Romania and no information is available on non-formal learning on raising awareness about global issues, youth targeted information campaigns on global issues, green volunteering, production and consumption.

9.1 General context

Main concepts

Romania became a donor of official development assistance (ODA) in 2007, after having joined the European Union. Its development cooperation policy is coordinated in relation with Romania's foreign policy. As mentioned in the National Strategy on the international development cooperation policy adopted in 2006, Romania's development cooperation policy consists in supporting people in developing countries, including low- and medium-income countries. As a EU member, Romania can provide development assistance to countries and territories mentioned in the OECD-DAC list of ODA recipient countries, both through the bilateral-driven efforts geared at development cooperation and by joining the EU's efforts in the field. The overall objective of Romania's development cooperation policy is to support the partner countries' efforts to implement their own national development strategies.

Development education is one of the strategic areas for Romania's development cooperation policy. Romania works to educate its own citizens, experts and practitioners, for ensuring a good understanding of the values and needs of our partner countries and delivering efficient development cooperation programmes. Development education targets groups and individuals, youths and adults, juniors and experts in the field, by using methods and tools specific to each target group.

The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is the main institution in charge of managing and implementing the national development cooperation policy.

Youth interest in global issues

No information is available on any study that would show the youth interest in global issues.

9.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Main actors

The governmental authority responsible is [Ministry of Youth and Sport](#), [Romania's international development cooperation Agency](#) and the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) and [The National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#) through implementing [Erasmus + Programme](#) in Romania

– the Directorate for International Relations, Relations with Parliament and Marketing – with the following attributions:

- elaborates the calendar of international relations in the field and submits it for approval to the Minister;
- submits to the Economic Policy Directorate for approval the draft budget related to the international relations calendar;
- draws up the programs of the official visits to Romania of the foreign delegations invited by the ministry at the level of minister, state secretaries and sub-secretary of state as well as the related documentation and submits them for approval to the minister;
- prepares the necessary documentation regarding the participation in the actions included in the calendar, which submits it for approval to the minister;
- formulates the proposals, approved by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the inclusion in the intergovernmental agreements of provisions regarding the cooperation in the field;
- works on the diversification of bilateral and multilateral cooperation relations;
- organizes actions for representation of Romania, based on the minister's approval:
- ensures the liaison and correspondence with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with other ministries and diplomatic missions of Romania from other countries or other countries in Romania, with the approval of the Minister, including regarding the travel of the Romanian official delegations to the international competitions; state institutions in charge of diplomatic, consular documents;
- completes the conclusion of cooperation agreements, protocols with other institutions and international bodies with attributions in the fields of youth and sport;
- ensures the representation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in European and international working groups, European and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and bodies in the fields of activity of the Ministry of Youth and Sports;
- ensures the transfer of European policy guidelines in the youth and sports fields at national level;
- Supports Romania's candidacy for organizing international competitions through the diplomatic missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- provides the documentation, approved by the Minister, for the commitment of the expenses necessary for participation in the actions in the field of youth and sport organized at international level and aims at their realization;
- Monitors and evaluates how the actions included in the timetable of international relations are achieved;
- ensures the translation of the international correspondence of the Ministry of Youth and Sport within the competencies of the subordinate personnel;
- develops proposals on the strategy for the development of international relations in the field of youth and sport, cooperation with youth structures in line with youth strategies and policies in the European Union, the Council of Europe and the UN, in collaboration with the specialized departments;
- elaborates and submits to the Minister and / or other decision-makers, synthesis on international relations;

- prepares materials for meetings of mixed sports and youth cooperation committees with other countries and for the talks of the Ministry of Youth and Sports with delegates or representatives of national and international youth and sports organizations;
- prepares the necessary documentation regarding the participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the organized actions, at European sports conferences, in other international sports events and meetings, aiming to implement the conclusions and documents adopted;
- follows and carries out actions representing Romania in European and international organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and contributes to the promotion of the relations of the Romanian sports federations with the international sports federations;
- through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, liaises with the diplomatic missions of Romania abroad for the promotion of Romania's official sports delegations to international actions;
- works with the foreign missions of other accredited countries in Romania in order to carry out in an optimal manner the international actions with the participation of the representatives of the Romanian sports, as well as those of the youth field;
- Ensures the provision of European legislation in the field of youth and sport and all documents requested by the Ministry of Youth and Sport, drafted by international bodies in the two fields of activity;
- provides the professional development program of the personnel in charge, in accordance with the submitted proposals of the Legal, Contentious and Personnel Policy Directorates;
- elaborates, carries out and implements domestic and international projects and programs established and approved by the Minister and organizes national and international activities, ensuring the direct and reciprocal participation at similar events abroad;
- Manages public funds and funds drawn from internal and / or international funding bodies, which they allocate to support national and / or international youth and sport projects, in compliance with the financing conditions imposed by the legislation in force;
- participates in the implementation of projects financed from structural funds or other European funds in which the Ministry of Youth and Sports is a beneficiary;
- Performs other tasks assigned to it, by order of the Minister, in accordance with the attributions of the Directorate and in compliance with the legislation in force.
- Concludes on the cooperation agreements, protocols with other institutions and international bodies with attributions in the fields of youth and sport;
- ensures the representation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in European and international working groups, European and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and bodies in the fields of activity of the Ministry of Youth and Sports;
- Ensures that the European policy guidelines on youth and sport are transposed at national level;
- Supports Romania's candidacy for organizing international competitions through the diplomatic missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[RoAid](#) is Romania's international development cooperation Agency that contributes to the global efforts of sustainably alleviating extreme poverty and supporting stronger democratic institutions in developing countries. RoAid is Romania's international development cooperation Agency that brings together the work of Romanian public institutions, the civil society and the private sector towards the global efforts of sustainably alleviating extreme poverty and supporting stronger democratic institutions in developing countries.

Through RoAid, Romania aims to:

- Promote and support peace and security, the democratic development and the civil society;

- Mitigate the negative effects of disasters and armed conflicts;
- Enhance the understanding of the international development issues, the interdependency between countries, and the efforts made to address these issues, both in Romania and in other countries;
- Extend long-term support for sustainable economic and social development.

The [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) coordinates Romania's development cooperation programme, RoAid, and sets its legal and strategic framework. Also, the MFA manages a special budget allocated to financing development projects and programmes, core contributions to international organizations, humanitarian actions, and development education activities.

Non-public actors taking part in the development of policies, programmes or actions related to youth's contribution to global processes of policy-making

A few Romanian NGOs are active in the field of international development:

- **Global Shapers Community Romania** is a network of Hubs developed and led by young people who are exceptional in their potential, their achievement and their drive to make a contribution to their communities. The Global Shapers Community is one of several multi-stakeholder communities at the World Economic Forum. Shapers are highly motivated individuals who have a great potential for future leadership roles in society. They are selected on the basis of their achievements, leadership potential, and commitment to make a difference. Through the Global Shapers Community, Shapers are provided with opportunities to connect with the worldwide network of Global Shapers, to network with other World Economic Forum communities, and to represent the voice of youth at World Economic Forum events. Shapers are united by a common desire to channel the members' tremendous energy and enthusiasm into building a more peaceful and inclusive world.
- **Ashoka** supports the work of the Ashoka Fellows by operating with the local network to improve the framework requirements that social entrepreneurs must face, a ecosystem in which changemakers can flourish, an environment where accessible regulatory framework is in place, in which the work of the changemakers has greater visibility and which supports their plans for social change with know-how, strategic partnerships, coaching, financial means, ideas and commitment.
- **FOND**. On the 1st of January 2007, Romania became a member of the European Union (EU), a status which also implies taking the responsibility to contribute to the [development cooperation policy](#) (part of Chapter 26 Foreign Affairs that includes also the development cooperation policy). Romania changed its status from recipient to donor, by providing assistance to partner states in their effort for political, social and economic reform. On 16th October 2006, the *Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Development (FOND)* first General Assembly took place with the aim to establish the national development cooperation Platform. After an extensive process initiated back in 2005, 34 nongovernmental organizations from Romania (including some of the most important NGOs from all over the country), have officially established the Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND). Today, FOND has [39 member organisations](#). Ever since 2006, FOND has organized capacity building trainings for the members to become more active in the international development cooperation field, aiming both at informing the organizations and at training them on project writing and implementation, as well as awareness raising campaigns for the Romanian public. During 2008-2009, the first project 'Development cooperation in Romania: Building FOuNDation for Policy Work' has been implemented by FOND, which had as main goal to create and develop the instruments through which member organizations get involved more in the development cooperation field, as well as the improvement of the collaboration with the Romanian public institutions and international organizations active in this field. A major event, which has become a tradition for FOND is

the **Black Sea NGO Forum**, launched in 2008, as an initiative of the R. Moldova-Georgia Working **Group**, The Forum is an opportunity for the nongovernmental organizations within the Black Sea region, but also for the state actors to develop sustainable partnerships in this area. Another event that FOND organizes every year is the Romanian Development Camp aiming to create a space for debates about the challenges of the development cooperation policy and the creation of new partnerships with relevant actors. FOND has also organized a series of actions targeting citizens and especially the youth, having as main goal to bring visibility on the importance of development cooperation. Through the project 'Be a global citizen! Take attitude against extreme poverty', FOND aimed at raising awareness among the young people on how they can get involved. Development Education is an important component of the FOND strategy: organizing national seminars on global/development education and events (such as Africa Day), are just some of the actions which have taken place.

- [Civil Society Development Foundation \(CSDF\)](#) implemented the project [Enhancing Development Education in Central-Eastern European Countries](#)(January 2010 – December 2012), project co-funded by the European Commission. Partnering up with other 5 NGOs from Austria, Greece, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, CSDF aimed to contribute to the awareness rising in the importance of international development and global education. Within the project, educators, teachers, NGOs representatives and public authorities, young people and youth groups, mass media representatives got the knowledge on the global education matters and the Millennium Development Goals.

General distribution of responsibilities

Through its county departments on youth and sport, the Ministry of Youth and Sports promotes the set priorities and activities in the field of youth.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

[Ministry of Youth and Sport](#) and [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) cooperate for the programme [UN Youth Delegate](#)

UN Youth Delegate [started in Romania](#) in 2006, having the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sport and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Romania is one of the 36 UN Members States supporting this initiative that aims to train young people 18-25 years old to get involved with the highest decision-making fora and to support then their involvement in different activities in their home country. For 2016/2017's mandate the two selected participants represent the interests of young people in Romania within the United Nations at both the 71st session of the New York General Assembly in October and the work of the Committee on Social Development in February 2017. In addition to these activities, the two representatives will consult young people in Romania on topics related to the events' agenda, engaging in youth events and organizing meetings and projects with other young Romanians to promote the United Nations post-2015 Development Agenda other priorities for youth.

9.3 Exchanges between young people and policy-makers on global issues

Global issues exchanges with policy-makers at the domestic level

No information is available on global issues exchange with policy makers at the domestic level.

Global issues exchanges with policy-makers at the international level

No information is available on global issues exchange with policymakers at the international level.

9.4 Raising awareness about global issues

Formal, non-formal and informal learning

Formal learning

The [Global Education Week \(GEW\)](#) is a Europe-wide awareness raising event that takes place annually in formal and non-formal education setting across the continent. The first event that took place in 1999 and it was launched by the North-South Center and it was focused on overcoming poverty and social exclusion. The NSC invited all the Member States of the Council of Europe to participate in the GEW and invited educators and learners to explore education activities for global citizenship. The GEW addresses issues related to diversity and inequality at local and global levels.

Non-formal learning

No information is available on non-formal learning on raising awareness about global issues.

Educators' support

There is no information available on educators' support on raising awareness about global issues.

Informal learning

There is no information available on programmes or actions that aim to help young people to learn about global issues 'by doing'.

Youth-targeted information campaigns on global issues

There is no information available on youth targeted information campaigns on global issues.

Information providers

There is no information available on information providers on raising awareness about global issues.

Key initiatives

Except for the [UN Youth Delegate Programme](#), there is no information available on other key initiatives on raising awareness about global issues.

9.5 Green volunteering, production and consumption

Green volunteering

There is no information available on green volunteering, production and consumption.

Green production and consumption

There is no information available on green volunteering, production and consumption.

9.6 Intercontinental youth work and development cooperation

Intercontinental youth work cooperation

There is no information available on intercontinental youth work cooperation.

Development cooperation activities

[RoAid](#) is Romania's international development cooperation Agency that contributes to the global efforts of sustainably alleviating extreme poverty and supporting stronger democratic institutions in developing countries.

In order to further develop human resource in the field of development cooperation, the [MFA](#) supported the [TI-RO-DEV](#) project, with the purpose of increasing the capacities of Romanian MA students in the field. Through the project, several workshops, mentorship programmes and conferences have been organized. The project was implemented by [ARCADIA](#). Universities are also an active partner in promoting development education and raising awareness and active involvement in international development.

9.7 Current debates and reforms

Romania is committed to implement the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) at national level and will review the [National Strategy for Sustainable Development](#) to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals. The Romanian revised Strategy will focus on supporting the inclusion in development policies of persons with disabilities, the youth and women. Eradicating poverty requires decent employment opportunities, and preventing and eradicating social exclusion requires social cohesion policies.

Glossary

Compulsory general education: is of 11 grades and encompasses primary education, gymnasium education and the first two years of upper secondary education. High school education is compulsory until 2020 at the latest. The obligation to attend the compulsory education of 11 classes in the frequency form shall cease at the age of 18 years.

Consultative Council on Youth Issues (CCYI): is the advisory structure of the Ministry of Youth and Sports with youth associations on developing and monitoring implementation of the youth policy at central level. The Ministry of Youth and Sports provides the secretariat of the Consultative Council. The Consultative Council is regulated by a [Ministry Order establishing the Consultative Council on Youth Issues](#).

Counsellor: is an education specialist who plans and carries out counselling individual or group education aimed at adapting the pupil to specific problems in school environment; implements career education programs for the purpose of training competencies in the fields covered by the curricular area 'Counselling and guidance'; organises programs extracurricular of vocational orientation; promotes and implements education programs for health care aimed at training and developing students' lifestyle management skills.

Counties' Structures on Youth and Sports: Are the decentralized services of the central authority that cooperates with the central administration bodies for organising and promoting the activities for young people. According to [Government decision regarding their organisation](#), Counties' Structures on Youth and Sports have the following responsibilities in the field of youth: implementing the national programmes in the field of youth and sports; monitoring the implementation of the legislation in the field of youth and sport; cooperating with other local and central structures to organise cultural, artistic, leisure, educative, touristic activities for youth, both local and international; offering specialized support to other public bodies to create programmes for youth; offering counselling and information services for young people; creating a data-base of youth NGOs in the county; organising activities, seminars, camps and trainings based on non-formal education methodologies; organising social programmes for vulnerable young people and children.

Development education: is one of the strategic areas for Romania's development cooperation policy. Romania works to educate its own citizens, experts and practitioners, for ensuring a good understanding of the values and needs of our partner countries and delivering efficient development cooperation programmes. Development education targets groups and individuals, youths and adults, juniors and experts in the field, by using methods and tools specific to each target group.

Disadvantaged category: is defined by the [special law on combating discrimination](#) as being that category of people who are either in a position of inequality compared to the

majority's situation, due to differences in identity or are facing rejection and marginalization when it comes to others' behaviour. The vulnerable groups include: children at risk of poverty, vulnerability to social disintegration processes, juvenile delinquency; young people over 18 who are no longer covered by the family protection system; people with disabilities; persons belonging to the Roma population in high risk situations; the elderly in high risk situation and the homeless.

Early school leaving: represents the proportion of the 18-24 year old population not having completed secondary education and not attending any form of education and training, of the total age population of 18-24.

Education and Training: of children and youth people and adults have as main purpose the formation of competences, understood as a multifunctional and transferable set of knowledge, skills / abilities and skills, necessary for: personal fulfilment and development by realizing their own goals in life, according to each one's interests and aspirations and the desire to learn throughout life; social integration and active citizens' participation in society; employment and participation in the functioning and development of a sustainable economy; the formation of a life concept, based on humanistic and scientific values, on the national and universal culture and on the stimulation of intercultural dialogue; education in the spirit of dignity, tolerance and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; cultivation of sensitivity to human issues, to moral-civic values and respect for nature and the natural, social and cultural environment.

Education: is a service of public interest and is carried out, under the terms of existent law on education, in Romanian, as well as in the languages of national minorities and in languages of international circulation.

Family doctors: Romanian General Practitioners are family doctors and have a gatekeeper role for the public system but not for the private system. This means that those benefiting from free services can't access any other service unless they are seen first by their family doctor. Most patients in Romania are registered with a family doctor of their choice, without limitations regarding the area in which they live. Patients can change the family doctor after a 6 month minimum period.

Health care: in Romania is dominated by a public system which is financed mainly through mandatory social health insurance contributions. Employees contribute 5.5% of their monthly wage and employers add an extra 5.2% for each employee (according to the [Fiscal Code](#)). Children under 18, students, the unemployed and low-income persons are exempted from health insurance contribution. Adults are considered uninsured if they do not contribute to the health care fund, meaning they can only benefit free of charge from a basic health package which covers emergency care, pregnancy care, communicable disease diagnosis, prevention and treatment.

Lifelong learning: includes all the learning activities of each individual, starting with early education, in order to acquire knowledge, skills training and the development of significant personal, civic, social and / or occupational skills.

Registered unemployed: According to the [law on employment and unemployment, law no. 76/2002](#) is the person who cumulatively fulfils the conditions set out previously and is registered with the employment agency in whose territorial range resides.

School after school: The [programme](#) aims at educational support for vulnerable children and young people in order to prevent school dropout by providing after school programmes, including hot meals. The programme will establish the mechanism to extend the existing programme at national level. The programme was to be piloted in 50 schools and expanded then at the national level.

Second Chance: The programme aims at increasing the number of schools offering the Second Chance. The programme offers a flexible school approach to bring children, young people and adults back to school in order to graduate mandatory education levels.

Special and integrated education: is a form of differentiated, adapted schooling as well as a form of comprehensive educational, social and medical assistance for people with special educational needs. The state guarantees the right to education of all persons with special educational needs. Special and specially integrated education is part of the national pre-university education system.

Unemployed: According to [law on employment and unemployment, law no. 76/2002](#) is the person who cumulatively fulfils the following conditions: Is 16 or older, is looking for a job and does not meet the retirement conditions; The state of health and the physical and mental capacities allow the person to perform a job; he/she does not work, does not earn any income from authorized activities according to the law, or has lower income than the country-wide minimum gross salary guaranteed in payment scheme Is available to start work in the immediate period if there is a vacancy.

Voluntary activity: Represent the participation of a natural person to general interest activities for the use of other persons and for the general use of the society, without remuneration. The host organisation of a volunteer can only be a public institution or an NGO (non-profit organisation). Youth volunteering is not defined differently from the general volunteering activity. ([Legea nr. 78/2014 privind reglementarea activității de voluntariat în România](#)), the voluntary activity

Young people leaving the special protection system: [Social assistance law in Romania](#), other regulations and the entire system operate with the concept of 'young people leaving the special protection system', regarding to young people over 18 that are leaving any form of protection while separated from their parents, either by placement in the extended family (grandparents or other relatives), or by placement to foster families or to orphanages.

Youth non-governmental organizations: The Youth Law defines the youth non-governmental organisations in Romania: organisations having young people as members (over 50%) or organisations aiming at supporting and promoting rights of young people.

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