



Youth Wiki national description

Youth policies in Romania

2021

The Youth Wiki is Europe's online encyclopaedia in the area of national youth policies. The platform is a comprehensive database of national structures, policies and actions supporting young people. For the updated version of this national description, please visit <https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki>

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Romania

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, is the allocation of grants for small projects of youth NGOs (until December 2021) / the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) (since January 2022). The county offices for youth and sports, the cultural student centres, as well as the county offices for culture, the Universities and schools have a large degree of autonomy in establishing their activities and calendars for working with the young people. This strategy ensures the accessibility to youth activities and youth work of a large number of young people from many regions, cities, towns and villages. However, the whole national territory is not covered in the same manner and the level of accessibility to youth activities and youth work varies largely across the country (young people in some cities benefit from a larger number of activities and services compared to other young people). The national coordination in the field is very challenging in the absence of strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the field of youth activities and youth work.

The dedicated institution for youth policy was until December 2021 the Ministry of Youth and Sports, established in 1990. In January 2022 the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) was funded. However, 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 [National Strategy in Field of Youth Policy 2015-2020](#) have been reuniting youth policy general and operational objectives. However, the National Strategy in Field of Youth Policy 2015-2020 was not supported by an action plan, clear budget allocations and a monitoring plan. A new Youth Strategy for the next period was not adopted by the Romanian Government until March 2022. Therefore, coordination between top-level authorities responsible for youth policy is not systematic, and the responsible central authorities in the field of youth lack control over the timely and full implementation of actions to meet the youth policy objectives.

1. YOUTH POLICY GOVERNANCE

Taking into account the objectives of the [National Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) (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 Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) is the main top-level responsible authority in the field of youth since January 2022, only four 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; (4) Youth leisure.

The youth is not central in other policy fields 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 have been isolated.

For all these policy initiatives, the main information sources on the Romanian youth are the Youth Barometers commissioned by the Ministry of Youth and Sports every two years between 2012 and 2020, as presented in [section 1.6 Evidence-based Youth Policy](#).

1.1 Target population of youth policy

The Romanian Youth Law ([Legea Tinerilor](#)) defines the age limits for the youth from 14 to 24. The National Strategy on Employment 2021-2027 ([Strategiei Nationala pentru Ocuparea Fortei de Munca 2021-2027](#)) defines 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 publicly 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 development programmes are to be developed with the participation of young people.
- 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

No important revisions took place since the adoption of the law in 2006.

In March 2022 the Youth Law is under revision, with a debate in the Parliament on a new Youth Law. The debate started in 2018 but is still ongoing.

1.3 National youth strategy

Existence of a National Youth Strategy

A National Youth Policy Strategy 2015-2020 ([Strategia Nationala în domeniul politicii de tineret 2015-2020](#)) was adopted by the Romanian Government, by Government Decision, in 2015. The Youth Strategy covered the timeframe 2015-2020. A new Youth Strategy for the next period was not adopted by the Romanian Government until March 2022.

Scope and contents

Summary

The [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) aimed 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 integrated 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.

Key objectives

Under each of the 5 key areas of intervention of the strategy, specific objectives and lines of actions were established. However, an action plan allowing systematic implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation the strategy, was not adopted.

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

- Ensure access to quality formal and non-formal training and education for all adolescents and young people;
- Improve the non-formal education offer;
- Raise young people's interest in participating in non-formal education activities;
- Ensure more practical relevance of the skills acquired through formal and non-formal education;
- Facilitate youth access to quality culture and cultural creation;
- Improve funding of cultural activities;
- 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 were:

- Support youth health and quality of life and prevent injuries, eating disorders, substance use and addiction;
- 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;
- 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 were:

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

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

4.1. For employment

- Increase youth employment, with a focus on the 15-24 and 25-29 age groups;
- Promote existing legal measures in favour of youth to ensure a smooth transition from education to the labour market;
- Promote and support work-life balance for youth;
- Stimulate youth mobility on the domestic labour market;
- 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;
- Ensure better opportunities for youth access to and retention on the labour market through acquisition and development of skills and competences;
- Develop social economy and increase youth participation in this area.

4.2. For entrepreneurship

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

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

- Promote inclusive measures for youth with the aim of facilitating access to the formal labour market;
- 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;
- 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;
- Promote the 'voice' of and empower the poor communities with high shares of children and young people, as well as the socially excluded youth;

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

Responsible authority for the implementation of the Youth Strategy

The Ministry of Youth and Sports was the main government authority responsible for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the national Youth Strategy. It was 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

An action plan allowing systematic implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation the strategy, was not adopted.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports was transformed in December 2021 in the Ministry of Sport. All its responsibilities regarding the development of the youth strategy post 2021 have been transferred to the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#).

Revisions/updates

The Youth Strategy 2015-2020 have been preceded by the National Action Plan for Youth (PNA-T) 2001 and its revised version for 2005-2008. Their evaluation has been done by the Institute for Educational Sciences in 2011.

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.

In 2020 the Ministry of Youth and Sports started preparing the youth strategy 2021-2027. In December 2020 a needs assessment was provided by the Life Quality Institute to support the elaboration of the strategy in 2021. Additionally, the [Youth Barometer 2020](#) was released with the same aim. Other than that, consultations with the Counties' Directorates on Youth and Sport and with other governmental institutions with responsibilities in the field of youth were organized. Based on the outcomes of the research and the consultation processes and after consultation with the National Council for Youth, a [preliminary proposal](#) for the new Youth Strategy, in line with the European Youth Strategy, was published in 2021. A cooperation protocol with the Government's General Secretariat was signed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in order to be provided with additional support for the coordination of the development and adoption process of the new Youth Strategy. In 2022, the consultation processes with the governmental and non-governmental organisations will continue, aiming to have the final project adopted by the end of the year.

In 2020 the Ministry of Youth and Sports started preparing the youth strategy 2021-2027. In December 2020 a needs assessment has been provided by the Life Quality Institute to support the elaboration of the strategy in 2021. The strategic planning process was carried on in 2021, with several consultations organised and several versions of the strategic objectives and main actions have been presented by the Ministry to the National Council on Youth, the advisory body of youth organisations organised by the Ministry. However, in March 2022 the strategic process is ongoing and no Youth Strategy has been adopted by the Romanian Government.

1.4 Youth policy decision-making

Structure of Decision-making

The main central authority responsible for the youth field is the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#), funded in January 2022. Until December 2021 the main central authority for youth was the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

At the local level, the Counties' Structures on Family and Youth 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 Family and Youth have the following responsibilities in the field of youth:

- implementing the national programmes in the field of youth (as well as the policies for family and equal opportunities),
- monitoring the implementation of the legislation the fields under their responsibility,
- cooperating with other local and central structures to organise cultural, artistic, leisure, educative, touristic activities for youth and family, 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 and trainings based on non-formal education methodologies
- organising youth camps,
- organising social programmes for vulnerable young people and children.

The [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) was established in January 2022 (as part of the Government installed on November 25th 2021). According to the [Government Decision on the organisation of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#), in the field of youth, the ministry has the following responsibilities:

- ensures the implementation of the governmental programme and policies in the field of youth,
- establishes priorities, typology of projects / actions / activities for youth, budget for programs, projects, activities and elaborates action plans, procedures, methodologies, project calendars, monitoring and evaluation plans for youth activity;
- initiates, develops, implements and monitors youth legislation;
- carries out studies and analyses on youth and students issues;
- collaborates with central and local public authorities, institutional, social and organizational partners, internally and externally, in order to achieve the objectives in the field of youth;
- initiates, develops, organizes, finances, implements, monitors, evaluates programs, projects, activities and actions for domestic and international youth and finances projects on a competitive basis, in accordance with the law;
- establishes youth centres, in accordance with the law;
- elaborates and implements the plan for rehabilitation and extension of leisure centres and ensures the organization and administration of these leisure centres;
- ensures the organization, administration, rehabilitation and extension of student culture houses;
- provides specialist assistance to students and student association structures in the development of projects and programs aimed at boosting student participation, in its various forms, including by involving them in decision-making, stimulating student creativity, promoting student mobility in Europe and mitigating the impact of risk factors leading to marginalization and social exclusion;
- organizes directly or through subordinate institutions leisure activities, national camps, leisure camps, social camps, thematic camps for children, students and young people

Main Themes

While the [National Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) covered a very large set of themes, only four 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 Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#). These themes are:

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

Other themes of interest for the youth policy are employment, education, entrepreneurship and social-inclusion. However, youth is not central in these fields and there are very few policy measures directly dedicated to young people, as presented in the following sections of Youth Wiki.

For all these teams, as for the other in the Youth Strategy, the main information sources are the Youth Barometers that has been commissioned by the Ministry every two years between 2012 and 2020.

The National Agency for Youth

There is no National Agency for Youth organised in Romania. In 2010 the National Agency for Youth and the National Agency for Youth and Sport merged and become 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. In January 2022

the administration of the youth field was transferred to the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#).

Policy monitoring and evaluation

According to the Youth Strategy, the Ministry of Youth and Sports was responsible to draft a monitoring and evaluation plan of the Strategy. However, such plan was not drafted or approved. As a result, an evidence-based monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the national Youth Strategy has not been conducted until March 2022. [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 done from the financial/budget point of view. Records are not centralised for evaluation purposes. This practice creates difficulties for the subsequent evaluations, as experienced in 2016 when the programmes evaluation has been conducted. In the absence of a monitoring and evaluation plan of the Youth Strategy, all evaluations made until December 2021 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports 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 and the following years compared to 2016 and the previous years.

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

- [an evaluation report on the European Social Fund interventions targeting youth](#) was commissioned in 2014 and delivered in 2015;
- the [first 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. The [second evaluation report on the Youth Employment Initiative](#) has been conducted and published in 2019.
- The third evaluation of the Youth Employment Initiative was integrated in the evaluation of the [Evaluation of the Operational Programme Human Capital](#) – specific objectives regarding employment, published in December 2020.

These reports were only used in programming and organising the implementation of the European Social Fund programme on human capital for the period 2014-2020 and for programming the future use of the European Social Fund 2021-2027, and not by other policy makers. The Ministry of Youth and Sports was not citing or quoting these reports when publishing decisions on policy activities, its annual programmes or its own projects until 2020. However, the reports have been used by the Ministry of Youth and Sports when planning new initiatives targeting young NEETs in 2020.

The culture of monitoring and evaluation public policies is rather weak in Romania. As a result, among the different policy fields relevant for the young people, evaluations are only common for the European funded programmes financially supporting 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. The EU youth dialogue is an important process for the consultation of young people and the results are taken into account in planning public projects by Government bodies at central/national level.

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 have been implemented in isolation and without a clear coordination.

A common policy was implemented until 2020 by the [Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity](#) in cooperation with the [Ministry of European Investments and Projects](#), the [Ministry of Education](#), the [Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Tourism](#), providing the framework for funding the policy of youth employment, including the [Youth Guarantee](#) and the Youth Employment Initiative.

There is a permanent inter-ministerial council for education, culture, research, youth and minorities mentioned in the [Youth Law](#) and working based on a [Government Decision](#). However, this council is not focused on youth policies, but rather on education and research. As a result of this lack of focus, 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 Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities 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 Polices in the Field of Youth having as main cooperation subject the Youth Law. The council included: 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. This Coordination Committee of Public Polices in the Field of Youth continued its work in 2018, but not in 2019, 2020 and 2021, after the Youth Law draft proposal was adopted by the Government and sent to the Parliament for approval.

No cross-sectorial cooperation council was establish in the context of the development of the new Youth Strategy, post 2022.

1.6 Evidence-based youth policy

Political Commitment to Evidence-Based Youth Policy

The Ministry of Youth and Sport implemented four framework programs every year, until 2021:

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.

From January 2022, the same programmes are implemented by the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#).

This last programme is meant to inform national youth policies. Every two years, a Youth Barometer (a representative survey in order to have a diagnosis of the youth situation) have been commissioned by the Ministry. However, the budget available for other research doesn't allows large-scale research and most of the policies developed and drafted are based on secondary 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. Therefore, there is not an official understanding of how the research will contribute to policy making.

Cooperation between policy-making and research

Until 2020, the [Institute of Educational Sciences](#) (IES), has been a national research institution functioning as a unit of the [Ministry of Education](#). 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 of Educational Sciences was the Youth Research Laboratory, but the cooperation of the Ministry of Youth and Sport with the youth research community in the Institute was rather reduced. In November 2019 the Institute of Educational Sciences merged with the National Evaluation Centre under the same Ministry of Education. However, in 2020 researchers from the National Evaluation Centre cooperated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports for the design of studies to support the development of a new Youth Strategy (post 2021).

Based on a general framework partnership between the Romanian Government and UNICEF, the later provided 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 in 2014-2018. The initial research supporting the Youth Law revision was undertaken by the [Romanian Youth Forum](#), through the project the Teenagers' Initiative Network, in partnership with UNICEF Romania. The project generated the analysis of the legal framework in the youth policy field in Romania, in 2016, and proposed a set of recommendations that have 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 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 Youth Barometer Report has been published for [2012](#), [2014](#), [2016](#), [2018](#) and [2020](#).

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 between 2012 and 2020. The responsible body/organisation/institute to carry out the research is selected every time by the Ministry through public procurement procedures. Data for the youth barometers from [2012](#), [2014](#) and [2016](#) have been collected by different market research institutes, but using the same questionnaire. In [2018](#) and [2020](#), a different questionnaire has been used, as presented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports representatives.

The most recent statistics published, dating from 2020, 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 separate 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 and Eurostat.

Budgetary Allocations supporting research in the youth field

According to data published on the website of the Ministry of Finances, budget allocations for the Youth Research Programme dropped from 1 million lei (about 222 000 Euro) in 2006 to 150 000 lei (about 31 500 Euro) for the Youth Research Programme for 2019 and 400 000 lei (about 84 000 Euro) for the Youth Research Programme for 2020. However only 150 000 lei have been used in 2020 for youth research by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. In 2021, the budget dropped again to 150 000 lei and the budget for 2022 allocates 200 000 lei (about 40 000 Euro) for the Youth Research Programme.

The Ministry on Youth and Sports was not operating any budgetary allocations for the research activities of the Laboratory on Youth Research of the Institute for Education Sciences (until November 2019 when the Institute was reorganised). The Institute for Education Sciences was entirely financed by the Ministry of Education and by other non-reimbursable funds for projects (European and national grants for scientific research) and there is not possible to isolate the budget allocated only for youth research.

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

1.7 Funding youth policy

How Youth policy is funded

As of January 2022, the institution responsible to the budget for the youth policy is the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#). Part of this budget is allocated to administrative and staff costs for the Ministry and for the County offices for Family and Youth. This part of the budget cannot be separated from the allocations for other family and equal opportunities programmes and an exact figure cannot be evaluated as funding for the youth policy. The same situation hindered the evaluation of the funding for youth policy when the youth policy was under the responsibility of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the youth and sports budgetary allocations were combined, until December 2021.

The budgets for the four framework youth programmes are separated and publicly available on the website of the Ministry of Finances.

In 2021 the budget allocated for the programmes and projects was as following:

- For the youth activities of the County Offices for Youth and Sport 5 840 000 lei
- For the Youth Centers' activities of the County Offices for Youth and Sport: 945 000 lei of which 816 457.10 lei were spent
- For the students' culture houses activities 1 982 769,30 lei were allocated of which 1 879 584.73 lei were spent
- For the student camps 2 499 640 lei were allocated of which 2 234 393.54 lei were spent
- For the National Youth Projects' competition 1 050 000 lei were allocated of which 712 843.98 lei were spent
- For own projects and activities on youth of the Ministry, 390 000 lei were allocated of which 183 352.69 lei were spent
- For the National Students' Projects competition 780 000 lei were allocated of which 687 889.04 RON were spent.

In 2022, the budget for four framework youth programmes is 8 million lei (about 1.6 million Euro), excluding the activities of the County Offices for Family and Youth. In 2020, the budget allocated for programmes and projects was 13.84 million lei (under 2.89 million Euro) and in 2021 the allocation was 12.9 million lei (about 2.6 million Euro), including funding for a national and 41 local (at county level) global grant programme for youth NGOs, a national global grant programme for student projects, 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 and the youth camps organised by the Ministry for young people and students.

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.

Additional funding was planned for the infrastructure of leisure centres where youth and students' camps are organised, but the budget was planned and reported under the same budgetary line with the funding for the sports infrastructure. In 2022, 6.44 million lei (about 1.3 million Euro) was allocated for preparing and planning large investments in the infrastructure of youth and students' camps are organised.

What is funded?

The [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) (and the Ministry of Youth and Sport, until December 2021) implements four 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 Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) 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. However, due to the limitations exposed above, there is not possible to estimate the budget allocated only for youth policy among other elements funded by the Ministry.

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 Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) and 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. The evaluations of the European Social Fund (ESF) programmes in Romania ([an evaluation report on the European Social Fund interventions targeting youth](#) from 2015; the [first evaluation report on the Youth Employment Initiative](#) from 2016; the [second evaluation report on the Youth Employment Initiative](#) from 2019 and the third evaluation of the Youth Employment Initiative, integrated in the evaluation of the [Evaluation of the Operational Programme Human Capital](#) from 2020) show that 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, but they have not been focused on other youth policy areas.

Since 2021, the Ministry of Youth and Sports started the implementation of large EU funded projects for the education and employment of young NEETs. Although the funding for these projects is part of the Ministry budget and was transferred to the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) in 2022, it is contributing more to the youth employment component of the youth policy and is reported under chapter 3 of Youth Wiki. The projects are not contributing to the overall development, implementation and coordination of the youth policy.

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 a dialogue space with the decision makers. 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 in the development and implementation of youth policies. Within Erasmus Plus, the Romanian participants were part of training courses and international activities tackling the theme of active youth participation.

In 2020, 24 youth mobility projects (out of 35 applications), 26 strategic projects (out of 195 applications) and seven projects of youth dialogue have been funded by Erasmus Plus in Romania. In 2019, 19 projects have been implemented under Key Action 1 - learning mobilities in the field of youth, with 8 115 participants for a total of 4.8 million Eur. 18 strategic projects in the field of youth have been implemented with a total funding of 2.3 million Euro. In 2018 in Romania, 150 projects (out of 844 applications) have been funded under the Youth component of the Erasmus+ programme, Key Action 1, mobility projects. 10 projects of Strategic Partnership in the field of Youth (out of 96 applications) and 4 projects of dialogue with young people (out of 38 applications) have been also funded in 2018. 95.5% of the participants in youth mobility projects have been highly satisfied with the experience.

1.8 Cross-border cooperation

Cooperation with European countries

According to the Ministry of Youth and Sport presentation and communication to the National Corespondent, 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 Spots 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.

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

Forthcoming policy developments

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 and in May 2018 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 to 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.

The bill has been first presented to the government in September 2017 but withdraw and redrafted in 2018. However, the major reforms have been preserved. After months of debates at institutional level, the bill has been eventually approved by the Government in July 2018. The bill was debated and approved by the first chamber of the Romanian Parliament (the Senate) in November 2018 and is currently (in March 2022) under debate by the Chamber of Deputies specialised committees. According to art. 75 (points 1 and 2) of the Romanian Constitution, the Chamber of Deputies is the final authority for the adoption of the project. The specialised Commission on Youth and Sport of the Chamber of Deputies advanced the report on the adoption of the project and had been on the adoption agenda of the meeting on November 2nd 2021 but an additional report had been requested from the specialised Commission on Youth and Sport of the Chamber of Deputies.

In 2021 a new Youth Strategy was expected, with a few debates on the strategy initiated in 2020 based on a research paper prepared and presented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports to the National Council for Youth (the advisory body organised by the Ministry in 2020). In December 2020 a needs assessment has been provided by the Life Quality Institute to support the elaboration of the strategy in 2021. A draft strategy was presented for inter-institutional consultation in 2021 and debated by the National Council for Youth (NCFY), the advisory structure of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in March 2021. In 2022, the consultation processes with the governmental and non-governmental organisations will continue, aiming to have the final project adopted by the end of the year.

Ongoing debates

Ongoing debates in the field of youth are currently (in 2022) focusing on a major reform of the administrative structure of the main elements of the youth policy: decentralising most of the youth activities undertaken at the moment by the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities. The decentralisation is supposed to include administration of youth centres, organising camps for young people and students and promoting youth activities through granting funds to youth projects of NGOs or public bodies with responsibilities in the field of youth.

Main actors involved in the debate at the moment are the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#), the Ministry of Regional Development, Public Works and Administration and the representatives of local (community and county) public authorities.

A [draft law for decentralisation](#) has been drafted in 2018 and revised in 2021. No decision has been taken in 2021 regarding the bill.

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 was one of the main objectives of the [National Strategy in Field of Youth Policy 2015-2020](#). The main instrument used, until 2021, 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 Sports in [2020](#), 52% of young people have been participating in volunteering activities, compared to only 13% in 2012.

2.1 General context

Historical developments

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). However, in the last decade volunteering popularity increased constantly. According to the Youth Barometer commissioned by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in [2020](#), 52% of young people have been participating in volunteering activities, compared to only 13% in 2012.

Main concepts

In accordance with the Volunteering Law ([Legea no. 78/2014 privind reglementarea activitatii 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

Main actors involved in the administration and governance of Youth Volunteering

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 no. 78/2014 privind reglementarea activitatii 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 the by a young Member of the Parliament.

Volunteering was part of the Youth Strategy 2015-2020 and the Ministry of Youth and Sports was the governmental authority taking action to inform young people on volunteering. One of the eligible objectives for projects funded by the Ministry is informing on volunteering and promoting it. For decision-making on promoting youth volunteering in the national programmes, the Ministry of Youth and Sports consulted the National Council for Youth (NCFY) created in 2020 as an advisory body composed by 50 representatives of youth civil society organisations. This council includes a committee dedicated to youth volunteering.

Several NGOs have been participating to the grant competition and implementing youth volunteering initiatives with both national and international (mainly European) funding.

General distribution of responsibilities

Concerning the general distribution of responsibilities, the Ministry of Youth and Sports was the main governmental authority responsible for implementing the Volunteering Law provisions as part of the youth policy and, at the local level, the County Departments on Youth and Sports had been supporting the implementation process. The [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#), established in January 2022, and the newly created County Departments for Family and Youth, established in February 2022, are expected to take over responsibilities in promoting youth volunteering, but their strategies and approaches in promoting youth volunteering have not been established before March 2022.

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. But there is no monitoring mechanism for these local level initiatives.

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 it was the official partner of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in its initiatives to inform young people about volunteering.

Nor the Volunteering Law, neither the Youth Strategy provide for a formal distribution of responsibilities between the top level and local authorities. At top level, the Ministry of Youth and Sports included youth volunteering among the elements that can be funded by its programme (global grants for NGOs) aiming to promote youth work in general. The same can be done by the local authorities, but there is no systematic approach and management of promoting youth volunteering at local level.

Cross-sectoral cooperation

No existing mechanism of cross-sectoral 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 was one of the key areas of the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), as presented in the dedicated [section 1.3 National youth strategy](#). The main elements concerning volunteering in the Youth Strategy have been 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 [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) were:

1. Create an environment that fosters volunteering in Romania
2. Improve the system of volunteer work certification and public recognition
3. Raise public awareness of the importance of volunteer engagement

Responsible authority

The responsible authority for the promotion of youth volunteering was the Ministry of Youth and Sports until December 2021. Starting with January 2022 the responsibilities on youth have been transferred to the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#).

Revisions/ Updates

In 2020 the Ministry of Youth and Sports started preparing the youth strategy 2021-2027. In December 2020 a needs assessment was provided by the Life Quality Institute to support the elaboration of the strategy in 2021. Additionally, the [Youth Barometer 2020](#) was released with the same aim. Other than that, consultations with the Counties' Directorates on Youth and Sport and with other governmental institutions with responsibilities in the field of youth were organized. Based on the outcomes of the research and the consultation processes and after consultation with the National Council for Youth, a [preliminary proposal](#) for the new Youth Strategy, in line with the European Youth Strategy, was published in 2021. A cooperation protocol with the Government's General Secretariat was signed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in order to be provided with additional support for the coordination of the development and adoption process of the new Youth Strategy. In 2022, the consultation processes with the governmental and non-governmental organisations will continue, aiming to have the final project adopted by the end of the year.

2.4 Youth volunteering at national level

National Programme for Youth Volunteering

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

A [Volunteering Law](#) 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.

The [Volunteering Law](#) 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.

In the contents of the first article of the Volunteering Law , volunteering is defined as an important factor in contributing to a competitive European labour market and the development of education and training, increasing social solidarity.

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, mandatory, 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.

Volunteering is based on several principles. Among these the principle according to which the *volunteering activity does not substitute paid work* and also the principle of the *public interest feature of volunteering activity*. These 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 organizations working with volunteers are obliged to include explicit provisions regarding the involvement of volunteers and how their activity is being managed in the contents of their status or the internal procedures of organizations.

The [Volunteering Law](#) contains important new elements on the demand for volunteering. The law provides that supporting volunteering should not represent a means of reducing costs by the local public authorities, 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.

According to the [Volunteering Law](#), volunteering can be considered "professional and / or specialty experience, if it is achieved in the field of studies".

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 the Youth Barometer commissioned by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in [2020](#), 52% of young people have been participating in volunteering activities, compared to only 13% in 2012.

Support to young volunteers

According to the [Volunteering Law](#), 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 under the same regulations 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.

The [Labour Inspection](#) is the public authority monitoring volunteering. It is focused on the compliance of working conditions and on the simulation of labour contracts as volunteering contracts.

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.

Target groups

There are no official documents identifying specific target groups within the youth population whose participation in voluntary activities shall be fostered.

2.5 Cross-border mobility programmes

EU programmes

The only EU mobility and volunteering programmes for youth to which Romania participates are the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus Plus. Over 4.69 million Euro have been allocated for the [European Solidarity Corps](#) programme in Romania for 2019 and over 1.79 million Euro in 2018. The allocation for 2020 was over 5 million Euro and for 2021 over 3.77 million Euro.

The monitoring of volunteering European projects is being ensured through the reports uploaded by the participants in the [Mobility Tool](#). The National Agency for Erasmus Plus and the European Solidarity Corps is also conducting research and monitoring, including constant surveys of mobility and volunteering participants satisfaction with the projects they participated in.

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

Other Programmes

No other governmental/official programmes for youth volunteering mobility are 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.

2.6 Raising awareness about youth volunteering opportunities

Information providers

According to the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), the Ministry of Youth and Sports was responsible for implementing the priority on development of young volunteering. However, no clear and concrete task have been established for the Ministry and raising awareness about youth volunteering opportunities was mainly realised through small projects granted by the Ministry and implemented by NGOs.

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

2.7 Skills recognition

Policy Framework

The [Volunteering Law](#), in force since 2014, regulates the recognition of skills developed by volunteers. 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). This is a

form of certifying volunteering and can include validation of skills and competences and a formal certificate proving the volunteering is issued by the host organisation according to the Volunteering Law.

However, no public official authority is responsible for the validation and recognition of skills. Moreover, no top level regulation/policy is using/valuing the competences validation (there are no transferable credits or anything similar).

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 outside training programmes. The recognition is based on an evaluation procedure, 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. The framework for skills and competences certification is not specific for volunteering (most often, skills and competences acquired informally through paid work experience are certified in this way). The certification is available for persons of all ages, it is not youth specific.

Existing arrangements

Young people having participated in voluntary activities can validate the knowledge, skills and competences acquired based on a certificate endorsed by the host organisation (similar to the Youthpass) and/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.

The quality assurance of the system of validation of skills acquired in different (informal) contexts, verifications are made on a randomly selected sample of exams by the National Authority on Qualifications.

2.8 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

There is no forthcoming policy developments regarding specific law, strategy and/or programme on youth volunteering, but the [debates on the youth strategy post 2021](#) focus on the development of youth volunteering as a key element of the youth policy.

Ongoing debates

[A coalition of youth organisations and organisations working of volunteers](#) of all ages prepares amendments to the Volunteering Law and a [Strategy for Volunteering in Romania](#), with support from the [Active Citizens Fund](#), supported by EEA Grants and Erasmus Plus.

The project of the [Coalition for Volunteering](#) is implemented by four organisations with experience in working with volunteers - Bethany Social Services Foundation, Community

Support Foundation Bacau, Pro Vobis - National Resource Center for Volunteerism Romania and Cluj-Napoca Volunteer Center. Through this project the coalition intends to resume the process of norming the law and to complete it with application methodology, relevant documents and set of forms. Citizens and NGO consultations on the existing needs are planned. The secondary legislative package obtained will be promoted among decision makers and will be submitted to the relevant ministries.

3. EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Most of the measures specific to the Romanian employment policy are not directly and exclusively targeting young people. A small subsidies for employing young graduates, young NEETs and marginalised young people is offered to employers according to the [law on employment and unemployment](#) (about 470 Euro/month). Special services are provided by the Public Employment Services to young NEETs and marginalised young persons. However, stating in 2009, the National Employment Agency implemented in a large number of projects funded by the European Social Fund, streamlining youth in employment policies. Since 2021, the Ministry responsible for youth policy is also implementing projects funded by the European Social Fund aiming at stimulating the employment of young NEETs.

All these measures for youth employment 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 within the European framework of the youth guarantee. 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 December 2020 was 23.4%, for the 15-24 years old age segment, according to the [Romanian National Institute for Statistics](#), compared to 19% in December 2020. A decrease of the youth unemployment percentage was constant since 2015 (23.5%) until 2019, but the trend has been stopped by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this has to be put in the context of a general unemployment value of 5.9% in Romania for December 2021, young people being the age group the most affected by 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:

1. is 16 or older, is looking for a job and does not meet the retirement conditions;
2. the state of health and the physical and mental capacities allow the person to perform a job;
3. the person does not work, does not earn any income from authorised activities according to the law, or has lower income than the country-wide minimum gross salary guaranteed;
4. the person 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 involved in youth employment and entrepreneurship

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

1. the [Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity](#);
2. the [National Employment Agency](#) (NEA);
3. The [Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Tourism](#).

Trade unions, employers' organisations and NGOs participate in policy making in the field of youth employment and entrepreneurship, as consultative structures for the government, are using three main methods:

1. the [National Council for Youth \(NCFY\)](#) created in 2020 as an advisory body for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, composed by 50 representatives of youth civil society organisations.
2. ad-hoc consultative meetings.
3. 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 types 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.

General distribution of responsibilities

Concerning the general distribution of responsibilities, the main governance approach to youth employment and entrepreneurship is top-down, as both youth and employment are subject to the national policies.

1. the [Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity](#) is responsible for policy design, monitoring and evaluation on youth employment;
2. the [National Employment Agency](#) (NEA) is responsible for the implementation of the employment policies. The NEA functions under the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity and has county offices and local offices responsible for the direct provision of services to unemployed persons, including youth;
3. The [Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Tourism](#) is responsible for policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation on youth entrepreneurship. Local offices for SMEs are implementing the youth entrepreneurship programmes of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Tourism in direct cooperation with the young entrepreneurs.

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 Labour and Social Solidarity, offers career guidance and counselling services for each unemployed person, including for young people.

These counselling services targeting unemployed young 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:

1. 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.

2. within the formal education institutions. 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.
3. within the information and counselling centres organised by the youth centres, formally subordinated to the Ministry of Youth and Sports and currently under the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#), if qualified staff is employed by these county offices for counselling youth on career.

The [law on employment and unemployment](#) provides that: local offices of the National Employment Agency have to provide tailored counselling services for young NEETs and marginalised young people. Moreover, funding for these activities is accessible for the National Employment Agency, the Ministry in charge of the youth field, their subordinated county or local offices, NGOs and private providers of employment services and training.

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 [National Employment Agency reports for 2018](#), the total amount allocated for employment measures have been over 8 629 000 lei in 2018, with 77,22% expenditures actually made. 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 and over 238 milion lei (about 51 million Euro) in [2017, according to the annual report](#), but was reduced to less than 2 million Euro in 2018.

This budget reduction can be compensated by the European Social Fund projects supported by the Operational Programme Human Capital:

- in 2018, the project [ACTIMOB 1](#) supported registration and support for young NEETs with a budget of 2 112 246 lei (about 470 000 Euro)
- in 2018-2021, the project [ACTIMOB 2](#) supports supported registration and support for young NEETs with a budget of 227 783 035 lei (over 49 500 000 Euro)
- in 2017-2019, the project [ACTIMOB NEETs](#) supported registration and support for young NEETs with a budget of 40 866 509 Euro
- in 2019-2021, the project [ACTIMOB 3](#) supported registration and support for young NEETs with a budget of 57 126 603 Euro Euro.

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 have been included in the total subsidy from the Ministry of youth and Sports, and in the staff wages of the county offices for sport and youth. These subsidies reached 200 000 Euro in 2016 but decreased to less than 40 000 Euro (180 000 lei) in 2018 and less than 32 000 Euro (150 000 lei) in 2019, according to the budget for 2018 and 2019. The budget allocated in 2020 and 2021 to the centres was about 100 000 Euro (500 000 Euro).

Quality assurance

The quality assurance mechanisms used by the National Employment Agency or by the schools in providing career counselling, if any, are not publicly available. The National Employment Agency monitors and can inspect its local offices, but this monitoring process is not focused on services for young people and the outcome of the monitoring is not systematically centralised.

For the information and counselling centres organised by the youth centres, the Ministry responsible in the field of youth monitors and can inspect the centres. The outcome of this monitoring process has been centralised and made publicly available by the Ministry of Youth and Sports only in 2016. The [monitoring resulted in](#) 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](#) regulates apprenticeship. The law was modified in 2013, 2017, 2018 and 2019 in order to encourage apprenticeship programmes. The [law no. 335/2013 regulates traineeship](#) only for university graduates. In 2018 a law on internship has been adopted, [law no. 176/2018](#). The provisions of this law apply to any person over 16 years old and, in particular circumstances, over 15 years old.

For all of these working-learning arrangements written contracts are mandatory. There is no specific regulation on transparency of the working conditions and job description in traineeships', apprenticeships' and internships' notices, but they follow the general regulation on working conditions for employees and they cannot exceed a given amount of time (less than the normal working day and week of an employee). Working conditions and time need to be specified in writing at the beginning of the working-learning arrangement, as part of the contract for apprenticeship, traineeship, or internship.

Participants in apprenticeship, traineeship or internship have social security coverage ensured by their employer according to the respective laws. But according to the law, the employer can receive a subsidy from the National Employment Agency monthly for each apprentice or trainee, but not for the interns. This subsidy is over 470 Euro (2 250 lei) each month for each apprentice or trainee. The subsidies are not determined as a part or percentage of the employers' costs and are not varying in accordance with 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 to train apprentices, as showed by the evaluations of the EU funded programmes that support apprenticeship and traineeship. More specifically, 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 (the [evaluation report on the European Social Fund interventions targeting youth](#) from 2015; the [first evaluation report on the Youth Employment Initiative](#) from 2016; the [second evaluation report on the Youth Employment Initiative](#) from 2019 and the third evaluation of the Youth Employment Initiative, integrated in the evaluation of the [Evaluation of the Operational Programme Human Capital](#) from 2020).

Traineeships and apprenticeships are not a requirement in the curricula of secondary education, including vocational education.

Traineeship and apprenticeships have been part of the [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#) and they are 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, the value of subsidies for employers, apprentices and trainees was different if the funding of the apprenticeship or traineeship programmes was ensured by the state budget or European funded projects, although the subsidies supported the same activities. For the projects implemented starting in 2017 the subsidies have been equalised, according to the respective laws and the budget of the Operational Programme Human Capital.

Promoting traineeships and apprenticeships

Promotion of traineeships and apprenticeships have been envisaged by the government as part of the European funded projects, under the Youth Employment Initiative and the European Social Fund and they have been promoted for eligible applicants for these funds. 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 traineeships and apprenticeships 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.

Starting in 2017, the National Employment Agency have been funded by the European Social Fund through the Operation Programme Human Capital, for traineeship and apprenticeship projects to support with the legal subsidies (about 780/month/trainee or apprentice) the interested employers. The following projects are supporting young NEETs for traineeship and apprenticeship:

1. in 2018-2022, the project [UNIT 2 RMD](#) supports the traineeship and apprenticeship of young NEETs in Bucharest and Ilfov region with over 6 million lei (about 1.27 million Euro) and project [UNIT 2 RMPD](#) supports the traineeship and internship of young NEETs in less developed regions with 38.63 million lei (over 8.12 million Euro)
2. since 2019, the project [UNIT 5 RMD & RMPD](#) supports the traineeship and apprenticeship of young NEETs with about 76 million Euro

Quality assurance

The [Labour inspection](#) is in charge with ensuring the quality of labour conditions for the trainees, apprentices and interns. Host organisations/employers need to do their own

quality assurance and evaluation, but there is 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](#), includes:

- young unemployed graduates (from secondary or tertiary education) have the right to an employment bonus of 1 000 lei (about 210 Euro)
- employers of young unemployed graduates (from secondary or tertiary education) have the right to a monthly state subsidy of 2 250 lei (about 473 Euro) for 12 months
- employers of young NEETs have the right to a state subsidy of 2 250 lei (about 473 Euro)/month for a minimum 12 months of employment.
- employers of young unemployed vulnerable persons have the right to receive a subsidy equal to the salary of the young persons. The young people in vulnerable situations also benefit from additional information and counselling services.
- 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 15 500 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 12 000 lei (about 2 500 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.

No direct job-creation schemes are implemented in Romania.

Flexicurity measures focusing on young people

There are no flexicurity measures focusing on young people implemented in Romania. However, there are important existing flexicurity measures beneficial for young people:

- "tele-working" (working from other places than the employers' premises, using ITC) is allowed and regulated since 2018 (through [Law no. 81/2018](#));
- a maternity leave is granted to mothers for a total of 126 days (in total) before and after the birth of a child;
- a short leave is granted to the fathers after the birth of a child;
- a leave for childcare is granted to parents that can decide on how to share the time and it can last up to two years, thus encouraging young families. The leave for childcare can be three years long in the case of children with disabilities;
- a short leave is granted to one of the parents in the case of a sick child or for medical investigations of a child.

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 six instead of eight 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. It is impossible to separate the value of funding for the integration on the labour market of young people from the total budget of the National Employment Agency for active employment measures. According to the [National Employment Agency reports for 2018](#), the total amount allocated for employment measures have been over 8 629 000 lei in 2018, with 77,22% expenditures actually made. 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 and over 238 million lei (about 51 million Euro) in [2017, according to the annual report](#), but was reduced to less than 2 million Euro in 2018.

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- in 2018-2022, the project [UNIT 2 RMD](#) supports the trainship and apprenticeship of young NEETs in Bucharest and Ilfov region with 6 053 956 lei (about 1 270 000 Euro) and project [UNIT 2 RMPD](#) supports the trainship and internship of young NEETs in less developed regions with 38 629 300 lei (over 8 115 000 Euro)
- since 2019, the project [UNIT 5 RMD & RMPD](#) supports the trainship and apprenticeship of young NEETs with about 76 million Euro
- in 2017-2019, the project [ACTIMOB NEETs](#) supported registration and support for young NEETs with a budget of 40 866 509 Euro
- in 2019-2021, the project [ACTIMOB 3](#) supported registration and support for young NEETs with a budget of 57 126 603 Euro Euro.

Quality assurance

The [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 Solidarity](#). 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 participated 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 experience entrepreneurs in other European countries – is implemented in Romania. No data are available concerning the implementation of the programme.

The national contact points are :

- [Fundatia Danis Pentru Dezvoltare Manageriala](#)
- [Institutul Postliceal Phoenix](#)
- [Neamt 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 young 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 2015-2020](#) (a legal document adopted as a Government Decision no. 24/2015) included development of entrepreneurial skills and youth entrepreneurship among its main objectives. As presented in other sections of the Youth Wiki, the strategy was not supported by an action plan allowing systematic implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation, the implementation was not fully systematic and there are no evaluations on the achieved results. A youth strategy post 2021 was not adopted until March 2022 and no dedicated strategy for youth entrepreneurship is planned.

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

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.

In 2020, the Ministry of European Investments and Projects launched a grant scheme, supported by the European Social Fund, encouraging students to become entrepreneurs. The fund – [Innotech Student](#) – awarded the first grants at the end of 2021.

[The Romania HUB programme](#), an integrated training program, which provided students, entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs, information, support, technical assistance and counselling, as well as an institutional framework for developing entrepreneurial capacities and increasing the competitiveness on the local and international market of small and medium enterprises was opened until 2017.

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 Plus programme. No systematic information is provided on the number of teachers or youth workers benefiting from training projects in the field of youth entrepreneurship within Erasmus Plus. After participation in trainings on entrepreneurship education, the multiplication phases depended on teachers' willingness and motivation to transfer the methods of non-formal learning 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

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 former [Ministry for the Business Environment, Commerce and Entrepreneurship](#) (part of the [Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Tourism](#) since November 2021) 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 to support start-ups. [Start-Up Nation - Romania](#) uses national budget funds to support start-ups with a maximum of 200 000 lei (about 43 000 Euro). The programme was launched in 2017 and other calls have been published in December 2018 and October 2019. In 2020 the programme focused on supporting the IT start-ups under the name: Star Tech Innovation. In 2021 the budgetary allocations for entrepreneurship focused on curbing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, Start-Up Nation Romania was relaunched under similar conditions to the ones in 2019.

Although opened and promoted as a programme for young people, Start-Up Nation Romania is not designed especially for young people, and older entrepreneurs can apply as well. The programme supports small start-ups viable for at least 2 years after the first year when they have been funded and creating at least one job.

In 2018, the Romanian government selected the grant administrators for a programme similar to Start-Up Romania, called [Romania Start-Up Plus](#). The programme supports start-ups for all ages entrepreneurs with up to 40 000 Euro, using European funds from the European Social Fund through the [Operational Programme Human Capital](#). In 2018, the Managing Authority of the programme, at the [Ministry of European Investments and Projects](#), selected 195 organisations and universities to manage grant schemes for projects. Part of the funding was directed to entrepreneurship training, but the most part of the funding was re-granted for small start-ups in very similar conditions with Start-Up Romania.

In 2020, the Ministry of European Investments and Projects launched a grant scheme, supported by the European Social Fund, encouraging students to become entrepreneurs. The fund – [Innotech Student](#) – awarded the first grants at the end of 2021.

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. Due to changes in the structure of the Ministry, the information on these programmes is no longer available online.

[Other programmes](#) for entrepreneurship supported by the Romanian government have been:

- The programme for the development of marketing activities of products and market services (no longer opened after 2019);
- The programme for the development of the entrepreneurial culture among women managers in the SME sector (no longer opened after 2019);
- The [national multi-annual micro-industrialization programme](#) (available until 2018);
- The multi-annual national programme for supporting crafts and handicrafts (opened until 2016).

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 using European Social Fund and all of them were project based. Each of these projects had a communication budget, 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

Forthcoming policy developments

No information on forthcoming policy developments in the field of youth employment and entrepreneurship is available.

Ongoing debates

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

4. SOCIAL INCLUSION

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 and Social Solidarity](#), young people are not specially targeted and none of these services is specially designed for young people. However, 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 regulated for young people leaving the special protection system for children without parental care.

Analysing the social inclusion measures included in the [National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction 2015-2020](#) and the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), one can observe most of the measures have been 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 developed.

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

Main actors involved in youth social inclusion

The main top-level governmental authority responsible for youth social inclusion are:

- the [Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity](#);
- the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#);
- the [National Authority for Children Protection and Adoptions \(NACPA\)](#);
- the [National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(NARPD\)](#);
- the [General Offices for Social Assistance and Children Protection \(GOSACP\)](#) at county level;
- the [National Agency for Payment and Social Inspection \(NAPSI\)](#);

- the [Public Social Assistance Services \(PSAS\)](#) at city level.

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

1. the [National Council for Youth \(NCFY\)](#) created in 2020 as an advisory body for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, composed by 50 representatives of youth civil society organisations
2. ad-hoc consultative meetings, mainly with NGOs
3. 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 advice 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.

General distribution of responsibilities

Concerning the general distribution of responsibilities, the main governance approach to youth social inclusion is mainly top-down, but distribution of social benefits at local level and some of the basic social services are provided by the local authorities. The main responsibilities are as follows:

- the [Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity](#) is the main central authority responsible for the development of the national policies for social inclusion. 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 [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) is responsible for family policies, including policies for children in the special protection system for children without parental care and for young people leaving the special protection system;
- the [National Authority for Children Protection and Adoptions \(NACPA\)](#) is the central institution under the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities in charge with policy making and implementation (while decision on these policies lies with the Ministry) for the social protection of young people under 18 and young people leaving the special protection system;
- the [General Offices for Social Assistance and Children Protection \(GOSACP\)](#) are implementing the 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 Solidarity 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 work units](#).

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

The [National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction 2015-2020](#) (approved by Government Decision no. 383/2015) and the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) (approved by Government Decision no. 24/2015) have been the strategic framework for the youth social inclusion policies in Romania. In March 2022 none of the two strategies have been renewed. A separate strategy on the social inclusion of young people as such does not exist in Romania.

Scope and contents

In the field of social inclusion of youth, the two strategies have included measures targeting children and young people under 18 and measures targeting young adults. The most important of these measures are continued after 2020 (in 2021 and 2021) and they are:

1. [The 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 piloted in 50 schools and expanded then at the national level.

2. [The Second Chance national program](#)

The programme offers a flexible school approach to bring children, young people and adults back to school, allowing them to graduate mandatory education levels.

3. 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 of young people leaving the special protection system.

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 implemented by the County School Inspectorates;
- the [National Employment Agency](#) and its local offices, under the supervision of the [Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity](#) has to implement all measures including activities aiming at the employment of vulnerable young people
- the [National Authority for Children Protection and Adoptions \(NACPA\)](#) under the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) coordinates the General Offices for Social Assistance and Children Protection, at county level, for the implementation all measures regarding young people from the special protection system

Revisions/Updates

In 2021 a new Youth Strategy and a new National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction were expected, with a few debates on the strategies initiated in 2020. However, in March 2022, the strategic processes were not finalised, and the strategies were not adopted by the Romanian Government.

In 2020 the Ministry of Youth and Sports started preparing the youth strategy 2021-2027. In December 2020 a needs assessment was provided by the Life Quality Institute to support the elaboration of the strategy in 2021. Additionally, the [Youth Barometer 2020](#) was released with the same aim. Other than that, consultations with the Counties' Directorates on Youth and Sport and with other governmental institutions with responsibilities in the field of youth were organized. Based on the outcomes of the research and the consultation processes and after consultation with the National Council for Youth, a [preliminary proposal](#) for the new Youth Strategy, in line with the European Youth Strategy, was published in 2021. A cooperation protocol with the Government's General Secretariat was signed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in order to be provided with additional support for the coordination of the development and adoption process of the new Youth Strategy. In 2022, the consultation processes with the governmental and non-governmental organisations will continue, aiming to have the final project adopted by the end of the year.

4.4 Inclusive programmes for young people

Programmes for vulnerable young people

Several programmes for youth social inclusion are established 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 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 vulnerable persons, including young people. However, these measures are not targeting only young people, but all vulnerable

people. Several legal provisions targeting especially the reduction of (monetary) poverty regulate the social benefits:

- 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) , children with disabilities and they 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 determine the overall budget for these allocations. Additional funding from the European Social Fund within the Operational Programme Human Capital is available for local authorities, but not counties accessed the funding.

Due to the regulations on budget planning and 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

The [National Agency for Payment and Social Inspection \(NAPSI\)](#) 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 fund these programmes quality assurance is 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.

The Romanian [Interethnic Relations Department](#) is implementing and financing projects promoting intercultural awareness. Most of these projects include cultural events, sport events (until 2020) and documentaries produced. The main target group of these projects are not young people, but young people can be targeted together with other age groups. In 2017-2018 a civic education programme for intercultural dialogue - "[I'm from a minority so I count](#)" - was implemented in schools targeting young people. About 120 young people took part to the lessons.

European Funds are used in Romania to promote intercultural awareness in schools in multi-ethnic communities, especially in communities with significant Roma population. The projects are financed by the [Human Capacity Operational Programme under the Priority Axis dedicated to schools and education](#) and these projects for intercultural education are not monitored as such (intercultural awareness and education). Therefore, they are not reported and centralised separately from other projects in schools aiming at reducing school drop-outs and early school leaving.

Since 2010, [intercultural education](#) can be a subject taught in high school, based on a curriculum at the school's decision. The schools can chose this subject from [a long list of optional classes](#) they can organise. There is no information at national level on the number of high schools in which this subject - intercultural education - is taught (how many schools how many schools have chosen to teach intercultural education).

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 [first 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. Since 2016, in 2017, 2018 and 2019 a Youth Summit have been organised in the city designated to be the Romanian Youth Capital City of the respective year. The [4th edition of the Romanian Youth Summit](#) took place in Iasi, the 3rd edition took place in Baia Mare, and the 2nd edition in Bacau. The Romanian Youth Summit is main mega-event of the programme [Romanian Youth Capital](#), organised based on the European Youth Capital model. The programme and the summit offer the infrastructure and opportunities for large debates on youth rights and youth policies.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the [Youth Summit 2020 was organised online](#) and the event planned for 2021 was postponed for 2022.

The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU in January-June 2019 aimed at stimulating the solidarity and cohesion of the EU through promoting policies on combating discrimination, ensuring equal chances and equal treatment between men and women, as well as through increasing the involvement of the citizens, in particular the youth, in the European debates. Main objectives of the debates at the [EU Youth Conference in Bucharest in May 2019](#) have been:

- promoting the efficient countering of racism, intolerance, xenophobia, populism, antisemitism and discouraging hate speech.
- promoting the countering of online misinformation and fake news through better media literacy and the development of European mechanisms to share good practices in countering misinformation.
- promoting and supporting the legislative initiatives focusing on social progress and reducing development gaps, equal opportunities between men and women, as well as ensuring access to education and training for disadvantaged categories.
- countering gender discrimination in the labour market and business environment as well as the pay gaps between men and women.

Moreover, in December 2019, the two largest youth NGOs in Romania: [Romanian Youth Council](#) and [Romanian Youth Forum](#) co-organised with the Ministry of Youth and Sports a [Forum for Youth Rights](#). The event generated a [Declaration for youth rights](#), important for the development of the youth strategy after 2020.

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 Sports to promote the 'No Hate' message.

4.6 Access to quality services

Housing

A special housing programme for young people (18-35 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 Works and Administration](#). 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 without a difference in payment after the age of 35.

The local authorities provide social houses in addition to the programme on housing for young people, but the programmes are not targeting 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 are targeting 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 Solidarity](#), 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 [Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity](#) 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 are offering support measures (housing or accommodation, daily allowance), to these young people 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 Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity in December 2016 and it is constantly updated. On the other hand, a [map of necessary social services](#) is also available, informing the social policy decision makers and potential social services providers on the existing needs.

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 the youth housing programme, quality is ensured by the local authorities, based on autonomous systems. Local authorities have an inspection service and there is no centralised information at national level 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 verifications 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) and neither for with youth work for social inclusion/against social exclusion. Since social inclusion was one of the most important elements in the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), the Ministry of Youth and Sports took the responsibility to promote inclusive youth work through its county offices and within the grants provided to youth NGOs for inclusive youth work projects. However, no systematic monitoring is done at the level of funded projects therefore there is no information on the outcomes and results of these 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 [Law in grants from the public budget \(Law no. 350/2005\)](#).

Main inclusive Youth-Work programmes and target groups

The most important policy framework to foster social inclusion are the [grants programme](#) of the Ministry in charge of youth (the Ministry of Youth and Sports until December 2021, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities since January 2022). Implemented on the basis of the [Law in grants from the public budget \(Law no. 350/2005\)](#) and a methodology approved each year, 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.

On the other hand, in 2018, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the National Authority for Child Rights Protection and Adoption organised the programme "[Ready for life](#)" ("Pregtiti pentru viata"), targeting young people of 15 to 17 years old in foster care that participated in nonformal education programmes provided in the Ministry of Youth and Sports camps and based on learning programmes developed by experts contracted by the ministry.

Young migrants are part of the target group of the [grant projects targeting migrants](#) in general, implemented by NGOs with the support of the Asylum and Migration Fund, managed by the General Inspectorate for Immigration. These projects are offering direct material and financial aid, as well as diverse non-formal learning activities for children,

young people and adult migrants. However, none of these project targets young people in particular.

For the social inclusion of young Roma, the [European Economic Area Grants](#) supported for the period 2009-2014 (with projects ending in January 2017) and continues to support projects for the social inclusion and education of vulnerable children and young people, including Roma and young people with health-related needs, such as those with disabilities, mental health issues. Projects for the inclusive education of young people and children have been submitted to the fund operator – [the Romanian Fund for Social Development](#) – since December 2018 until May 2019. The programme also includes [4 pre-defined projects](#), two of them covering the field of youth inclusion:

1. "Sustainable social and education integration through sport activities" implemented by the National University for Physical Education and Sports (UNEFS) Bucharest, in partnership with the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences;
2. "INCLUDE - Inclusion of Children and Youth at Risk" implemented by the Council of Europe in partnership with Romanian stakeholders.

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 organised 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 started 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 in charge of youth (the Ministry of Youth and Sports until December 2021, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities since January

2022). There are no available data and is impossible to compute the exact amount of funding available for these projects or for the social services targeting youth among the general social services funded and considering that most projects do not target only young people, but children and (older) adults, as well.

Quality assurance

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

Forthcoming policy developments

The unification of the three social benefits in one unique payment for socially excluded people: the social inclusion aid is a policy adopted in 2016 and postponed each year because the social assistance system/institutions are not yet prepared to implement the new system. The use of the new social inclusion aid was postponed in December 2021 (the forth postponement) until September 2023.

No information on forthcoming policy developments regarding social services and youth work for youth social inclusion is available.

Ongoing debates

No information on current debates and reforms on the field of youth social inclusion is available.

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: (1) all public institutions initiating a normative act (with general applicability to a given territory, therefore a national or local regulation), have to publish a draft legislative proposal at least 30 days before its adoption and have to be opened to receiving 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 (or online) opened meeting for all organisations and citizens interested in the legislation proposed.

At national level the National Council for Youth (NCFY) was established in 2020, including 50 representatives of youth civil society organisations, as the advisory structure of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Ministry of Youth and Sports provides the secretariat of the NCFY. The Council is regulated by a [Ministry Order](#). A new regulation of the Council is needed after the reorganisation of the youth policy responsibilities under the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) in January 2022, but it was not adopted until March 2022.

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. More than half of the 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 and in the last years more and more local youth strategies have been adopted and local councils have been established as formal consultation mechanisms with the youth. County and local youth 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 was never implemented. 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 2015-2020](#) promoted public, civic and political participation, the concepts have not been 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. The two main rules provided by the law no. 52/2003 on decisional transparency are:

1. all public institutions initiating a normative act (a regulation with general applicability to a given territory, therefore a national or a local regulation), have to publish a draft legislative proposal at least 30 days before its adoption and have to be opened to receiving 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 (or online) 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.

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

At local level there are three 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 four years mandate;
- At the level of the capital city the representation is ensured by the General Council of the Municipality of Bucharest, with a four years mandate;
- The locality/municipality level, including the six sectors of Bucharest, the representation is ensured by the local councils, with a four years mandate.

A Mayor, having responsibilities in executing decisions of the Local Council is also directly elected, for a four years mandate. In Bucharest a General Mayor is elected, as well as six mayors for the six 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 hold 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](#). Art. 36 of the Constitution stipulates 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 for local and parliamentary elections in 2016 and 2020 and for Presidential elections in 2019. Data on the general population participation are provided by the [Permanent Electoral Authority](#).

Youth turnout has fluctuating in recent years. According to a study conducted by the Romanian Youth Council, [39,48% young people between 18 and 35 years old participated in the elections for the Romanian President](#) in November 2019 and [43.2% in the elections for the European Parliament in May 2019](#), compared to only 31.48% in 2016 in the elections for the Romanian Parliament. However, only 25.9% of young people participated in the parliamentary elections in December 2020.

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. If a candidate for a Local Council turns up 23 on election day, he or she 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 in December 2020. The Parliament formed on December 21st, 2020 had 29 deputies under 36, out of a total number of 466 MPs, representing 6.22% of the MPs.

Young people have no reserved functions within the Parliament.

5.3 Youth representation bodies

Youth parliament

No youth parliament, as a representative body of young people, is regulated and/or organised in Romania.

Asociația Pro Democrația (Pro Democracy Association) organised the "Youth Parliament" ([Parlamentul Tineilor](#)) in Romania [since 2006](#) in partnership with the Chamber of Deputies from Romania, the [10th edition](#) was organised in September-October 2018 and the [11th edition in November 2019](#). The "Youth Parliament" was top-level/nationwide educational

project of a week-long mock parliament for young people. It was not a representative body of young people, as participants were not selected by their peers, but by the organisers. The youth parliament was, therefore, aiming at reinforcing youth knowledge and experience of democratic processes, [agenda](#) and [procedure rules](#) being very similar to the ones of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies. On the other hand, it is not ensuring representation of young people in decision making.

Youth councils and/or youth advisory boards

Structure

At national level the National Council for Youth (NCFY) was established in 2020, including 50 representatives of youth civil society organisations, as the advisory structure of the Ministry of Youth and Sports with youth associations. The Ministry of Youth and Sports provides the secretariat of the NCFY. The Council is regulated by a [Ministry Order](#). A new regulation of the Council is needed after the reorganisation of the youth policy responsibilities under the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) in January 2022, but it was not adopted until March 2022.

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. More than half of the 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 and in the last years more and more local youth strategies have been adopted and local councils have been established as formal consultation mechanisms with the youth. County and local youth councils are regulated following the model of the national one. However, these are consultative bodies, not representative bodies.

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 was never implemented. 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 National Council for Youth (NCFY) are the representatives of:

- NGOs with legal personality and established at national level;
- students' federations;
- trade unions for youth;
- employers' organisations for youth;
- county youth foundations and the National Youth Foundation;
- country youth federations;
- The National School Students Council;
- youth centres with the Council of Europe Quality Label;
- UN youth delegates;
- informal youth groups nominating representatives during the selection process.

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 the activity of youth consultative councils are youth-specific topics.

The meetings are the main tools used by the National Council for Youth (NCFY) 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 ensured (until 2021) basic funding for meeting organisation (supplies and coffee breaks). Other costs have not been 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 unions from faculty or university level.

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 until December 2021 and to the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) since January 2022 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 advisory body for the decision makers at the respective level: school, county and national level. 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 nine members.

Role and responsibilities

The National School Students Council is the official consultative body of the Ministry of Education 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 debates, communication campaigns;
- 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 body has 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

According to the [Youth Law](#), local authorities must consult with youth organisations in all matters 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.

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.

At national level, the National Council for Youth (NCFY) was established in 2020, including the most active youth NGOs. The Council had meetings organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2020 and 2021. The council has special committees on specific policy fields, as employment, education or culture.

Levels of consultation

For the Ministry responsible of youth and for some local authorities the creation of the consultative youth councils (under different names) 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 or online (since 2020) meeting. Both the meetings of the National Council for Youth (NCFY) and the debates organised according to law no. 52/2003 on decisional transparency are meetings organised at the premises of the central institutions initiating them or, since 2020, online meetings using different communication channels.

According to law 52/2003 on decisional transparency, before organising a public debate, a national or local 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 National Council for Youth (NCFY) is not regulated and no meeting was organised after August 2021. The Consultative Council on Youth Issues functioned since 2016 until 2019, but the frequency of meetings varied from one every month or two months (at national level), to once every three or six months. The same variation can be noticed at local level, depending on the local regulations.

Actors

Youth actors

Generally, participation in the Consultative Council on Youth Issues has opened to all organisations showing an interest in youth issues at national, between 2016 and 2019. Since 2020, when the National Council for Youth (NCFY) has been established, 50 representatives of youth organisations or groups have been selected, based on a transparent process for the council.

According to the [Ministry Order](#), members of the National Council For Youth (NCFY) are the representatives of:

- NGOs with legal personality and established at national level
- students' federations
- trade unions for youth
- employers' organisations for youth
- county youth foundations and the National Youth Foundation
- country youth federations
- The National School Students Council
- youth centres with the Council of Europe Quality Label
- UN youth delegates
- informal youth groups nominating representatives during the selection process

Public authorities

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

After the establishment of the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) in January 2022 and the establishment of the County Offices for Family and Youth in February 2022, the place of the former Ministry of Youth and Sport and the County Offices for Sports and Youth in the consultation with the young people shall be taken by the new structures.

No information is 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

There is no authority monitoring 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. In 2017-2019 the Ministry of Youth and Sports didn't published reports on the meetings of the CCYI. In 2019 only two meetings took place.

In 2020, the Council was reformed and transformed in the National Council for Youth (NCFY) with a determined number of 50 participants and sectoral committees. They participated to meetings in 2020 and 2021. No meeting was organised after August 2021.

Outcomes

Main outcomes

Most often, young people and youth organisations have been consulted for feedback on the youth policy initiatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sport and Local and County Councils.

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, but the publication of these reports was not continued in 2017-2019.

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](#).

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 1 537 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 had the presidency of the European Council, in 2019.

This initiative was developed within a Structured Dialogue project funded by Erasmus Plus and, although was the largest initiative for dialogue or debate between public institutions and young people, it was 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.

For the 6th cycle of the youth Structured Dialogue in Romania the [report has been published in May 2018](#). The consultation process included a questionnaire and several workshops and it was implemented by the National Working Group supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. 2 976 young people have been consulted through the questionnaire and workshops. The majority of the participants in the consultation workshops and the respondents to the online questionnaire were students, so that the opinions of these categories of young people are found in the conclusions of this report.

At the same time, it was noted that the young people with disabilities responded in a very small number to the online questionnaire and did not participate at all in the physical consultation workshops, these being the aspects that the National Working Group wants to improve in the future.

The same National Working Group has been responsible for the European Youth Dialogue in 2019 and [the report published in December 2019](#). 1 942 young people have been consulted through workshops and 2547 through the questionnaire.

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 [Youth Strategy for 2015-2020](#) aimed to address national and local level participation, and public, civic and political participation.

The specific objectives of the Youth Strategy on youth participation have been:

1. Increase youth participation in community life, in all its social, educational, cultural, economic and health aspects;
2. Increase youth participation in political life;
3. Increase participation of youth-led and youth-serving non-governmental organisations in the structured dialogue.

The target groups of the lines of actions under the key area of intervention on participation and volunteering of young people have been:

- 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.

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

The Ministry of Youth and Sports was the main government authority responsible for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the national [Youth Strategy for 2015-2020](#). It was 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.

After the establishment of the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) in January 2022, the place of the former Ministry of Youth and Sport in the strategic promotion of youth participation shall be taken by the new structure.

Revisions/Updates

In 2020 the Ministry of Youth and Sports started preparing the youth strategy 2021-2027. In December 2020 a needs assessment was provided by the Life Quality Institute to

support the elaboration of the strategy in 2021. Additionally, the [Youth Barometer 2020](#) was released with the same aim. Other than that, consultations with the Counties' Directorates on Youth and Sport and with other governmental institutions with responsibilities in the field of youth were organized. Based on the outcomes of the research and the consultation processes and after consultation with the National Council for Youth, a [preliminary proposal](#) for the new Youth Strategy, in line with the European Youth Strategy, was published in 2021. A cooperation protocol with the Government's General Secretariat was signed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in order to be provided with additional support for the coordination of the development and adoption process of the new Youth Strategy. In 2022, the consultation processes with the governmental and non-governmental organisations will continue, aiming to have the final project adopted by the end of the year.

5.6 Supporting youth organisations

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

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

1. organisations of young people (youth-led organisations), having the majority of their members and most of the members of their boards between 14 and 35 years old;
2. youth serving organisations, 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 Sports and its county offices awarded grants for youth projects implemented by youth and students' organisations. The allocation varied over the years. The amount allocated for 2016 has been about 150 000 Euro, according to the [budget published by the Ministry](#). The budget increased to about 370 000 Euro in 2021.

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, its subordinated institutions or local authorities.

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

In this context, the European funds are the most important source of funding for the main youth organisations in Romania, including the members of the National Council for Youth.

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 for 2015-2020](#). 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 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 organised every year, until 2019, the 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 [section 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 was organised by the [National Agency for Erasmus Plus](#) until 2014 and another one was organised by Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2016. 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 for 2015-2020](#), the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education were 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 at county level. In total 34 such centres function in March 2022 and the total budget for these centres have been about 500 000 lei (about 100 000 Euro) in 2021 and is planned at 600 000 lei (about 120 000 Euro) in 2021.

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. The campaign started in 2014, but it was continued at each elections since.

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 Education and schools can decide if they introduce the subject within their schedule. The subject is generally taught 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 continued in 2017, 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 and online public debates have been organised in 2020 and 2021. 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, none of these initiatives represents a policy or programme to encourage e-participation on a larger scale.

5.10 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

After debates in 2016 on several amendments of the [Youth Law](#), the Ministry of Youth and Sports drafted and proposed a new Youth Law, establishing consultative youth councils at the level of the counties and municipalities and a national advisory youth council, aiming at an effective implementation of the youth policy. The bill has been approved by the Government and the first chamber of the Parliament (the Senate) and it is currently under the debate of the Chamber of Deputies since 2018.

The rules on citizens participation to decision making are one of the subjects of the forthcoming reform of the administrative procedure, through [an administrative procedure code supported by an European funded project](#) to be completed in 2022.

Ongoing debates

Debates on electronic and internet voting are increasingly salient in Romania in 2022, however, there are no official initiatives in this respect.

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 missing the 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

Selection in secondary education through high-stake examinations reflects an ingrained culture of academic competition in Romania. High-stakes examinations put pressure on teachers to “teach to the test”, which limits students’ learning opportunities and narrows the curriculum (OECD, 2013b). It also encourages teachers to focus on the top-performing students, with little incentive to address the needs of those who might be struggling to progress. The success of teachers and schools in Romania is also determined, to a large extent, by the achievements of high performers. Another consequence of the pressure for academic success is the prevalence of private tutoring in Romania. It is difficult to obtain accurate data on the extent of private tutoring but recent surveys have found that between 17% to 50% of Romanian school students receive some form of tutoring, with annual costs representing around EUR 300 million nationally (European Commission, 2011). This accentuates inequalities by benefitting those students whose families have the means to access it according to [OECD assessment](#).

Romania has among the highest dropout rates in the EU in both primary and lower secondary education. The dropout rate at both levels has increased in the past decade. In 2015, the share of early school leavers in Romania, defined as the percentage of the population aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and who were not in further education or training during the last four weeks preceding the survey (Eurostat, 2016). This makes it unlikely that Romania will reach its EU 2020 goal of reducing the share of early school leavers to 11.3% by 2020. Transition from lower to upper secondary education represents the main weak point in the education system. While education is compulsory until the age of 16, the enrolment rate drops by 5 percentage points between the ages of 14 and 15. About one-fifth of the student population has dropped out by the age of 16. Selection based on ability at the end of lower secondary and the perceived poor quality and relevance of upper secondary VET education, together with limited access to tertiary education, are among the main factors behind the sudden fall in the student population at the age of 15 (Fartuşnic et al., 2014).

OECD also finds that Romania’s use of national examinations to select students passing from lower to upper secondary and upper secondary to tertiary creates successive barriers to student progression, fuelling early leaving and limiting access to tertiary education for most Romanian students. Only one-fourth of adults aged 25-34 have completed tertiary education, the second lowest rate among European countries. Tertiary attainment is unlikely to increase substantially in the coming years since the gross enrolment rate in tertiary education has plunged, from 71% in 2009 to 50% in 2014 (Eurostat, 2016; UNESCO-UIS, 2016). Access to tertiary education is particularly limited for students from socio-economically disadvantaged areas, since they tend to perform less well on the baccalaureate which is required to enter university.

According to the [OECD Programme for International Student Assessment \(PISA\)](#), nearly half (40%) of Romanian students lack the foundational cognitive skills required for lifelong learning and productive employment. Only 11.3% of all Romanian students were resilient in PISA 2018, meaning that they overcame their low socio-economic background to perform in the top quarter of students.

On the other hand, according to [OECD assessment](#), Romania has made important progress in giving children a more equal start in education. According to school principals, the integration of the Preparatory Grade into compulsory education in 2012 has helped to reduce disparities among students in terms of their preparation for school and learning

before entering Grade 1 (IES, 2013). Participation in pre-primary education has also increased. The majority of children are now in early childhood education and care from the age of 3, and 80% of 3-year-olds were enrolled in pre-primary education in 2014, on par with both EU (85.3% in 2013) and OECD averages (71% in 2014) (Eurostat, 2016; OECD, 2016).

In the context of COVID 19 pandemic, the studies that were mainly published by private entities were showing that pupils and students from groups with fewer opportunities were facing a multiple set of challenges in accessing the educational system. [Save the Children Study \(2020\)](#) shows that around 42% of the participants to the specified research had very limited access to online education and most of the access was to some educational support that was provided online, while others did not benefit of online educational support at all.

Organisation of the education and training system

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 organisation 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 organised as following, corresponding to the [ISCED levels](#) as described on [EURYDICE's website](#):

- Primary education (ISCED 1) including the preparatory grade and grades from 1 to 4.
- Secondary education - Secondary lower education or gymnasium (ISCED 2) - Secondary lower education or gymnasium includes grades 5–8. The access to the higher level is achieved by a national evaluation examination and distribution in upper secondary education units.
- The secondary superior education (ISCED 3) can be high school education, which includes the high school grades 9-12/13, with the following pathways: theoretical, aptitude-based (vocational) and technological or a minimum 3-year professional education. The graduates of the professional education promoting the certification examination of the professional qualification may attend the high school education courses.
- The tertiary non-university education (ISCED 4) - The tertiary non-university education includes the post secondary education. The professional and technical education is composed of professional education, technical education and post-secondary education.

- The higher education (ISCED 5-8) - The higher education is organized in universities, academies, institutes, higher studies schools, referred to as higher education institutions or universities, temporarily authorized or certified. The high school graduates with high school diploma can enroll in the higher education. The admission conditions are different from one institution to another. The structure of the higher education reflects the principles of the Bologna process: Bachelor studies, master studies, PhD studies.

The above described educational paths are organized and coordinated by the [Ministry on 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.

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.

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](#).

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 organized 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.

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 ([Hotărârea 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 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 ECTS 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 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, counseling for employment and support in finding a job.

Main concepts

[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.

[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.

6.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Main actors

At the [national level](#), the general administration of the education system is ensured by the Ministry of Education part of the central public administration. The public pre-tertiary education is part of the local decentralized public services and is subordinated to the Ministry of Education through the County School Inspectorates. As for the tertiary education is as well coordinated by the Ministry of Education following the university autonomy's principles – the Universities and the other higher education institutions are autonomous and can implement their own development policies, in line with the general national provisions.

The [Ministry of Education](#) organises and leads the national education system, the scientific research, technological development and innovation. The ministry has subordinated units and coordinates the activities of other organizations.

The Romanian Ministry of Education having the following, [responsibilities](#), ensuring 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.

[County School Inspectorates](#) acting as regional level as specialized bodies with the following attributions:

- To supervise the development and functionality of the Pre-tertiary educational network in accordance with the national educational policy;
- To ensure implementation and observance of the legislation in organizing, management and deployment of the educational process;
- To ensure quality of the education and observance of the national standards through the school inspection;
- To report on the existent situation of the Romanian education system at the local and regional level
- To ensure together with the local public administration authorities schooling of the pupils during compulsory education;

- To coordinate teachers' recruitment, according to the provisions of the Teaching Staff Statute (Law 128/1997);
- To organise and guide the in-service teacher training as well as scientific research and other complementary activities in Pre-tertiary education;
- To coordinate together with the local public administration authorities the use and development and preservation of the didactic material basis of the schools;
- To coordinate schools' admission and graduation exams as well as the educational competitions;
- To control the activities and the Pre-tertiary educational services provided by the economic agents, foundations, associations, religious cults and other bodies within the county; to ascertain observance of the legislation and to take the legal measures as required;
- To coordinate the activity of the libraries in the Pre-tertiary education units subordinated;
- To coordinate and control the Teaching Staff Centre – resource center for in-service teacher training.

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 ([Agenția 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) including since November 2019 the functions of the National Institute for Educational Sciences ([Institutul de Științe ale Educației](#)) (ISE)
- The National Center for The Vocational and Technical Education System ([Centrul Național de Dezvoltare a Învățământului Profesional și Tehnic](#)) (CNDIPT)
- 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 ([Federația 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 Protection](#) 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](#)

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

The non-state actors with essential contribution to the development of the educational policies in Romania are:

Trade Unions:

1. [Federația Sindicatelor Libere din Învățământ](#)
2. [FSE Spiru Haret](#)

NGOs:

1. [Coaliția pentru Educație](#) – The Coalition for Education

2. [Teach for Romania](http://en.teachforromania.org) - <http://en.teachforromania.org>
3. [ARDOR](#)
4. [Romanian Association for Literacy](#)
5. [The Institute for Evaluation Development in Education](#)
6. [Roma Education Fund in Romania](#)
7. [Impreuna Agency](#)
8. [Save the Children](#)

UNCIEF Romania is also contributing to the development of the educational policies in Romania, modeling and piloting projects to reform the education system and constantly providing recommendations to the Ministry of Education.

6.3 Preventing early leaving from education and training (ELET)

National strategy

Official document, timeframe, scope and contents

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 is the social exclusion phenomenon they are facing. 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.

[Preventing early leaving from education and training](#) (ELET) had been defined as crucial to achieving key European and national targets. Improving citizens' skills and reducing early school leaving continues to be key priorities for Romania. Romania supports the principle of equal opportunities in education, regardless of individual characteristics. In this regard, the country's challenge is to improve educational performance among all children in order to meet the requirements of a knowledge-based economy.

The groups targeted mainly by this Strategy include: (i) children and young people who will be in the 18-24 age group in 2020; (ii) children and young people from families with low socio-economic status (poor); (iii) children and young people from rural areas; and (iv) Roma children and young people and other marginalized or under-represented groups. Any strategy that fails to prioritize support for these groups at risk, compromising the goal of reducing ELET. However, the Strategy also aims to support interventions targeting as well other groups than the main ones. The prioritization of support for the different target groups is left to those professionals and stakeholders who will ensure the implementation of the Strategy and, more importantly, the sustainability of its results in the future. Together, they are the partners that will ensure the success of the Strategy. At central and regional level, members of this group include The Ministry of Education professionals, school inspectors and initial training providers, such as university professors. At the local level, this group includes teachers, school directors, counselors and mediators, parents, social workers, instructors and tutors, representatives of NGOs and community members.

The main guiding principles of the [Strategy](#) are the following:

- an integrated answer and a coherent governmental strategy to reduce ELET, strategy that perfectly integrates the social policies, the youth policies and family policies.
- An educational answer coordinated and comprehensive and in line with the LLL strategies
- Evidence based policies
- Sustainable financing – granting long term initiatives
- Learning from the national and international good practices
- 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 \(CNDIPT\)](#)
- [former Institute of Educational Sciences](#) (since November 2019 part of the National Evaluation Centre)

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

At the local county and level [other institutions are involved, according to the Strategy](#):

- The counties' schools inspectorates representing the Ministry of Education at the local level and ensuring the implementation of national policies such as initiatives on prevention, intervention and compensation activities related to the reduction of ELET ; ensuring systematic monitoring on the agreed action plans and proposed outcomes, and providing support to schools in their initiative to prevent ELET.
- The Teachers' Houses - providing in-service training for teachers in the pre-university education system. Each county has such an institution that works closely with County School Inspectorate, with schools and teachers in that county when it comes to reducing ELET.
- County Resource and Educational Assistance Centers (CJRAE) - coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the educational services provided by pre-university education institutions, based on methodological and scientific criteria; participating in teacher training and evaluating the education specialists and school mediators offering educational services within these centers.
- Schools are the main entity responsible for implementing education programs, working directly with pupils and parents.
- Non-governmental organizations – such as [Roma Education Fund Romania](#), [Save the Children](#), [Romani-Criss](#), [World Vision România](#)
- 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.

Regarding M&E, no results are publicly available in December.

Major revisions/updates

No updates have been made to the current strategy by December 2021.

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. The 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 the community mediators who should be able to support the communication with parents and children in these risk groups.
- 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, according to the [Strategy](#):

- 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 particular, 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.

In order to encourage the school participation and to reduce the early school leaving rate, the Ministry of Education, in line with the legislative documents and with the national strategies, developed series of projects and initiatives:

- In 2020-2021 it continued the traditional programmes: Money for Highschool, the Professional Scholarship programme (targeting pupils that are part of VET schools), the Programme Euro 200 (for the acquisition of IT equipment) or the Hot Meal programme.

- Implemented [CRED project](#) and over 55.000 teachers benefited from training on inclusion and inclusive schools settings.
- Developed the [legislative framework required for the "School after School programme"](#). The "School after School" (SDS) program is a complementary program to the compulsory school program, which offers formal and non-formal learning opportunities, for the consolidation of skills, remedial learning and accelerated learning through educational, recreational and leisure activities and addresses both students from primary education, as well as from secondary education students. According to the [newly adopted legislation](#), pupils can benefit from the programme until the end of the secondary education level (the 8th grade).

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 specifically for ELET through non-formal and informal learning or youth work, although projects funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports through its youth programmes can support these type of activities. However, there is not a clear statistics of these projects by their objectives, in order to be presented in this way.

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 Labour and Social Protection](#), the [Ministry of European Funds](#), the Management Authority for the Operational Programme On Human Capital, 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

In July 2017, the [Ministry of Labour and Social Protection](#) launched the [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan 2017-2020](#), a strategic document tackling youth employment and continuing the measures and programs implemented through the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan 2014-2015. Particular attention is paid to subgroups that face difficult access, such as adolescent mothers, juvenile delinquents, young caregivers, young people with disabilities, young people with cognitive impairment (autism) and young people who have dropped out of school. For them, the mere existence of registration services at the SPO is not enough, but additional effort is needed to involve them in training and retraining programs as their interest or ability to actively engage in a job search, and in maintaining it is very low. Once registered, youth would benefit of initial training and information services, being introduced to the opportunities that they can access in the field of education, training, employment or entrepreneurship. For example, the ones who did not obtain a diploma, they can access programmes such as The Second Chance, programme put in place by the Ministry of Education or can enroll themselves in a vocational education programme. They will also be made aware of the current labor market situation and existing opportunities, tailored to qualifications, levels of education, as well as the risks and chances of employment of young people with a low level of education and / or qualification (e.g the risk of school dropout). As part of "case management", there is also a process to monitor the progress of the young person both during and after involvement in a program of active measures.

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).

But the [law](#) promotes a very [general approach to validation](#) and there are no sector specific measures and procedures for the validation of skills and competencies acquired through informal and nonformal learning paths and contexts. The only exception related to the existence of methodology and procedures of validation is identified when it comes to the validation of the learning outcomes acquired by teachers in nonformal and informal contexts, the outcomes being then transformed into credits for the professional development of the teaching staff.

The Ministry of Education promotes the benefits of non-formal education through a wide range of activities: educational activities, in-school and out of classroom activities coordinated by educational counsellors, the activities that are taking place in the Children's Palaces and Children Clubs as well as in the School Sports' Clubs; in projects that are implemented according to the national calendars of national and regional educational activities, calendars that are approved annually through the Minister's Order; projects and programmes that are organised cross-sectorial or in partnership with other public or private organisations (such as the activities organised within [Săptămâna Altfel](#)). The Ministry of Education recognises the importance of the activities that are part of the National Educational Activities Calendar as well as of the Regional and Inter-Counties Educational Activities Calendar where over 200 activities are included and over 10 000 children and young people take part in. Due to the Pandemic, in 2020 and 2021, these activities were not published but in 2022, a new set of calendar of activities will be public. In line with the sanitary regulations, the Ministry encouraged the development and implementation of non-formal education activities that would ensure the safety of the participants - pupils and students as well as of their families.

On partnership basis with the private organizations, the Ministry of Education encourages the development and implementation of projects that include non-formal education methodologies in various development fields: health, sustainable development, sports, career development, financial and entrepreneurial education, personal development, healthy lifestyle and wellbeing, etc.

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](#) stating that the employers should ensure the access of the employees to the professional development opportunities as well as that the professional competencies can be acquired in formal educational contexts – such as professional training activities; nonformal ones – mainly through on the job activities or self-directed learning activities and informal learning contexts – the unstructured learning opportunities. Moreover, when designing and implementing the training activities, the training providers should structure very well the programmes, in terms of learning objectives, the duration of the activities, certification, etc. At the national level, [The National Authority for Qualifications](#) coordinates the authorization of the training providers and monitors the quality of the training processes.
- [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. Defining the types of training activities for teachers, the Methodology sets as well the number of credits corresponding to each of the training activities (60 credits, 90 credits, etc.) as well as the procedures that the teachers have to follow to obtain these credits (documents to file, the timeline, etc.).

- [Methodology for using the Europass and Youthpass tools](#), approved by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Family and Social Protection. But the Methodology is simply a document that describes the instruments and offers the users the information regarding the sections of the instruments and instructions on how to fill the different sections of the above mentioned instruments.

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”](#) – depending on the agreement type signed with the partner states, the scholarships are offered for summer

campus, for complete or partial study programmes (BA, MA, PhD), for professional training activities or research.

- 'Titu Maiorescu' Scholarship - [Bursa „Titu Maiorescu”](#) – the programme was approved in 2008 targeting PhD students interested into developing their research related to European Studies. But due to the lack of funding, the programme was not implemented yet.
- 'V Parvan and N Iorga' Scholarship - [Bursa „V.Pârvan și N.Iorga”](#) - targets graduates with a BA in of History and Social Sciences, Archeology, Archives, Librarianship, Classical and Modern Philology, History of Art and Architecture, Literature and literary studies, Arts, Economics and Science. Scholarships may last for at least 2 consecutive months and for a maximum of 2 consecutive years.
- 'I.U.E' Scholarship - [Bursa „I.U.E.”](#) - The doctoral scholarships offered by the European University Institute in Florence, based on the Accession Convention signed by Romania in 2009, have an access mechanism with conditions imposed by the [Institute](#)

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 +](#).

[“The suitcase, the map and the voyage of a youth worker”](#) was co-funded by the European Commission - Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, training and youth. The project aimed at creating some online tools which could facilitate the process of professional life planning, the non-formal learning, informing young people and professionalise the occupation of youth worker. In 2 years the partners involved succeeded to achieve even more than the established objectives: to prepare a range of 3 necessary tools for youth workers; to build and test an online training course for 50 people interested in becoming youth workers; to allow 200 young people to test a full range of innovative tools, developed in the project, in order to develop their personal and professional life plan with the support of youth workers; to create and have 200 young people test an online training course for one key competence (Learning to learn) from the Reference Framework; to certify 18 people interested in becoming youth workers on an official occupational standard; to build an international partnership network of 9 structures, in the field of youth work.

The [Digital Youth Work Community of Learning](#) is created inside the “#AlwaysOn for Youth” Strategic Partnership for Youth project which is implemented between April 2021 – April 2023 by Federația Young Men’s Christian Associations România (YMCA România), as coordinator and Young Initiative Association (AYI), Sdrufenie “Nadejda-CRD” – Bulgaria (NCRD), The Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service – France (CCIVS) and the Alliance Européenne des YMCA – Belgium (YMCA Europe), as partners. The project is co-funded by the European Union through the Erasmus + Program. The aim of the project is to increase the capacity of youth organizations from Romania, France, Bulgaria, Belgium and the federated networks of the partnership consortium to serve young people (including vulnerable youth) extensively and intensively through digital youth work and digital inclusion and digital safety practices.

Quality assurance

By December 2021, no system of quality assurance of the arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal competences developed in the context of learning mobilities were developed and put.

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 labour 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. The specific objectives set by the Strategy 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 the [Education and Training Strategy in Romania](#) 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.

Otherwise, the [poorly qualified, unemployed, young NEETs](#) are to be provided with information and counseling both for training and employment opportunities by the counties' employment agencies. In terms of funding, the European Social Fund opportunities through The Operational Programme Human Capital 2014 - 2020 were to finance the integrated measures for unemployed young NEET (training and employment).

In order to support young people dealing with the NEET situation, the Ministry of Education continued developing "The second chance programme" revising the implementation methodology so that it would cover a wider population. The opportunity of acquiring a professional qualification through the programme of following 25% of the courses online would be some of the newly introduced measures by the newly adopted methodology.

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](#).

In terms of [citizenship education](#), Romania is one of the countries where citizenship education is a separate subject only in primary education but then, for the other stages, it is neither a separate subject or a trans-sectorial study theme within other subjects.

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. A continuation project 'Integration through movement' was implemented in 2020 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (according to the annual report of the Ministry).

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 the transformation of Romania in a competitive market 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 2000-2012, 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.

But when it comes to policies and projects aiming to contribute to innovation in formal education, the initiatives are rather coming from the non-governmental sector. Some of the main actors promoting innovative teaching skills that would then have an immediate impact on competencies' development of the pupils/students, are: [Romanian American Foundation](#) – running the "Innovation in Education" competition, a program developed in partnership with [TechSoup Romania](#), which aims to create a framework for innovation in education by harnessing the power of technology and the learning and development society resources available outside the education system or Center for Educational Evaluation and Analysis that runs the programmes teaching [Physics and Chemistry differently](#), programme that equips teachers with teaching skills that approach the curricula in a more practical way.

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.

[The suitcase, the map and the voyage of a youth worker](#) aims to contribute to the advancement of the standards attached to the youth worker occupational profile. The online platform that has been developed within the project comes with a story that over

200 youth workers had been followed. Through the project, over 40 youth workers were certified and 30 youth organizations integrated the outcomes to their current working practices.

[Organizational Development of Youth Organizations](#) offered the youth organizations an exceptional self-evaluation tool. At the end of the exercise, the subjects are offered specific instruments that serve to their development – e.i. the development of the financial and operational practices, the development of their human resources. The instruments could be easily adapted to NGOs from other sectors as well as to the educational institutions interested to develop their working practices.

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 include:

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](#), the [Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation](#) and the [National Agency for Digitalisation](#) 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 [National Agency for Digitalisation](#) 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 December 2020.

Media literacy and online safety through formal education

[Youngsters' Safety on Internet](#) has been translated and adapted in Romanian through the Microsoft Partners for Education program, with the support of [Save the Children](#), the [Ministry of Education](#), the [General Police Inspectorate](#) and the [Focus Center](#) (Romanian Center for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children). It is the first version of an online training service in Romanian. The service contains comics and a guide to using the Internet. The cartoon characters have specific preoccupations about childhood and adolescence. The conflict revolves around real-world actions combined with Internet browsing experiences. The site addresses both primary and secondary school students, as well as teachers, parents and legal guardians.

[Save the Children](#), having the support of the Ministry of Education, has developed the programme [The Internet Hour](#), the European initiative that promotes the use of the Internet by children and adolescents in a creative, useful and safe way. Within the programme, the first [Online Safety Guide](#) in the Romanian School Environment, has been recognized and recommended as an educational resource in the school network in Romania by the Ministry of Education.

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

The Ministry of Youth and Sports had been one of the main supporters of the Campaign [No Hate Speech](#) had been promoted in Romania as well both through grass-roots initiatives and also through the national initiative structured within the project the [Switch OFF / ONline Speech](#).

Raising awareness about the risks posed by new media

The campaign [No Hate Speech](#) had been promoted in Romania as well both through grass-roots initiatives and also through the national initiative structured within the project the [Switch OFF / ONline Speech](#) project that was part of this international movement, proposing to raise the level of awareness of the causes and the negative effects that the hate induction gives rise to, but also to reduce its incidence, especially in the online environment. The project has been granted through [the EEA Grants – NGO Fund in Romania](#). Through the project, youth workers had been trained on conflict management.

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

European funds through the [Operational Programme Administrative Capacity](#) supported NGOs to promote at national level policy initiative to complement the ones of the government. Several such initiatives have been focused on youth work and non-formal learning, conducting training and awareness raising campaigns at national level. Among the most important:

- The "[Nonformal is possible](#)" project aimed to promote non-formal learning and a policy of recognizing the results of non-formal learning, through a certificate similar to YouthPass.
- The project "[Sustainable public standards and policies in working with young people in Romania](#)" has developed quality standards in working with young people in Romania, promoting non-formal learning through events and trainings as an essential part of youth activities

- "[Input Center](#)" has developed quality standards for youth centers in Romania, promoting through non-formal learning and events as an essential part of youth activities in centers.

6.10 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

The need for a framework when it comes to the dual education system had been a widely debated subject in the last years. Starting with the school year 2017/2018 it is available the learning contract for dual education system that was approved by the [Minister's Order](#). The contract is concluded between the educational establishment, the economic partner of the practice and the student or his / her parent / guardian / legal representative established. Romania is now trying to revive its vocational education, to provide a genuine alternative to academic programmes and fill the gap created by the dissolution of the Arts and Crafts Schools. Since 2011, students have been able to follow a VET programme in the technological high schools, beginning in Grade 9, initially for two years and since 2013 for three years. These programmes provide specialised vocational education developed in close collaboration with the business sector to offer an alternative to highschool through dual education.

Other current developments include:

- a large scale project of training teachers to use new teaching methods;
- continuing reforming the curriculum for all grades and reforming textbooks;
- simplification of the administrative tasks of schools and teachers.

Ongoing debates

[Educated Romania](#) is the national project initiated by the President of Romania aiming to support the re-establishment of society on values, the development of a culture of success based on performance, work, talent, honesty and integrity. For this purpose, starting with 2016, the Presidential Administration had been conducting a wide public debate on education and research in Romania including consultations with experts and online surveys. In 2018, the country's vision and country objectives on education and research in Romania for the next 12 years (2018-2030); a strategy for the education and research sector in the 2018-2030 horizon; a series of public policy proposals on the themes identified as priorities in the project, which also include elements on the governance of the education and research system had been mapped out and presented to the public. More information about the initiative is available on [EURYDICE](#)'s website.

In terms of reducing ELET, the governmental initiatives are rather reduced. But the non-state actors, continued their work in either conducting [lobby and advocacy campaigns to support the afterschool programmes](#) in deprived communities ([Human Catalyst](#)) or implemented [afterschool programmes](#) with the support of the private sponsors.

Considering as well the COVID 19 pandemic, and the rapid changes required in education, in December 2020, the Ministry of Education was launching for public debate the [National Strategy for the Digitalisation in Education \(2021-2027\)](#) and a dedicated Platform was envired for it. But in March 2022, the Platform is not functional and public information about the further steps required for the actual implementation of the Strategy are not available. In 2020, the [National Authority for Digitalisation](#) was established having as main scope the digital transformation of the Romanian society, including a rapid digital transformation of the public sector as well.

Moreover, in 2021, the Ministry of Education launched the National Child Support Program, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic - "Caring for children", based on the [Emergency Ordinance of the Government no. 105/2021](#). The programme has the following objectives (among others):

- informing and providing resources for the recognition and prevention of risks to child safety, as well as on the possibilities of managing the psycho-emotional health of children, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- adapting the psycho-emotional education of children according to age categories and school cycles;
- the development of the digital infrastructure for alerting, identifying and intervening in cases of child abuse and crime, for situations that do not require the immediate intervention of the specialized structures within the 112 Emergency Service;
- facilitating access to psychological and psychotherapeutic intervention services for children;
- the development of the competencies of the specialists who come into contact with the children and the use by them of unitary and applied tools and working procedures;
- developing the capacity of institutions working with children to carry out prevention, intervention, support, monitoring and evaluation activities from the psycho-emotional and child safety perspective.

The programme is not youth specific, but targets children and adolescents up to 18 years old (and can benefit young people beyond this age). The funding for the programme is not planned in detail. According to the programme document ([Emergency Ordinance of the Government no. 105/2021](#)): "Funding related to the Program is provided from the state budget, through the budget of the central public administration authorities, including reimbursable and non-reimbursable external funds, in accordance with the law, through the budgets of the line ministries."

7. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Initiatives for health and well-being of young people have been coordinated at national level by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (until December 2021), the [Ministry of Sports](#) (established in January 2022 as the result of the reorganisation of 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. For instance, within the framework of the [Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020](#) the actions have been coordinated only concerning mental health.

Sport and physical activities for young people are promoted by the Sports for All Programme of the Ministry of 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, covering the period 2016-2020. The Multiannual Plan included 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. As a result, the [Law no. 152/2020 on health promotion and disease prevention](#) was adopted.

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](#) (Situația Tineretului și așteptările sale – Diagnoza - Barometru de opinie publică tineret 2016) commissioned 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 (all figures included in the Romanian [Youth Barometer](#)). The Youth Barometer conducted in 2018 has not been published by the Ministry of Youth and Sports

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.

The persons living with HIV/AIDS were, in 2011, 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 reported 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 2018 [Sports Yearbook](#) data, there are major differences between counties as regards the availability of sports facilities and sport organisations, from 91 clubs participating to sports events in Mehedinti County, to 408 in Timiș county and 386 in Cluj county, and 1234 in Bucharest. A total of 8 958 sport structures/organisations are active in sport competitions and 94 413 young people participate to sport activities. Out of these numbers, in 2017, according to the 2017 [Sports Yearbook](#) data, 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 slight increase in participation in sport in Romania in general and of young people in particular, an increase of about 10% in 2017 and 2018 compared to data from 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 showed 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 change, but the trend shows the frequency of drugs use increased among the youth according to the [Youth Barometer](#).

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.

For all figures presented above and referring to 2010-2017, there are no recent statistical data or research published.

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.

No youth specific concepts are used by Romanian policy making in relation to youth health and well being.

7.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Main actors involved in governance and administration of health and well-being of young people

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

- the [Ministry of Health](#) ;
- the [Public Health Offices](#) ;
- the [Specialised committees for health](#) ;
- the [Ministry of Education](#) ;
- the [Ministry of Sports](#) ;
- the [National Sport Complexes](#) and [Public Sport Clubs](#);
- the [County Offices for Sport](#) ;
- the [National Federation of Sports for All](#);
- the [National Federation of School and University Sports](#);

The Federations are private entities benefiting from public funding and accountable to the Ministry of Sports, due to the funds received from the ministry and they are the main non-public actors involved in sports policy including the policy on sport for young people.

General distribution of responsibilities

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 certified NGOs are directly providing health assistance and counselling to young people.

In a nutshell the general distribution of responsibilities is the following:

- 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 are 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 Education](#) is responsible for organising formal learning and education on health and classes of sports and physical education in schools;
- the [Ministry of Sports](#) is the main central authority responsible for the development of the national policies in the field of sports, with a specialised department for the 'sports for all'. It also has a coordination role over the county offices implementing 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 Sports, are the administrators of public sport infrastructure.
- the [County Offices for Sport](#) are implementing the Ministry of Sports policies at county level;
- the National Federation of Sports for All is the sport federation responsible for organising sporting activities for non-professional athletes, including young people and targeting, in practice, mainly young people;
- the [National Federation of School and University Sports](#) is the sport federation responsible for organising sporting activities for professional and non-professional athletes enrolled in formal education institutions: schools and universities, mainly 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, as in the other fields:

1. Ad-hoc meetings
2. 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 Sports.

As both the mechanisms are used ad-hoc, public information on their results are not always released and there is not systematic monitoring on their results.

7.3 Sport, youth fitness and physical activity

National strategy(ies)

Official document and timeframe

The [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), adopted by Government Decision no. 24/2015, had 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 was not adopted as an official document until March 2022. It remains a guideline document, although not officially approved by the Government.

Main elements and key objectives

The specific objective of the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) in the area of youth sport, fitness and physical activity was 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, in line with the [EU Physical Activity Guidelines](#). Planned results included:

1. Increase the number of children and young people who participate in sports, including by developing the mainstream sporting competition system (for all);
2. Ensure pupils and children access to sports facilities and offer young people the chance to spend their spare time in the existing sports facilities;
3. 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;

4. Combat youth overweight and obesity through special fitness programmes;
5. Promote Romanian professional athletes as role models for young people;
6. 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;
7. Grasp the opportunities created under the 'Europe for Citizens' programme to support youth practice of sports at beginner level;
8. Ensure that increasingly more young people engage in moderate intensity physical activity for 30-60 minutes a day (including in sporting activities);
9. Attract young people with disabilities into practicing sports by offering them adequate access, including in properly equipped youth and student centres;
10. 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.

The National Sport Strategy for 2016-2032 project included a general objective for the development of sport, in line with the [EU Physical Activity Guidelines](#), aiming to achieve the following specific objectives:

1. Raising the level of information and education of citizens on the importance and benefits of practicing physical activity and sport
2. 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
3. Development of public programmes for mass sports, including organising and funding these programmes
4. 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.
5. Social reintegration through sport of people with special needs and disadvantaged people.
6. Reviving volunteering in sport.

Target groups

While the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) had a general target group among the young people, as defined by the [Youth Law no. 350/2006](#): 14-35 years old, the National Sport Strategy for 2016-2032 had 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 was (until December 2021) the main government authority responsible for the implementation of the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), including the specific objective of developing the education through sports and physical activity. However, an action plan allowing systematic implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy was not adopted.

The same ministry is the government authority responsible for the development, adoption and implementation of the National Sport Strategy for 2016-2032. However, as stated, the strategy was not formally adopted until March 2022.

Monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the strategy

No evidence-based monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the national [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) has been conducted until March 2022.

Major revisions/updates

In 2020 the Ministry of Youth and Sports started preparing the youth strategy 2021-2027. In December 2020 a needs assessment was provided by the Life Quality Institute to support the elaboration of the strategy in 2021. Additionally, the [Youth Barometer 2020](#) was released with the same aim. Other than that, consultations with the Counties'

Directorates on Youth and Sport and with other governmental institutions with responsibilities in the field of youth were organized. Based on the outcomes of the research and the consultation processes and after consultation with the National Council for Youth, a [preliminary proposal](#) for the new Youth Strategy, in line with the European Youth Strategy, was published in 2021. A cooperation protocol with the Government's General Secretariat was signed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in order to be provided with additional support for the coordination of the development and adoption process of the new Youth Strategy. In 2022, the consultation processes with the governmental and non-governmental organisations will continue, aiming to have the final project adopted by the end of the year.

As mentioned, the National Sport Strategy for 2016-2032 is in the stage of a project of the Ministry of Sport and has not been adopted.

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 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 physical exercise;
- ensuring the specific conditions for the systematic practice of physical exercise by persons 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 are organised during the [BEACTIVE - the European Sports Week](#), in September every year since 2015.

According to the information provided for Youth Wiki by the National Federation of Sports for All, between 200 and 300 sport events have been organised in most of the Romanian counties every year in 2017, 2018 and 2019 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. Special physical distancing conditions applied in 2020 and 2021 to the events under [BEACTIVE - the European Sports Week](#). However, over 100 events have been organised each year in 2020 and 2021.

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 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) in 2017 and 500 000 lei (about 110 000 Euro) in 2018, 2019 and 2020 according to the Ministry of Youth and Sports approved budget. Given the pandemic, the budget execution in 2020 was low and the budget allocation in 2021 was only 350 000 lei (about 70 000 Euro). For 2022 the allocated budget is 500 000 lei (about 110 000 Euro). No other public funds are provided at national level for mass sport or youth sports activities.

According to the funding methodology for sports programmes of the Ministry of 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 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 scale.

The Ministry of Education, through the Institute of Educational 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.

Within a project funded by the Norwegian and EEA Grants, the National Institute of Public Health developed in 2016 the [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.

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](#). They represent 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.

Regarding sport private organisations, any private sport structure has to be registered in a public registry administered by the Ministry of 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 provides for this mechanism, debates are rarely requested and organised (e.g. in total the Ministry of Youth and Sports published 34 projects for public consultation in 2019, 25 in 2020 and 17 in 2021, but didn't organise any debate).
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.

7.4 Healthy lifestyles and healthy nutrition

National strategy(ies)

Official document and timeframe

A national [Health Strategy 2014-2020](#) was adopted through Government Decision no. 1028/2015. The Strategy had 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 included, among its actions, the standardisation of the schools evaluation of health condition for children and adolescents until 19 years old.

The [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), adopted by Government Decision no. 24/2015 had 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.

Although, generally, in line with the [EU Physical Activity Guidelines](#), none of the two mentioned strategy is directly and explicitly referring to the EU document.

Main elements and key objectives

The specific objective of the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) in the area of healthy life and healthy nutrition among the young people was to support youth health and quality of life and prevent injuries, eating disorders, substance use and addiction. Planned actions included:

1. School and high school campaigns on topics like health education, including healthy eating and reproductive health;
2. Promoting road safety education and defensive driving among youngsters;
3. Facilitating 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;
4. Encouraging peer health education by supporting projects aimed at STD prevention and HIV harm reduction;
5. Carrying 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 2015-2020](#) was the one aiming at improving leisure time opportunities for young people. Planned actions included:

1. Extending 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;
2. Making more of the education system infrastructure after school for the leisure activities conducted by youth and/or youth NGOs;
3. Involving youth NGOs and youth in leisure facility development and management, including on a volunteering basis;

4. Developing and improving 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 and public government authorities or through public-private partnerships;
5. Providing 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;
6. Providing 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.

Target groups

According to the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), young people that had been 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](#) was the main government authority responsible for the implementation of the Health Strategy 2014-2020. County offices of the Ministry of Health: the Directorates of Public Health are responsible to carry out most of the activities planned.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports was the main government authority responsible for the implementation of the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), including the specific objectives on health and quality of life and on leisure time of young people.

An action plan allowing systematic implementation, monitoring and evaluation the strategy was not adopted.

Monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the strategy

No evidence-based monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the national [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) has been conducted.

Concerning the [Health Strategy 2014-2020](#), in September 2016 the Ministry of Health published a [report on the strategy's implementation in 2015](#). No updated report has been published.

Major revisions/updates

In 2020 the Ministry of Youth and Sports started preparing the youth strategy 2021-2027. In December 2020 a needs assessment was provided by the Life Quality Institute to support the elaboration of the strategy in 2021. Additionally, the [Youth Barometer 2020](#) was released with the same aim. Other than that, consultations with the Counties' Directorates on Youth and Sport and with other governmental institutions with responsibilities in the field of youth were organized. Based on the outcomes of the research and the consultation processes and after consultation with the National Council for Youth, a [preliminary proposal](#) for the new Youth Strategy, in line with the European Youth Strategy, was published in 2021. A cooperation protocol with the Government's General Secretariat was signed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in order to be provided with

additional support for the coordination of the development and adoption process of the new Youth Strategy. In 2022, the consultation processes with the governmental and non-governmental organisations will continue, aiming to have the final project adopted by the end of the year.

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 for the period 2016-2020. The Multiannual Plan included 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. As a result, the [Law no. 152/2020 on health promotion and disease prevention](#) was adopted.

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 small projects (up to 5 000 euro/project) for a healthy lifestyle and health education. The projects' implementation is monitored by the funding authority: the Ministry of Youth and Sports, but their impact have not been evaluated directly concerning youth health. An [overall evaluation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports programmes for young people 2010-2015](#) have been conducted and published in 2016. On the other hand, 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.

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, sexual health and family life, use of substances (including Tobacco, alcohol, drugs), accidents, violence and abuses, bioethics. According to the [national curricula](#) at the end of the health education programme, young people of 19 years old 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.

Within a project funded by the Norwegian and EEA Grants, the National Institute of Public Health developed in 2016 the [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.

Sex education and personal relationships education

Sex education is not provided separated from health education in Romanian schools.

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 regarding health education.

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.

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. 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.

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 12 debates in 2019 between the January 1st and December 30th and published for debate 120 bills).
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.

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

Information providers / counselling structures

Among the [32 national programmes on health](#) funded by the Ministry of Health (15 programmes) and by the National Health Insurance House (17 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.

Among the [recommended health promotion campaigns](#), the most relevant for young people (although young people are not targeted directly) are: the campaign on the importance of physical activity and exercise, the campaign against alcohol consumption, the campaign on reproductive health.

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 have not been among the target groups of the Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020, but have been 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 counselling 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](#) have been:

- 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 [Strategy for the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents for 2016-2020](#) have been:

- 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](#) under the [Minsitry of Health](#). Other authorities are also responsible for activities planned:

- the [General Secretariat of the Government](#), for coordination of the other actors
- the [Ministry of Education](#), responsible for psiho-pedagogical assistance and first medical assistance for all students in schools
- the [National Authority for the Protection of Persons with Disability, Children and Adoptions](#), institution responsible for monitoring respect for the rights of the child in Romania
- the [National Prisons Administration at the Ministry of Justice](#), and the [National Directorate of Probation](#), institutions responsible for monitoring and assisting young people in detention and probation
- the [Prosecution Office](#), institution responsible for the legal representation of all persons without legal capacity to exercise their rights, including persons (including children and young people) with mental health disorders
- the [Ministry of Internal Affairs](#) and the National Police, responsible for intervening in situations of abuse, neglect and exploitation of the child and young people (including the one with mental health disorders), including those of domestic violence against the child, this specialized state institution having the powers to notify the local public administration authority provided by law to intervene in cases where the rights and interests the baby are endangered

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 but no report was made public.

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 under 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), according to the [National Programme of Mental Health](#), 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 included the training of school and family doctors for early detection of mental health problems among children and young people.

In 2020 the National Centre for Mental Health and Anti-Drug Fighting started the project "[Support for the development of community mental health services for children and adolescents](#)", with support from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, European Public Health Challenges Program. The project is not youth specific, but targets children and adolescents up to 18 years old, aiming at developing appropriate community mental health services for children with mental health disorders. It was not planned in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, but answers the needs generated by the pandemic. The project includes a national awareness campaign on the stigma attached to the diagnosis of mental health disorder as the main barrier to accessing support services.

Within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health, in partnership with Babes Bolyai University, started to operate in 2021 a helpline (by phone) psychological and emotional support for people affected by COVID-19. The helpline is not youth specific, but young people are among the target groups.

In 2021, the Ministry of Education launched the National Child Support Program, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic - "Caring for children", based on the [Emergency](#)

[Ordinance of the Government no. 105/2021](#). The programme has the following objectives (among others):

- informing and providing resources for the recognition and prevention of risks to child safety, as well as on the possibilities of managing the psycho-emotional health of children, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- adapting the psycho-emotional education of children according to age categories and school cycles;
- the development of the digital infrastructure for alerting, identifying and intervening in cases of child abuse and crime, for situations that do not require the immediate intervention of the specialized structures within the 112 Emergency Service;
- facilitating access to psychological and psychotherapeutic intervention services for children;
- the development of the competencies of the specialists who come into contact with the children and the use by them of unitary and applied tools and working procedures;
- developing the capacity of institutions working with children to carry out prevention, intervention, support, monitoring and evaluation activities from the psycho-emotional and child safety perspective.

The programme is not youth specific, but targets children and adolescents up to 18 years old (and can benefit young people beyond this age). The funding for the programme is not planned in detail. According to the programme document ([Emergency Ordinance of the Government no. 105/2021](#)): "Funding related to the Program is provided from the state budget, through the budget of the central public administration authorities, including reimbursable and non-reimbursable external funds, in accordance with the law, through the budgets of the line ministries."

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 years old, 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 programme is a part of the [National Programme of Health Evaluation](#) approved annually by the Ministry of Health.

The examinations are coordinated by the [National Centre for the Evaluation and Promotion of Health](#), which publishes [annual reports](#). The examinations have not been carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 and 2021.

The dynamics of the number of children examined in the period 2002-2019 has an oscillating evolution, with an increase from 480 693 children examined in 2002 to 666 869 in 2015, but a subsequent decrease, correlated with the decrease in the number of school population in Romania, according to the [report on children and youth health in Romania 2019](#).

However, these examinations have mainly a statistical aim of informing the policy makers on the health condition of children and young people until 19 years old. Due to the limited coverage, they 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 and the National Health Insurance House, nine 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;
5. the national cardiovascular disease program;
6. national oncology program;
7. the national diabetes program;
8. the national program for the treatment of neurological diseases;
9. 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 health care providing institutions. The screening is available based on 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 in 2016 the [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 years old, pupils in vocational school.

All young people have access to the screening measures included in the national health programmes. Pupils or students until 26 years old 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, if they register with the County Employment Agencies or if they are diagnosed with a serious illness that falls within the scope of national health programs, according to [regulations in the Fiscal Code, cited by the National Health Insurance House](#).

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

Forthcoming policy developments

In January 2022 the National Authority for the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoption was reorganised by division and the [National Authority for the Right of Persons with Disabilities](#) and the [National Authority for the Rights of the Child and Adoption](#) have been organised again as separate institutions. They had been merged in 2020.

Ongoing debates

Ongoing debates in the field of youth and sports (including sports and well-being for young people) are currently (in 2018-2022) focusing on a major reform of the administrative structure of the main elements of the youth and sports policy: [decentralising most of the youth activities undertaken by the Ministry of Youth and Sports until December 2021](#). The decentralisation is supposed to include administration of initiatives within the programme 'Sports for all' currently under the Ministry of Sports and most of the public sports infrastructure available for young people in Romanian towns.

Main actors involved in the debate the Ministry of Sports, the Ministry of Public Works, Regional Development and Administration and the representatives of local (community and county) public authorities.

In 2021, a new Youth Strategy was expected, with a few debates on the strategy initiated in 2020 based on a research paper prepared and presented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports to the National Council for Youth (the advisory body organised by the Ministry in 2020). In December 2020 a needs assessment has been provided by the Life Quality Institute to support the elaboration of the strategy in 2021. A draft strategy was presented for inter-institutional consultation in 2021 and debated by the National Council for Youth (NCFY), the advisory structure of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in March 2021. In 2022, the consultation processes with the governmental and non-governmental organisations will continue, aiming to have the final project adopted by the end of the year.

8. CREATIVITY AND CULTURE

Cultural participation of young people (14-35 years old according to Romanian [Youth Law](#)) is coordinated by the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) since January 2022 and it was coordinated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports until December 2021 (when the Ministry was reorganised). At local level the main institutions organising youth cultural events and projects are the [15 Students Cultural Centres](#) active in 14 university cities (two in Bucharest), funded and monitored by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (until December 2021) and by the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) (from January 2022), and the Student Cultural Centre in Suceava, funded and monitored by the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Culture and the institutions under its coordination are also implementing activities for young people, but, in most cases, they are not systematic.

With few exceptions, including mainly the initiatives of the Students Cultural Centres and the programs dedicated to young creators, most of the initiatives promoting cultural participation, social inclusion through culture or non-formal education in cultural fields target children and young people, or young people and adults alike. The fact that young people are not directly and specifically targeted and the lack of monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives makes the estimation of their impact among young people impossible.

8.1 General context

Main trends in young people's creativity and cultural participation

According to the [Cultural Consumption Barometer 2017](#), conducted by the [National Institute for Cultural Research and Training](#), the cultural infrastructure in Romania included in 2017: 10 111 libraries, 431 museums and public collections, 90 cinemas with a total number of 13 887 470 spectators in 2017, 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 2017 (the period considered by the Cultural Consumption Barometer 2017 for comparisons), with the exception of a significant increase in the number of cinematographers and film spectators.

During the COVID-19 pandemic young people (18-35 years old) are the age group that consumed most 'non-public cultural products', compared to other age groups. The 'non-public cultural consumption' included: listening to music, reading books, watching movies on streaming platforms, playing video and computer games, according to the [report on the cultural consumption during the pandemic](#), published in 2021.

According to the same [Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016](#), in the general population, 77% of the Romanians 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% 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. Young people under 30 are most active and participate most often in culture (80% out of the 1% of the population with a very high level of cultural are under 30 years old, and all are under 40 years old; within the 3% with a high cultural engagement, 43% are under 30 years old).

However, the [Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016](#) and the [Cultural Consumption Barometer 2017](#) don't use 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. 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).

The [Cultural Consumption Barometer 2016](#) created clusters of culture consumers. According to this research, one can identify 2 clusters of young culture consumers, socio-demographic factors being the main factors influencing the consume of culture among young people:

- 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.

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 [Culture statistics 2016 of the Eurostat](#), 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.

Main concepts

There are no specific concepts for the creativity and culture fields in Romania, however 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 involved in creativity and culture policy and initiatives for young people

In the field of creativity and culture for young people the responsibilities are divided between several institutions:

- the [Ministry of Culture](#) ;
- the County Culture Offices ;
- 43 cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture;
- the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#);
- the County Offices for Family and Youth;
- the [16 Students Cultural Centres](#) .

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 Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#).

There are 43 cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture, including [The National Centre of Art "Tinerimea Română"](#) ("Romanian Youth") (Bucharest).

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 three main methods:

1. the [National Council For Youth \(NCFY\)](#) created in 2020 as an advisory body for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, composed by 50 representatives of youth civil society organisations (presented in section 5.3 of Youth Wiki). The council has a committee dedicated to culture and recreational activities for young people.
2. 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)
3. 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:

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 Government, according to representation criteria. Since 2020, the General Secretariat of the Government accepted a cooperation with a coalition of civil society organisations that organised together an election process in order to select the NGOs representatives for the Council.

General distribution of responsibilities

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 and the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) (Students Cultural Centres) and the ones subordinated to local authorities are initiating and carrying out autonomous cultural projects for young people. These projects are relevant at local level.

In a nutshell the general distribution of responsibilities is the following:

- the [Ministry of Culture](#) 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 (excepting the ones of the Student Cultural Centres). 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 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;
- the 43 cultural institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Culture have the autonomy to organise their own activities, under the general coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry of Culture.
- the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) is the main central authority responsible for the development of the national policies in the field of youth, 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 Family and Youth are implementing the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) policies at county level;
- the [16 Students Cultural Centres](#) are organised in 15 university cities to carry out cultural projects for students.

The most important cultural institution for young people is the National Centre of Art "Tinerimea Romana" ("Romanian Youth"), subordinated to the Ministry of Culture. Its main activities include:

- organising and carrying out shows and music concerts (choral, chamber, contemporary, symphonic, instrumental, pop, jazz, folkloric concerts);
- organising and carrying out educational programs;
- promoting 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)
- organising three artistic groups: the "Preludiu" chamber choir; the "Cununa Carpatilor" folk ensemble; the "Archaeus" contemporary music ensemble.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

There are two mechanisms of cross-sectorial cooperation between Ministries, Departments and other institutions 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 the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#).

As both the mechanisms are used ad-hoc, public information on their results are not systematically published.

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, the Government never adopted the strategy formally. Informally, the strategy was used to guide the cultural policies until March 2020, the beginning of restrictions generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) included 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 2015-2020](#) in the area of culture have been:

- to facilitate youth access to quality culture and cultural creation
- to improve funding of cultural activities

Planned actions included:

1. Boost youth interest in exploiting local cultural traditions, including through training in traditional trades (arts, crafts);
2. Stimulate youth interest in reading and literary creation;
3. Support and stimulate youth creativity and performance in various creative industries (advertising, visual arts, performing arts, research and development, software, etc.);
4. 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;
5. 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;
6. Facilitate access to quality culture for rural youth through special measures aimed at local cultural participation;
7. Offer support to youth-oriented forms of cultural expression, reflecting young people's concerns and interests;

8. Grant youth NGOs projects that tap into the tourist and cultural potential of the country;
9. Enhance media and online (social media) promotion of non-formal training and education opportunities;
10. Encourage the private sector to contribute to the financing of cultural events;
11. Launch national programmes aimed at discovering and promoting highly creative young people in cultural-artistic areas and at granting scholarships to valuable young artists;
12. Ensure profitable financial arrangements for the participation of talented young people from disadvantaged background in the activities carried out by professional arts training institutions;
13. Provide financial support to the establishments which promote cultural and artistic activities for youth (youth centres, student cultural centres, youth NGOs) in order to ensure better and more attractive conditions for youth

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

The Ministry of Youth and Sports was the main government authority responsible for the implementation of the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), including the specific objectives on culture.

An action plan allowing systematic implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy, was not adopted.

Revisions/updates

In 2020 the Ministry of Youth and Sports started preparing the youth strategy 2021-2027. In December 2020 a needs assessment was provided by the Life Quality Institute to support the elaboration of the strategy in 2021. Additionally, the [Youth Barometer 2020](#) was released with the same aim. Other than that, consultations with the Counties' Directorates on Youth and Sport and with other governmental institutions with responsibilities in the field of youth were organized. Based on the outcomes of the research and the consultation processes and after consultation with the National Council for Youth, a [preliminary proposal](#) for the new Youth Strategy, in line with the European Youth Strategy, was published in 2021. A cooperation protocol with the Government's General Secretariat was signed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in order to be provided with additional support for the coordination of the development and adoption process of the new Youth Strategy. In 2022, the consultation processes with the governmental and non-governmental organisations will continue, aiming to have the final project adopted by the end of the year.

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 (until December 2021) and to the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) (from January 2022) 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 (less during 2020 and 2021 when the number of events was lower due to the COVID-19 pandemic). These events have an average number of 2 000 young participants involved in cultural events and a reach of 5 000 to 10 000 people. Several hundreds of young creators are involved every year in the activities of the Students Cultural Centres (SCCs). These 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 Bacau 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](#) are offering access to their activities and exhibitions with reduce 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) funds for all the initiatives mentioned above are ensured 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 responsibly Ministry.

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 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 aiming at 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

Several Students Cultural Centres used to organise large festivals of folk Romanian music each year, with the participation of young artists and a public of over 5 000 students at each of these festivals (according to their communication to the National Correspondent for Youth Wiki).

Excepting the dedicated funding provided by 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 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 have been 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 organised in October, since 2015 until 2019, 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' implements projects representing temporal exhibitions targeting essentially children and young people;
- The National Museum of the Eastern Carpathians (Sfântu Gheorghe, Covasna county) implemented museum pedagogy programs, independent or in partnership with high schools in Covasna, Brasov and Harghita counties;
- The National History Museum of Romania (Bucharest) implemented museum pedagogy programs and it receives young volunteers to be involved in its activities;
- The National Museum of History of Transylvania (Cluj-Napoca) implemented projects in 2016 representing temporal exhibitions targeting essentially young people;
- The "George Enescu" National Museum (Bucharest) implemented museum pedagogy programs, independent or in partnership with high schools;
- The National Village Museum "Dimitrie Gusti" (Bucharest) implemented museum pedagogy programs 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 Mures organises theatre classes in the schools and high schools in Mures county and receives young volunteers to be involved in its activities (over one hundred young volunteers each year between 2016 and 2019);
- 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 targeting young people.
- The "George Apostu" Cultural Centre in Bacau 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.

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 have been funded by the state budget, through the budgets of:

- the Ministry of Youth and Sports, transferred to its subordinated Students Cultural Centres (after January 2022 the Students Cultural Centres will be supported by the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#));
- the Ministry of Culture, transferred to its subordinated cultural institutions.

The museums and theatres subordinated to the Ministry of Culture are funding their activities using their own revenues, in order to complement available funds from the national budget.

The [Administration of the National Cultural Fund](#) grants funding from the National Cultural Fund (based on provisions of the Government Ordinance no. 51/1998 on the funding of cultural projects, programmes and activities). „Education through culture” is one of the funding priorities. The National Cultural Fund is built by contributions from revenues of cultural enterprises, e.g.: 3% of the revenues of economic operators from the sale of postcards, posters and stickers; 2% of the revenues of economic operators from the sale of imported cultural goods, 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 one 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 for all compulsory subjects, based on a progression scale for national-level assessment.

The Literature is a mandatory subject for all educational levels until tertiary education (exclusively), with five to eight hours/week included in the mandatory curricula. 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 literature classes, arts and music educational classes.

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 upper secondary education 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 have been developed in Romania with 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 in extracurricular cultural activities in schools.

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. It also includes special events such as gala concerts and festivals with and for young people.

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 have not been conducted or published.

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 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 Țaga (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 nonformal education. Among other components, 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, supported by EU funds in Romania.

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 programme, 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 applications 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 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 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).

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 implemented by the [Project Management Unit of the Ministry of Culture and National Identity](#), the '[Digital Library of Romania](#)' aims to the digitalisation and online exposure of cultural products in all cultural institutions under the Ministry. The project is targeting the general public, not especially young people. The project is under implementation and its main outcome is the online platform 'Culturalia', that will allow online access to a large collection of art and books. The platform will be launched in 2022, according to Ministry of Culture representatives. The "Digital Library of Romania" is 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 very diverse large projects and 36 small projects starting with 2009. No data or statistic is available on the involvement of young people in these projects, but it is important to mention that the programme was not designed to target especially young people, but rather the cultural community (artis, actors etc.) and the general public. Among the projects financed within the programme, a small number have been implemented with the aim to facilitate the access to culture through new technologies. The project '[Cultural Agora @ Your Library](#)' generated a digital library of 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 promote 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

Partnership between cultural institutions in Romania are not guided by a national policy and specific target, but rather by tradition. In 2018, however, the the "Centenary" Programme 1918-2018 encouraged the development of new partnerships between cultural institutions and organisations.

In 2017-2020 the "Centenary Programme 1918-2018" was implemented to celebrate 100 years from the formation of the modern unitary national Romanian state. The "Centenary" Programme was 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. Youth was not an explicit target group for the programme and participation to projects based on age has not been monitored.

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 three 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.
- In 2018 a new global grant for cultural projects, funded by the EEA Grants, has been launched in the area of culture, by the Ministry of Culture and National Identity. Projects started implementation in 2019, but many have been suspended in 2020.

Among the funded projects under the 2009-2014 EEA grants, the most important for young people are:

- [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 favorable 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

Romania benefited from the Programme: '[Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage](#)' under the European Economic Area Agreement between the European Union, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. 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.

Young people are not an explicit target group of the programme, but they may be among target groups in specific projects. However, participation of young people to these projects is not monitored.

While no systematic evaluation of the programme have been conducted, the website presents success stories of funded projects. Being success stories, these projects have met their aims and objectives as presented:

- [Another face of the Roma culture](#), a project aiming at promoting social inclusion through music, 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 Exploseve 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 aiming at developing and implementing an education programme for social inclusion using art. The activities included 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 multiculturalism 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, Giulești 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.
- [Beius Door- the door to promoting multiculturalism in Beius](#), a project promoting multiculturalism in Beius area and including the most expected local festival, by creating a public-private partnership between the Municipality of Beius, the local cultural institutions and the local schools, involving most of the five thousand students from the kindergartens, schools and colleges in Beius.
- [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 results of the project have been as follows:

- Development of 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;
- Improvement of the cooperation between partner organisations to develop personal development programs for disadvantaged children and young people during project implementation;
- Facilitation of 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;
- Development of 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;
- Promotion of the social inclusion of disadvantaged children and young people in the cross-border region through a special artistic 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

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 different backgrounds being able to sing together. Secondly, the program promotes 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, Cantus Mundi aims at overcoming any form of discrimination, as the group choral activities help, 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

Forthcoming policy developments

No forthcoming policy developments are envisaged regarding cultural developments for young people in Romania in March 2022.

Ongoing debates

No ongoing debates and reforms are taking place in Romania in the field of creativity and culture for young people in March 2022.

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 authorities responsible are the [Romania's international development cooperation Agency](#), 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.

Non-public actors taking part in the development of policies, programmes or actions related to youth's contribution to global processes of policy-making.

General distribution of responsibilities

The International Relations Department within the Ministry of Youth and Sports had (until December 2021) 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.

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.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

[Ministry of Youth and Sport](#) and [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) used to 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.

The programme continued in [2017/2018](#) and [2018/2019](#) and [new delegates have been selected in September 2019 for 2019/2020](#).

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

The UN Youth Delegate programme 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.

The programme continued in 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2021/2022.

In July 2020, Romania, organised the [Community of Democracies digital Youth Forum](#). The event was organised as part of celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the Community of Democracies (CoD) to highlight the importance of youth inclusion as a key element of strong sustainable democracies. Youth empowerment was a priority of the Presidency of the Community of Democracies of Romania, who has held the mandate for 2019-2021, and a cross-cutting theme mainstreamed into all CoD activities. The CoD Youth Forum provided a global platform for representatives of youth-led organizations and networks to discuss young people's political and civic participation, share good practices from their countries and regions, and present innovative ways of advancing youth engagement in public life and in democratic processes. Participants also presented the Community of Democracies' Youth Forum Statement, a call for youth empowerment and improved participation in democratic processes.

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

Forthcoming policy developments

The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU in January-June 2019 announced officially its priorities in December 2018. Among these priorities is the involvement of young people in the EU's neighbourhood policy, while celebrating 10 years since the launch of the Eastern Partnership, through reaffirming the importance of the Black Sea on EU agenda, including from the perspective of reinvigorating the Black Sea Synergy and the presence of EU in Western Balkans.

Ongoing debates

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.

10. YOUTH WORK

Romania does not have a long-standing tradition when it comes to what is formally defined as youth work. Child-care instruments, together with informal education and elements of formal education were constantly combined into different forms of what could be defined as youth work. Romanian youth work practice and policy was sometimes substantively different from standard definitions of youth work. They used to be subordinated to values firmly rejected by current youth workers: nationalism, authoritarianism or formalism. Traditionally, young people were getting some attention only when support was required in their transition to adulthood and very few [forms of self-organisation](#) of the youth groups could be identified in the recent history (such as the groups of singers of Christmas carols in the villages) or the groups of young boys engaged in a military-type form of organization that practiced initiation rituals.

At the end of the communist era, all these attempts - including the infrastructure for the youth activities were almost abandoned or excluded from the public funding (as the youth clubs).

There were few learning activities put in place for the youth workers to learn from their French peers (animateurs) at the beginning of the 90s but as the new trained specialist were lacking the required infrastructure to work and the official recognition of their work was missing, very few results could be seen in practice. More than this, the central and local authorities did not manifest a direct interest to invest into the development of the

youth domain, neither in terms of supporting the professionals in the field nor in creating the infrastructure for youth activities.

The achievements when speaking of the development of those activities that would help young people to reach their full personal and professional development stayed with the youth NGOs or with the student organizations. It was only with the European funding programmes and initiatives when the real advancement of youth work in Romania could be noticed - having youth workers trained in training programmes, setting up the occupational standard for the youth worker or to having some pilot structures functioning as youth centres.

Youth work has been mainly defined through the [Youth Law \(no. 350/2006\)](#). But the definition is based on function of the youth workers – supporting and guiding young people – and does not include a clear definition of the field (youth work). The national definition or understanding of youth work is mainly set through describing the profession of youth worker through the [National Occupational Standard set in 2012](#). The youth worker is the one who mobilizes young people and supports them to develop life skills, stimulating the associative life and cooperation among young people and facilitating their participation to the community life. The youth workers act as the resources for young people, for organizations and communities, delivering a wide range of activities and services such as information, guidance and support for young people, facilitating their social integration and their personal evolution within the context of enhancing human, cultural diversity and promoting active citizenship. The youth workers are also expected to participate to the development of the relevant youth policies. All the activities of youth workers are planned to take place – according to the [Youth Law](#) within a general project of an organization (non-governmental or governmental, local or central organization that has responsibilities in the field of youth).

10.1 General context

Historical developments

Romania does not have a long-standing tradition when it comes to what is formally defined as youth work. Child-care instruments, together with informal education and elements of formal education were constantly combined into different forms of what could be defined as youth work. Romanian youth work practice and policy was sometimes substantively different from standard definitions of youth work. They used to be subordinated to values firmly rejected by current youth workers: nationalism, authoritarianism or formalism. Traditionally, young people were getting some attention only when support was required in their transition to adulthood and very few [forms of self-organisation](#) of the youth groups could be identified in the recent history (such as the groups of singers of Christmas carols in the villages) or the groups of young boys engaged in a military-type form of organization that practiced initiation rituals. It was only at the end of the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century together with the educational reform when the concept of "extra-curricular education" was introduced. Even if not completed out of school, setting up parallel to school structures such as -courses for adults, cultural clubs, and public libraries - created an advantage into working with bigger groups of young people. Immediately after the First World War the first successful western European youth movements emerged in Romania as well: scouting and YMCA received official recognition. But very few years later, the nationalist youth movements started their sharp actions against what was considered as "democratic authorities". Later on, in the early '30s, for almost 10 years, a social service was put in place, young professionals being asked to support, on voluntary basis, the functioning of cultural centres (foyers) in the villages, the social service being then transformed into a mandatory task for the ones who were interested into their social promotion. The communist regime came then with one of the most advertised forms of youth work represented by the 'youth yards' having the Youth Laborers' Unions and the Communist Youth Union's branches recruiting and training young volunteers for the projects set by the Communist Party. Another attempt to attract young

people within institutional structures was the setting up of the youth clubs in the biggest urban settlements but the activities that were organized here were not that attractive to young people.

At the end of the communist era, all these attempts - including the infrastructure for the youth activities were almost abandoned or excluded from the public funding (as the youth clubs). There were few learning activities put in place for the youth workers to learn from their French peers (animateurs) at the beginning of the '90s, but as the new trained specialist were lacking the required infrastructure to work and the official recognition of their work was missing, very few results could be seen in practice. More than this, the central and local authorities did not manifest a direct interest to invest into the development of the youth domain, neither in terms of supporting the professionals in the field nor in creating the infrastructure for youth activities. The only notable achievements when speaking of the development of those activities that would help young people to reach their full personal and professional development stayed with the youth NGOs or with the student organizations. It was only with the European funding programmes and initiatives when the real advancement of youth work in Romania could be noticed - having youth workers trained in training programmes, setting up the occupational standard for the youth worker or to having some pilot structures functioning as youth centres.

National definition or understanding of Youth Work

Youth work has been mainly defined through the [Youth Law \(no. 350/2006\)](#). But the definition is based on function of the youth workers – supporting and guiding young people – and does not include a clear definition of the field (youth work). The national definition or understanding of youth work is mainly set through describing the profession of youth worker through the [National Occupational Standard set in 2012](#). The youth worker is the one who mobilizes young people and supports them to develop life skills, stimulating the associative life and cooperation among young people and facilitating their participation to the community life. The youth workers act as the resources for young people, for organizations and communities, delivering a wide range of activities and services such as information, guidance and support for young people, facilitating their social integration and their personal evolution within the context of enhancing human, cultural diversity and promoting active citizenship. The youth workers are also expected to participate to the development of the relevant youth policies. All the activities of youth workers are planned to take place – according to the [Youth Law](#) within a general project of an organization (non-governmental or governmental, local or central organization that has responsibilities in the field of youth).

10.2 Administration and governance of youth work

Governance

There is no governmental authority directly responsible for youth work. More than this, no national policy or strategy dedicated to youth work was put in place. Youth work and the development of the domain was part of the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#), and the Ministry of Youth and Sports was the governmental authority taking action on that especially through the national granting schemes for youth NGOs.

Youth work would then fall under the remit of ministry that is responsible for youth, but considering the types of activities developed – especially the ones where non-formal learning instruments and tools are used – education is also one of the key domains. More than this, going back to the main function of youth work - that of helping young people to reach their full personal and professional potential, matters related to social affairs, social justice and family welfare should be considered within the governance structure.

Consequently, the main top-level governmental authorities responsible for youth work are the following:

1. The Ministry of Youth and Sports (until December 2021) and the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#)(from January 2022)
2. [Ministry of Education](#)
3. [Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity](#)
4. [National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#)

Non-governmental organisations participate in the policy making in the field of youth work as consultative structures for the governmental using two main methods:

1. the [National Council For Youth \(NCFY\)](#) created in 2020 as an advisory body for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, composed by 50 representatives of youth civil society organisations (presented in section 5.3 of Youth Wiki). The council has a committee dedicated to culture and recreational activities for young people, including youth work activities, and a committee dedicated to infrastructure for youth work (youth centres and youth camp infrastructure etc.);
2. ad-hoc consultative meetings.

Concerning the general distribution of responsibilities, the main governance approach to youth works was the following until December 2021:

1. The Ministry of Youth and Sports was dealing with the policy design, monitoring and evaluation in youth policy, in general. The Ministry of Youth and Sports had County Directorates on Youth and Sports where the youth counsellors delivered their youth work activities.
2. [Ministry of Education](#) was dealing with elements of validation of learning including the recognition of non-formal education learning paths.
3. [Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity](#) was dealing with measures related to social inclusion, social justice and the general framework on youth policies
4. [National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#) was dealing mainly with the youth workers' training through its own local and national initiatives as well as through the international training activities developed on partnership basis with the other National Agencies or supporting the participation

Cross-sectoral cooperation

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

10.3 Support to youth work

Policy/legal framework

There is no stand alone National Strategy on Youth Work in Romania. Youth work has rather been coupled to creating new opportunities for learning - especially within learning structures developed with the support of the non-formal education methodologies in the [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#).

The [Youth Strategy 2015-2020](#) made 'Employment and Entrepreneurship' one of the main areas of intervention of the Romanian youth policy. Under this pillar, the youth workers, the career counsellors or the trainers had to be recognized and offered support, as they represented a significant resource in supporting young people. Within the strategy, the role of the youth worker resided with offering support to groups of young people when going through the transition from school to the labour market, to those ones dealing with social exclusion or to boosting up youth participation. These activities are to be organised either by the national and local authorities with responsibilities in the field of youth or by the non-governmental organizations working with and for young people.

In terms of providers of youth work, according to the existent occupational standard, the youth work services could be provided by the NGOs, the Youth Centres and Leisure Time Centres, the state institutions - namely by the county directorates for youth or by the Students' Cultural Centres.

Additionally, a non-exhaustive list of activities that are delivered and could be assimilated to the youth work services are identified through looking at the [Occupational Standard for Youth Workers](#); the [National Youth Law](#) and [the National youth Strategy](#)):

- Collecting information through the direct interaction with young people
- Offering support for the personal and professional development of young people
- Organizing activities for young people – educational, leisure time or information campaigns, etc.
- Facilitating their nonformal learning process
- Facilitating the interaction of young people and NGOs
- Creating the framework for young people to volunteer or to get socially and civically involved
- Mediating between young people and groups of young people and the authorities.

Furthermore, in 2020 the Ministry of Youth and Sports launched [the strategy for the development of the infrastructure](#) dedicated to youth work and youth tourism (the infrastructure for youth camps) and started planning large renovation projects.

Funding

In terms of funding, no specific funding line has been identified for youth work activities and youth workers. Funding for youth work is included in the budget of three out of four youth programmes included in the budget of the ministry with responsibilities on youth, especially in the budget for Youth Centres and the budget for youth NGOs and students' NGOs.

However, essential support for youth work development in Romania came from the EU funding available. [National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#) has been doing extensive work on training youth workers and youth NGOs in Romania on grants' application writing, on working with young people using non-formal education methodologies or on working with young people with fewer opportunities. For this purpose, a set of [national trainings](#) are delivered nationally and locally and the youth NGOs are active in applying for funding that could support their international learning mobility activities within Erasmus + programme.

More than that, a great achievement for youth work in Romania has been the projects that were funded by the European Social Fund: '[Constructing 'the youth worker' institution](#) for a better insertion of young people in the society', project that led to having young workers trained and officially recognized by profession in Romania and '[Sustainable policies and standards in working with young people in Romania](#)', project that led to a [public policy document in standardizing the youth work activities](#) in Romania.

Cooperation

The cooperation initiatives that were identified and have relevance for youth work are:

1. The consultation of the National Council for Youth (NCFY) established in 2020 as the advisory structure of the Ministry of Youth and Sports with youth associations, including 50 representatives of youth civil society organisations. In March 2022, the council needs a new regulation after the reorganisation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the establishment of the [Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities](#) in January 2022.
2. The main events organised by the [National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#), events dedicated to social inclusion,

non-formal education, visibility and dissemination of results, etc. Representatives of young NGOs, public services, local and national authorities with responsibilities in the field of young and representative of non-affiliated youth are part of these events.

3. A training programme on digital youth work organised in 2020 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in cooperation with the [National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#). As a result of the training process, the [Digital Youth Work Romania](#) community was set up. In 2021 and 2022, the Romanian National Agency continued providing digital youth work training activities.
4. The [joint action](#) of the the Youth and Camps Department of the Ministry of Youth and Sport and Covasna Youth and Sport County's Department of supporting the initiative group that aimed to set up the Youth Workers' Professional Association in Romania, in June 2019.
5. At the end of 2021, the first [National Youth Workers' Convention](#) was organized by the Romanian Ministry of Youth and Sport in cooperation with the Romanian National Agency and with the support of DEIS Association, being the first event dedicated to discussions about the advancement and recognition of youth work as a profession in Romania and to discussing about the need for cross-sector cooperation in the field, looking as well as the needs and aspirations of Romanian youth workers.

10.4 Quality and innovation in youth work

Quality assurance

Quality assurance is ensured by having the [Youth Worker Occupational Standard](#). The standard sets the detailed description of the work that is being delivered by the youth workers as well as the key competencies that the youth worker should possess – both general and specific competencies. Except for the Standard, no other quality assurance system was put in place.

Research and evidence supporting Youth Work

No particular project has been initiated on researching upon youth work and its outcomes in Romania. The Institute of Educational Sciences (IES), ([Institutul de Științe ale Educației – ISE](#)) had been implementing national and international projects in the field of youth and education through the Youth Research Laboratory, but the [cooperation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports with the youth research community in the Institute was rather reduced](#) until the Institute reorganisation after November 2019.

The non-governmental organizations were interested into finding out more about the current state of affairs when it comes to youth work. Consequently, within the project '[Sustainable policies and standards in working with young people in Romania](#)', funded under the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity by the European Social Fund, the team [researched upon the current occupational status](#) of the youth worker and the needs to have a standardised and updated status.

Participative youth work

No special provisions on participative youth work exist in Romania. As stated in [Section 5.4](#), the local authorities are to consult with young organisations in matters related to young people but neither the local consultations nor the meetings of the councils advising the Ministry of Youth and Sports (the Consultative Council on Youth Issues - until 2019, and the National Council for Youth - since 2020) have been specifically targeting participative youth work.

"Smart" youth work: youth work in the digital world

No special provisions or training activities on smart and digital youth work implemented and run by the state authorities exist in Romania.

10.5 Youth workers

Status in national legislation

The first reference to the youth worker – but through the activities implemented – comes with the [National Youth Law](#). In 2012, the [Occupational Standard for the Youth Workers](#) had been defined. According to this standard, the youth worker mobilizes young people in order to develop their life skills and behaviors, stimulating the associative life and cooperation among young people, facilitating their participation in the community life.

The practitioners of this occupation represent resources for young people, for NGOs and communities and they carry out activities related to information, guidance and support for young people, facilitating, in the same time, their social insertion and their personal development in the context of enhancing human, cultural diversity and promoting active citizenship.

The competences of the Youth Worker are based on the principles and values of multiculturalism and human diversity together with the integrated approach of the directions of action in the social, cultural, educational and leisure time spheres. The youth worker organizes the activities within a general project of an association or foundation or within the framework of activities of a local or central public organization that has responsibilities in the youth field. The Youth worker can work for one of these organizations and its involvement starts from planning the activity until the final evaluation. The youth worker coordinates, monitors and prepares the report of the ongoing activities.

The youth worker acts by encouraging young people to get involved with different activities that would support their inclusion in the society by facilitating the process of informal and non-formal learning for young people. Through these learning approaches enacted, young people get involved with relevant learning opportunities that would then contribute to their personal and professional development. These activities would as well lead to the advancement of youth policies in the respective community.

The youth workers can be either employees of the respective organization or can be volunteers leading youth groups. In terms of occupational areas covered, the Standard includes the ones trained in social pedagogy, community development specialist, socio-education animators, and social workers. Within the wider occupational sphere, the youth worker is assimilated to the group – Specialists in social work or similarly trained.

In terms of competencies, the Occupational Standard looks both at the general competencies and also to the specific ones. In terms of key competencies, the ones included in the Standard the [8 key competencies for Life-long learning](#) while the terms of general competencies the following ones are set:

1. Planning the activities
2. Applying the legal measures regarding work security and health standards when it comes to emergency situations.
3. Applying the regulations regarding the environment protection
4. Working in a team
5. Communicating with the beneficiaries

The specific competencies included are:

1. Able to draft the personal and professional plans
2. Informing the beneficiaries
3. Supporting the nonformal learning process within the youth group
4. Developing cooperation mechanisms in the working community.

Education, training and skills recognition

In order to become a youth worker, one should go through a 5 days course that is being delivered by a private entity - Schultz Consulting. The company developed and accredited the first certified course for Youth Workers in Romania and over 900 persons – teachers,

employees of different organizations or volunteers were part of these courses. Most of the trained youth workers benefit of the training activity within the project - funded by the European Social Fund: '[Constructing 'the youth worker' institution for a better insertion of young people in the society](#)'. Nowadays, the private entity would organize the course and the conditions to follow the course are related to completing at least the high-school studies. After completing [this course](#), the participants receive the Certificate of Youth Worker that is being recognized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and the National Authority for Qualifications. The certificate recognises the skills and competencies required to practice the profession of Youth Worker – COR Code 341205.

For the ones who completed their BA studies in fields related to the definition existent in the Occupational Standard, starting with 2016, the University of Timisoara together with [the Ministry of Youth and Sports started a course](#) on training and professional development entitles 'The management of the educational resources for young people'. The course addresses the ones who are already active in the youth field, implementing educational projects, programmes and activities for young people.

Within the Ministry of Youth and Sport, through it's Programme (P2) that aims to support the youth actions, initiatives that targeted the training of youth workers were granted.

Starting with 2020, the [Ministry of Youth and Sport became an authorized provider of youth work training](#), by 2020, the qualification being issued only by private entities. In 2020 and 2021, the Ministry had been training youth workers (COR Code 341205), having trained both employees of the Ministry and of its subordinates and also members of nongovernmental organizations who joined the Ministry's training activities.

Other initiatives developed by the Ministry, as recorded buy the institutions that informed the Youth Wiki correspondent, include:

1. the Project 'Youth Workers' – in 2016, the Ministry organized a training course for 48 young people representing different NGOs that were then organized in a network of youth volunteers – tineRetea. The network had as main objectives: to create a network of youth workers able to identify the youth needs using the consultation mechanisms and also to respond them to the identified needs through the activities implemented; to develop mechanisms, instruments, nonformal education methods and youth events that could support the youth public consultation processes. The network members organized then, at the local level, local youth events – trainings, seminars, etc.
2. The summer school – The training programme 'Youth Worker' – In 2018 and 2019, the Ministry organized training courses for approx. 125 young people representing different youth NGOs. The trained youth people were then willing to contribute to improving the youth activities of their organizations.
3. The project – A Chance for rural youth – In 2019, the Ministry on partnership basis with the National Federation of the Local Action Groups organized the training module 'The Youth Worker' for 316 young people selected from the rural communities. The aim of this activity was to create a network of youth workers in the rural areas, youth workers who could then contribute to developing and implementing better projects and youth policies in Romania (including the ones at the local level). The 316 trained youth workers are to implement local youth projects in their communities.
4. A training of over 100 youth workers, using online training, and the training of youth workers in digital youth work organised in partnership with the [National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#) in 2020.

Except for these, most of the training opportunities for youth workers come through the training activities delivered by the [National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#).

The [Digital Youth Work Community of Learning](#) is created inside the “#AlwaysOn for Youth” Strategic Partnership for Youth project which is implemented between April 2021 – April 2023 by Federația Young Men’s Christian Associations România (YMCA România), as coordinator and Young Initiative Association (AYI), Sdrujenie “Nadejda-CRD” – Bulgaria (NCRD), The Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service – France (CCIVS) and the Alliance Européenne des YMCA – Belgium (YMCA Europe), as partners. The project is co-funded by the European Union through the Erasmus + Program. The aim of the project is to increase the capacity of youth organizations from Romania, France, Bulgaria, Belgium and the federated networks of the partnership consortium to serve young people (including vulnerable youth) extensively and intensively through digital youth work and digital inclusion and digital safety practices.

Mobility of youth workers

Training youth workers within international contexts had been rather a priority in the 90s through the exchange programmes developed in partnership with the French authorities. Since then, international opportunities put in place by the state authorities were rather link to the presence of the Romanian delegations to international youth events.

Very active in supporting the mobility of youth workers and in offering them learning opportunities have been the [National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#) through the cooperation activities ran on partnership basis with other National Agencies.

10.6 Recognition and validation of skills acquired through youth work

Existing arrangements

No specific arrangements existent for skills acquired through youth work. The general framework has been described in [section 6.4 of Youth Wiki](#). Except for the specified legislation and described methodologies, no specific recognition and validation of skills acquired through youth work were put in place.

Skills

No special provisions, instruments and tools put in place for the recognition of skills acquired through youth work.

10.7 Raising awareness about youth work

Information providers

The Ministry of Youth and Sports promoted its activities – mainly the thematic summer camps – through [the dedicated section of the website](#). In terms of learning methodologies and approaches, the summer camps and the thematic summer camps have been linked to subjects that are of an interest for young people: participation, social inclusion, project management, etc. Except for the opportunities provided directly by the Ministry, its subordinated organisations at the district level have also promoted their own activities via own channels – social media accounts or posts on the local newspaper.

The main sources for information available to young people to know about youth work opportunities for engagement are mainly the ones that belong to the [National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training](#).

These opportunities are either related to local and international opportunities organized within Erasmus + framework that could be find in the [Events section](#) or [European Solidarity Corps](#). Except for the sections existent on the website, upon subscription basis, the [Newsletter](#) of the National Agency is also an excellent information tool.

Information about other training and learning opportunities is available via the main [NGOs news' portal](#) and The [Foundation for the Civil Society Development](#) disseminates as well through its [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page would promote the existent opportunities.

The non-governmental sector is extremely active in disseminating information for young people. For this purpose, organizations like the [Youth Foundation in Timisoara](#) is actively promoting training and learning opportunities within its own activities and projects and [Youth Initiative Association](#) is also permanently updating its youth public through its website and social media channels about opportunities to get involved.

Key initiatives

At the end of 2021, the first [National Youth Workers' Convention](#) was organized by the Romanian Ministry of Youth and Sport in cooperation with the Romanian National Agency and with the support of DEIS Association, being the first event dedicated to discussions about the advancement and recognition of youth work as a profession in Romania and to discussing about the need for cross-sector cooperation in the field, looking as well as the needs and aspirations of Romanian youth workers.

10.8 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

A Youth Work Charter for Romania is planned as a part of the Bonn process implementation in Romania.

Ongoing debates

A second [National Youth Workers' Convention](#) was announced for 2022 supporting the Charter development.

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 no. 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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