Educational System in Romania

INTRODUCTION

 Since the Romanian Revolution of 1989, the Romanian educational system has been in a continuous process of reformation that has been both praised and criticised.



Public pre-university education (pre-primary, primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education) is part of the local decentralized public services and is subordinated to the Ministry of Education through the County School Inspectorates. The County School Inspectorates ensure at the local level observance of the legislation and evaluation of the educational system and process as well as implementation of the educational policy established by the Ministry of Education and Research.



According to the Law on Education adopted in 1995:

- Each level has its own form of organization and is subject to different legislations.
- Kindergarten starts between the age of 3 and 6 years old.
- Schooling starts at age 6 and it is compulsory until 10th grade (which usually corresponds to the age of 17 or 16).
- Higher education is aligned onto European Higher education area.



The Romanian Educational System is divided along two main levels:

- Pre- University Level is structured in 4 cycles:
- 1. Kindergarten composed of 3 or 4 grades
- 2. Primary school comprises two 4grade periods
 - Elementary school (I-IV)
 - Gymnasium (V-VIII)
- 3. High School- 4 or 5 grades (grades IX to XII/XIII)
- 4. Vocational education, which can continue or supplant High School, prepares students for careers that are based on practical activities.

- Higher educational is organized according to the principles of the Bologna process, which aims at the construction of the European higher education area. It has the following 4 components:
- 1. Bachelor (licenta)- 3 years in most disciplines (as of 2005)
- 2. Master (masterat)- 2 years in most disciplines (as of 2008)
- 3. Doctorate (doctorat)- at least 3 years
- 4. Lifelong learning (formare continua), which includes postgraduate education occurring outside the Master/Doctorate framework.



Kindergarten

 Children can start as early as three years old and can stay until they are 6 or 7 years old. Kindergarten is optional and typically lasts for 3 or 4 forms - "Small Group" (*Grupa Mică*) for children aged 3–4, "Middle Group" (*Grupa Mijloue*), for children aged 4–5, "Big Group" (*Grupa Mare*) for children aged 5–6 and "School Preparation Class" (*Pregătire pentru școală*) for children aged 6–7. The preparation class became compulsory, and is a requirement in order to enter primary school.

Primary education

- Primary education (compulsory) organised for pupils aged 6(7)-10(11) and including grades 0 to IV.
 - Private elementary education has a 0.5% market share, according to the Romanian Ministry of Education.
 - Transition from primary education to secondary education is only conditioned by the promotion of the first four grades.

Secondary education:

- Lower secondary education namely the gymnasium education (compulsory) organized for pupils aged 10(11)-14(15) and including grades V to VIII.
- two alternative educational routes after accomplishing compulsory education:
 - vocational education and training organised within "apprenticeship schools" for pupils aged 14(15)-16(17) and including two years of study (I and II), or within "vocational schools" for pupils aged 14(15)-17(18) and including three years of study (I to III).
 - upper secondary education namely the high school education – organised for pupils aged 14(15)-18(19) and including grades IX to XII/XIII.

Graduation Exams

- Lower secondary education is to be finalized with a national exam consisting of 3(4) written examinations on the following subjects:
- 1. Romanian language.
- 2. Mother tongue (as the case may be),
- 3. Mathematics.
- Passing of the exams is attested through a certificate. The graduates could continue their education in the post-compulsory sequence according to their options and following a selection and repartition procedure established by the Ministry of Education. The criterion used for this selection and repartition procedure was the "admission average mark".

Graduation Exams

 High School education is finalized with the national Baccalaureate Exam and, as the case may be, with a professional competences certification/attestation exam.



Types of high-schools

- There are five types of high schools in Romania allowing access to university, based on the type of education offered and their academic performance. All of these allow for a high school diploma, access to the *Bacalaureat* exam and therefore access to University studies.
- National College (*Colegiu Naţional*) the most prestigious high schools in RomaniaNational College (*Colegiu Naţional*) — the most prestigious high schools in Romania.
- Military College (*Colegiu Militar*) there are 3 high schools administered by the Ministry of National Defense. They are considered extremely strict and legally they have the same regime as army units, being considered military installations with all students being members of the army and abiding army rules and regulations.

- Economic College or Technical College (*Colegiu Economic* or *Colegiu Tehnic*) A high school with relatively good results and with an academic program based on technical education or services (see below). An admission average of 8.00 is usually enough.
- Liceu (Standard High school) An average high school, providing one of the available academic programs. The type of academic program offered is added after this designation.
- Grup Şcolar A group of two schools a high school (usually offering academic programmes in the field of technical or services education) and a Craft and Trade School. Some are regarded as being the worst alternative to allow access to a highschool diploma and access to university, while others are very well regarded as they give highly useful and well regarded diplomas and provide a rather high quality education.

Students life in highschool

 Uniforms are a local issue. Few high schools have uniforms, and in the case they do, they are particularly used for special occasions such as festivities, conferences, sporting contests, etc. Many high schools have their own radio stations, monthly or biannual magazines, etc.



Higher Education

- Post secondary non-tertiary education, including post-high school colleges;
- Tertiary (higher) education, including university and post-university education;
- Lifelong learning, education and training.



About School

- The main school subjects which are taught in primary school are :
 - Romanian language
 - Mathematics
 - English (3rd 4th grade)

- Science, Crafts, Music, Art, Physical Education, Religious Education.

 General Secondary School provides graduation certificate of general Education (Knowledge).

Education can be provided in the following forms:

- day-classes,
- evening-classes,
- part-time education,
- multiple-grades classes,
- distance learning and
- home schooling for certain children with special educational needs that can not be moved.
 - As a rule, compulsory education is organized in day-classes.



Grading Systems

- For the first four years a system similar to E-S-N-U is used, known as *calificative*. These are *Foarte bine (FB)* — Excellent, *Bine (B)* — Good, *Satisfăcător/Suficient (S)* — Satisfactory, actually meaning (barely) passing, *Nesatisfăcător/Insuficient (N/I)* — Failed. Students who get an N/I (*corigență*) must take an exam in the summer with a special assembly of teachers, and if the situation is not improved, the student will repeat the whole year. 'Qualifiers' (calificative) are given throughout the year, in a system of year-long assessment, on tests, schoolwork, homework or projects. The average for a subject (that will go in the mark register) is calculated by the teacher taking into account the progress of the student and by using a 1-4 value for each qualifier B, B in Mathematics.
- For grade 5 to 12, a 1 to 10 grading system is used with 10 being the best, 1 being the worst and 5 being the minimum passing grade. The system of continuous assessment is also used, with individual marks for each test, oral examination, project, homework or classwork being entered in the register (these individual marks are known as *note*).

School Year Calendar

- 1st semester
 - 17th September 2012 21st December
- Holidays:
- 1st December (National Day)
- 22nd December 2012 13th January 2013
- 2nd semester
 - 14th January 2013 21st June 2013
- Holidays:
- 6th April 2013 13th April 2013
- 1st May 2013 (Labor day) 5th May 2013(Easter Holiday)
- 21st June 2013 9th September 2013(Summer Holiday)

Diplomas

• The system gives the tollowing diplomas: Absolvire

(elementary school graduation), Bacalaureat (high school graduation, after the Bacalaureat exam), Licenta (University undergraduate graduation, after a exam and/or thesis), Masterat (Master's degree, after a thesis and possibly an exam), Doctorat (Ph. D., after a thesis)



School Management

 Management of pre-university educational units is ensured by heads of schools (head teachers) assisted, according to the concrete conditions and the provisions of the law, by deputy heads of schools (deputy head teachers). When exercising their managerial duties, the heads of schools rely on the teachers' council and the administrative council. Organization and functioning of these bodies, as well as the specific attributions of the heads of schools and of the deputy heads of schools are established through the Education Law (Law 84/1995), the Teaching Staff Statute (Law 128/1997) and the Organizing and Functioning of the Pre-University Educational Units Regulation (Order of the Minister of Education and Research 4747/2001).



Financial arrangement

 According to the in-force legislation, all the public schools buildings are the property of the locations public domains and public pre-university education is financed from the local budgets (town, commune; county - only for special education). However, certain costs are supported from the state-budget through the County School Inspectorates budgets.





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