

Taking account of national, regional and school-level drop out rates in Bulgaria

Erasmus + Strategic Partnerships

Project: “*Visible Teaching for Performance*”

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The main recent and ongoing policy measures in Bulgaria, with a focus on developments since mid-2016.

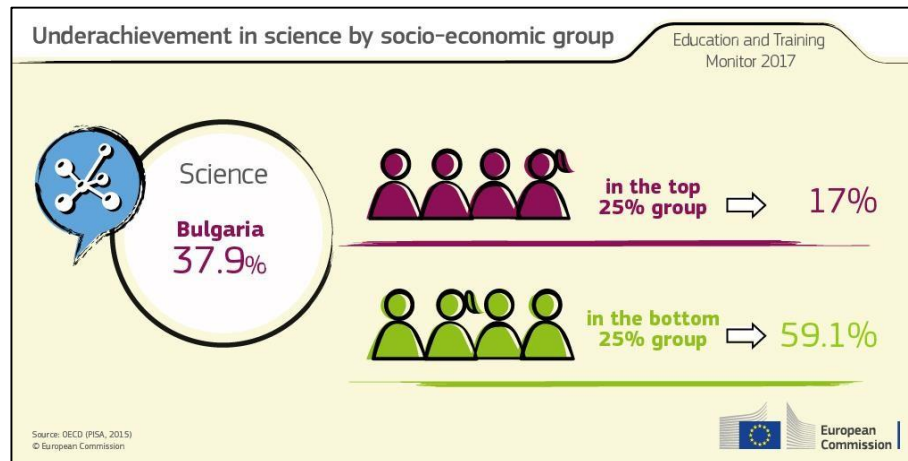
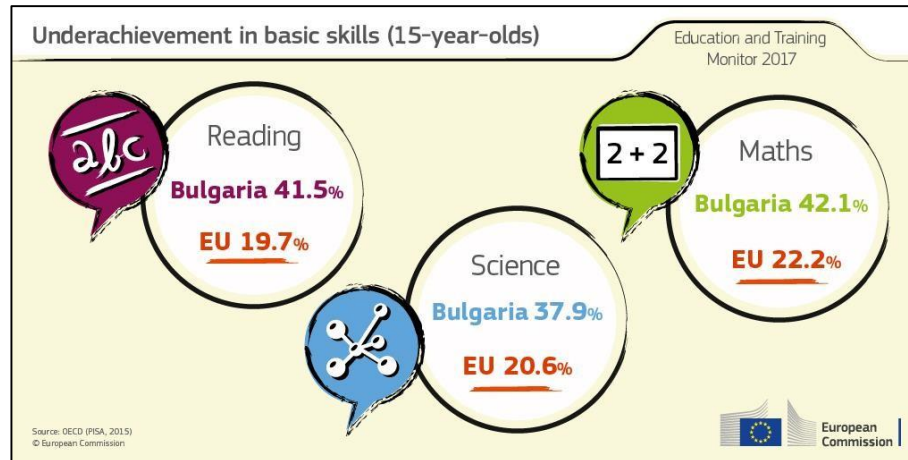
- There is a greater focus on **inclusive** education in Bulgaria. Authorities plan to revise the funding model in school education to support improvements in **equity** (by channeling additional resources to disadvantaged schools) and quality.
- **Underachievement** in basic skills as measured by PISA remains one of the highest in the EU. This is due to a combination of educational factors and equity challenges.
- Authorities have started implementing a new approach to tackle **early school leaving**.
- **Integrating Roma** into the education system remains a challenge, as does Roma school segregation.
- Performance-based funding of higher education seeks to address the challenges of **quality** and labour market relevance. Bulgaria is making efforts to improve the quality of vocational education and training.

Key indicators

	Bulgaria	EU average
	2016	2016
Early leavers from education and training (age 18-24)	13,8 %	10,7%
Tertiary educational attainment (age 30-34)	33,8%	39,1%
Proportion of 15 year-olds with Underachievement (by PISA) in:		
• Reading	41,5	19,7
• Maths	42,1	22,2
• Science	37,9	20,6

Underachievement in basic skills as measured by PISA survey 2015

Educational outcomes are strongly linked to socioeconomic background, despite some improvements in equity. The 2015 OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) survey found low performance was widespread among disadvantaged students. Around 60 % or more of students from the bottom socioeconomic quartile fail to achieve a minimum level of skills in science (59 %), reading (65 %) and mathematics (62.6 %). This performance gap is the highest in the EU (42 pp. in science vs 26.2 pp. EU average).



Early School Leaving from Education 2016/2017

- New measures are implemented to tackle early school leaving. Contrary to the general trend in the EU, the proportion of early school leavers (aged 18-24) is rising: **13.8 % in 2016** compared to the EU average of **10.7 %**. In this context, reaching the national Europe 2020 target of 11 % will prove challenging. ESL is very low in cities (**2.8 %**) but rises to **15.8 %** in towns and suburbs and to **30.3 %** in rural areas. The high number of dropouts each year is linked to socioeconomic factors, educational difficulties and, increasingly, to emigration (which accounts for **more than half** of drop-outs). Local teams were deployed on the ground as part of an inter-institutional cooperation mechanism to improve school enrolment and retention. The aim is to identify out of school children or students at risk of dropout, improve the information exchange between relevant institutions, and improve data collection.
- A recent survey found that **67 %** of Roma aged 18-24 are early school leavers, with women disproportionately at risk (**77 %** vs 57 % for men).
- <http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/dashboard>

Students and drop-outs by reasons and level of education (2015/2016):
National level

Total	
Students	741235
Drop outs	21170
I – IV grade	
Students	261969
Drop outs	6568
of which:	
Unwillingness	251
Family reasons	2251
Went abroad	3504

Students and drop-outs by reasons and level of education (2015/2016):
National level

Total	
Students	741235
Drop outs	21170
V - VIII grade	
Students	216451
Drop outs	8139
of which:	
Unwillingness	1089
Family reasons	2944
Went abroad	3328

Students and drop-outs by reasons and level of education (2015/2016):
National level

Total	
Students	741235
Drop outs	21170
Vocational training schools after VIII grade	
Students	992
Drop outs	38
of which:	
Unwillingness	11
Family reasons	15
Went abroad	10

Students and drop-outs by reasons and level of education (2015/2016):
National level

Total	
Students	741235
Drop outs	21170
IX - XII grade	
Students	260515
Drop outs	6351
of which:	
Unwillingness	1745
Family reasons	2659
Went abroad	1498

Students and drop-outs by reasons and level of education (2015/2016):
National level

Total	
Students	741235
Drop outs	21170
Vocational colleges with selection after secondary education	
Students	1308
Drop outs	74
of which:	
Unwillingness	3
Family reasons	39
Went abroad	32

Students I–VIII grade, **drop-outs** from general and special schools by statistical zones, **statistical regions**, districts and **municipalities**.

North-East Region	2340
Varna	1078
Varna area	586

Students and drop-outs by reasons and level of education (2016/2017):
School's level

Fourth Language School "Frederic Joliot-Curie", Varna	
VIII-XII grade	
Students	1022
Leavers	17
of which:	
Unwillingness	
Family reasons	9
Went abroad	8

Thank you for the attention!

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