



The education system in Romania is administered nationally by the Ministry of Education which also works with other government ministries and institutional structures. Compulsory education, which was implemented in the academic year 2012- 13, spans 10 years and includes primary (one preparatory year plus 4 years) and secondary education (an initial phase of 5 academic years). At the age of 16 the second phase of secondary education starts and this lasts two or three academic years. This second phase is not compulsory but

continues to be free of charge and is offered by high schools, vocational schools or specialized centers.

For the time being Romania has not developed policies to integrate media literacy in formal education although in 2012 it joined the Digital Agenda for Europe 2020 Strategy, launched by the European Union for the development of digital technologies in the classroom.

The National Education Law of 2011 was created with the intention of modernizing the Romanian education system and adapting it to a media-based curriculum. The law led to the creation of two platforms managed by the Ministry of Education: a virtual library and a platform for e-learning with materials for teachers and students.

These two initiatives seem not to have helped promote media literacy in schools as teachers do not receive support to deal with this subject in class and its implementation depends on the interest they show in the topic.

The other initiatives are subsidized by European Union programs and local foundations as no public money is spent on media education.

With respect to ICT, these competencies were integrated into the curriculum of primary and secondary education in 2006 with the recommendations of the EU, and in 2011 the National Education Law already considered it a basic competency. The new Romanian Governmental Program for 2013-2016 stresses the need to digitally educate Romanian citizens to prepare them for the emerging knowledge society. Among the initiatives are: digital teacher training, e- textbooks, open massive resources and web 2.0.

In accordance with Regulation 4730 of 22 September 2004, issued by the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sport, Competence into Mass Media is now considered a separate subject that is part of the optional curriculum of the second phase of secondary education.

Media education is also integrated into several modules of the subject Social Studies in the final year of the phase, and in the subject Civic Studies there are many references to media literacy.

In the first phase of secondary education references to media education can be found in the subjects Language and Communication, Civic Studies, Social Studies and Technology. In primary education there are only methodological recommendations on media education in subjects like Civic Studies, History and Religion and other core subjects.

Romania does not have media competency assessment at the official level. Some studies, such as the evaluation of media literacy in Romania (2008), directed by the NGO ActiveWatch, demonstrate that assessment of the critical use, comprehension and components of civic participation in media literacy should ideally be conducted individually.

The National Education Law of 2011 provided for the development of an exam to test digital competencies of students at the end of senior high school, which focuses on the use of the computer and knowledge of office IT. According to the report Charting Media and Literacy in Europe 2012, the new provision of the National Education Act recommends the integration of media literacy in teacher training from the year 2014-15 on as until now only ICT has been incorporated into the on-going training of teachers.

This provision also refers to the implementation of a Master's degree program in basic teacher training starting in 2014-15, which emphasizes the development of digital and communication skills for future teachers. Until now the training of teachers in media literacy has been in the hands of NGO's such as ActiveWatch, which has developed a multi-year program called MediaSIS which trains teachers to teach courses in media education and create teaching materials. Its objective is to integrate media education into the school curriculum.

Continuous teacher training is carried out at Casa Corpului Didactic, a network of educational resource centers spread throughout the country offering courses in ICT training and a course called Multimedia in Education. These training courses include digital competencies that teachers should acquire but primarily focus on ICT, on concepts and theories of communication and on the pedagogical use of computers in the classroom.

ICT is integrated into the curriculum of primary and secondary education. While in primary and junior secondary it is found within elective subjects, in senior secondary it is treated as a core subject. ICT appears in the basic curriculum of all secondary education streams (theoretical, vocational and technological). In 2010-2011 the elective subject Computers and Networks Administration was introduced in senior secondary education.

In amendments to the 2012 National Education Law, the government has taken steps to incorporate ICT in education through the granting of equipment, building computer labs in schools and developing teacher training programs focused on the relationship between ICT and e-learning.

The keys to the inclusion of ICT in schools can be summarized as follows:

- ☐ There are fewer computers available and there is less connectivity in Romanian schools compared to the other EU countries.
- ☐ Thanks to extensive teacher training in ICT and the positive attitude of teachers, ICT is frequent in the classroom.

- ☐ Neither teachers nor students show great confidence in their ICT skills.
- ☐ No central recommendations exist on the use of ICT in student assessment.
- ☐ Public-private partnerships to promote the use of ICT are valued