

NEGOTIATING POSITION OF ROMANIA

POSITION PAPER
CHAPTER 18 - EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH

Romania fully accepts the acquis in the area of education, training and youth. No transitional period or derogation from the acquis is requested.

As a working definition of the time frame, the Government of Romania has accepted 1st of January 2007 as the date when Romania will be prepared for accession to the European Union.

This applies in particular to the Council Directive 77/486/EEC of 1977 on the children of migrant workers, the provisions of which will be transposed until the end of 2001 in the Romanian legislation.

A government decision is currently under preparation, due to be submitted by the Ministry of National Education and to be passed by the Cabinet until the end of 2000.

By taking part in the Community programmes (according to Decision no. 2/1997 of the Romania-EU Association Council) in the field of education, training and youth (Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, Youth for Europe), Romania proved its institutional capacity to provide sustainable partnerships for the EU initiatives in these areas.

Romanian legislation on education is in line with all EU decisions, resolutions and declarations in the area, e.g. on equal opportunities for all, mobility in higher education, foreign language education, the European dimension, safety at school, policy of non discrimination, educational technologies and distance learning, life long learning etc.

Romania will assure before the date of accession all equal treatment for all EU Member States' nationals and extend equal treatment in terms of tuition fees, notwithstanding the existence of bilateral agreements.

Romania has achieved major progress in the fields of vocational education and training by recently adopting relevant legislation for the common VET policy (Council Decision 63/226/EEC) including in respect of the organisation of adult training, measures on entrepreneurial education, second chance education and by establishing a pilot-programme to combat social and professional exclusion of young drop-outs.

The social partners have been involved in VET and a certification system has been introduced to acknowledge graduates' qualification.

Law of Education no. 84/1995 (consolidated) brought a series of changes in respect of the continuing vocational training through the educational institutions. The new legal provisions grant modern rules for the certification of professional skills and set principles for the training providers market.

The mechanisms for authorisation/accreditation on the basis of transparent criteria used in the assessment of all providers in the field of continuing vocational training will be laid down in a Government ordinance drafted jointly by the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

Cooperation for the continuing vocational training was established both at national and local levels by means of tripartite structures bringing together the social partners.

A National Adults Training Board (NATB) was set up in 1999 to promote the policies and strategies in the field of continuing vocational training, by analysing the related legal framework in order to safeguard the coherence of the process. The NATB co-operates to this aim with similar EU institutions.

A law on training is currently under preparation with provisions in line with the present acquis.

Romania participates in the Youth for Europe programme and will take part in the programme's new phase, which incorporates the European Voluntary Service.

Legislative amendments will be undertaken in order to regulate the practical aspects of the voluntary activities in Romania. Up to the end of 2002, Romania will fully adopt and implement the acquis in the field.

Institutional capacity to implement the acquis

The Ministry of National Education is the competent authority in the field of education. Since 1998, the Ministry of National Education developed a new organisational structure in order to respond effectively to the needs of the reform and of the system.

In this respect, the following institutions have been set up and are fully operational: the Leonardo da Vinci National Centre for Professional Training, the Socrates National Agency, the National Council for Quality Management in Higher Education and the National Centre for the Development of Technical Vocational Education.

By staff development, the existing structures and mechanisms established are able to respond and to provide the adequate framework for the implementation of the acquis.

The Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection are the competent authorities directly involved in the national policies and strategies for vocational training. The National Agency for Employment and Vocational Training is operational starting with 1st of January 1999. Its institutional capacity has been improved by setting up an appropriate infrastructure at local level.

The recently created Council of Occupational Standards and Assessment is a tripartite body that contributes to the cost effectiveness of vocational training programmes by defining the occupational standards based on transparent assessment and certification procedures.

The Ministry of Youth and Sport is the competent authority in the field of youth and co-ordinates the Romanian Centre for promoting the European Cooperation in the Field of Youth. This centre integrates the Youth for Europe National Agency.