

NATIONAL REPORT OF ROMANIA

Structure of the education system and parental participation

Romania's education system is currently based on the Constitution adopted after the fall of the totalitarian regime in 1990. The legal framework for the organisation and administration of education is established by the Constitution and Education Act (88/1995) which was subsequently amended and completed. The Constitution refers to education in chapter 2, Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, and article 32 is dedicated to the right to education. In accordance with the law, education is a national priority and aims for the free and harmonious development of the person. All citizens have the right to equal access to all forms of education. The State promotes the principal of democratic education and guarantees the right to an education based on educational pluralism.

Thus, the Romanian State guarantees people belonging to 20¹ national minorities the right to preserve, develop and express their ethnic, linguistic and religious identity. The law gives them access to basic education in their mother tongue at all levels and the opportunity to take all their exams in this language, even if the official language is Romanian (Articles 6 and 13 of the Constitution).

Compulsory education lasts ten years and is made up of four years of primary school and six of secondary schooling (6 – 16 years). For the school year 2008/09, the student population increased to 4,324,992 students.²

The Romanian education system has three levels of administration: the Ministry of Education, County-level Academic Inspections, and schools. The Ministry sets the core curriculum for primary and secondary schooling. Every year academic inspections assess and develop a management plan at a county level, discussed with the heads of the school, parent and student representatives, local authorities, economic agents and other social partners (Order of the Ministry no. 4682/28 September 1998). At a school level, management is in the hands of the head teacher, the teachers' council and the board of directors in which parental representatives participate. Schools decide their own teaching methods and schedules.

Results

Regarding the indicators relative to international and regional instruments in the field at hand, Romania has ratified:

1. www.dri.gov.ro
2. eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/.../047_RO_RO.pdf

- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The Convention against Discrimination in Education
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
- The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
- Protocol n°1 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom
- The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

However, it has not ratified:

- The United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers

Right to information	75
Right to choose	60
Right of appeal	80
Right of participation	40
Overall indicator	64

Right to information

At a national level, schools inform parents of results through the ministry website and parent forum. At a local level, parents are informed of the results and behaviour of their child through the *SEI* educational portal – *Romanian IT-Based Educational System*. Considered a good European practice, this portal is free online support for all schools in the country.

With regards to the adaptation of information, the Romanian Constitution guarantees all its citizens the right to identity, in articles 1, 6 and 13.

Right to choose

Articles 180 and 181 of the Education Act (amended in 2005) and article 141 of the Regulation of Organisation and Operation of Schools (*Regulamentul de organizare și funcționare a unităților de învățământ preuniversitar*) provide measures that guarantee

the right to choose. In addition, there are alternative schools integrated into the state system, which are free to develop diverse teaching methods. They involve close collaboration with an on-site Ministry representative and several private investors.

Articles 103 and 112 of the Education Act provide partial funding for accredited private schools.

Right of appeal

The right of appeal is guaranteed by article 97 of the same Regulation (*Regulamentul de organizare si funcționare a unitatilor de învățământ preuniversitar*). (1), (2), (3)³.

Right of participation

The Law provides for the participation of a parental representative on the school board (articles 143 and 145). This situation is changing as the new Education Act, currently under discussion, plans to allocate equal representation on the School board. Thus, one third would be reserved for parents and the two other thirds for other stakeholders from the local community.

Training programmes for parents do exist, especially at a school level. They consist of informal training and *online* initiatives. At a national level, an educational partnership called EDUPART has been initiated between the Ministry of Education, teaching units, local communities and unions. In addition, there are thematic programmes such as *L'école des parents* and *parent/parent* education.

Conclusions

As far as the right to information is concerned, there is a high degree of accessibility, although there is some disparity between rural and urban areas. In terms of curriculums, they exist mainly in rural areas because of a greater degree of social homogeneity and parental participation.

As for the right to choose there is a well-developed network of schools “other than those established by public authorities”, in particular in terms of nurseries and the university system.

The right of appeal is mainly used for matters concerning assessment, in particular those that permit enrolment in secondary school.

Finally, as far as participation in formal structures is concerned, this is especially important at a school level, but not at a county or central level. Many parents participate in informal training programmes both at a local and central (*online*) level.

³. It is the right of *appeal on admission* that is most well-known among parents (95.7%), followed by appeal against disciplinary measures (83.9%). The lowest weighting of 60.1% is connected to *appeal against the decisions of participatory bodies*.