

Methodological notes

The **education system** consists of all educational establishments and institutions of different types, levels and education and training organization forms, which ensure the carrying out of the school population educational process in all levels of education, with a view to professional training thereof.

Data source:

Formal education statistical surveys' **objective** is to provide the information necessary to assess school population participation in the training process carried out within the Romanian education system, and conducted through the education units/institutions authorised under the Laws on Education¹ to organize and to unfold formal educational programs.

Statistical surveys outcomes allow the assessment of each education level in terms of **school population participation in education, study programs completion**, as well as **material and human resources** used in the educational process, therefore providing the users involved in defining, implementing and assessing the educational policies with comparable data at both national and international level.

The design of statistical tools for data collection is performed in accordance with the provisions of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 912/2013 implementing Regulation (EC) No. 452/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, as well as with the newest International Standard Classification of Education - ISCED 2011 for organizing the education programmes and related qualifications by education levels and fields of study (ISCED-F).

Pursuant to the national legislation in force and the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011), **formal education is the organized and oriented education achieved within an institutional framework and based on an explicit and official teaching activity**. Formal education programs are recognized by both the national/international authorities with education-related responsibilities, as well as by national entities carrying out activities as per the official educational curricula.

Likewise, education for children/pupils/students with special needs and certain adult education components ("*Second Chance*" program) are part of the **formal education system**.

Part-time programs carried out **at work** (school/work combined educational programs) are deemed formal education when being completed with the award of a **qualification acknowledged by the national education authorities (or similar)**. Such programs are often carried out and delivered as a result of the cooperation between educational institutions and employers.

Education level is an educational stage in which elementary, medium or high training is provided, according to the educational programs. As per the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011), applicable after 2013, the National Education System levels are as follows:

- Early childhood education (ISCED level 0), consisting of:
 - Early childhood educational development (ISCED level 01)
 - Pre-primary education (ISCED level 02)
- Primary education (ISCED level 1)
- Lower secondary education (ISCED level 2)
- Upper secondary education – high school and vocational (ISCED level 3)
- Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED level 4)
- Tertiary education (ISCED levels 6, 7 and 8).

Formal education **exhaustive** statistical surveys are carried out that include all education establishments/institutions in each of the education levels mentioned above, irrespective of ownership (public or private), or the residence area they are established in (urban or rural):

- a) **Early childhood education** - ISCED level 0 (**early childhood educational development** – ISCED level 01 and **pre-primary education** – ISCED level 02) exhaustive statistical survey (questionnaires SC.0.1, SC.1.1) –

¹ Education Laws (Pre-university education Law no. 198, and Tertiary education Law. No. 199).

covers approx. 5,800 observation units for early childhood/pre-primary education – nurseries/kindergardens;

- b) **Primary** - ISCED level 1, and **lower secondary education** - ISCED level 2 exhaustive statistical survey - (questionnaires SC.2.1 for the beginning of the school year and SC.2.2 for the end of the school year) - covers approx. 4,900 observation units for primary and lower secondary education;
- c) **Special primary** - ISCED level 1 and **lower secondary education** - level 2 ISCED exhaustive statistical survey (questionnaire SC.3.1) - covers approx. 160 observation units for special primary and lower secondary education (grades I-IX);
- d) **Upper secondary education – high school** - ISCED level 3 exhaustive statistical survey (questionnaires SC.4.1 for the beginning of the school year and SC.4.2 for the end of the school year) – covers approx. 1,580 observation units for upper secondary education;
- e) **Upper secondary education - vocational-** ISCED level 3, **post-secondary non-tertiary education** - ISCED level 4 (questionnaires SC.5.1a and SC.5.1b for the beginning of the school year, and SC.5.2a and SC.5.2b for the end of the school year) – covers approx. 1,440 observation units for vocational and post-secondary non-tertiary education;
- f) **Bachelor's degree programs** - ISCED level 6 and 7, **Master's degree programs** and **postgraduate programs** – ISCED level 7 and **PhD and advanced research postdoctoral programs** – ISCED level 8 (questionnaires SC.6.1a, SC.6.1b, SC.6.1c for the beginning of the academic year, SC. 6.2a, SC. 6.2b for the for the end of the academic year) – covers approx. 90 tertiary education institutions – institutes, universities, and academies, either accredited or undergoing the accreditation procedure;
- g) **FIN ED – INV**, the exhaustive statistical survey on the **educational expenses of private education institutions** covers approximately 810 private education establishments/institutions;
- h) **FIN ED – ONG**, the selective statistical survey on the expenses the NGOs, the religious institutions and organizations, and the charities made for educational institutions; it covers approximately 2,320 units as NGOs, religious institutions and organizations, charities.

In order to ensure the completeness of non-financial data, information from administrative sources was also used, as follows: from the Integrated Information System of Education in Romania (**SIIR**) - for preschool education for children enrolled in some authorized private school establishments, currently undergoing accreditation at this educational level, respectively from the Single Enrollment Register of Universities in Romania (**RMUR**) - for students enrolled in higher education institutions.

Household expenses data for educational activities were collected through the Household Budget Survey (HBS) - complementary section (SC), on a sample of 38,016 dwellings (3,168 dwellings each month), located in 792 research centers.

The results of formal education statistical surveys are disseminated at **national** level, by **macroregions, regions, counties, localities** (NUTS² level 1, 2, 3, 5), by **residence areas** (urban/rural) and **ownership type** (public/private). Data on primary and lower secondary education also include special education.

Formal education exhaustive statistical surveys are conducted **annually**, for two reference periods, namely the **beginning** and, the **end of the school/academic year**, respectively.

Data on educational institutions **expenses** are collected on an **annual** basis.

Financial year 2022 is the **reference period** for the collection of data on educational expenses made by the public education establishments/institutions from administrative data sources, namely the exhaustive survey (FIN ED-INV) on educational expenses the private education institutions have made, as well as the reference period for the selective statistical survey on the expenses that the NGOs, the religious institutions and organizations, and the charities have made for educational institutions (FIN ED – ONG).

The **calendar month** is the reference period for the household expenses on educational activities-related data collected **quarterly** by means of the HBS.

Statistical questionnaires related to the statistical surveys on education are available on the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) website, at: <https://insse.ro/cms/ro/content/statistica-educa%C8%9Biei>.

² Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS).

Definitions:

Enrolled population - all children in nurseries, kindergartens and students enrolled in the formal training and educational process during a school/academic year, regardless of the educational form (full-time, evening classes, part-time classes, or distance learning) and study programme or age.

School-aged population refers to the **resident population** aged within the limits of the official age limits corresponding to each education level.

In compliance with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011), the age groups for the school-aged population when calculating the enrolment ratios are: 3-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-14 years, 15-18 years, and 19-23 years and over.

Resident population at a certain date represents all persons of Romanian citizenship, foreign or stateless who have their usual residence in Romania.

Usual residence is the place where a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holidays, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage. The usual residence may be the same as the domicile or may differ from it, for the persons who choose to establish their usual residence in a locality other than the locality of domicile in the country or abroad. It is considered having their usual residence in a specific geographic area just people who have lived in that usual residence for a continuous period of at least 12 months prior to reference moment. The resident population includes the persons who immigrated to Romania but excludes the persons who emigrated from Romania.

Enrolment rate (school enrolment specific rate by age group) in education represents the total number of students within an age group, regardless of the education level, calculated as percentage of the total resident population of the same age group.

Teaching staff is represented by the individuals who work within the educational system (full-time or part-time employees) carrying out the teaching activities of the educational and training process. Each teacher is registered **only once and only in the educational unit their main job is recorded with**. As such, teaching staff whose main job is in high school education but who also teaches in vocational and/or post-secondary non-tertiary/tertiary education, are registered only with the high school education establishments. Early childhood teaching staff (educators-child carers) are defined as per the Government Decision no. 566/2022, approving the organizing and functioning methodology for nurseries and other early childhood educational development establishments.

Graduates refers to the pupil/student who passed the last year of an educational cycle (lower secondary/upper secondary/vocational/post-secondary non-tertiary/tertiary), irrespective of whether he/she has managed or not to pass the final examination (national tests/Baccalaureate/Bachelor Degree examination, etc.). The number of graduates relates to the end of the school year (after passing the second examination).

Degree graduate means all individuals who, upon completing an education level, have passed the graduation examination and were awarded a degree/diploma (e.g. Baccalaureate Diploma, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, PhD Degree, Graduation diploma, etc.).

Dropout rate is the difference between the students enrolled as of the beginning of the school year and the students recorded at the end of the same school year, expressed as percentage of students enrolled at the beginning of the school year. The dropout rate for primary and lower secondary education does not consider students in special primary and lower secondary education.

Material resources consist of all assets subject to the management of early childhood, pre-school, primary, lower, and upper secondary education establishments, including those pertaining to other education levels contained therein, as well as those tertiary education institutions, such as land, buildings, classrooms, IT equipment used in the carrying out of the education and training activities, for school population or those goods which ensure the proper performance of the educational process.

Classroom is a room used for educational and training purposes within school establishments. It can be used by two or three classes at the most, successively, during a day. The following are specific to tertiary level of education: amphitheatres, courses and seminar rooms.

School cabinet is the room within an educational establishments endowed with technical equipment and documentation necessary for specialized studies and consultations.

Class laboratory represents an educational institution room, endowed with installations, apparatus, instruments, substances, teaching materials for experiments and for students' practical training.

School workshop represents a room endowed with devices, instruments, machinery and equipment for school experiments and practical trainings.

Sport field is the specially equipped area for sport activities in educational institution.

Swimming pool is the pool intended for pupils and students, and it can be covered or uncovered.

Education-related expenses means the overall expenses made during a financial year by both the public Romanian education institutions. Data are collected from several sources: administrative sources and FINED-INV (exhaustive survey) covering the private educational establishments expenses, as well as all the expenses that the NGOs, the religious institutions and organizations, and the charities have made for the educational institutions – the FIN ED – ONG (sample survey) and the other sample survey, the Household Budget Survey (HBS)- complementary section (SC).

Classifications used

- **ISCED 2011** - ISCED 2011 Classification was passed by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2011 and it provides a tool for compiling and presenting education statistics both nationally and internationally. The ISCED 2011 Classification is currently used in the formal education statistical surveys carried out in Romania, and the educational levels covered are as follows:

| ISCED Level | ISCED level |
|-------------|--|
| 0 | Early childhood education |
| 1 | Primary education |
| 2 | Lower secondary education |
| 3 | Upper secondary education - high school and vocational |
| 4 | Post-secondary non-tertiary education |
| 6 | Bachelor studies—with a 3 to 4 years duration |
| 7 | Bachelor studies—with a 5 to 6 years duration, Master or equivalent studies (postgraduate studies and courses) |
| 8 | PhD or equivalent programs (PhD and advanced research postdoctoral programs) |

- **CAEN Rev. 2** - approved by Order no. 337/2007 of the NIS President, published in the Official Journal no. 293 / 03.05.2007.

Education establishments/institutions subject to the formal education statistical surveys fall under the 85 Division of the Romanian Classification of Activities from the National Economy (http://80.96.186.4:81/senin/classifications.htm?selectedClassification=CAEN_Rev.2&action=download).

The education institutions carry out their activities under the following CAEN codes:

| CAEN rev. 2 (division level) | CAEN Rev.2 division |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 8510 | Early childhood education |
| 8520 | Primary education |
| 8531 | Secondary education - General |
| 8532 | Secondary education - technical or vocational |
| 8541 | Non-tertiary higher education (post-secondary) |
| 8542 | Tertiary education |

- **SIRUTA – the Administrative-Territorial Units Registry in Romania** – consists of all administrative-territorial units (village, commune, town, municipality, and county); is managed by NIS and updated quarterly upon the laws and Government Decisions relating to the administrative-territorial organization of Romania.

(http://80.96.186.4:81/senin/classifications.htm?selectedClassification=SIRUTA_AN_2020&action=download)

- **Ownership type:**

- The education institutions in private sector includes: private majority ownership (private capital over 50%), exclusive private ownership, cooperative ownership, communal ownership, exclusive foreign ownership;
- The education institutions in public sector includes: exclusive state ownership, state majority ownership (state capital over 50%), public national and local ownership.

- **Nomenclature of Statistics Territorial Units – NUTS**

| Macroregion (NUTS1 level) | Development region (NUTS2 level) | Name of component counties (NUTS3 level) |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Macroregion 1 | North-West | Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș, Satu Mare, Sălaj |
| | Centre | Alba, Brașov, Covasna, Harghita, Mureș, Sibiu |
| Macroregion 2 | North-East | Bacău, Botoșani, Iași, Neamț, Suceava, Vaslui |
| | South-East | Brăila, Buzău, Constanța, Galați, Tulcea, Vrancea |
| Macroregion 3 | South-Muntenia | Argeș, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Prahova, Teleorman |
| | Bucharest-Ilfov | Bucharest, Ilfov |
| Macroregion 4 | South-West Oltenia | Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinți, Olt, Vâlcea |
| | West | Arad, Caraș-Severin, Hunedoara, Timiș |

The territorial distribution of the school population and teaching staff is based on the geographical location of the educational institutions and faculties providing educational activities and not on the residence or domicile of the children/pupils/students/teaching staff.