

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 researches **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 institutions authorised, under the Education Law¹ to organize and to undertake formal educational programs.

Statistical researches outcomes allow to assess each education level in terms of **school population participation in education, study programs completion** and **performances achieved**, as well as **material and human resources** used in the educational process, therefore providing 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 being performed in accordance with the provisions of the Commission Regulation (EU) No 912/2013 of 23 September 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 new International Standard Classification of Education - ISCED 2011 for organizing education programmes and related qualifications by education levels and fields (ISCED-F).

Under 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 the national authorities with education-related responsibilities, or by national and international entities with similar tasks, operating in accordance with the formal educational curricula.

Education for children/pupils/students with special needs, vocational education, as well as 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 ending with a **qualification recognized 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. In accordance with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011), applicable after 2013, National Education System levels are as follows:

- Early childhood education (ISCED level 01)
- Pre-school education (ISCED level 02)
- Primary education (ISCED level 1)
- Lower secondary education (ISCED level 2)
- Vocational and upper secondary education (ISCED level 3)
- Post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED level 4)
- Higher (tertiary) education (ISCED levels 6, 7 and 8)

Exhaustive statistical researches are carried out with regard to formal education statistics, including all education institutions in each of the education levels, irrespective of ownership (public or private), or the residence area they are established in (urban or rural):

¹ National education Law No. 1/2011, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

- a) **Early childhood education**² - level 01 ISCED and **pre-school education** exhaustive statistical research – level 02 ISCED (questionnaires SC.0.1, SC.1.1) – covers in the active sample approx. 5,400 early childhood/pre-school units – nurseries/kindergardens;
- b) **Primary** - level 1 ISCED, and **lower secondary education** - level 2 ISCED exhaustive statistical research - (questionnaires SC.2.1 for the beginning of the school year and SC.2.2 for the end of the school year) - covers in the active sample approx. 4,900 primary and lower-secondary education units;
- c) **Special primary** - level 1 ISCED and **lower secondary education** - level 2 ISCED exhaustive statistical research (questionnaire SC.3.1) - covers in the active sample approx. 160 special education units – primary and lower-secondary education units;
- d) **Upper secondary education** - level 3 ISCED exhaustive statistical research (questionnaires SC.4.1 for the beginning of the school year and SC.4.2 for the end of the school year) – covers in the active sample approx. 1,600 upper secondary education units;
- e) **Vocational education** - level 3 ISCED, **post-secondary non-tertiary and foremen education** - level 4 ISCED (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 in the active sample approx. 1,400 vocational, post-secondary non-tertiary and foremen education units;
- f) **Bachelor's degree programs** - level 6 and 7 ISCED, **Master's degree programs** and **postgraduate programs** – level 7 ISCED and **PhD and advanced research postdoctoral programs** – level 8 ISCED (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 in the active sample approx. 100 tertiary education units – institutes, universities, and academies, either accredited or undergoing the accreditation procedure;
- g) **FIN ED – INV**, the exhaustive statistical research on the **educational expenses of private education institutions** covers in the active sample approximately 1,200 private education units;
- h) **FIN ED – ONG**, the selective statistical research on the expenses the NGOs, the religious institutions and organizations, and the charities have made for educational institutions; it covers in the active sample approximately 1,700 responding units.

The results of formal education statistical researches are disseminated at **national** level, by **macroregions, regions, counties, localities** (NUTS³ 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 researches are conducted **annually**, for two reference periods, namely the **beginning** and, respectively, the **end of the school/academic year**.

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

Financial year 2016 is the **reference period** for both the administrative sources-based research conducted on education-related expenses made by the public education institutions, and the exhaustive research (FIN ED-INV) on educational expenses the private education institutions have made.

The **12 months prior to the moment of the data collection** from the surveyed units is the reference period for the information collected by means of the statistical research on the expenses that the NGOs, the religious institutions and organizations, and the charities have made for educational institutions (FIN ED – ONG).

Statistical questionnaires related to the statistical researches on education are available on the National Institute of Statistics (INS) website, at the following link: <http://www.insse.ro/cms/ro/content/statistica-educatiei>.

² Implemented starting with the school year 2014-2015

³ 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), 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.

Starting with the school year 2012-2013, as per legislation in force (Education Law no. 1/2011), the age groups for the school-aged population are: 0-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-14 years, 15-18 years, and 19-23 years and over.

Resident population 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.

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

Teaching personnel is represented by the individuals who work within the educational system and perform the teaching activities of the educational and training process (full-time or part-time employees). Each teacher is registered only once and only in the educational unit where his/her main job is recorded. Early childhood teaching staff (educators-child carers) are defined as per the Government Decision no. 1252/2012, approving the organizing and functioning methodology for nurseries and other early childhood education units.

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

Degree graduate in tertiary education is a person who, upon completion of a tertiary education cycle was granted a degree (Bachelor's degree, doctorate degree, graduation diploma, etc.)

Material resources consist of all assets subject to the management of early childhood, pre-school, primary, lower, and upper secondary education units, including those pertaining to other education levels contained therein, as well as those being under the management of tertiary education institutions, such as land, buildings, classrooms, PCs 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 units. 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 unit endowed with technical equipment and documentation necessary for specialized studies and consultations.

Class laboratory represents an educational unit's room, endowed with installations, apparatus, instruments, substances, teaching materials for experiments, and 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 obtained from administrative sources – and the private ones – data obtained by means of the FIN ED questionnaires covering the 2012 financial year, and FINED-INV covering the 2016 financial year – 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 questionnaire covering the financial year 2016.

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.

Starting with the 2013-2014 school/academic year, the ISCED 2011 Classification is being used in the formal education statistical researches carried out in Romania, and the educational levels covered are as follows:

ISCED Level	ISCED level name
0	Early childhood and pre-school education
1	Primary education
2	Lower-secondary education
3	Upper secondary and vocational education
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

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

Education units subject to the formal education statistical researches fall under the 85 Division of the Romanian Classification of Activities from the National Economy (www.colectaredate.insse.ro/senin/index.htm). The school units/tertiary education institutions carry out their activities under the following CAEN codes:

CAEN rev. 2 (division level)	CAEN Rev.2 division name
8510	Pre-school education
8520	Primary education
8531	General secondary education
8532	Secondary, technic or vocational education
8541	Higher non-tertiary (post-secondary) education
8542	Higher (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 INS and updated quarterly upon the laws and Government Decisions relating to the administrative-territorial organization of Romania.
(www.colectaredate.insse.ro/senin/index.htm).

• **Ownership type:**

- Private sector includes: private majority ownership (private capital over 50%), entirely private ownership, cooperative ownership, communal ownership, entirely foreign ownership;
- Public sector includes: entirely 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

Children/pupils/students' distribution at territorial level, as well as their distribution by residence area (urban/rural) are performed taking into account schools' or faculties' geographical location, and **not** children'/pupils'/students' domicile or residence.