

Romania Unfolds EPISODE **QUALITY EDUCATION 4**

Romania faces significant challenges in education, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 4. The early school dropout rate stands at 15.6%, PISA test results are far below the European average, and only 24.7% of young people complete higher education, compared to 41.74% in the EU.

Academic Performance



Significant challenges in mathematics

Nearly 1 in 2 students in Romania struggles with understanding mathematics (46.6%).



Serious issues with reading

Approximately 2 in 5 Romanian students face difficulties in reading and understanding texts (40.8%)



Gap compared to the European average

In the European Union, only 1 in 5 students encounters similar difficulties (22%)

Technical & vocational education in Romania



Percentage of students with workplace training

Only 8.4% of students in technical and vocational education in Romania benefit from workplace-based training, compared to the European average of 60.1%



Post-apprenticeship collaboration

Nearly 3 out of 5 Romanian youth (59%) continue working with their employer after completing an apprenticeship, compared to just under 2 out of 5 youth (39%) in the European average

Higher education



Romania in 2022

Only 1 in 5 young Romanians (24.7%) aged 25-34 had completed higher education - the lowest percentage in the European Union



European average in 2022

Nearly 2 in 5 young people (43.1%) in the same age group had completed higher education

Through the lens of SDG 4, Romania has the opportunity to transform education into a driver of social progress. With 42.5% of STEM graduates being women - the highest percentage in the EU - and a growing demand for specialists, education can help reduce inequalities and poverty, increasing income by 10%-20% for each additional year of study. Education remains the key to a more equitable and prosperous future.