ADULT EDUCATION AND OER
2015 COUNTRY UPDATE: ROMANIA

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Romania is a medium-sized EU Member State, with a population of nearly 20 million. The official language is Romanian – this also has official status in the Republic of Moldova (including Transnistria), and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in Serbia.

The national pre-university educational system is regulated by the 2011 Law on National Education[1] and organised into four levels:

- Early education (0 – 6 years), including *the ante-preschool level* (0-3 years – the Ministry is not responsible for this) and *pre-school education* (3-6 years);
- primary education which includes the preparatory grade and 1st – 4th grades; secondary education, which includes lower secondary or middle education (5th – 8th grades; upper secondary education which can be high school education, (9th – 12th/13th grades), with three pathways: theoretical, vocational and technological; – vocational education with a duration of 3 years;
- tertiary non-university education, which includes post-high school education.

Compulsory education consists of primary education, lower secondary education and the first 2 years of upper secondary education.

The Romanian higher education system is in line with the Bologna Agreement. As a result, most Bachelor programmes take 3 years to complete. However, some programmes last longer – e.g., medicine and architecture. Master's programmes take 2 years beyond the Bachelor's degree and are a prerequisite for admission to Ph.D. programs. Ph.D. programmes usually take 3 years to complete. Under special circumstances, the duration of study may be extended by 1 or 2 years. Romania has a large higher education sector with 54 public universities and approximately 40 accredited private universities. The 2011 Law on National Education introduced a new university classification system, identifying three types of institution: education-centred (bachelor degrees only); education- and research-centred (bachelor and master degrees); advanced research and education-centred (includes doctoral degrees). A university can move from one category to another. Further flexibility is provided to the extent that, e.g., a university classified as education-centred can offer master or doctoral studies in certain fields, provided that the specific programme has been evaluated to be of high quality. Funding will be dependent on the type of university and the results of a ranking of study programmes.

Among the educational priorities of the ***2012 government programme of 2012***[2] are

- a continuing education programme for teachers co-financed with European funds;
- 'The school of the second chance': reintegration in schools of children who have dropped out of school;
- 'The school after the school': pupils may remain in the school building after the end of the lessons for tutoring sessions or as participants of organized sport, interest and recreation activities;
- adapting learning programmes to meet societal and individual needs;

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[1] http://www.edu.ro/index.php/legaldocs/14847
[2] http://gov.ro/programul-de-guvernare-2012__l1a117011.html

- creating **community centres for lifelong learning**;[3]
- the development of the **RoEduNet**[4] network for improving internet access across the country.

1   Adult education in Romania

Adult (lifelong) education in Romania is regulated by two Ministries: the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour. All adult education connected with universities is covered by the Ministry of Education.

A key aspect is the work of **IREA**[5] – the Romanian Institute of Adult Education – which was founded in March 2000, based at **UVT (the West University of Timişoara)**[6] with **ISRBC (the Social Romanian Institute Banat-Cristana**)[7] and **DIE (the German Institute for Adult Education)**[8] as partners. IREA was established as a non-profit institution as a pedagogic research institute in the field of adult and continuing education aiming to provide support for all adult education institutions in Romania.

Whilst postgraduate certificates are undertaken exclusively through universities under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour oversees adult education concerned with vocational retraining and upskilling, including basic skills courses. To obtain approval courses have to fulfil competences from the Workforce Catalogue for Romania and be approved by the Ministry of Labour. Training courses are run largely by companies, but also take place in colleges and high schools. Certificates are awarded for successful completion and fees have to be paid to the certificate giver, but certificates are not universally recognised – generally they are only valued by the brand.

2   Copyright in Romania

Romania is a member of the Bern Convention on Copyright. In 1997 the Romanian Copyright Office (ORDA)[9] was established and in1998, the Romanian Parliament ratified the latest versions of the Bern and Rome conventions.

In 2005, the Government and Parliament stiffened sanctions for copyright theft, stripped the Romanian Copyright Office (ORDA) of its law enforcement responsibilities, and designated the General Prosecutor's Office as the national coordinator of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) enforcement activities.

A new change to the Copyright Law was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at the end of 2012.[10] The new text implements a definition of 'orphan works' but establishes a quite difficult regime for their re-use. The new text also imposes a new levy to be paid to collective societies for public libraries and higher education libraries (only the pre-university libraries will be exempted).

In September 2008 the Creative Commons Romania version was launched with the help of **ApTI – The Association for Technology and Internet**.[11] This launch followed a period of prior work with iCommons, which involved the translation of licenses and their adaptation to the Romanian legal framework, a consultation period public, and finally the

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[3] http://www.edu.ro/index.php/articles/18341

[4] http://www.roedu.net/
[5] http://www.irea.ro/en/
[6] http://www.uvt.ro/ro/
[7] http://www.cooperativag.ro/banat-crisana-social-institute-monographic-research/
[8] http://www.die.born.de/portrait/english/index/htm
[9] http://www.orda.ro
[10] see info in Romanian and comments http://apti.ro/modificare-legislatie-drepturi-de-autor
[11] http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/ro/, http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Romania

availability of these licenses in Romania. News about events related to CC and a non-exclusive list of projects/blogs using CC licenses may be found at **Creative Commons Romania**.[12] Romania has also developed 'Licenze Libere', an internal system which follows the same labelling pattern as Creative Commons.

In education Article 22 of the **Romanian Law on Copyright and Neighbouring Rights** specifies that the educational uses of (some parts of) a work already disclosed to the public are permitted without the author's consent and without payment of remuneration, being mandatory to mention the source and the author's name if it appears on the work used.[13] The Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport has a **National Ethics Council**[14] which monitors the use of the codes and of the Intellectual Property rights in education, analysing plagiarism cases. Some independent websites have been developed to expose cases of plagiarisms that allegedly are widespread in the Higher Education system.[15]

Co-financed with European Funds, the project 'Interuniversity virtual community for science, technology, innovation and intellectual property valorisation' (2010-2013) aims to create and develop a portal with resources and research into intellectual property. An intellectual property campaign[16] was launched recently by the **European Patent Office**:[17] this is a pilot project and is being developed simultaneously in four countries: Spain, Romania, Czech Republic and Turkey. The goal of the project is to raise and increase awareness on Intellectual Property, promote Intellectual Property culture and Intellectual Property management in universities and expand Intellectual Property in university curricula.

3   OER in Adult education in Romania

OER are currently largely found in schools and universities, with relatively little in VET, except for some IT courses. This mirrors the situation in most of the EU.[18] Whilst the OER movement is very active in Romania, with a broad range of projects and initiatives,[19] most of these have been targeted at teaching professionals, both in schools and higher education.

The **Government Programme for 2013-2016** adopted in December 2012[20] specifies that the Ministry of Information Society and the Ministry of Education will collaborate to support the innovative integration of Web2.0 and Open Educational Resources in education, to promote the use of open/free resources, and the development and sharing of resources by teachers and students, but does not mention adult and continuing education. In 2014 the Romanian Government adopted the National Strategy on Digital Agenda for Romania[21] that focuses on three main pillars: the modernization of the public administration, supporting the competitiveness of the private sector via ICT, and

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[12] http://ro.creativecommons.org
[13] http://www.legi-internet.ro/en/copyright.htm
[14] http://www.ancs.ro/ro/articol/1011/despre-ancs-organizare-organe-consultative-3-consiliul-national-de-etica
[15] E.g. http://integru.org and http://www.plagiate.ro
[16] http://www.osim.ro/Proprietate_Intelectuala_in_Universitati/en
[17] http://epo.org
[18] http://poerup.referata.com/wiki/Overview_of_European_and_International_policies_relevant_for_the_uptake_of_OER
[19] E.g. http://www.ecomunitate.ro/Implementarea_tehnologiei_informatiei_si_comunicatiilor_in_scoli%2817527%29.html; http://timsoft.ro/pilot,http://www.slideshare.net/cami13/program-pilot; http://www.ecomunitate.ro/evacanta, http://ebc-networking.wikispaces.com; http://www.mcsi.ro/Minister/Comunicate-de-presa-2012/Economia-Bazata-pe-Cunoastere-ofera-profesorilor-s, http://ebc-networking.wikispaces.com and others.
[20] http://www.gov.ro/upload/articles/118981/program-de-guvernare-2013-2016.pdf
[21] http://www.imdd.ro/sites/default/files/library/691-strategia_nationala_privind_agenda_digitala_pentru_romania.pdf

providing ICT access and digital education to the public at large, including encouragement for lifelong learning and 'the development of an attractive system of higher vocational education'.

The **Romanian Coalition for Open Educational Resources** was initiated in October 2013. The initial memorandum of understanding was signed by the members of the project 'OER Awareness Activities for Librarians and Academics in Romania' and has been signed also by private companies.

MOOC initiatives include:

- UniCampus,[22] a project supported by the Ministry of Education, started in 2014 under the initiative of University Politehnica Timisoara and developed by the Association of Technical Universities from Romania[23] to offer MOOCs on a platform based on Moodle.
- UniBuc Virtual[24] offers three MOOCs for Teacher Training; the platform is based on Google Apps.
- University 'Vasile Goldis' Arad in partnership with Fédération Européenne des Écoles.
- Experiments for integrating MOOCs in blended academic courses can be found at University Politehnica Timisoara.[25]

Although these initiatives have not yet had a significant impact on adult education, the Romanian Institute for Adult Education[26] is a partner in OERup!,[27] a 2014-16 Erasmus+ project designed to identify the status of OER use in adult education institutions, raise awareness of the value of OER, create a quality framework for OER and improve the digital skills of education professionals working in adult and continuing education. At the time of writing (March 2015), the project is about to produce its first report – a needs analysis linked to the project objectives.

4   Quality for OER in Romania

At pre-university levels of the education system, the quality assurance strategy is implemented by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in School Education (ARACIP).

The **Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)**[28] deals with QA in universities and is a full member of **ENQA**.[29] Universities are now less strictly controlled by the Ministry. However, in neither organisation are there any references to OER, and quality assurance remains the province of individual institutions and initiatives.

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[22] http://unicampus.ro
[23] http://rouni.ro
[24] http://www.unibuc-virtual.net
[25] http://www.scribd.com/doc/213864614/Integrating-MOOCs-in-Blended-Courses
[26] http://www.irea.ro/en/
[27] http://www.oerup.eu/the-project/
[28] http://www.aracis.ro/nc/en/
[29] http://www.enqa.eu/