

2018 Country Report for Romania

Key points for EASPD members

I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- Employment growth was positive in 2017 (0.7 %) and the unemployment rate dropped to 4.9 %, its lowest level in more than 20 years.
- Despite recent improvements, labour force participation rates remain well below EU averages.
- The activity rate among the population aged 20-64 remains one of the lowest in the EU despite recent improvements.
- Furthermore, long-term unemployment is high, affecting 50 % of the unemployed.
- Employment, including the number of self-employed people, is growing in expanding sectors, i.e. industry and services, which require medium to high levels of skills.
- **Employers increasingly report difficulties in hiring and retaining workers.**
- **People with disabilities also have difficulties in getting jobs.**
- **Inequality of opportunity persists in access to employment.**

II. Education Policy

- The weak performance of the education and training system will limit growth prospects in the long run.
- Romania has a high number of early school leavers, and young people not in education, employment or training.
- The weak performance of the education system limits growth prospects in the long run.
- Access to adult learning is limited, in particular for the low-skilled.
- **Inequality of opportunity persists in education,**
- **Many people with disabilities leave school early and few reach tertiary education, which reduces their employability.**
- **Unequal access to quality education.**
- Large shortcomings in student performance.
- Quality assurance in school education remains largely focused on compliance, due to fragmentation and overlaps in responsibilities.



- Mechanisms to support school improvement and development are relatively weak, despite the recent efforts to make better use of quality assurance findings.
- **The gap in underperformance between advantaged and disadvantaged students is one of the highest in the EU.**

III. Social Policy

- The health status of the population has improved, but remains below EU standards.
- **Access to healthcare remains a key challenge, also in relation to equality of opportunities, with negative repercussions on child development, workforce employability and healthy ageing.**
- Low funding and inefficient use of public resources limit the health systems effectiveness, against the background of a sizeable shortage of doctors and nurses.
- Health infrastructure and the prevalence of informal payments remain sources of concern.
- The ongoing implementation of the national health strategy is marred by shifting priorities and poor investment planning.
- Inequality of opportunity persists in health care.
- Despite recent improvements, life expectancy in Romania is almost 6 years below the EU average.
- Access to medicines is a major challenge, although efforts are being made to improve the situation.

IV. Anything else?

- The national target under the Europe 2020 strategy for reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion has already been reached.
- Romania is faced with a high risk of poverty and social exclusion.
- **The risk of poverty or social exclusion is the highest for young people, families with children, Roma, people with disabilities, the rural population and inactive people.**
- High income inequality persists, especially between rural and urban areas.
- Romania has a relatively large gender employment gap, affecting mainly older women.
- Romania is faced with a high risk of income inequality.



Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [Romania](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

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