

Romanian EQAVET Peer Review on ‘Mechanism for the evaluation and monitoring of public policies in initial vocational education and training’ - Flash Report

EQAVET Peer Review in Romania

The Romanian EQAVET system-level Peer Review took place on 19-20 March 2025 online, hosted by the National Centre for TVET Development (CNDIPT) which acts as the Romanian EQAVET National Reference Point (NRP). Nine EQAVET Network members from Belgium-fr, Finland, Lithuania, Serbia and Slovakia acted as peers. The peer review focused on the Romanian mechanism for the evaluation and monitoring of public policies in initial vocational education and training. The feedback from peers, based on their knowledge and experience of VET governance and quality assurance measures in their countries, will help assess the effectiveness of the monitoring and evaluation of vocational education and training (VET) measures in Romania, while also identifying elements that can be strengthened and further developed.

Methodology and indicators for monitoring and evaluating public policies in initial vocational education and training

The Educated Romania reform process and the ReConect project

The topic of this peer review reflects current priorities in the initial vocational education and training (IVET) policy agenda, in particular related to the Educated Romania reform process and Romania’s new education law for the pre-university level (including pre-primary, primary and secondary education levels). With quality and equity issues gaining prominence on the education policy agenda, along with a need to better align vocational education and training with labour market needs, new tools are being developed to support evidence-based policymaking.

To kick-off the meeting, the host country presented the monitoring and evaluation mechanism for public policies in initial VET. It was developed as part of the **‘ReConect - Adaptation to Change - Integrated Mechanism for Anticipating, Monitoring, and Evaluating the Labour Market and Education’ project**, implemented between December 2020 and December 2023. The mechanism aims to review and optimise public VET policy through effective monitoring and evaluation, and to increase the capacity to align the VET offer with both learner and labour market needs.

This mechanism for monitoring and evaluating VET policies is a multi-institutional initiative coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Research. Its governance involves two **Technical Groups**: one monitors the progress of public policy implementation in IVET, while the other evaluates its effectiveness. These Technical Groups collect quantitative and qualitative data, analyse the progress and develop recommendations for further improvement. The goal is to track development over time, analyse trends and understand why a particular VET policy area is performing well or not.

The data collection framework is organised into various indicators, which are grouped into several areas:

- **General context** (e.g., data on demographics, economic performance, employment);
- **Management and planning of the vocational training offering** (e.g., data on demand for training places, newly developed VET qualifications, cost and funding);
- **Capacity to provide vocational training programs** (e.g., data on share of qualified teachers, enrolled students, satisfaction levels with the current system);
- **Process management** (e.g., data on enrolment and transition rates, VET attractiveness, VET programme delivery, learner satisfaction);
- **Results and impact** (e.g., data on graduation rates, labour market insertion rates), and
- **Perceptions on VET programme alignment and awareness** (e.g., data on level of information available to VET students and parents, students' willingness to recommend a VET programme).

The ReConect platform

The **ReConect platform** is the online platform designed to visualise the data collected, which is then used to analyse, monitor and improve VET public policies. The platform is part of the ReConect project, and it has been developed using the SAS Visual Analytics system. It is managed by the National Employment Agency (ANOFM). This platform integrates databases from vocational education and training with the labour market, and it provides data through three key mechanisms: a) the skills and workforce needs forecasting mechanism (M1), b) the graduate tracking mechanism (M2), and c) the public policy monitoring and evaluation mechanism in vocational training (M3).

The ReConect platform enables users to view data disaggregated by various categories, such as school, region, gender, school residence environment (urban or rural) and type of education (public or private). Users can create customised reports by selecting the data they need. The data is validated and users can choose the preferred representation format (table or graph), specify the desired attributes (such as segmented data) and generate the report. The reports can be displayed in various formats, with the option to add labels, attributes and other custom elements. The platform is still in development, and a public interface is not available.

Qualitative indicators in IVET, data collection and analysis

Romania collects qualitative data from indicators to complement the quantitative data sources in the ReConect platform. This set of currently 20 indicators measures the satisfaction of direct beneficiaries and VET stakeholders – such as teachers, learners, parents, employers - whose feedback is essential for the EQAVET quality cycle. While the questionnaires are developed at the national level, feedback is collected at school level, upon request from the Ministry of Education/CNDIPT. Once the feedback has been collected, ReConect calculates the qualitative indicators, and structured data reports can be downloaded through the platform, in both tabular and graphical formats.

A key challenge in collecting qualitative data is the low response rate across all groups of respondents. Although some actions have been taken to improve feedback collection, one of the main questions posed to peers is how this process can be further enhanced.

Peer Discussions

The peers discussed and reflected on elements to strengthen the mechanism for the evaluation and monitoring public policies in initial VET. This included in particular discussions on the selection of indicators and their implication, on possible ways to use the collected data to provide effective evidence for decision making at policy and school level, and on how to improve the response rate on questionnaires distributed to teachers, learners, parents and companies.

At the end of the meeting, the peers shared their initial feedback. While the peers agreed that the ReConnect platform is an excellent data monitoring tool, they recommended that the evaluation aspect could be further enhanced. The peers also suggested exploring ways to share this data with the education sector, including inspectorates and the level of VET schools.

To improve qualitative data collection, peers recommended a strengthened collaboration with school management teams, outreach to student bodies and employer associations, as well as strengthening the overall feedback culture as part of the learning process at school.

Next steps

A comprehensive feedback report will be drafted and shared with the Romanian hosts. The feedback in the peer reviewers' report will help the Romanian NRP to identify how to develop and strengthen QA measures for VET.

The EQAVET system level peer review initiative

The [2020 Council Recommendation on VET](#) called upon the EQAVET Network to develop a specific methodology for EQAVET peer reviews, with the objective to support the improvement and transparency of quality assurance arrangements at system level in the Member States. Over the course of 2021, with the support of DG EMPL and the EQAVET Secretariat, the EQAVET Network agreed on a joint methodology and prepared a Peer Review Manual. A first cycle took place in 2022-2023 with Quality Assurance National Reference Points (EQAVET NRPs) from 21 Member States taking part in the EQAVET Network's peer review initiative. A second cycle is planned for 2024-26 with 20 participating NRPs. Five peer reviews already took place in 2024. The Romanian Peer Review is the first out of eight Peer Reviews that are scheduled to take place in 2025. Seven further Peer Reviews are planned to take place in 2026.