



Romania: Ministry of Education



Romania recognises IC3 Digital Literacy Certifications for Teacher Professional Development Credits

The Digital Challenge

Romania has taken a deliberate and steady approach toward the development of their digital economy and society. In 2010, to meet their goal of improving digital skills amongst students, the Romanian Ministry of Education introduced a compulsory digital competence examination as part of their baccalaureate. It was compulsory that all 12th grade students pass this exam. However, the 2021 Digital Economy and Society Index from the European Commission still ranked Romania last of the 27 European Members.

In 2016, Certipro Education, a Certiport partner, introduced the IC3 Digital Literacy Certification program to the education sector. The Ministry quickly recognized and equivalated IC3 Digital Literacy Certification as a sufficient credential that would count toward their Digital Competence Exam for graduating high school students, meaning anyone that earned this certification would not have to take the exam.

COVID-19 Highlighted the need for Digital Skills

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it became evident that teachers around the world were also needing to further develop their digital competencies. Classrooms were replaced with online conferencing software and face-to-face instruction become remotely digitized lectures followed by emailed assignment instructions. It quickly became clear that teachers were going to need to use every digital skill they had, just to keep instruction moving forward.

At this time, Certipro Education approached the Ministry of Education and proposed that the IC3 Digital Literacy Certification be used to address professional development for all teachers at the pre-university level. The Ministry agreed and in May 2020, through the mapping of objectives and skillsets of IC3 Digital Literacy to the European Digital Competence Framework for Educators, they approved ministerial order 4413/28.05.2020.



"The Ministry of Education has recognized IC3 Digital Literacy Certification for the whole pre-university education sector because we believe all teachers and students must have good digital skills to strive in today's society. We have equivalated IC3 [Digital Literacy] with the Baccalaureate exam because it maps well to our national digital standards and are crediting the IC3 [Digital Literacy] course for teachers with 15 professional credits as part of their professional development program."

Anca Denisa Petrache, Director,
National Centre for Teacher
Development, Ministry of Education

Great Work Leads to Great Results

IC3 Digital Literacy has become one of the most used certifications in the Romanian education system and has been delivered to over 20,000 students throughout the nation but now teachers are seeing the value in their professional development. All teachers, primary through secondary, now have the opportunity to improve their digital skills by attending the IC3 Digital Literacy course and earning their certification.

"We believe the digital skills of our teaching staff is of paramount importance – therefore we have supported all teachers to go through the IC3 [Digital Literacy] course and take the certification. This has actually helped us two-fold: firstly, because now all teachers are up to date on their digital skills and secondly, because all teachers have acquired 15 professional credits from the total 90 required in each 5-year teaching cycle."

Iulius Timar,
Headmaster of Onisifor
Ghibu High School

Since being made available in June of 2020, over 8,000 teachers have attended the course and more than 3,000 teachers have earned their IC3 Digital Literacy certification, with many more to come.

Basic Digital Literacy has always been at the core of our activities at Fundatia EOS. Romania still scores lowest in the European Digital Economy and Society Index amongst all EU countries and honestly, we need resources such as the IC3 Digital Literacy certification in all sectors of our society, not only in education. It is great that IC3 maps so well to the European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens as it allowed us to build robust training resources to help our beneficiaries."

Laurentiu Bunescu,
Head of Digital Education Programs,
Fundatia EOS Romania