

# IMPLEMENTAREA SISTEMULUI DUAL ÎN ÎNVĂȚĂMÂNTUL PROFESIONAL ȘI TEHNIC ÎN ROMÂNIA<sup>1</sup>: OBIECTIVE ȘI PROVOCĂRI

## THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DUAL SYSTEM OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN ROMANIA<sup>1</sup>: OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

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**Abstract:** The implementation of the dual system of vocational education and training in Romania is the natural consequence of a growing demand for specialised workforce and of the attempt to reduce youth unemployment and early school leaving rates by offering alternative paths of vocational education. The implementation process started with pilot classes founded in 2012 and was followed by implementation at a national level starting with the school year 2017-2018. Although it is generally met with enthusiasm at a theoretical level, implementing the dual system is, in practice, a strenuous effort met with scepticism. The case study of the Reformed Technical Secondary School in Cluj-Napoca offers a good example of the challenges that schools have to face. The main finding of this study is that in order to implement it, a shift in mentality regarding the perception of the VET is vital. VET is perceived as a the last resort for weak graduates of compulsory education who would otherwise not be able to cope with the demands of a theoretical secondary school. Another finding is that the small and medium-sized companies have to be „hunted” by schools wishing to introduce the dual system. They are the least interested in such partnerships as they do not benefit from real fiscal facilities, nor do they see the long-term benefits associated with them.

**Keywords:** Romanian dual system, VET, mentality shift, labour market, business operators, contract, partnership

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<sup>1</sup> Sintagma prescurtată *învățământ dual* face referire la sistemul dual după model german din învățământul profesional și tehnic din România și va fi folosită ca atare în acest studiu pentru o economie de cuvinte care altfel ar îngreuna inutil formulările. / The abbreviated phrase “dual system” refers to “the German model of dual system of education and training” that is to be implemented in Romania and will be used as such in this study in order to avoid a very long formulation that would otherwise burden the wording.