



ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Location:
Romania

Success Metrics:

- IC3 is recognized as equivalent to national digital competence examination
- Increased digital literacy in Romania
- Improves student CVs with validation of in-demand workforce skills



Romanian Ministry of Education Recognizes IC3 Digital Literacy Certification

IC3 Satisfies Digital Competence Examination Requirement for Romanian Students in Grade 12

CHALLENGE

Despite a thriving IT sector, the Romanian population at large is lacking in the technology skills necessary to compete in a digital world. Training, development and confirmation of digital competence is seen as a national priority of the Romanian education system.

In 2010 the Romanian Ministry of Education introduced a compulsory digital competence examination as part of the Romanian baccalaureate, the series of exams taken by every high school student at the end of Grade 12.

"I have said on many occasions that digital literacy skills are essential for the 21st century, irrespective of whether students graduating high school intend to go into higher education or the workforce," says Nusa Dumitriu-Lupan, General Inspector for Informatics at the Ministry of Education. "In addition, it is clear that many of the young people who are so called 'digital natives,' while seemingly fully at ease using computing devices, simply don't have the necessary digital skills."

Students in Romanian high schools typically start studying Information and Communications Technology as a required subject in Grade 9 for 1 to 2 hours per week. Recently the Ministry of Education has expanded the development of these skills by approving a new curriculum framework for younger students age 10 to 14 which includes Information and Communications Technology as well.

For several years, the Romanian Ministry of Education has recognized some international certifications for foreign languages and digital competence as equivalent to the relevant baccalaureate examinations.

SOLUTION

Certipro Education, Certiprot's partner in Romania, approached the Ministry of Education about having the IC3 Digital Literacy Certification recognized as equivalent to the baccalaureate digital competence examination. The Ministry said they would consider recognizing IC3 provided it could be demonstrated that the certification covered all elements in the domains of competence for the baccalaureate examination.

“The fact that the certifications are administered online gives us a very flexible and easy to use tool to manage documents, reports and exams.”

Mihail Erhan
School Teacher

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Certiport mapped the objectives and skill sets of IC3 Global Standard 4 (GS4) to the examination's domains of competence. David Ford, Director of Certipro Education says, "The mapping exercise showed that IC3 GS4 more than covered the domains of competence. In fact, IC3 is slightly wider in scope than the baccalaureate exam."

After the documentation was assessed by the Ministry, IC3 GS4 was officially recognized as equivalent to the baccalaureate digital competence exam at its highest grade.

"To the students, IC3 offers two advantages," says Ford. "First and foremost it gives them a globally-recognized certification that proves they have the digital literacy skills that are essential for today's society. Secondly, they are able to take the exams and gain the certification long before they sit for their baccalaureate exams, which means they have one less thing to worry about at the most intense period of high school."

Immediately after the Ministry granted the official recognition for IC3, Certipro and Certiport worked together to produce the IC3 exams in the Romanian language.

RESULTS

Over 4,000 students have earned the IC3 Digital Literacy Certification in Romania, and interest in the program continues to grow.

Since Certiport updates IC3 periodically with the latest technology, IC3 Global Standard 5 (GS5) was recently released and the Ministry of Education once again approved and recognized the new version as equivalent for the baccalaureate digital competence exam. GS5 includes more focus on mobile devices, cloud computing and Google applications for e-mail and calendar.

Petru Rareş National College in Suceava started offering IC3 to its students three years ago and since then the program has grown significantly, delivering 500 IC3 exams last year.

Teacher Gabriela Dumtraşcu says, "IC3 is very popular with our students who see it as a real differentiator on their CVs, with the added bonus that it gains them exemption from the baccalaureate exam."

Teacher Mihail Erhan adds, "The fact that the certifications are administered online gives us a very flexible and easy to use tool to manage documents, reports and exams. It is great that there is not bureaucracy and we don't have to print anything. Certificates are sent quickly through the post and we have many Romanian and international universities who appreciate the IC3 certification achieved by our students."

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