



STUDENT ASSESSMENT IN ROMANIA

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Context: Comprehensive Education Reform

- Initiated in 1992, necessary for a country moving to a democratic society and a market economy
- Initial objectives: reforming curriculum, assessment, textbooks, teacher training, management
- The reform continues, now with school-driven improvements

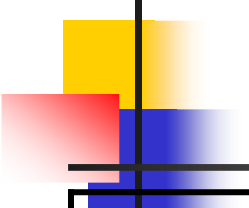


Education Reform Project

Main Achievements in Assessment

- New methodology for examinations at end grade 8 and 12 with assessment objectives based on the new curriculum
- National Assessment and Examination Service established
- National Assessments regularly conducted
- Participation in PISA, TIMSS, PIRLS

Examinations and Assessment



| Examinations Grades 8,12 | Assessment Grade 4 |
|--|--|
| Certify and select students | Feedback to authorities, not to schools and students |
| National | Sample |
| Stressful, learning for the examination, neglecting other subjects | Non-stressful, may even not be taken seriously |



Present Challenges

- Balancing standardized knowledge of content and mastery of routine skills with increased flexibility, creativity, problem-solving through cooperative learning and networking
- Avoiding the pitfall of teachers teaching for tests rather than for deeper learning (teacher- centred vs. student- centred learning)



Recent Developments

- National Centre for Curriculum and Evaluation in Pre-University Education (www.cnceip.ro)
- Grade 8 examination abolished;
- Twice a year tests with unique subjects
- Items *à la* PISA in assessments
- Inspectors and teachers involved in assessment
- Public reports



Grade 4 Assessment

- Assessments in 1995, 1998, 2000, 2005
- Curriculum revision 1998: grades I-IV without marks, with qualifications (unsatisfactory, satisfactory, good, very good)
- Maternal language (Romanian, Hungarian), Mathematics, Sciences
- *Handbook of procedures for designing and administering the Grade IV National Assessment*



Grade IV Assessment 2007

- Sample: 151 schools, 221 grade IV classes, 3,523 students
- Sampling variables: residence (rural / urban), school type (traditional/ simultaneous)
- Questionnaire for teachers: human resources (training, qualification, continuity) and material resources;
- Test administrators reports on each classroom
- Design, pre-testing and proofing centrally done by NCCEPE; administration done by trained inspectors and/or teachers from another school



Grade IV Assessment 2007 (con't)

- Tests for mathematics, maternal language, sciences
- For each subject two complementary test variants (C1, C2, M1, M2, S1, S2)
- Spiral model: each student performs two test variants for two different subjects; random combination following the sequence established for the national sample
- 6 test booklets, 50 minutes per test, each student tested 100 minutes

Results

