



EMEDUS
Europe Media Education

WP3. Formal Media Education

BULGARY



1. Education System

In the Republic of Bulgaria the education system is centrally managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science (MEYS). Primary education and junior secondary education is organized as a single structure that starts from the age of 7 (or 6 at the discretion of the parents) and consists of 8 years of compulsory schooling. Senior secondary education is compulsory for students up to 16 years of age but the vast majority of people continue to study through to grade 12.

2. Policies in Media Literacy

Since Bulgaria has been in the EU it has paid special attention to the media and especially to new media and ICT.

In the School and Pre-school Education Development National Programme (2006 - 2015) new measures are proposed for the introduction of ICT in education which already began in the **National Strategy for the Implementation of Information and Communication Technologies at School**. This new plan aims to:

Bulgaria is developing plans and strategies to bring schools and students closer to new technologies

- Introduce ICT in education starting from junior high school.
- Connect all schools to high-speed internet.
- Create a national education portal to modernize teaching and learning.
- Develop online courses that begin in secondary schools.
- Provide schools with at least one computer fully equipped with multimedia.

The *National Strategy for Lifelong Learning for the Period 2008-2013* notes the need to develop ICT skills in secondary education and establish as an example of good practices an 'experiences exchange' between schools through a national education portal which connects all schools to the Internet and promotes multimedia classes and training by the end of 2013.

3. Media Literacy and National Curricula

Media literacy is included in the curricula of Bulgaria in the levels ISCED 1 and ISCED 2, where, for some years, it is a fundamental and compulsory subject.

In the level ISCED 1, the focus is on traditional media (magazines, cinema, radio, television). In the stages that follow, media literacy is taught in several subjects and is oriented to the skills of comprehension, critical evaluation and **artistic interpretation**. In the level ISCED 2, integrated media literacy is taught in the fields of art and native language or Civic Studies. Critical understanding in the early years of this period (10-14 years of age) is developed mainly through the study of the Bulgarian language and literature, anthropology, sociology and the arts.

In ISCED 2 and ISCED 3 students are expected to take their critical evaluation skills and ability at artistic interpretation to an even higher level via an individual, creative project. The field of study is new media. In these stages media education is also carried out integrally in the teaching of ICT or Applied IT.

4. Tools to measure the Level of Competencies

Assessment tools in media literacy are unknown in Bulgaria.

5. Teacher Media Training

National education policies towards teacher training aim to provide highly-skilled staff at all levels of education within Bulgaria. Secondary school teachers obtain their professional teaching qualification after four or five years of post-secondary education (at universities or academies for the arts), during which they receive special teacher training.

Education policies in Bulgaria aim to provide highly-skilled staff at all levels of education

In late 2011 Intel and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science signed an agreement for the implementation of innovative teacher training courses offered by Intel Teach in Bulgaria. The goal is for teachers to learn to use the Internet as an educational tool by the end of 2014 in order to teach students to integrate new technologies in their learning process and make schools that already have basic equipment to go digital.

6. ICT in Schools

The Internet, together with audiovisual media, is the most used media in Bulgarian schools. Students use the Internet to work at home and it is their main tool for further acquisition of literature / information or new developments in their fields of study.

The keys to the inclusion of ICT in schools can be summarized as follows:

- Limitations of the technical equipment at schools.
- Lack of a professional information bank (with documentaries, photographs, recorded lectures etc.).
- Lack of educational materials and books.

Annex. Country Key Features

(a)	Languages	Bulgarian (official) 76.8%, Turkish 8.2%, Roma 3.8%, other 0.7%, other (unknown) 10.5% (2011 census)
	Population	6,981,642 (July 2013 est.)

	Major cities	SOFIA (capital) 1.192 million (2009)
	Government type	Parliamentary democracy
	GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)	\$103.7 billion (2012 est.)
	GDP real growth rate	1% (2012 est.)
	GDP per capita (PPP)	\$14,200 (2012 est.)
	GDP composition by sector	Agriculture: 5.6% Industry: 31.2% Services: 63.2% (2012 est.)
(b)	GDP per head (PPS)	45.0 (year 2011) (Index, EU27=100)
(c)	Year of EU entry	2007
	Currency	Lev
	Schengen area	Not a member of Schengen
(d)	Pupils and students (ISCED levels 1-6) (1 000)	1.084,5 (year 2011)
	Pupils at ISCED level 1 (1 000)	255,1 (year 2011)
	Pupils at ISCED level 2 (1 000)	228,4 (year 2011)
	Pupils and students at ISCED level 3 (1 000)	308,1 (year 2011)
	Students at ISCED level 4 (1 000)	7,7 (year 2011)

Source: Original authorship, using data from:

- (a) *Central Intelligence Agency* (2013). *The World Factbook 2013-14*. Washington, DC [Retrieved from: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>]
- (b) *European Commission* (2012). *Country Fact Sheet: Bulgaria*. Directorate-General Regional Policy. Analysis Unit C3. European Commission [Retrieved from: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index_en.cfm]
- (c) *European Union* (2013). *Member states of the EU*. European Union [Retrieved from: http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm]
- (d) *Eurostat* (2013). *Education and training. Pupils and students (tps00051)*. File: educ_ilev.xls [Retrieved from: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/education/data/main_tables]

Sources

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<http://www.minedu.government.bg>

National Education Portal
<http://start.e-edu.bg/>

National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA)
<http://www.neaa.government.bg>

National Strategy for Lifelong Learning for the period 2008-2013 (page 11)
http://www.mon.bg/opencms/export/sites/mon/en/top_menu/vocational_education/LLL_Strategy_2008-2013.pdf

School and Pre-school Education Development National Programme (2006 - 2015)
http://www.mon.bg/opencms/export/sites/mon/en/left_menu/acts/programme_ministry-of-education_2006-2015.pdf

Zinev Art Technologies Ltd (BG)
<http://www.artsbg.net/>

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