

# BULGARIA

RANK IN EU-27

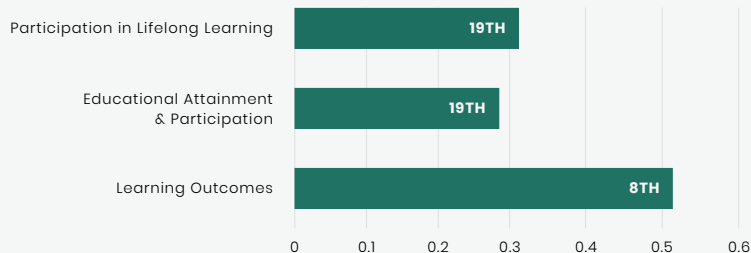
19TH

OVERALL SCORE

0.585

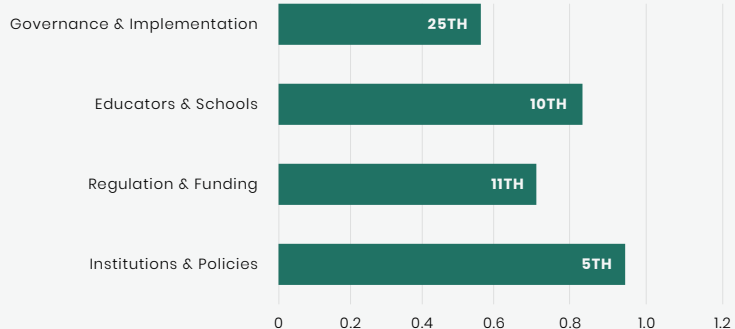
## LEARNING PARTICIPATION AND OUTCOMES

RANK  
18TH



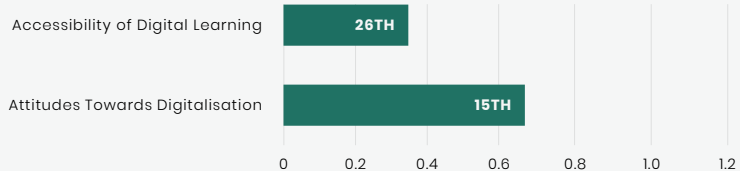
## INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES FOR DIGITAL LEARNING

RANK  
8TH



## AVAILABILITY OF DIGITAL LEARNING

RANK  
23RD



## MAIN OBSERVATIONS

- Bulgaria is part of the European middle achievers in terms of readiness for digital learning as it ranks 19th on the index. It has a low score on availability of digital learning (23rd) but scores better on institutions and policies (8th).
- This reflects the relatively high level of awareness among policymakers on this issue. Improving digital skills is one focus of the recent reform of the education system.
- Bulgaria still lags behind in terms of digital human capital as the share of the population with at least basic digital skills is one of the EU's lowest. It has made some progress, but overall most schools lack the proper IT infrastructure.

## TAKEAWAYS:

### WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS COUNTRY?

- The regulatory framework does not prevent innovation and experimentation, as exemplified by the "Innovative schools" programme. However, a lot depends on certain schools' ambitions and on their teaching staff. Most teachers still do not feel confident enough to fully use digital education practices.
- Vocational training is also updated in partnership with the IT business sector. Digital up-skilling through lifelong learning is also tackled via public libraries or private projects.
- New funding opportunities in development and EU funds are used to a considerable extent. Resources tend to be concentrated in schools participating in Erasmus + projects and at central level backed by EU ESF funding.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bulgaria should pursue its investment in ICT equipment, basic digital skills for all of the population and tackling shortages in ICT specialists.
- Attitudes toward digitalisation are fairly positive and the government has very recently launched several new initiatives to improve digital skills among teachers and learners. However, significant progress still needs to be achieved and it is still to be seen whether the government will deliver on its promises of financial support for digitalisation of education.

## KEY REFERENCES

Ministerstvo na obrazovaniето i naukata [Ministry of Education and Science] (2014), Strategia za efektivno prilagane na informaciонni i komunikaciонni tehnologii v obrazovaniето i naukata na Republika Bulgaria (2014-2020) [Strategy for effective implementation of information and communication technologies in education and science in the Republic of Bulgaria (2014-2020)], Sofia.

Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2018) "Nevazmojen e progress v obrazovaniето bez digitalnoto obuchenie!" [Progress in education without digital learning is impossible!], Sofia.

European Union (2019), Digital Economy and Society Index – Country Report on Bulgaria.

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