



The National Programme – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
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INTERACT Plus

Integrated services for migrants,
social and intercultural dialogue



**ACCESS FOR BENEFICIARIES OF
 INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION
 TO RIGHTS AND SERVICES IN ROMANIA**



This brochure contains information that is useful to beneficiaries of international protection located in Romania.

Read this brochure to find out:

1. Information on obtaining the status of beneficiary of international protection.
2. Details and conditions for the Integration Program for beneficiaries of a form of international protection.
3. The steps you need to follow to obtain the non-reimbursable aid granted by the Romanian State.
4. Information on access to the labor market in Romania.
5. Information on the social health insurance system.
6. Information on the education system in Romania.
7. Information on the social assistance system and social insurance system.
8. Other useful information.
9. Who can help you – Contact information of the Regional Integration Centers that are opened in Romania which offer counselling services and assistance to foreign nationals legally residing in Romania.

*The information in this brochure is updated at the time of its publication – **December 2018.***

GENERAL INFORMATION

To know your rights and obligations you need to become acquainted with several general aspects concerning the applicable law for beneficiaries of international protection living in Romania. Also, this material could be used to find out what might affect your stay on Romanian territory.

1

THE STATUS OF A BENEFICIARY OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

If you are a foreigner and have been granted international protection, the Romanian authorities will issue a residence permit for you free of charge:

- For a period of 3 years, if you have been granted refugee status.
- For a period of 2 years, if you have been granted subsidiary protection status.

Upon request, you may request the issuance of a travel document (e.g. passport), valid for 2 years. In order to receive it you need to pay two taxes, namely: a consular fee and a passport issuance fee. The validity of the travel document cannot be extended and upon expiration you will need to obtain a new document with a validity of 2 years.

Important notice!

- If you are the **beneficiary of a form of international protection**, you will have a personal numerical code, which will be inscribed in your residence permit, but also in your travel document.
- If you have been granted **a form of protection in Romania**, you can travel to the signatory states of the European Agreement on Visa Waiver for Refugees, concluded in Strasbourg on April 20, 1959, and have the right of temporary residence on their territory. If your stay exceeds 3 months, you must obtain a visa. Also, if you wish to work in another European country, you need to obtain a visa.
- If you have been granted **a form of protection in Romania**, you will need an entry visa if you want to travel in other states.



Important notice!

- If you have been granted a form of protection, you can apply for family reunification for:
 - Your husband / wife;
 - Your children or your spouse's children, if they are not married;
 - First-degree relatives (parents) if they cannot support themselves;
 - Adult children who are not married (yours or your spouse's), if they cannot support themselves due to medical reasons;
- If you are an unaccompanied minor and have been granted a form of protection, you may apply for family reunification for first degree relatives (parents) or legal guardian.

Do you have questions? Address them to the authorities in charge:
The General Inspectorate for Immigration (The Immigration Office in your area)



2

INTEGRATION PROGRAM

If you have been granted a form of international protection you have an opportunity to take part in an Integration Program¹ under the General Inspectorate for Immigration's coordination.

The Integration Program has an initial duration of 6 months, but can be extended for up to 1 year and includes:

- Romanian-language courses and cultural orientation sessions, social counseling and information about your rights and obligations in Romania, as well as psychological counseling for persons who need it.
- Other measures designed to help you in your integration process in Romania, such as:
 - Temporary accommodation in the General Inspectorate for Immigration Centers.
 - Assistance in obtaining the non-reimbursable financial aid (financial support) of 540 RON per month for a maximum of 1 year.
 - Facilitating the access to health services.
 - Facilitating the access to education.
 - Assistance in identifying a job.
- Is customized to fit your needs, as identified together with you during an interview.

How can you enroll in the Integration Program?

You can enroll in the Integration Program by filing an application at any of the General Inspectorate for Immigration Centers within no more than 30 days after you are granted a form of protection in Romania. Once the application is submitted, the General Inspectorate for Immigrations representatives will verify if the requirements for joining the integration program are met and will pass on the appointment date in writing.



After your application is registered:

- You will have the interview with the integration officer. The interview is designed to identify your needs and establish the activities included in your integration program, which will be mentioned in your Individual Integration Plan. This plan will be signed by you along with the General Inspectorate for Immigration representative and the NGO that will assist you through the AMIF funded project.
- If you have applied for accommodation in one of the Regional General Inspectorate for Immigration Centers, the Integration Officer will conduct a social investigation.
- If you agreed with the Individual Integration Plan, the General Inspectorate for Immigration officer will once again explain your rights and obligations under the protocol and you will sign the Integration Protocol.

What do you need to do?

- Participate in information and counseling sessions regarding your rights and obligations.
- Actively participate in cultural accommodation sessions, during which you will learn about the daily life in Romania, customs, traditions, etc.
- Attend Romanian language courses.

Important notice!

- **Participating** in the activities of the **Integration Program** and **keeping to their schedule** are crucial for your integration in the Romanian society.
- The Romanian State grants the non-reimbursable financial support of **540 RON per month ONLY if you are enrolled and actively participating in the activities included in the Integration Program.**
- You can only miss out from the activities included in the integration program only in exceptional and well-founded situations.
- The Integration Program can be extended beyond the 1-year limit for **persons in vulnerable situations**, such as: minors, unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities, elderly people, pregnant women, single-parents with minor children, victims of trafficking in human beings, persons suffering from severe diseases, persons suffering from mental illnesses, victims of torture or other forms of abuse, such as rape or other rare forms of psychological, physic or sexual violence, or persons being in other special situations, similar to the ones beforementioned.
- Persons in vulnerable situations may also receive approval for free accommodation in the General Inspectorate for Immigration Centers.

Do you have any questions? Please address them to the relevant authorities:

- **General Inspectorate for Immigration**
- **Ministry of Education and County School Inspectorates**
- **Ministry of Health**
- **Ministry of Labor and Social Justice**

¹According to the General Inspectorate for Immigration, the general goal of the integration policy for foreign nationals who have been granted a form of protection in Romania is to help them become self-sustaining, independent from assistance provided by the state or NGOs and be an active participant in economic, social and cultural life.

3

NON-REIMBURSABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What are the steps you need to follow to obtain the non-reimbursable financial support from the Romanian State?

To receive the non-reimbursable financial support of 540 RON/month you need to:

- Be enrolled in the Integration Program coordinated by General Inspectorate for Immigration.
- Register with the General Inspectorate for Immigration, within a maximum of 3 months from the date you have been granted international protection in Romania. The application to receive the financial support must be submitted in person, or by the legal guardian (e.g. a parent, in the case of minors) or curator.

After the application is registered:

- The General Inspectorate for Immigration will send this document to the County Agencies for Payments and Social Inspection (AJPIS), accompanied by several other documents (e.g. copy of your residence permit, certificate) confirming that you are enrolled in the Integration Program.
- The County Agencies for Payments and Social Inspection will perform a social background investigation within 10 days after receiving the application from the General Inspectorate for Immigration. The purpose of the social background investigation is to establish whether you have the necessary leaving means or not.
- The County Agencies for Payments and Social Inspection will then decide whether to approve or not the granting of the non-reimbursable financial support. The support will be given in approx. 2 months after the registration of the application.

Important notice!

- General Inspectorate for Immigration integration officers will periodically screen if you are taking part in the activities included in your integration program. If you do not take part in the activities from the integration program, the financial support may be suspended or terminated.
- The non-reimbursable financial support is granted to persons not enrolled in the integration program if they are in vulnerable situations (e.g. minors, unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities, elderly people, pregnant women, single-parents with minor children, victims of trafficking in human beings, persons suffering from severe diseases, persons suffering from mental illnesses, victims of torture or other forms of abuse, such as rape or other rare forms of psychological, physic or sexual violence, or persons being in other special situations, similar to the ones beforementioned).

Suspending the non-reimbursable financial support, termination of the support, or extending the period for which the support is granted.

The non-reimbursable financial support will be suspended in the following situations:

- When you are not taking part in your integration program activities. In such case the General Inspectorate for Immigration will inform the County Agencies for Payments and Social Inspection.
 - Following your own request, and for no more than 3 months. Your request should be well justified. Both suspension and resumption of the aid will only take place based on a written application from you to the General Inspectorate for Immigration.
- Once the non-reimbursable financial aid is resumed, the period of its validity is extended by the period during which it was suspended.

Termination of the non-reimbursable financial support:

- Your non-reimbursable financial support will be terminated if you are not taking part in your integration program activities.

Extending the period for receiving the non-reimbursable financial support:

- It can be carried out at the end of the 6 months for which the initial financial support was granted. If you are able to work, the following conditions must be met:
 - You are registered as a job-seeker with the County Employment Agencies.
 - You bring a proof that you have not refused a job offered by the County Employment Agency.
- It can be done if you find yourself in one of the following situations:
 - You are taking care of children up to 7 years of age.
 - You cannot work. This must be proven with a medical certificate.
 - You are enrolled in a form of education and you are under 25 years old, or 26 years old in the case of university education with 5 years duration.
 - You are under 18 years old.
 - You can retire as per Romanian law criteria.

Important notice!

- The non-reimbursable financial support is granted to persons not enrolled in the integration program only if they are in vulnerable situations (e.g. unaccompanied minor, persons with disabilities, single-parent families, pregnant women, victims of human trafficking, victims of torture or other abuse, as well as persons of retirement age who receive no pension).

Do you have questions? You can address them to the relevant authorities:

- General Inspectorate for Immigration
- County Agencies for Payments and Social Inspection
- County Employment Agencies



4

ACCESS TO THE ROMANIAN LABOR MARKET

Under what conditions can I have access to the Romanian labor market?

If you have been granted a form of protection in Romania, you have unrestricted access to the labor market, just like any Romanian citizen. Once you have been granted a form of protection:

- You can register as a job-seeker with the County Employment Agencies;
- You can enroll in vocational training courses;
- You can prepare for job interviews / other practical assignments which may be required by the employer.

How to become employed?

To become employed you need to find an employer, who can sometimes ask you to pass certain pre-employment tests. The employer may also:

- Require basic knowledge of Romanian language;
- Other documents, such as a CV;
- A medical certificate confirming that you are medically fit for the job;
- Study documents recognized by the Romanian state. More information on recognition of studies can be found at Point 6.

Employment will be made based on an **Individual Labor Contract**. The Individual Labor Contract:

- Is an agreement under which an individual called employee, undertakes to work for an employer (an individual or a legal entity) in exchange for an amount of money called salary.
- Is to be concluded in writing, in Romanian, if both sides (employer and employee) agree on it. The contract shall be signed in 2 original copies: one for you and one for the employer. **Make sure you receive an original copy!** The obligation to conclude the individual labor contract in a written form lies with the employer, before you start working as their employee.

• The contract gives you access to social protection measures and protects you from possible abuses from your employer.

- The employer must register the Contract in the General Registry of Employees (REVISAL), which is transmitted to the Territorial Employment Inspectorate. Registration must be performed before you start work.



Important notice!

- A contract signed only by you, and not signed and stamped by the employer has no legal value in Romania.
- Once properly signed, your Labor Contract can only be amended with your agreement.
- Any changes brought to your Labor Contract must be made in writing, in the form of an Addendum, and must be signed by the employer and you.
- Before signing the employment contract and / or an addendum to it, read it carefully and make sure that you understand the terms and conditions. If something is not clear enough, ask the employer. You can also ask the organizations providing support for foreigners to help you if something is not clear.

What are the risks in being an illegal worker?

If you are working without a registered Labor Contract:

- You will not benefit from social protection measures, both while you are working and after your labor relationship ends, and you cannot file legal action against your employer if they violate your rights.
- Your employer can pay you less than minimum wage and less than they should pay you considering your qualifications and working time.
- You will have no set date for receiving your monthly pay, and you may not be paid at all for months.
- You will have no clear working hours.
- You will not be provided with work equipment, and/or with protection equipment.
- You will not be able to take your annual leave, you will not be entitled to unemployment benefit, you will not be entitled to disability pension in case of a labor accident and you will not be entitled to sick pay or free hospitalization if needed.
- You will not accumulate the length of service required for retirement/pension.
- You can become a victim of trafficking in human beings for labor exploitation, etc.

Do you have any questions? You can address them to the authorities in charge

- County Employment Agencies
- Territorial Labor Inspectorates

Work without legal documentation, or black-market labor

If you have not signed an individual labor contract and you are getting paid directly and without having a document signed, such as a payroll (a document that proves you are receiving a salary) – you are an illegal worker.



SOCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM

Who can be insured in the Romanian health insurance system?

Access to health services is ensured under the same conditions as for Romanian citizens.

Once you have been granted a form of protection in Romania it is important to register with the health insurance system and to pay the contribution to the health fund. This is the only way in which you can have free access to medical services.

How can I be insured in the health system?

• If you don't have an income:

- You can pay a monthly fee for a period of 12 consecutive months (190 lei / month, respectively 2280 lei / year). If you do not pay monthly, you will have to pay penalties.

- When you need medical services provided by the public system. In this case the amount to be paid is 1330 lei (190 lei x 7 months).

• If you are employed:

- Your employer will pay your monthly contribution, along with other social security contributions (eg. unemployment, retirement, etc.).

Can I be insured without contributing to the health fund?

The persons who can be insured in the Romanian social health insurance system **without contributing** are:

- Children and young people up to 18 years old, students, young people up to 26 years old who are studying and do not have an income.
- Young people up to 26 years old who were part of the child protection system and are unemployed or do not receive social benefits.
- Spouse and parents who do not have an income and are supported by a person who is already insured in the Romanian health system.
- Persons with disabilities who do not have a salary, in certain conditions.
- Persons suffering from medical conditions that are included in the national health programs, until that medical condition is cured, if they do not have an income.
- Pregnant women and young mothers who do not have any revenue or have a revenue below national minimum wage (1.900 lei in October 2018).



What are my rights as an insured person?

As a person insured in the Romanian health insurance system you have the right to:

- Freely choose your provider of medical services, as well as the health insurance fund you will send your contribution to.
- Register with a General Physician (Family doctor) of your choice.
- Change the General Physician (Family doctor) you have chosen, but only after at least 6 months of registering with the first one.

What am I entitled to, as an insured person?

As a person insured in the Romanian health insurance system, you are entitled to:

- The basic services package, without any discrimination, according to the law.
- Reimbursement of all your hospitalization expenses for medication, medical materials and para-clinical investigations.
- Preventive health care services.
- Outpatient medical services, and services in hospitals.
- Emergency medical services.
- Certain dental care services.
- Physiotherapy and recovery treatment.
- Medical devices.
- Medical home care.
- Medical leave and social insurance benefits, according to the law.
- Confidentiality of your medical information, especially related to your diagnostic and treatment.
- Information concerning medical treatment.

Do you have any questions? You can address them to the authorities in charge
The County Health Insurance House from your county of residence.

Important notice!

- If you do not have health insurance you are entitled to receive a free package of medical services (e.g. medical and/or surgical emergencies, disease with an endemic-epidemic potential, monitoring the evolution of pregnancy and post-partum state, etc.)
- All hospitals are under an obligation to provide first aid and emergency medical assistance to any person requesting it, if that person is in a critical state.
- Qualified first aid and emergency medical assistance are to be given without any discrimination related to the following, but not limited to: income, gender, age, religion, citizenship or political allegiance, irrespective of whether the patient has a medical insurance or not.
- You can be insured by the national health system, but you can also have a private health insurance.
- For emergency situations (accidents, severe burns, etc.), you can call the national emergency number 112 (free of charge) and request an ambulance. The ambulance service is free of charge.



THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN ROMANIA

If you have received **a form of protection in Romania**, access to all forms of study and levels of education and professional training is made under the same conditions as for Romanian citizens.

To facilitate access to education, children and adults may participate in free beginner courses for learning Romanian language. They are organized by the School Inspectorate in the county where you live in, in collaboration with General Inspectorate for Immigration, but also with other non-governmental organizations.

You can also benefit from the equivalence of your studies and the recognition of diplomas, certificates, attestations of professional competences and professional qualifications, in accordance with the existing regulations.

How is the Romanian education system organized?

In Romania, the compulsory education is up to the level of 10 grades and comprises the **primary, secondary and high-school education**.

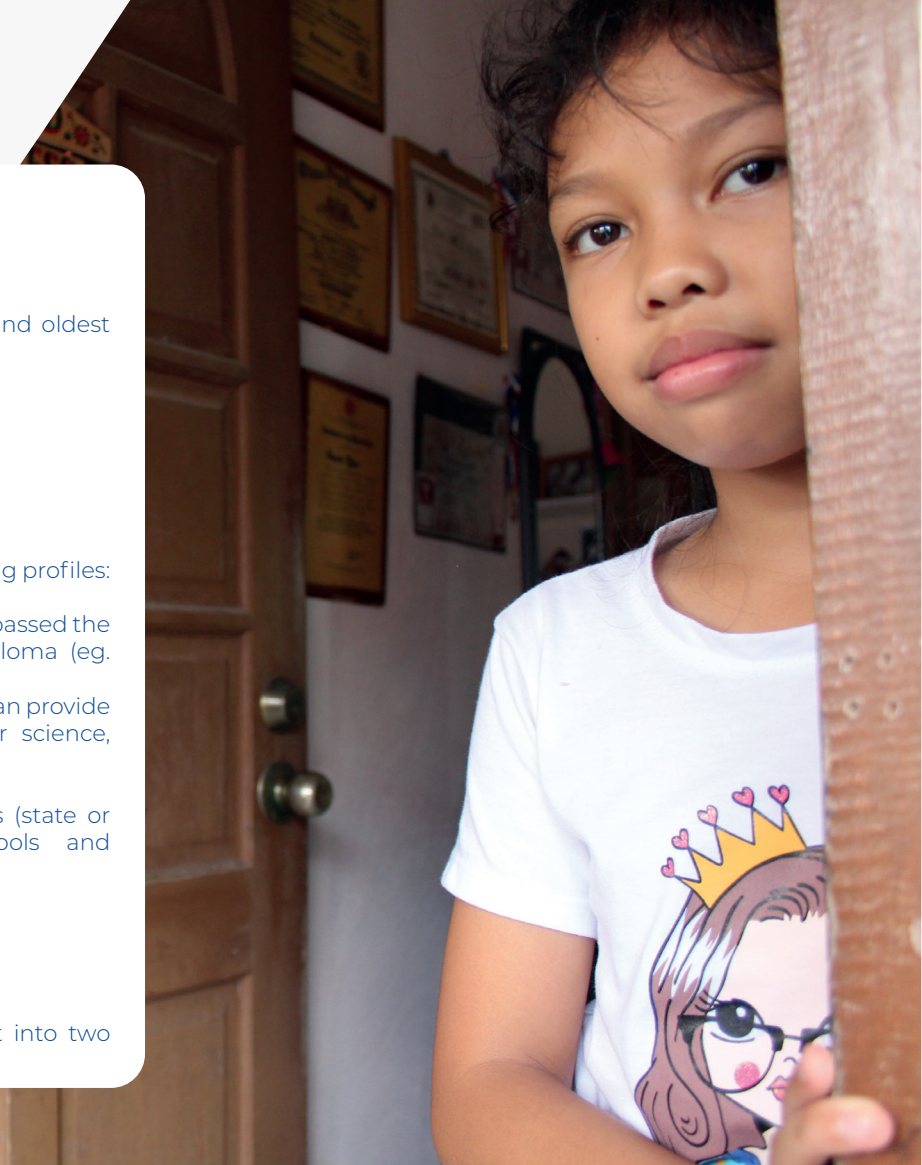
The obligation to attend the mandatory 10-grades ceases at the age of 18.

Details regarding level of the education system for school teaching in Romanian language:

The national pre-university education has the following levels:

- **Early education** (0-6 years old):
 - Nursery (0-3 years old);
 - Kindergarten (3-6 years old) with the youngest, middle-aged and oldest group;
- **Primary education**
 - Preparatory class (6/7 years old)
 - Grades I-IV (6/7 – 10/11 years old)
- **Secondary education** with:
 - Gymnasium: grades V-VIII (10 – 15 years old);
 - High-school: grades IX-XII (15-19 years old), with one of the following profiles: theoretical, vocational and technological;
 - **Vocational School** has a duration of 3 years and you can enroll if you passed the VIIIth grade. When completed you will receive a qualification diploma (eg. mechanic, electrician, etc.).
 - **Post-secondary education** - it can be from 1 to 3 years in length and can provide you with a professional qualification in fields such as: computer science, agriculture, health, economics, tourism, etc.
- The national higher education system is organized in universities (state or private accreditation), academies or higher education schools and encompasses 3 levels of study:
 - Bachelor studies – 3 or 4 years;
 - Masters studies - 1 or 2 years
 - PhD studies – 3 years.

The university year starts in the first working day in and it is split into two semesters.





How can I have my study certificates recognized in Romania if I have received them in other countries?

If you want to continue your studies or work in Romania, it is necessary to recognize and equivate the diplomas obtained abroad. This is done by the National Center for the Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED). Diplomas obtained abroad may be recognized in Romania if:

- The diploma is issued by an accredited institution on the territory of the state where you have graduated;
- The level and field of studies have a correspondent in the Romanian education system.

The original study documents presented must be authenticated by applying the legalization or Hague Apostille, on a case by case basis.

If you have been granted a form of protection in Romania:

- **Equivalence of the I-X grades studies** (corresponding to the general mandatory 10-year education in Romania) is performed by the County School Inspectorates / Bucharest School Inspectorate. They provide equivalence of your studies abroad, but also of the studies completed in Romania at organizations providing education according to an education system from another country.
- **Equivalence of secondary studies (grades XI-XII)** and the Baccalaureate certificate obtained abroad is performed by the National Center for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas. Application files for equivalence of such studies can be registered at the County School Inspectorates / Bucharest School Inspectorate, which will send them to National Center for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas for evaluation. The application file can also be submitted in person at the National Center for the Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas or by post/courier.
- **Recognition and equivalence of university certificates/ diplomas of the Bachelor, Master or PhD level** obtained from accredited higher education institutions abroad can only be performed by National Center for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas.

What is the procedure so that my education documents are recognized in Romania?

For recognition of diplomas of vocational school, high-school graduation (baccalaureate), Bachelor, Master and PhD degree, as well as for professional qualifications, your application file must contain:

- Your application Form.
- Your diplomas.
- Your identification documents (ID card, passport, etc.).
- The evaluation fee of 50 RON.

The Application will be submitted at the Registry of the Ministry of National Education Registration Office or will be sent by courier (Romanian Post) to National Center for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas. After evaluating the application, the center can recognize the study documents and issue the certificate of recognition of studies corresponding to a level and study field existing in the Romanian education system. If the curriculum differs substantially, the National Center for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas may decide to apply differential examinations or other compensatory measures, etc.

Important notice!

- Diplomas and studies are automatically recognized if obtained from education institutions accredited in the EU, EEA and the Swiss Confederation.
- Diplomas and studies from other states are only recognized in case the structure of studies in the the respective country is the same as in Romania or the two countries have an agreement for mutual recognition of diplomas.
- Automatic recognition is a simplified procedure applied by the National Center for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas.

Do you have any questions?
You can address them to the authorities in charge:

- National Center for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas part of the Ministry of Education.
- County School Inspectorates from your county of residence.



SOCIAL INSURANCE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM IN ROMANIA

What does the social security system include?

The Romanian social security system includes:

A. The social security system, which means: the public pension system, health insurance, unemployment, accidents or work incapacity insurance, leave (annual leave, maternity leave, child care leave).

B. The social assistance system, which includes temporary and precise support measures such as monthly social support, home heating support (subsidy), child benefit/allowance or for family support.



A The social security system:

1. Unemployment benefit – This is a form of social protection all individuals can receive while they are looking for work, who have been employed or have earned income in Romania, or have the right to work in Romania.

2. Insurance for labor accidents and labor-related medical conditions or temporary leave cause by the inability to work - If you have an individual labor contract with a Romanian employer you are entitled to medical leave and social health benefit payments for the prevention of medical conditions and for the recovery of labor capacity in case of labor-related accidents or occupational diseases.

3. Retirement pay or pension - Is the most significant social benefit paid in the public system. There are 5 types of pension in Romania: age- related pension; disablement pension; successor's pension; anticipated pension, and partial anticipated pension. You can benefit from pension if you have contributed to the public pension system in Romania.

4. Maternity leave is a medical leave granted by the family General Physician (Family doctor), based on a letter from a specialist.

5. Child care leave - Starts immediately after maternity leave ends. It can last up to 2 years or, in case of a child with disabilities, up to 3 years. The child care leave can be: one of the child's biological parents; a person who adopts a child; a person who takes a child in foster care; the child's legal guardian.

You can apply for child care leave if you meet all the conditions below simultaneously:

- You are a Romanian or foreign citizen, or a stateless person;
- You are legally residing in Romania;
- You live together with the child/children for whom you are claiming the leave and you are taking care of the child/children;
- You have earned income for 12 months previous to the birth of the child.

Do you have any questions? You can address them to the authorities in charge:

Applications for child care benefit are to be submitted at the **Mayor's Office** of the commune, town, city where you live or at the **Agency for Payments and Social Inspection** from your county of residence.

B The social assistance system

The main types of benefits are:

1. Social benefit (minimum guaranteed income)

The minimum guaranteed income is a monthly financial benefit. The amount of this benefit is:

- 142 RON for one person.
- 255 RON for a 2-member family.
- 357 RON for a 3-member family.
- 442 RON for a 4-member family.
- 527 RON for a 5-member family.

50 RON for each additional person over 5, who is a member of the family.

Do you have any questions? You can address them to the authorities in charge:

Applications for social assistance benefit are to be submitted at the **Mayor's Office of the commune, town, city** from your county of residence. The benefit will be paid by the **County Agency for Payments and Social Inspection**, after a social investigation will be conducted.



B The social assistance system

2. Heating subsidy

This is granted to families and single individuals with low income during the cold season (1 November – 31 March) to help them cover all or part of the heating costs. The heating subsidy is only granted for the **place of residence**.

The right to receive the heating subsidy:

- Is granted based on an **Application form** and on supporting documents that must be submitted before October 15th. Applications submitted during the cold season can also be accepted.
- Is decided in November.

Do you have any questions? You can address them to the authorities in charge:
Mayor's Offices/County Departments for Social Assistance and Child Protection from your county of residence.

3. Family support subsidy

This is granted to families with low incomes that are raising and caring for children up to 18 years old to support them in raising, caring for and educating the children.

Do you have any questions? You can address them to the authorities in charge:

- **Mayor's Office** where you reside – for submitting your documentation. It is the Mayor's decision to approve the family support subsidy after a social investigation.
- **County Agency for Payments and Social Inspection** – pays the monthly family support subsidy.



4. Child benefit (children's allowance)

The child benefit/allowance is granted to:

- All children who are Romanian citizens, foreign nationals, beneficiaries of a form of protection or stateless children who are residing in Romania.
- Children from 0 to 18 years old.
- Young persons over 18 years old, if they are enrolled in high-school or vocational school, until completion of their studies, if they do not repeat the year of study.

The amount of the child benefit is:

- 200 RON/month for children up to 2 years old.
- 84 RON/month for children over 2 years up to 18 years old.

Do you have any questions? You can address them to the authorities in charge:

Applications for child benefit/allowance are to be submitted at the **Mayor's Office of the commune, town, city** from your county of residence or at the relevant **County Agency for Payments and Social Inspection**.

5. Other types of social assistance: foster subsidy, monthly food subsidy for persons with HIV/AIDS, monthly subsidy for persons with severe and serious disabilities, monthly companion fee for persons with visual impairment, monthly food subsidy for children with HIV/AIDS type of disability.



OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

The Constitution of Romania as well as other laws specifically regulate **equal treatment for foreign citizens and Romanian citizens as well as a series of rights and freedoms** concerning:

- A. Family (marriage, birth, divorce).
- B. Access to the Justice system.

A. FAMILY

Marriage in Romania

Marriage in Romania takes place:

- Between a man and a woman by their personal freely-given consent.
- If the future spouses are 18 years old.

In Romania bigamy is not accepted.

Foreign citizens or stateless persons who wish to get married in Romania must:

- Contact the Civil Registry Office in their county of residence, and register a Marriage Declaration together with a series of documents that will constitute the Marriage record file.
- Legally reside in Romania at the date of registration of the Marriage Declaration and the date of marriage.

The marriage must be notified to the Immigration office in whose jurisdiction the persons is residing, within 30 days of the date of marriage. They must also submit a copy of the marriage certificate.

If the marriage certificate was issued by the foreign national's country of origin, the document needs to be transcribed in Romania within 6 months of its date of issuance.



Declaring and registering a baby

Declaration of a birth is carried out in the maternity hospital within 3 days of birth, and a birth certificate is issued by the hospital. For home births, the birth certificate shall be issued by the territorial medical dispensary. The birth certificate is to be handed to the mother.

The birth shall be declared and registered at the Civil Registry Office and the latter will issue the birth certificate. **The legal term to register a child is 14 days after birth.** Registering a baby after that deadline is punishable by a fine.

If the registration is submitted after more than one year since the date of birth the certificate shall be issued based on a final and irrevocable decision of a court of law.

Important notice!

- If one of the parents is a Romanian citizen, the baby will be a Romanian citizen.
- If the birth occurred in another country and the birth certificate was not issued by the Romanian diplomatic mission / consular office or by that local authority, then the birth certificate shall be issued in Romania by the Local Population Records Office or by the Civil Registry Office of the City Hall where the parents are residing.



Divorce

In Romania marriage can be dissolved by divorce in the following cases:

- Mutual agreement, when the divorce is filed by both spouses.
- On request by one of the spouses when his/her health condition makes impossible the continuation of their marriage.
- On request by one of the spouses when, for justified reasons, the marriage can no longer continue.

A divorce ends a marriage by judicial or administrative decision. The administrative approach or the notarial procedure is only used when both spouses agree to divorce.

Important notice!

- If a marriage took place in Romania it can be dissolved as a consequence of divorce and the divorce decision shall be notified to both spouses. The date of marriage dissolution is the date when a divorce decision by a court remains final or the date when the divorce certificate is issued by the officer from the Civil registry Office or the public notary.
- Any change in a foreign national's personal situation in Romania (e.g. marriage, birth of a child, death of a family member who was also a foreign national living in Romania, change in name, change of travel documents) must be notified to the Immigration Office that issued your residence permit in your county of residence.
- A marriage between a foreign citizen and a Romanian citizen that took place in another country and was subsequently recognized in Romania must first be dissolved in the country where it took place, and then it will be acknowledged in Romania.
- If a marriage between a foreign national and a Romanian citizen took place in Romania and was recognized by the national's country of origin, then the marriage must first be dissolved in the country where it took place and then it will be recognized in Romania.

B. ACCESS TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

In Romania access to the justice system for foreign citizens is ensured under the same conditions as for Romanian citizens.

Thus, foreign citizens can file any legal action in Romania to claim recognition of any legitimate right.

Important notice!

- Even if you have received a form of protection in Romania you are still accountable before a court of law for the consequences of your actions/inaction that violate the rights of other individuals or legal entities or public interests.
- The language for procedures in a court of law is Romanian. However, foreign citizens and stateless persons who do not speak and understand Romanian at a level that would allow them to follow the procedures by themselves, have a right to use an interpreter.

Death of a Romanian citizen as well as of a foreign citizen shall be declared by their dependents/family at the Civil Registry Office, which will issue the death certificate and burial consent. The location of the burial site shall be the decision of the dependents/family.



C. OBTAINING ROMANIAN CITIZENSHIP

The National Authority for Citizenship is the institution responsible for granting Romanian citizenship. You can become a Romanian citizen if:

- You were born in, and are living in Romania, or while not born in Romania you have lived on the territory of the Romanian state for at least 4 years, or at least 2.5 years in case you are married to a Romanian citizen and live together with that person.
- You demonstrate loyalty to the Romanian state and are not supporting nor have ever supported action taken against the Romanian state and national security.
- You are at least 18 years old.
- You can decently support yourself in Romania.
- You have a good conduct and have not been convicted for any crime in Romania or in another country.
- You speak and understand the Romanian language and possess basic knowledge of Romanian culture and civilization.
- You know Romania's Constitution and its national anthem.



Important notice!

- The terms mentioned above can be reduced by half if you have been granted a form of protection in Romania.
- If you apply for Romanian citizenship and you are not residing in Romania for more than 6 months in one year, that year will not be taken into account when calculating the mandatory residence period in Romania for granting citizenship.

If you meet the above-mentioned criteria, you need to file an application with the National Authority for Citizenship, accompanied by a number of supporting documents. The National Authority for Citizenship will examine your documents and if they are complete, will schedule you for an interview. During the interview they will verify your Romanian language proficiency (writing and reading) and whether you possess basic knowledge of Romanian language and civilization that would allow for your easy integration in society, whether you know the Romanian national anthem and the provisions of the Romanian Constitution.





Definitions and acronyms

1. Stateless = a **person who is not considered** as a **national by any State** under **the** operation of its **law**

2. Beneficiary of international protection – a foreign national who has been granted one of the forms of protection stipulated at Art. 1 lett. a) and b) in G.O. #102/2000*) on the Status and Regime of Refugees in Romania, as approved with amendments by Law #323/2001, as subsequently amended and supplemented; and Art. 2 lett. a) in G.O. 44 of 2004.

*) G.O. #102/2000 was repealed by paragraph (2) of Art. 152 in Law #122 of 2006 on Asylum, which defined “protection form” as any form of protection granted by the Romanian state, specifically: refugee status, subsidiary protection, temporary protection or humanitarian temporary protection.

3. General Inspectorate for Immigration – is a public institution, organized as a separate legal entity, operating under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. For details please see <http://igi.mai.gov.ro/home/index/en>.

4. Refugee – According to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, concluded on July 28th, 1951, this term applies to any person who:

(1) has been deemed a refugee under the arrangements of 12 May 1926 and 30 June 1928 or under the Conventions of 28 October 1933 and 10 February 1938, and the protocol of 14 September 1939 or as a result on application of the Constitution of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

(2) is located outside the country whose citizenship they hold, following events occurred before 1 January 1951 and have a justified fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or their political opinion, and is unable or, owing to such fear, does not desire the protection of that country; or who, having no citizenship and being located outside the country of their habitual residence as a result of events such as those described above, cannot or, owing to the aforementioned fear, does not desire to return.

5. Subsidiary protection – is granted to the person who does not meet the requirements for refugee status, but has thorough reasons to believe that returning to their country of origin will put them at serious risk. Serious risk means a death sentence or execution of a death sentence, torture, inhuman or degrading treatments or punishments, or a serious threat in case of internal or international armed conflicts, if the applicant is a member of the civilian population.

6. International Organization for Migration (IOM) – an international inter-governmental body established in 1951. Its mission is to contribute to a proper management of migration, to foster international cooperation in this domain and provide humanitarian assistance to migrants. IOM is devoted to the principle that regulated migration is beneficial to migrants and society alike.

In Romania the International Organization for Migration has been operating since 1992 on the basis of:

- Decision #568/1992 to endorse the Agreement between the Government of Romania and the International Organization for Migration concerning the latter's legal status.

- Law #123/1998 on Romania's acceptance of the Constitution of the International Organization for Migration.

For more information please see www.oim.ro or www.iom.int.

7. Public health assistance = the support provided by the State in order to protect and promote the population's health, to prevent diseases and to improve the quality of life.

8. Social health insurance = the main system funding the protection of the population's health, which secured access to a package of basic services for insured persons.

9. Insured person in the social health system = an individual who receives medical services in exchange for paying a contribution to the national social health security fund.

10. Co-payment = a personal, additional contribution by insured persons, in order to receive medical services included in the basic package or medication.

- list of medical services for which co-payment is necessary, the amount of such co-payment, as well as the date starting from which such co-payment applies, are set by the framework-agreement and the rules for its implementation

- medical assistance areas in respect of which co-payments are established, as well as the minimum and maximum amount of such co-payment for each category of medical services and each medical unit are established by a Government Decision,

- amounts collected from co-payments represent revenues of medical service providers and are used for improving the quality of services.

11. Proof of having insurance with the social health system = ways and documents based on which one can prove the fact that he/she benefits of insurance from the social health system of Romania:

- the national social health insurance card

- until the issuance of such card, the fact that one is an insured person can be proven based on a **certificate** issued by the the County Health Insurance House.

12. Framework agreement = regulates the terms for providing assistance in relation to:

- the basic service package to which insured persons are entitled and to the minimal service package;

- the list of medical services, care services, including home care services, drugs, medical devices and other services intended to insured persons in relation to the basic service package;

- compliance with the quality criteria in respect of medical services offered under the service packages;

- allocation of resources and control of costs related to the social health system for the purpose of attaining a financial balance of the fund;

- payment methods used for contracting the basic service package, settlement methods and documents required for this purpose;

- home care and recovery steps;

- requirements for providing services at a territorial level, as well as their list;

- prescription and providing of medication, medical supplies and medical devices;

- methods of informing insured persons;

- co-payment for some medical services, as applicable.

13. Basic service package = is offered to insured persons and includes medical services, health care services, medication, medical supplies, medical devices and other services to which insured persons are entitled, and is established through a Government Decision;

14. Minimal service package = is offered to individuals who do not provide proof of being insured, and includes health care services, medication, medical supplies only in cases of medical and surgical emergencies and of potentially endemic and epidemic diseases, in cases of pregnancy and women in childbearing monitoring, in relation to family planning services, prevention services and community care and assistance, and is approved by a Government Decision;

Useful websites

- General Inspectorate for Immigration - igi.mai.gov.ro/home/index/en

- The National Health Insurance House - www.cnas.ro/default/index/index/lang/EN

- National Authority for Citizenship - cetatenie.just.ro/index.php/en/

- National Center for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas new.cnred.edu.ro/cnred/en

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs – [http:// www.mae.ro/en](http://www.mae.ro/en)

- Ministry of National Education – www.edu.ro

- Ministry of Labor and Social Justice – www.mmuncii.ro

CONTACT INFORMATION

Come to the Regional Integration Centers or access www.romaniaeacasa.ro.

Region 1 (Bucharest and the following counties: Ilfov, Prahova, Buzău, Dâmbovița, Argeș, Vâlcea, Gorj, Brașov, Covasna, Giurgiu, Călărași, Ialomița, Teleorman, Olt, Dolj)

Bucharest Regional Integration Center

📍 11, Viitorului street, 2nd district, Bucharest
☎ 021-210.30.50
@ iombucharest@iom.int

Craiova Regional Integration Center

📍 25, Frații Buzești street, Craiova
☎ 0351-442.287
@ a.globalhelp@yahoo.com

Brașov Regional Integration Center

📍 52, Iuliu Maniu street, building B, 2nd floor (Transylvania College)
☎ 0766-282.090
@ astrid2001ro@yahoo.com, astrid@arpcps.ro

Region 2 (for the following counties: Galați, Vrancea, Bacău, Vaslui, Brăila, Tulcea, Constanța)

Constanța Regional Integration Center

📍 13, Mamaia boulevard, Constanța
☎ 0738-719.233; 0738-719.235
@ jrsromania@gmail.com

Galați Regional Integration Center

📍 37, Brăilei street, 2nd floor, Galați
☎ 0738-719.234; 0738-719.230
@ jrsromania@gmail.com

Galați Field Office ("Heart of a Child" Foundation)

📍 7, Furnaliștilor street, Galați
☎ 0236-312.199
@ office@inimadecopil.ro

Region 3 (for the following counties: Suceava, Botoșani, Neamț, Iași)

Iași Regional Integration Center

📍 66, Păcurari street, Iași
☎ 0745-992.668
@ rttiasi@gmail.com

Rădăuți Regional Integration Center

📍 9A, I.L. Caragiale street, Rădăuți
☎ 0754-494.400
@ cazaciuc_iulia2112@yahoo.com

Region 4 (for the following counties: Maramureș, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Cluj, Bistrița Năsăud, Mureș, Harghita, Sibiu, Alba)

Cluj-Napoca Regional Integration Center

📍 108, 21 Decembrie 1989 boulevard, apt. 23-24, Cluj- Napoca
☎ 0264-434.806
@ ralucadrob@gmail.com; 93atoth@gmail.com

Baia Mare Regional Integration Center

📍 10, Piața Libertății street
☎ 0262-222.226
@ cribaiamare@gmail.com

Sibiu Field Office- Migrant Information Center

📍 18, Luptei street, ap. 19, Sibiu
☎ 0740.407.870
@ costinli@yahoo.com

Târgu Mureș Field Office - Migrant Information Center

📍 10, Emil Dandea street, Târgu Mureș
☎ 0739.120.143
@ asociatiasolitudine@gmail.com

Șomcuta Mare Field Office

📍 1A, Cetății street, Șomcuta Mare, Maramureș
☎ 0262-222.226
@ cribaiamare@gmail.com

Region 5 (for the following counties: Timiș, Mehedinți, Caraș Severin, Bihor, Arad, Hunedoara)

Timișoara Regional Integration Center

📍 9, Gheorghe Șincai street, Timișoara
☎ 0256-217.096; 0757- 049.902
@ flavius.ilioni@aidrom.ro

Oradea Regional Integration Center

📍 2B, Buzăului street, Oradea
☎ 0259-436.601; 0743-081.449
@ adrianapopa@filantropiaoradea.ro

