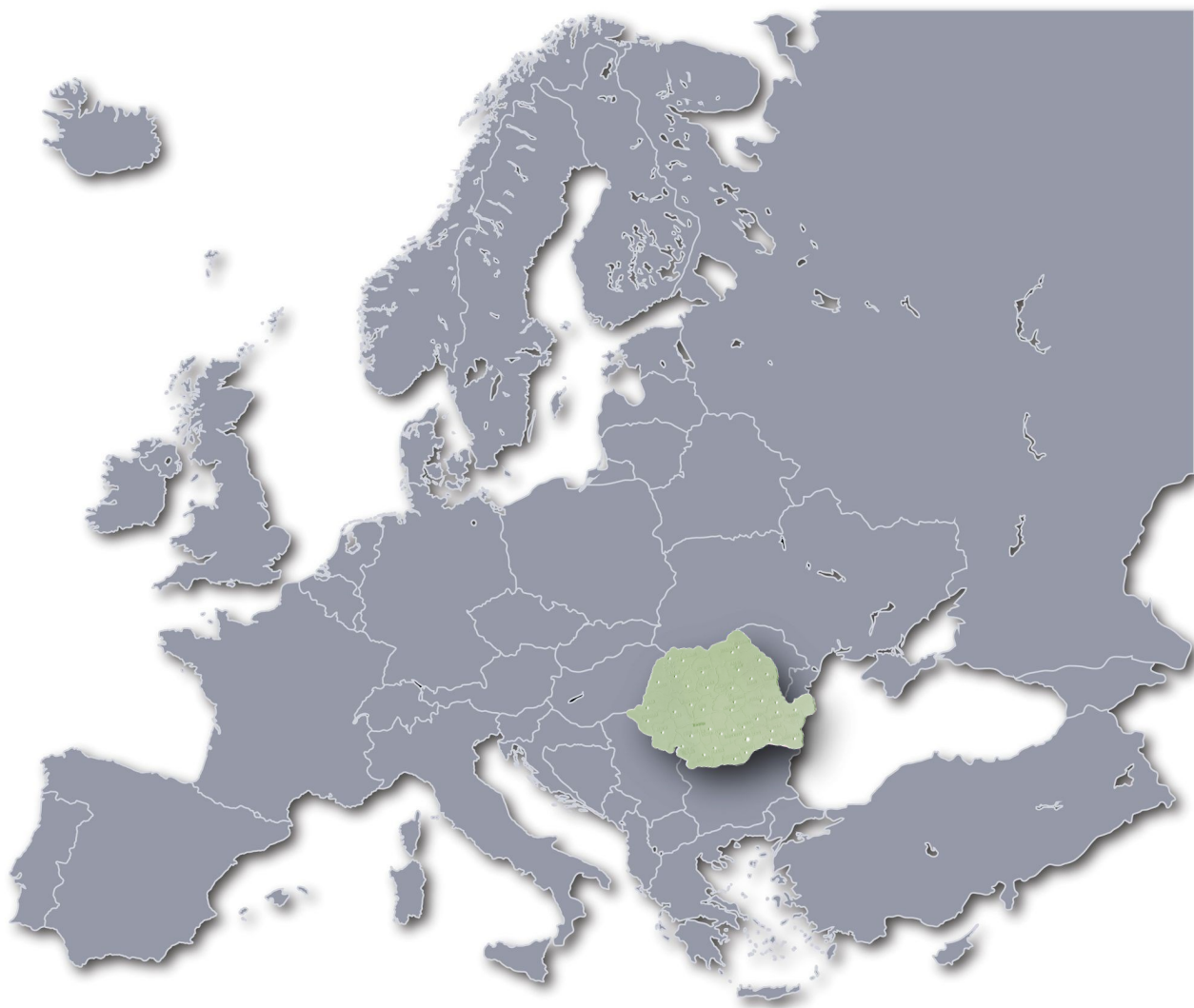


Orientation guide for beneficiaries of international protection and non-EU nationals legally residing in Romania



Project funded by the National Program – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
Beneficiary: The Intercultural Institute Timișoara, Contract AMIF/17.03.03.01
Partners: The Schottener Foundation, Social Services, Bucharest
The International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office in Romania

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Introduction

This guide is for non-EU nationals who received international protection in Romania (refugee status, subsidiary protection) and for those who are legally¹ residing and came to Romania for studies, as family members of Romanian citizens or for work.

It includes general information about Romania and its people, interaction with the Romanian society fundamental rights and duties, as well as other useful information for the management of the expectations and integration in Romania.

Located at the crossing point between Orient and Occident, Romania is a country where you can feel at home.

Make Romania your home!

Nota bene: *Kindly note that the information referring to numbers, such as the level of minimum wage or the contribution to the Romanian public health insurance scheme, reflects the situation at the date of issue of the publication for piloting purposes, July 2018. These figures are subject to frequent change. They should be, thus, taken as simple examples.*

¹ Third-country nationals (TCNs)

1



1. Welcome to Romania!

Greetings

Let's start the orientation journey by welcoming you to Romania. Romanians say: *Bine ai venit!* or *Bun venit!*, shake hands, or hug and kiss both cheeks.

Among Strangers or in Formal Situations

Greetings vary by the region, time of day and situation. When people first meet or meet an older person, regardless of the region, they say: *Bună dimineața!* (Good morning!) in the morning; *Bună ziua!* (Good afternoon!) between noon and sunset; and *Bună seara!* (Good evening!) between the sunset and midnight. When they leave, they say *La revedere!* (Goodbye!) and in the evening: *Seară bună!*, *Noapte bună!* (Have a good evening/night!)

Handshakes are common when people meet for the first time and introduce themselves. Handshakes are brief and firm. To show respect and politeness to women, men will kiss the right hand.

Among Friends and Neighbors

The most common greetings between friends and neighbors are *Salut!*, *Servus!* (mostly used in Transylvania), *Ciao!* (mostly used in big cities and in Western Romania), and *Bună*.

Handshakes are most common when two men greet each other, and women tend to hug.

Children and young people rarely shake hands and simply give a wave of the hand and say *Salut!* (Hi!)

Names

Romanians have a first (given) name and a last (family or surname) name. Two given names are also quite widely spread. The last name is common to all members of the family. It is the father's family name or a combination of the two parent's family names (i.e. Ioan Mateescu Varga).

When you don't know the person well or when speaking with civil servants in institutions, use the term *Mister* (*Domnule*) or *Misses* (*Doamnă*)

followed by the family name.

For example, *Mister Ionescu* (*Domnule Ionescu*) or *Misses Ionescu* (*Doamna Ionescu*). For friends or co-workers, you will mainly use the first name. If you don't know how to address a person, you may ask: *How should I call you?*

Body Language

In formal conversations, Romanians prefer to keep some physical distance; however, when talking among friends or relatives, they will often casually touch one another.

Regardless of the formality of the situation, eye contact is very important. Avoiding it may be considered a sign of weakness, dishonesty or poor manners. On the other hand, looking too intently may make a person feel uncomfortable.

Conversation

In formal contexts, questions about age, political affiliation, salary, belongings, prices paid for items, personal beliefs, and religion, are considered too personal and should be avoided. In casual conversation, Romanians speak about their personal and professional lives.

Key vocabulary

Bună!/Salut!	Hi! /Hello!
Mă numesc/Sunt George	My name is/ I'm George
Ce faci?	How are you?
Bine, mulțumesc!	I'm fine, thank you!
La revedere! / Pa!	Goodbye! / Bye-Bye!

2

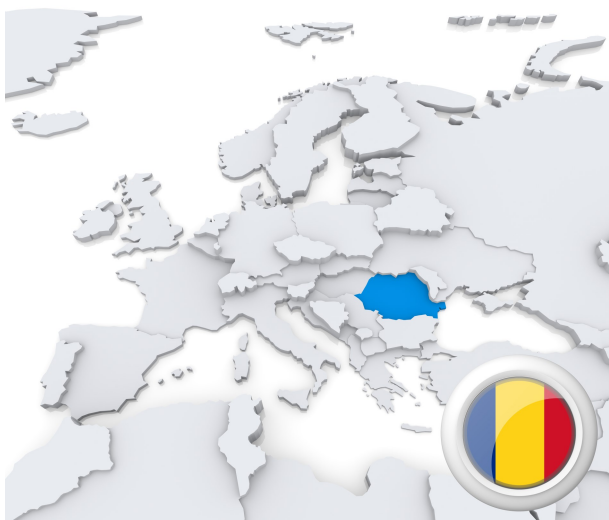


From the left top corner, clockwise: (1) Bran Castle, (2) Poenari Fortress, (3) View of Bucharest.

2. Romania: A Brief Overview

Geography

Romania is situated in the southeastern part of Europe and shares borders with Hungary to the northwest, Serbia to the southwest, Bulgaria to the south, the Black Sea to the southeast, Ukraine to the east and to the north, and the Republic of Moldova to the east.



Map of Europe with Romania's position



Map of Romania with its neighbours

Romania has a surface of 238,391 square Km and is the second largest country in the area, after Poland. With 19.5 million inhabitants (as per the May 2018 United Nations estimates), Romania is the seventh country in the European Union. The time zone is GMT + 2.

Climate

Romania has a temperate continental climate, with four distinct seasons.

Spring: March - May is pleasant with cool mornings and nights and relatively warm days. Temperatures can average 15°C to 20° C in May. Days get longer, the snow melts in the mountains, the trees are full of flowers and the grass again turns green.

Summer: June –August/September is quite warm, even very warm in July and August, with extended sunny days. The hottest areas in summer are the lowlands in southern and eastern Romania. Temperatures are always cooler in the mountains. During summer time, temperatures can average 30°C to 35°C.

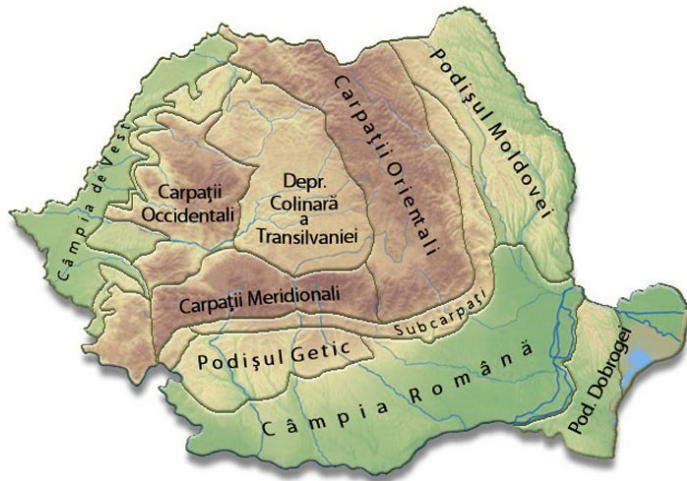
Autumn: October - November is dry and cool, with fields and trees producing colorful foliage. Temperatures drop to those in Spring and days get shorter.

Winter: December – February can be cold, especially in the mountains. While not the rule, abundant snowfalls may occur throughout the country, from December to mid-February. The coolest pole is Miercurea Ciuc in Transylvania where the temperatures fall below zero, sometimes to lows of - 15°C or colder.

There are significant regional differences of the climate between different regions of Romania.

Landforms

Romania is composed equally of mountains, plateaus, and plains.



Physical Map of Romania

The Mountains: Although not as high as the Alps, the Carpathian Mountains are a popular destination for leisure activities including: skiing, climbing, hiking, biking and river-rafting.



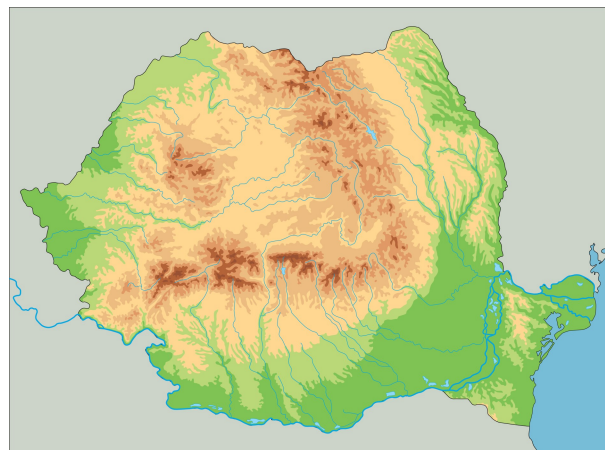
Carpathian Mountains

Hills and plateaus: Inside the Carpathian Arch, Transylvania Plateau; in the north-west Someș Plateau; in the east Moldavian Plateau; in the southeast Dobrogea Plateau.



Hills and Plateaus

Rivers: 98% of the Romania's rivers spring from the Carpathian Mountains. The upper streams are usually more spectacular, featuring numerous gorges, caves and precipices.



Hydrographical network

Europe's second longest river, the Danube, flows through southern Romania. It is an important water route for domestic shipping, as well as international trade and tourist cruises. The Danube ends its journey in south-eastern Romania. The river divides into 3 branches (Chilia, Sulina, Sfântu Gheorghe) forming the Danube Delta. It is a UNESCO Biosphere Reservation as well as a protected wetland and natural habitat for rare species of plants and animals.

Lakes: There are around 3,500 lakes in Romania, most of them small or medium. The largest are the lagoons and coastal lakes on the Black Sea shore, such as Razim and Sinoe.



Danube Delta

The Black Sea: is a continental sea, with a low tide and salinity and water temperatures of 25 to 30°C in the summertime. Its wide, sandy beaches facing east and south-east are an important tourist attraction from May until September.

Black Sea

Soil and mineral resources: almost two-thirds of the country's territory are suitable for agriculture. Arable land accounts for about 40%, pastures for 19%, and vineyards and orchards represent about 5% of the total land area.

Oil reserves are concentrated at the foothills of southern and eastern Carpathians and in the Black Sea. Large deposits of natural gas are in the Transylvanian Plateau.

There are important iron ore deposits in Poiana

Ruscă Mountains, Banat and Dobrogea regions, as well as in Harghita Mountains (Eastern Carpathians). Most of the nonferrous metal reserves are concentrated in the northwest, particularly in Maramureș and Apuseni Mountains. Some of the largest gold deposits in Europe are also located in Apuseni. Large amounts of pure salt are located at: Slănic, Tîrgu Ocna, Ocna Mureș, Praid and Cacica.

Regions and Cities

Romania is divided in 41 counties composed of urban areas (cities and towns) and rural areas (*Comune*, including one or several villages - *sate*). Romania's population lives in 320 cities and towns, 2,686 *Comune* and 12,956 villages (*sate*).



Counties of Romania

There are 4 historical regions – Moldavia, Muntenia, Transylvania and Dobrogea. Although there are slight differences in terms of culture and level of development, the form of government, the legislation and the governance are the same across the country.

However, today, we speak about nine regions without specific administrative status (in alphabetical order): Banat, Bucovina, Crişana, Dobrogea, Maramureş, Moldova, Muntenia, Oltenia and Transylvania. Based on the European Union (EU) requirements, Romania is divided in eight development regions. They do not have an administrative status. Their aim is to better coordinate regional development, the allocation of EU funds and development projects, as well as the collection of regional statistics. Except for

Bucharest – Ilfov, the other regions are named by their geographical position.

These are:

North – East: Suceava, Botoşani, Neamţ, Iaşi, Bacău and Vaslui;

South – East: Vrancea, Galaţi, Buzău, Brăila, Tulcea, Constanţa;

South: Ialomiţa, Călăraşi, Giurgiu, Teleorman, Argeş, Dâmboviţa, Prahova;

South – West: Olt, Dolj, Mehedinţi, Gorj, Vâlcea;

West: Caraş-Severin, Timiş, Hunedoara, Arad;

North-West: Bihor, Cluj, Sălaj, Bistriţa-Năsăud, Satu Mare, Maramureş;



The regions of Romania

The largest cities are Bucharest (over 2.1 million inhabitants), Iaşi (371.000), Timisoara (331.000), Cluj Napoca (323.000), Constanta (315.000), Craiova (303.000), Galati (302.000), Brasov (290.000), Ploiesti (230.000), Oradea (221.000)².

Bucharest is the capital and the largest city of Romania. It is in the southeast of Romania, on the banks of the Dâmboviţa River, less than 60 km north of the Danube River and the Bulgarian border. Bucharest is considered the most prosperous city in Romania and is one of the main industrial centres and transportation hubs of Eastern Europe. Administratively, it is known as the "Municipality of Bucharest" (*Municipiul Bucureşti*), and has the same administrative level as that of a national county, being further subdivided into six sectors, each governed by a local mayor.

Inhabitants

Based on the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, the last official census, Romania's population was 20,121,641 people. The United Nations³ estimates the population of Romania at 19,589,601 people. Over 11 million Romanians live in cities and towns in 2018⁴. The majority of inhabitants are ethnically Romanian and over 2 million are ethnically Hungarian, Roma, Ukrainian, German, Turk, Lipovan Russian, Tatar, Serb, Slovak, or Bulgarian. In addition to these, at the

end of 2017 there were 116,830 foreigners in Romania. Of these, slightly over 49,000 are mainly from Italy, Germany and France; over 62,000 from the Republic of Moldova, Turkey, China and Syria and about 3,900 with refugee status or subsidiary protection (mainly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan). The main reasons for which foreigners come to Romania are family reunification (over 26,000) and studying (over 14,000).

² Romanian National Institute of Statistics, data on resident population in January 2017:

http://www.insse.ro/cms/sites/default/files/com_presa/com_pdf/popdom1ian2018r.pdf

³ <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/>

⁴ <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/romania-population/>

Religion

There is freedom of religious beliefs in Romania. There are 18 official religious denominations with the most widely practiced being Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Over 16.3 million Romanians identify as Orthodox Christian. The Catholic Church (Latin Rite) accounts for 870,774 people. Other religions practiced in Romania include Islam, which enjoys a long tradition (over 700 years) in Dobrogea (over 65,000 people indicate Islam as religion), Jehovah's Witnesses (around 50,000), Old Believers (around 30,000, mainly ethnic Russians in the Danube Delta region), and Judaism (around 3,500 adherents)⁵.

Form of State, Government and Institutions

Romania is a **semi-presidential democracy** based on a **bicameral Parliament**: the **Chamber of Deputies** (Camera Deputaților) and the **Senate** (Senat).

The Parliament is the national legislature of Romania that discusses and approves all the laws that govern the society. The Parliament also appoints the Ombudsman. Parliament's day-to-day work involves drafting, debating and voting laws. Every proposal initiated by lawmakers, government or citizens is first discussed in the specialized committees and then voted in plenary.



Parliament of Romania

All members of the Parliament are directly elected from Romania's 41 counties. The elections are through universal suffrage. The voting age is eighteen. Parties must win at least five percent of the national vote to gain representation in the Parliament. There are 465 members of the Parliament (329 deputies and 136 senators). There is a special procedure allowing for the representation of the organizations of national minorities in the Chamber of Deputies. Elections for the Parliament are normally organized every four years.



The Government is the executive power, operating based on the parliamentary vote of confidence. It is entrusted with the implementation of the internal and foreign affairs policy of the country and with the management of the public administration.

The Government of Romania

⁵ <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/religion-in-romania.html>

The Prime Minister, based at Victoria Palace, Bucharest, is the head of Government and picks the members of his/her cabinet, which is subject to a parliamentary vote of approval. Typically, the Prime Minister is the head of the ruling party or coalition. The President of Romania appoints the Prime Minister after consulting the party that has the absolute majority in the Parliament or, if there is no such majority, the parties represented in the Parliament. The government is politically accountable only to the Parliament for its entire activity. Each member of the Government is politically responsible, jointly and severally with other members for the Government's work and for its acts.

The President is the head of the state, responsible for the foreign and defense policy, with executive powers. The President represents the State and is the safeguard of the national independence, unity and territorial integrity of the country. The President guards the observance of the Constitution and the proper functioning of the public authorities. To this effect, he/she acts as a mediator between the Powers in the State, as well as between the State and society.

Romania's president can serve two consecutive five-year terms. During the term, the president cannot be member of any political party. The president is directly elected through a two-round system.

Justice



Justice is a fundamental institution of a State and encompasses all the courts. It is the judiciary in a state of law. The **state of law** is state governed by the **rule of law**, a state based on a hierarchy of norms and legal order.

The rule of law also means that regardless of their status in society, all individuals must follow the same laws. Judges, politicians, police officers must obey the law like every other person.

In the rule of law, the state is the guarantor of individual freedoms and rights, while ensuring the internal and external security of citizens through democratic institutions. In a state of law, the **Constitution** is the fundamental law and is voted by the citizens.

Justice in Romania is organized as a hierarchical system of courts, with a civic law system. The Constitutional Court of Romania is an independent institution. Its main role is to check the compatibility of the laws with the Constitution and to solve disputes of constitutional nature between public authorities.

Public Administration

The public administration refers to two essential aspects: the execution and respect of the law. The provision of public services within the limits of the law. The public service is the activity organized or put in practice by a public institution to meet the social needs in the interest of the people. The public administration consists of two main categories of public authorities: Central public authorities: Government, Ministries and other administrative autonomous authorities (i.e. the **Ombudsman**, the **Supreme Council of National Defence**). Local public authorities: County Council, the Local Council, 's Office (*Primărie*) and the Local public services. The *prefect* is the representative of the Government at county level and is appointed by the Government to coordinate at county level the various public services which are

subordinated to central authorities and to check the legality of the decisions of local authorities. All cities and *comune* are governed by a local mayor elected every four years. At the level of each county, there are County Councils (Consiliu Județean). The County Council is the local public administration authority coordinating the activity of municipal and town councils. It is composed of elected councillors. The number of the members of each county council depends on the county population. Local public services are organized by the Mayor's Office and the Local Councils and include areas such as public transportation, school infrastructure, fire protection, local police, parks, community water, energy and waste systems, parking, etc.

Key Vocabulary

Anotimpuri: Primăvară Vară Toamnă Iarnă Este vară.	Seasons: Spring Summer Autumn Winter It's summer.
Noapte Lună Stea Zi Soare Nor Este soare. Este cald. Este frig. Ninge – zăpadă. Plouă – ploaie	Night Moon Star Day Sun Cloud It is sunny. It is hot. It is cold. It is snowing – snow It is raining - rain
Lunile anului: Ianuarie, Februarie, Martie, Aprilie, Mai, Iunie, Iulie, August, Septembrie, Octombrie, Noiembrie, Decembrie Zilele săptămânii: Luni, marți, miercuri, joi, vineri, sâmbătă, duminică	Months of the year: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December Days of the week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Forme de relief Munte Mare Râu Lac	Landforms Mountain Sea River Lake
Administrație Țară Oraș Sat Județ Guvern Parlament Președinte Lege	Administration Country City Village County Government Parliament President Law

3



3. Romania - the country, culture and people

A Brief History

Romania has a rich history, deeply related to its geographical position, at the crossroads of the historical empires. Its history is a history of borders: on the outskirts of the Roman or the Byzantine Empire, as well as at the outer limits of the Ottoman, Russian, or, later Western expansion. A timeline with the key history events and milestones is presented below:

70 – 44 B.C.	Dacian king Burebista controlled the territory of modern-day Romania and created a powerful Dacian kingdom
100 A.D.	Dacian civilization reaches its peak
106 A.D.	Romans conquer Dacia
106 – 274 A.D.	Dacia is a province of the Roman Empire
271 A.D.	Roman troops abandon Dacia after fighting off the Goths
4 th century A.D.	Christianity is gradually adopted by the Daco-Roman, Latin-speaking people
4 th to 9 th century A.D.	Nomadic tribes (Goths, Visigoths, Huns, Slavs) invade Dacia
896 – late 1100	Hungarians take control over the western and central parts of present-day Romania (Crişana, Banat and Transylvania)
12 th century	Saxons settle in Transylvania. Szeklers (secui) people settle in southern and western part of Transylvania to guard the borders
13 th century	The principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia are established. Transylvania becomes an autonomous principality under Hungarian rule, until 1526
14 th and 15 th centuries	The principalities resisted the Ottoman Empire expansion. Iancu de Hunedoara (voivode of Transylvania), Vlad Țepeș (Vlad the Impaler, voivode of Wallachia) and Ștefan cel Mare (Stephen the Great, voivode of Moldavia) are known as heroes of the anti-Ottoman struggle
1526	Transylvania falls under the Ottoman domination
1600	The principalities of Transylvania, Wallachia and Moldavia are united for one year by Mihai Viteazul (Michael the Brave)
1657	Transylvania falls under the Ottoman Empire rule, as Moldavia and Wallachia had already done

1685	The Habsburgs reconquer Transylvania from the Ottomans
1711	The Habsburgs make Transylvania a province of their Kingdom of Hungary
1715	Phanariot Greek governors begin to rule Moldavia and Wallachia on behalf of the Ottoman Empire and launch administrative reforms
1821	The Ottoman Empire cedes Bessarabia (the eastern part of Moldavia) to the Russian Empire and allows it to oversee the administration of Wallachia and Moldavia
1834	Moldavia and Wallachia adopt a unified basic constitution (Regulamentul Organic), which provides for their eventual unification
1856	Russian Empire control over Moldavia and Wallachia ends
1859	Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza is proclaimed prince of Moldavia
1862	Moldavia and Wallachia unite to form a national state: Romania. Romania engages in an ambitious policy of economic, political, military, educational and social reform, encompassing a parliament, land reform and the adoption of the civil code
1866	Abdication of prince Cuza. Carol I (German prince) succeeds Cuza, as Prince of Romania
1877 - 1878	Romania wins full independence from the Ottoman Empire
1881	Romania becomes a kingdom
1914	King Carol I dies. King Ferdinand I, his nephew, succeeds him. Romania enters World War I (WWI) in 1916
1918	Bessarabia, Bucovina, Banat and Transylvania unite with the Kingdom of Romania. On the 1 st of December 1918, in a public meeting which took place in Alba Iulia, representatives of Romanians from Banat and Transylvania proclaimed the unification with Romania. This day is the National Day of Romania.
1930	Carol II, Ferdinand's I son, becomes king of Romania and established royal dictatorship

1940	Following the agreement between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, Northern Transylvania becomes part of Hungary and Bessarabia of the Soviet Union. Marshall Ion Antonescu forces King Carol II to abdicate in favour of his son, Michael, but assumes power himself
1941	Marshall Antonescu imposes a military dictatorship. To regain Bessarabia, Romania enters World War II (WWII) against the Soviet Union
1944	Marshall Antonescu is arrested following a royal coup by King Michael. Romania re-enters war on the Allies side
1945	Yalta Agreement – Romania is part of the Soviet system
1947	King Michael forced to abdicate. Communists proclaim the Romania as People's Republic
1967	Nicolae Ceaușescu, Communist Party leader since 1965, merges leadership of state and party
1968	Ceaușescu denounces Soviet invasion in Czechoslovakia
1980	Austerity programme aimed at reducing foreign debts leads to food shortages and power cuts. Severe restrictions on civil rights are also imposed
1982	Romania calls on Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan
1989	Romanians unite in protests against the communist regime, resulting in a national uprising that finally ousted Ceaușescu
1990	First multiparty free elections after the WWII held in Romania
1990-1992	Period of economic and social unrest, confusion
1992	Romanians vote for a new Constitution
1993	Romania joins the Council of Europe and is recognized as a democracy
1996	First peaceful change of Government and of President based on free and democratic elections
1999	Start of the EU accession process
2002	Decision for Romania to join NATO and possibility to travel in EU without visa
2004	NATO membership and signature of the EU accession Treaty
2007	Membership of the EU
2019	Romania holds the rotating presidency of the EU

Culture and People

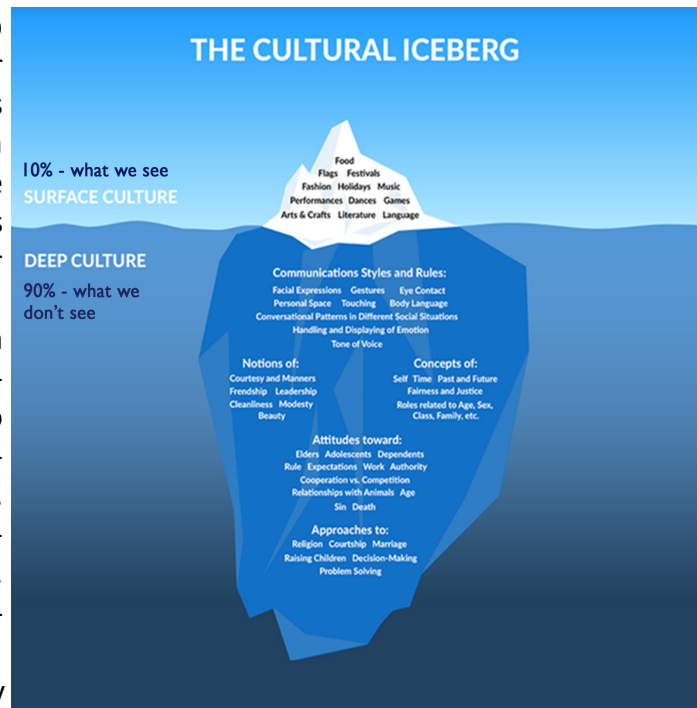
The way we collectively think, feel and act defines our culture. Perhaps the easiest way to view culture is the way a group of people lives: the way they socialize, worship, communicate, take care of themselves and their families, make decisions, and share customs.

Culture could be also seen as an iceberg, with a visible part (for example, music, food, holiday customs, language, literature) and an invisible part (religious beliefs, expectations, norms, values, perceptions, social status, etc.).

At individual level, a person belonging to a group may not necessarily have the same beliefs or behaviours as the group, but could find similarities or affiliations with other groups. Thus, as one can see, speaking about culture is a complex exercise with many elements to consider. What is important to note is that no culture is right or wrong.

In addition, people, groups, societies are in a continuous evolution. The possibility to easily travel today from one region, country or continent to the other, the evolution of the information technology, the expansion of trade across the world, people mobility and migration facilitate interaction between individuals, groups and societies. These interactions may generate changes in cultural practices and ideas over time.

Let's continue the orientation journey by discovering several cultural practices in Romania.



The Căluș ritual dance



It is traditionally performed the week before Pentecost (50 days after the Easter). The dance is inscribed on the list of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, along with **Doina** (music tune style), the **Horezu ceramics** and the **Men's group Colindat** (Christmas time ritual).

The dance is performed in Muntenia, Oltenia and in some parts of Transylvania. It is considered having healing effects. Căluș appears to be related to the worship of an ancient god known as Irodiada and Arada, possibly

connected with the Greek goddess of the hunt and nature, Diana. Căluș is a male group dance. Dancers wear white trousers and white tunics, with colored ribbons streaming from their hats. Bells are attached to their ankles. The dance movements symbolize the trample and the behavior of the horse., and is highly acrobatic. It also includes the use of ornate sticks held upright whilst dancing, or pointing at the ground as a prop.

Drăgaica (known as well as Sânzâienele)



Drăgaica (known as well as Sânzâienele)

Is a ritual celebrated on the 24th of June, to mark the summer solstice. Drăgaica is a good fairy and the celebration is held in her honor. The ritual involves young women. They wear long white dresses and crowns made of wild flowers. The central point of the ritual is their dance which takes place in the evening, around a bonfire. It is believed that on that night, the skies open and magic things can happen. It is also believed that the ritual is for the fruits to ripe faster.

Babele

Babele ("the old women") is a custom celebrating the beginning of spring. People pick any day from the 1st to the 9th of March to predict the weather for the remainder of the season. Depending on the day's weather, the remainder of the year will either be as bright as a sunny day, or not, if the day is cloudy or rainy.

Mărțișor

Mărțișor is celebrated on the 1st of March and marks the arrival of the spring. It is the name for a red and white string with hanging tassel to which a small jewel-like ornament (talisman) is attached. The combination of red and white is considered to represent the life and death. Mărțișor is pinned to clothes, close to the heart. At the end of March, people get it tied to a fruit-tree twig.



Mucenici

Mucenici is celebrated on the 9th of March. It marks the feast of the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste. It also coincides with the start of the agricultural works. Some people believe that when the Martyrs were drowned, flowers rose to the surface. On this day, a special type of desert is prepared. It consists of dough that is boiled (in southern regions of Romania) and seasoned with sugar, cinnamon and walnuts. The dough is shapped as the infinity sign, or the number eight. In other regions (i.e. Moldova), the dough is baked, then smeared with honey and walnuts.

Painted Easter Eggs

Easter marks the Resurrection of Jesus and is one of the most important celebrations in the Orthodox Christian year. Romanians pay a close attention to the holidays surrounding Easter, extending the celebration to one that marks a period of renewal.

Traditionally, people are fasting 40 days before the celebration and eat vegetarian food. Good Thursday is the day eggs are boiled and painted usually in red. There are legends and myths about the traditional red eggs. The most popular one says that Mary, the mother of Jesus, went to grieve his crucified son and placed a basket filled with eggs at his feet. As the blood of Jesus was dripping, it painted the eggs red.



Many Christian countries have painted eggs in their Easter rituals. However, this is turned into an art form in Romania. The eggs are painted with intricate designs, including floral and geometrical motifs that are often representative of a person's home town or region. These decorations have specific meanings. For example, the vertical line means life, the horizontal line means death, the double line is for eternity, the spiral means also eternity and time, the curved line means water and the rectangular means knowledge. The tradition on the Easter Day is to tap eggs with each other to see which one has the strongest shell.

Men's Group Colindat



Christmas is a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Together with Easter, the two celebrations are fundamental to Christianity. The celebration evolved worldwide over two millennia into a religious and secular celebration. Today, Christmas is a time for family and friends to get together and exchange gifts.

On Christmas Eve, in Romania's towns and villages, groups of young men go from house to house singing festive songs. The performing of songs also includes members of the community. The songs are passed down from generation to generation and play an educational role for children and young people. The ritual is also observed in the Republic of Moldova.

Doina

Doina is one of the Romanian representative literary folk heritage along with fairy tales, ballads and other popular oral creations. Doina is a lyrical chant expressing feelings like nostalgia, sadness or love. There are also lullaby, shepherd's or forest's doina. It is the most common type of peasant song sang even today in many regions of Romania.

Ia (the Romanian traditional blouse)

Is part of the Romanian traditional costume for women and a symbol of its continuity over the time. The "ia" is a shirt, used in days of celebration, made of white fabric decorated with beads and embroidery on the sleeves, chest and neck. The motifs sewn are stylized, geometric figures or inspired by nature. The colors and patterns are different, depending on age or the event where it is worn.

Over time, the Romanian blouse fascinated painters, photographers, designers and people from the country and abroad. Princess Ileana, Princess Elena, Queen Mary are among the royal personalities who proudly wore the Romanian traditional costume. Her Majesty Queen Mary (Queen of Romania, Princess of Edinburgh, Saxe - Coburg and Gotha) has transformed it into a personal fashion style.



As of 2013, a community established through Facebook (named "La Blouse Roumaine"), creates a special event on June 24, as "The Universal Day of the Romanian Blouse". The Romanian women are invited to wear the "Ia", no matter in what corner of the world they are. The day coincides with "the Day of Sânziene", referred to above, a celebration associated with a cult of vegetation and fertility.

The Craftmanship of Horezu ceramics

Is a traditional craft form the northern part of Valcea County, involving both women and men in the fabrication process. Men select and extract the soil, which is then cleaned, cut and wetted, kneaded, trampled and mixed, becoming thus the clay body from which the famous red pottery of Horezu is produced. Women decorate the objects using specific techniques, and tools to draw traditional motifs. The colours are vivid and include dark brown, red, green, blue and the "Horezu ivory", being used to depict motifs such as the fish, the snake, the rooster, the tree of life, the oak leaf, etc.



Key Vocabulary

Țară, Istorie, Război, Pace, Rege, Conducător,
Unire
Țară unită, război sângeros, unire mare

Country, History, War, Peace, King, Ruler, Union
United country, blood war, great union

Cultură, familie, tradiție, sărbătoare
Am o familie mare.
Imi plac sărbătorile.

Culture, family, tradition, celebration
I have a big family.
I like celebrations.

4



4. Cultural interaction and adaptation

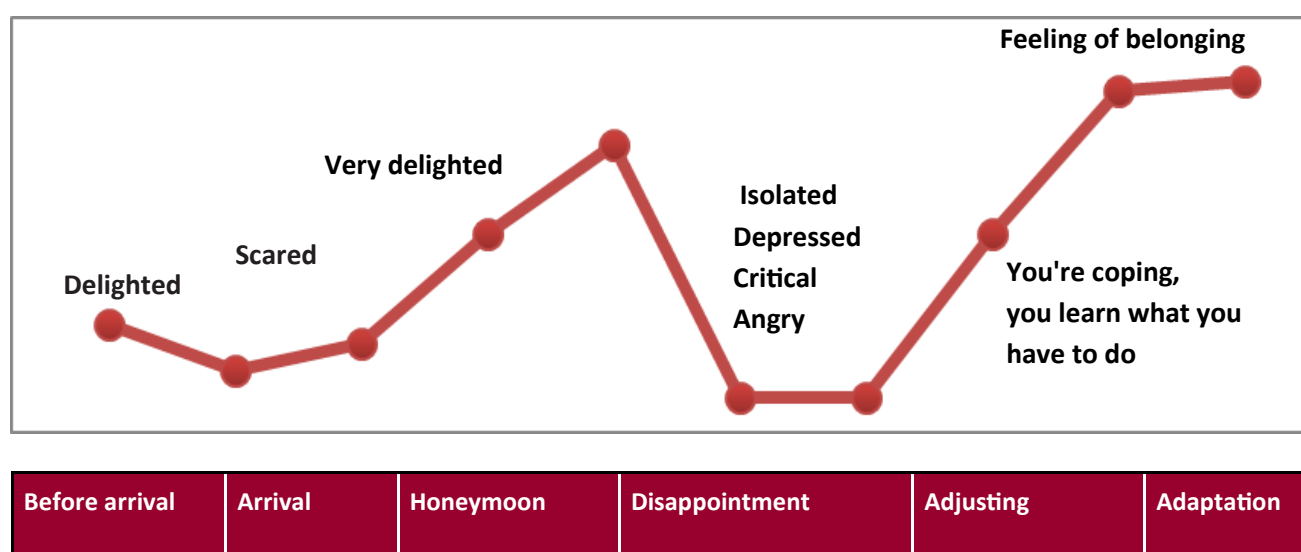
Culture Shock

Our orientation journey focused so far on greetings, geography, administration, history and cultural practices. Let's stop for a moment and see how you find this experience. How do you feel?

Like any other person settling in a new country, at the beginning you may try to find and understand what is similar compared to your country of origin. There will be moments when you will feel frustrated, even helpless being in a country whose language you don't speak.

Culture shock is the disorientation a person may feel when encountering an unfamiliar way of life. Refugees and not only will most likely suffer from stress caused by the difficulty to understand the workings of the new culture. This stress is called "Culture Shock."

There are several stages of the culture shock, as shown in the chart below:



Stage 1: Honeymoon (Fascination)

Before arrival and shortly after you may feel enthusiastic, then a bit scared and again very delighted, have high hopes and expectations, an exciting time. Everything is new and raises so many questions. Some people may feel very confident and solve easily problems or deal with stressful situations.

Stage 2: Disappointment (Frustration and Hostility)

Finding housing, employment, enrolling in language courses or enrolling children in school are practical issues that might occupy all your time. There are ups and downs. It is common to feel positive one day and negative the next. You may be tempted to find more differences with the host country than similarities and start looking at everything with different eyes.

Symptoms include: frustration, irritability, anger, indifference, tiredness, loneliness, a feeling of guilt about leaving family members.

Stage 3: Adjustment (or Recovery)

You have now better language skills, a better understanding of Romania and of the host community. You start feel optimistic and get involved in community life. You have a better sense of direction.

Stage 4: Adaptation (Acceptance)

You feel more comfortable in your new culture. You have made new friends and get more and more involved. You understand better the functioning of the institutional and social systems and no longer regret the settlement in Romania. You start planning, perhaps continuing education, find a better job.

How long does the culture shock last?

There is no timetable for this, but experience has shown that migrants who do not learn the language or interact with people from other cultures are likely to suffer culture shock for a longer period of time than those who do. It very much depends on the willingness of the person to adapt to new ways of doing things. It also depends on the support received from family and friends.

Tips to get over the cultural shock more rapidly:

- Make as many friends as possible. Meet people from your community, but don't fear meeting new people, foreigners or Romanian.
- Learn Romanian.
- Don't think of your cultural habits as "right" and other people's as "wrong". Avoid judgments, try to understand people in another culture from their own point of view.
- Think about your culture and how it also influences your attitudes and actions.
- Don't spend too much time at home. Volunteer in NGO's activities; keep yourself busy with different community activities.
- Don't seek refuge in alcohol. On medium term, it will take you into deeper depression and on long term, it will give an addiction very difficult to get rid of.
- Exercise. Go walking, running or riding.
- Ask for help. In all regions of Romania, there are Regional Integration Centres⁶ and locally, public institutions ready to talk to you when you feel the need.
- Don't be too hard on yourself. Culture shock is a normal process normal for every person living in a new culture and it takes time.

Key Vocabulary

Vesel / trist, optimist / pesimist,
mulțumit/nemulțumit
Sunt fericit.

Joyful / sad, optimistic / pessimistic,
satisfied / unsatisfied
I'm happy.

⁶ See detailed list in Annex 1.

5



5. Daily Life in Romania

Transport

In Romanian larger cities, there are trams, buses and trolleys. In Bucharest, there is also a subway network (*Metrou*). Each time you use public transportation you must validate a travel ticket/ electronic card, otherwise you may risk paying a fine. If you transfer from one mode of transportation to another, you must validate a new ticket.

In all cities, there are special places (kiosks) near or in the public transportation stations where you can buy tickets. The cost for a one ride ticket is between 1,5 and 3,5 RON depending on the city. If you use public transportation daily, the monthly pass might be a good option as it will save you money. In every city, the local transportation companies have a website with information about tickets and itineraries. An example of this is: www.ratb.ro.



When traveling on public transportation, pay attention to the following social rules:

- If you want to listen to music or watch a video on your phone, use headsets.
- Offer your seat to elders, the disabled or pregnant women.
- Remember that the driver is not allowed to stop between the stations.
- Smoking is strictly forbidden in public transportation vehicles.
- If you use the escalators to get in or out of the metro station, stay on the right-hand side to allow other people to move forward on the left side.

In all cities, there are taxis. Often times, the cars are yellow. The prices are different between the cities but the average cost per journey will be around 15 - 20 RON. The price per Km must be displayed on the taxi doors.

Drivers are obliged to use the automatic meters to calculate the cost of your trip and give you a receipt; however, some taxi drivers are open to negotiate the overall amount. You should be cautious as in the end you may pay a higher price than the normal one. Payment must usually be made in cash as Romanian taxis do not have POS-es for card or electronic payments. It is recommended to have sufficient cash with you to avoid a situation where the taxi driver doesn't have the cash to make change.



Crossing the Street



Cars drive in Romania on the right side of the road. You can cross the street only through the marked places with the pedestrian crossing sign and when the traffic light is green. Crossing through unmarked places is dangerous. Where traffic lights are not available, before crossing the street you must look both ways to ensure there is no car coming. Make sure you are not crossing the street near a curve or trees that could hide an oncoming car. No young children should cross the street alone.

Emergency Services

In Romania, the unique emergency number is 112. When you call be ready to tell the operator what your emergency is and where you are. If you cannot explain the nature of your emergency, just say Help and keep the phone on. This will allow the operator to track your location. **Do not call 112 without a serious reason. If you call this number without an emergency you will be fined.**

The Police

The police are responsible for public order and safety. You can see police officers on the streets patrolling on foot or by car. Be respectful to the police officers but do not fear them. If an officer is asking you to stop and to show your ID, it is very important not to run and to cooperate. You are required by law to comply with such a request from a police officer, while the police officer is required to talk respectfully and respect your rights.

It is illegal to offer money to police officers and this can lead to unpleasant situations for you. If you cannot communicate in Romanian or in English, ask for an interpreter or call someone you know and ask for support. If a police officer is asking for money or suggesting that you should pay to be out of trouble, call the free-of-charge number 0800.806.806, where you can confidentially report law-enforcement corruption.



Institutions and Support Organizations

Punctuality is very important when you interact with different institutions and organizations. When you have an appointment, if you are late for more than 15 minutes, you may lose the appointment and may have to wait for a longer time. If you should attend an important meeting, it is recommended to arrive a few minutes earlier.

When attending an appointment with an organization or a public authority, it is important to hold with you all necessary documents: passport, residence permit etc.

Daily Shopping

The prices in shops are not negotiable. The only accepted currency is lei (international currency code – RON). If you have a different currency, you can exchange the money into RON at any bank or exchange office. If you have a banking card, you may use it to pay in almost all large shops and in some small or medium shops.

Food

Romania's cuisine is the result of a series of historical, geographical and religious influences. It is predominantly meat-based. Pork is the most popular meat, followed by chicken and beef, then by fish and lamb. Many vegetables are grown and may accompany the meat dishes.

Following are Romania specialities:

Sarmale are rolls of rice, vegetables and minced meat wrapped in cabbage leaves.

Salata de vinete is roast eggplant or eggplant salad with onions.

Mici is mixed meat sausages, are served at outdoor celebrations, accompanied by beer.

Ciorba de burta is tripe soup, made with beef tripe, garlic, sour cream and vinegar.

There are many Romanian proverbs referring to food. Among them,

Brother, bother, but the cheese must be paid for.

Where two eat, a third can eat too.

He who steals an egg today, will steal a cow tomorrow.

Weekend

In Romania, institutions and organizations (except the police, hospitals and fire brigades) are closed on Saturdays and Sundays. If you have a problem to solve, plan to address it on weekdays, Monday to Friday. During the weekend, most shops, museums, restaurants, etc. are open.

Bank Holidays

Bank holidays (or legal holidays) are those days when all institutions and organizations (except the police, hospitals and fire brigades) stop their activities.

In Romania, the bank holidays are:

1 and 2 January	New year
24 January	Romanian Principalities' Union
April/May, Not the same days each year	Easter Monday
1 May	Labour Day
1 June	Children Day
May/June 50 days after the Easter	Pentecost Monday
15 August	Assumption (Saint Mary)
30 November	Saint Andrew
1 December	National Day
25, 26 December	Christmas

Military Service

Since 2007, military service is no longer compulsory. Romanian citizens who want to join the army can do so after the age of 18.

Personal Safety Rules

- When you are in a public space, never leave your keys, baggage or personal belongings unattended.
- Lock your door when you leave your house
- Keep your valuable items – jewelry, computer, and important documents in safe places. Keep copies of your documents in safe places.
- Do not hand over your documents to anyone – passport, staying permit, etc. except for confirming your identity. Nobody has the right to retain them.

Key Vocabulary

Mașina, metrou, tramvai, autobuz, tren, avion Avionul zboară.	Car, metro, tramway, bus, train, plane, The plane flies.
Masă, mâncare, prieteni, acasă Mâncăm acasă.	Meal, food, friends, home. We are eating at home.

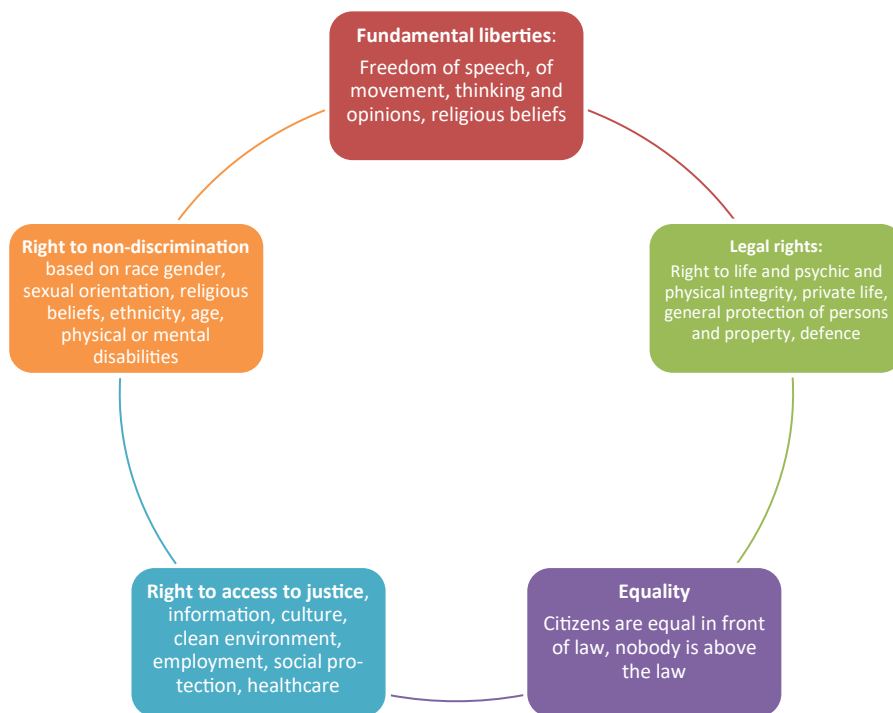
6



6. Rights and Responsibilities

Rights, Liberties and Responsibilities

All people legally residing in Romania have the same fundamental rights, liberties and responsibilities established by the Constitution. As a migrant in Romania, you have the responsibility to understand and uphold the Constitution. All laws are made public; they are not secret. You are responsible for obeying laws even if you do not know them.



None of these fundamental rights and freedoms are absolute. They cannot be used to compromise or break the rights of other individuals. With rights come responsibilities. For example, your right for freedom of religion means that you must respect the religious beliefs of others. These can be broken down as follows:

Rights	Responsibilities
Civil	
Right to be treated equally Right to personal privacy Right to personal security Right to a fair trial by an independent court	Know, respect, follow and defend the law Treat others equally Respect the privacy of others Obey the law
Social	
To be treated with dignity and respect To have adequate food, clothing and shelter To live in a clean and healthy environment	Treat others with dignity and respect Support and advocate for social justice Actively care for the environment
Political	
**The right to vote may be exercised only after obtaining Romanian citizenship	
To voice your own opinions	To take an active interest in the affairs of the country To respect the opinion of others

Fundamental Rights the Constitution Guarantees

The Constitution establishes Romania as a democracy and a market economy and enshrines the values of human dignity, equality, civic rights and freedoms, the development of the individual, justice and political pluralism.

Human Dignity

Human dignity means that every person is worthy of honor and respect for whom they are, regardless of a person's ethnic background, age, sex, social status, physical or mental health. Human dignity cannot be earned or taken away. It is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace.

Equality

Is one of the most important Constitutional values. All individuals are equal before the law and must be treated equally by the law. The Constitution protects all individuals against discrimination when they use and access public services, deal with institutions, look for a job. Women and men are equal. Women are free to choose their education and profession, to have children or not.

Freedom of Speech

You are free to express your views and opinions on politics, religion and matters freely, can debate topics and write about your thoughts and beliefs without fearing persecution. You are also free to receive information from others and form an opinion. However, any verbal attacks on a person or a group of persons because of their gender, beliefs, race, disability or sexual orientation are forbidden.

Freedom of Religion

Freedom of religion means that people are free to choose their religion or spiritual tradition, as well as to choose not to belong to a religion. No one has the right to force another person into or out of a religious group or congregation. No one may be punished or persecuted for their religious affiliation.

Right to Access Justice

If you do not obey the laws in Romania, a lawsuit can be filed against you. If you do not speak Romanian, you have the right to an interpreter. Also, you have the right to a fair trial.

Right to Freedom of Movement and to Establish Residence Anywhere in Romania

Beneficiaries of International Protection

Once you have received international protection, you have the right to settle anywhere in Romania, depending on your interests and those of your family. Romanian authorities (The General Inspectorate for Immigrations – GII) will issue a residence permit for you, free of charge. The permit is valid for three (3) years if you have been granted refugee status and two (2) years if you have been granted subsidiary protection.

Other Non-EU Citizens with Legal Right to Stay

The legal right to stay in Romania is based on the visa and residence permit. There are two visa categories that allow for a period of 90 days stay:

Short term visa: issued for tourist, business, sport, cultural or scientific purposes as well as for medical treatment. This type of visa cannot be renewed and you cannot ask for a residence permit on its basis.

Long-term visa: issued for economic, commercial or professional activities, studies, scientific research, employment, family reunification, humanitarian or religious activities. Only this type of visa allows for an extension of the stay. To this effect, you shall submit an application to GII 30 days before the expiry of the 90-day stay in Romania. Based on your application, you will be issued a temporary residence permit. The validity of the permit depends on the purpose of your stay in Romania.



The Right to Temporary Leave and Return to Romania

As a refugee, you may travel abroad with your travel document (passport), issued at your request by the Romanian authorities. The travel document has a validity of 2 years and allows you to travel without a visa to countries that are part of the European Agreement on the Abolition of Visas for Refugees from 1959⁷. In these countries, you may stay for maximum 90 days.

If you have been granted subsidiary protection or if you are legally residing in Romania and would like to travel abroad, you may need a visa. Please check the entry requirements with the embassy of the destination country.

Right to Social Integration

The Government Ordinance no. 44/2004 sets the grounds for the social integration of beneficiaries of international protection, of legally residing non-EU nationals and of EU and EEA nationals in Romania.

Beneficiaries of international protection have access to the **National Integration Program**. Enrolment in the programme shall be made within 30 days after protection has been granted. The Program includes a series of support services, free of charge, for a maximum duration of one (1) year:

- An evaluation interview conducted by the GII integration officer. Once your needs are identified, you and the officer will work together to set goals for your integration. You will then make a plan to achieve those goals. You will sign showing your agreement with the integration plan.
- Orientation sessions to get accustomed to daily life in Romania.
- Romanian language courses for adults and children, conducted by Romanian Language teachers. NGOs running Regional Integration Centres countrywide also organize Romanian language courses that complement the ones organized by the Inspectorates.
- Tailored information and counselling: trained staff will inform you of your rights in Romania and will give you practical support related to finding a job, registering in school registration, housing, social security, healthcare, psychological assistance, etc.
- Temporary accommodation in GII centres.
- Financial support of 540 RON/month for up to 1 year. The support is for each family member. To get it, you will send a request to GII within 3 months after you received international protection. GII sends your request together with other documents to the Agency for Social Payments from the county of your residence who will decide whether the support can be granted.

Six (6) months after receiving this support, GII analyses your situation and may propose the extension of the support for an additional six (6) months if they consider it necessary. If you do not participate in the activities set out in the integration program, if you are not active in seeking a job or if you refuse a job, the support may be suspended.

⁷ The list of the states which signed the Agreement is available in Annex 2

Right to Family Reunification

As a beneficiary of international protection or as non-EU national with temporary / long-term residence permit, or if you have the EU Blue Card or ICT permit (for workers transferred within the same company), respectively mobile ICT, you have the right that your family members join you.

You can seek family reunification for your spouse, underage children, first degree relatives of your spouse (mother and father), and/or unmarried major children if they cannot support themselves in the country of origin.

The application for family reunification, along with the supporting documents (see www.igi.mai.gov.ro) have to be sent to the GII territorial office of the county where you legally reside. The deadline for settlement is three months from the date of submission.

Romanian Citizenship

You can become a Romanian citizen if, first of all, you reside legally in Romania for at least 8 years (4 years if you benefit from international protection) or if you are married and live together with a Romanian citizen for at least 5 years from the date of the marriage. (2.5 years with a form of protection).

The conditions you have to fulfil in order to become a Romanian citizen are:

- You are 18 years old.
- You are loyal to Romania and you have not been convicted for felonies.
- You can decently support yourself.
- You speak Romanian and have basic ideas of Romanian culture and civilization, the Constitution and the national hymn.
- You have successfully participated in the interview for receiving Romanian citizenship and you have sworn allegiance to Romania.

Romania does not have an obligation to grant citizenship to all those who request it.

The National Authority for Citizenship within the Ministry of Justice is responsible to organize the interview and grant the citizenship.

Family Laws

Marriage

In Romania, the law does not allow to be married to more than one person. You can re-marry if you are legally divorced or your spouse has died. It is illegal to force anyone into marriage. The spouses shall have reached legal age for marriage, also called matrimonial age – 18 years old. For well-founded reasons, a minor aged 16 may marry, whether male or female, with due respect of specific legal requirements.

To prove age, future spouses must present valid identity documents: passport, ID card / residence permit and birth certificate. The marriage may be registered only after a period of 10 days has elapsed from the date of filing the file with the Civil Status Office of the City Hall at the domicile or residence of one of the future spouses.

Divorce

Divorce may take place:

- through mutual consent of the spouses, at the request of both spouses or of one of the spouses, accepted by the other spouse;
- when, due to good reasons, the relations between the spouses are seriously injured and the continuation of the marriage is no longer possible;
- at the request of one of the spouses after a separation that has lasted at least two (2) years;
- at the request of one of the spouses whose state of health makes it impossible to continue the marriage.

Divorce by the parties' consent may be pronounced both by the court and by the civil status officer when there are no children, as well as by notary proceedings by the notary even if there are children, if the spouses have decided about all the issues resulting from the divorce, such as: the family name to bear after divorce, child care by both parents, child education, coverage of expenses, settlement of children's homes after divorce. Spouses together or, exceptionally, a trustee may file the divorce application. Spouses are granted a 30-day period of reflection from the date of filing the application.

Children

Must be declared and registered with the local service for the registration of persons where the birth took place. Newborn registration is done within 15 days for a live birth or 3 (three) days for a stillborn birth. The declaration of the newborn is necessary for the issuance of the Romanian birth certificate.

In a mixed marriage in which one of the parents is a Romanian citizen, the born child has Romanian citizenship.

Parents can take a parental leave until the child is two (2) years old - three (3) years in the case of a disabled child. Parental leave can be taken by both mother (maternity leave) and father (paternity leave), and the allowance may be granted if there is a contribution period for the social insurance system of at least 12 months in the last two (2) years.

Claims for childcare allowance are filed with the municipality, city, or the County Payments and Social Inspection Agencies where you have your domicile or residence.

State Child Allowance

State child allowance is a form of state protection, non-taxable. State allowance:

- Is granted to all children residing in Romania, aged 0 to 18
- can also be granted to young people who have reached the age of 18 if they attend high school or vocational education, until they finish education, provided they do not repeat the school year.

The amount of the state allowance is currently

- 200 lei / month for children up to the age of two (2).
- 84 lei for children over two (2) years until the age of 18.

Claims for childcare allowance are filed with the municipality, city, municipality, or the County Payments and Social Inspection Agencies where you have your domicile or residence.

Romanian Family and Roles within the Family

One aspect migrants find sometimes difficult to understand is the roles within the family in the host country. The dynamics of life in Romanian families has changed over the past 20 years. In addition to the nuclear family, consisting of father, mother and children, you may come across single-parent families or common-law relationships.





Romanian families used to be large - four (4) children and even more, notably in rural areas. Since the end of the communist regime in 1989, the population has started shrinking. It is estimated that over 3.4 million Romanians are abroad. Nowadays, Romanian families are rather

small – two (2) children or less. Many couples choose to remain childless. Divorce is increasing with over 16% of Romanian marriages ending in divorce. In Romania, both women and men work to pay their bills and to support their families. When both spouses are working, it is possible that the wife may earn more than the husband. In some situations, the wife has a job and the husband does not. When this happens, the husband takes care of the children when they are not at school. It is also common in Romanian families for the father to go to the market, cook, clean and help children with their homework.

Responsibilities

Romanian laws may be different from the laws in your country of origin. Thus, it is your responsibility to know and respect them to avoid unpleasant situations, such as fines, prison or even losing the right to residence in Romania.

Below you will find some examples:

Law refers to :	Description	Consequences for breaking the law
 Possession and use of drugs	It is illegal to cultivate, produce, experiment, offer, sell or buy risk drugs (cannabis, marijuana) and high risk drugs (heroin, cocaine, opium, amphetamine)	2-7 years in prison for substance abuse (risk drugs) and 5 to 12 years in prison for high risk drugs.
 Smoking	Smoking is not allowed in all enclosed public spaces, office spaces, public transportation, children's playgrounds, schools and hospitals.	Fine from 100 to 500 lei for individuals.
 Alcohol consumption	Alcohol consumption is prohibited in certain public areas, such as: public roads, parks, stadiums, cultural institutions, theatres, public transportation. Selling alcohol to young people under the age of 18 is also prohibited.	Fine from 100 to 500 lei.
 Driving	<p>It is illegal to drive without a driver's licence.</p> <p>Also, it is prohibited to drink alcohol or do drugs if you are driving.</p> <p>You must have a special seat in your car if you are transporting children under the age of 3, and all passengers in the car must wear a safety belt.</p>	<p>You can receive a prison sentence of 1 to 5 years.</p> <p>Suspension of the driver's licence and even a prison sentence of 1 to 5 years.</p> <p>You can receive a fine of 360 to 450 lei.</p>



Children's care

Children in Romania have the right to be protected against abuse, negligence, exploitation, trafficking, illegal migration, kidnapping, violence, internet pornography, and all other forms of violence, regardless of the environment in which they are: family, educational institutions, medical institutions, protection institutions, offenses research institutions, detention/ rehabilitation institutions, internet, mass-media, jobs, sporting venues, community.

Leaving the children unattended is a form of negligence. Any act of violence directed against children is prohibited.

Placing the children in special centres and transferring the responsibility for their care and well-being to the General Departments of Social Assistance and Child Protection Services; termination of parental rights.



Using fire guns

Foreigners which have their legal residence or home in Romania may be authorized to only purchase hunting weapons, shooting range guns or collectibles.

Is punishable by imprisonment and a fine.

Key Vocabulary

Dreptate, responsabilitate, lege, egalitate, respect Respectăm legea.	Justice, responsibility, law, equality, respect We respect the law.
Mama / tata, frate / soră, mătușă / unchi Am o familie mare.	Mother / father, sister / brother, aunt / uncle I have a big family.



7. Education in Romania

Education is compulsory for 10 years, public education is provided for free. The teaching language is Romanian. There are, however, educational institutions in which the teaching language can be other than Romanian.

Pre-university education

Early childhood education and care

Nursery: 0 – 3 years old

Kindergarten: 3 – 5 years old

Kindergartens can have a regular program (5 hours/day), an overtime schedule (10 hours/day), a weekly schedule (for children from disadvantaged families). Registration is free of charge, what you have to do instead is to provide a medical examination file of the child and an epidemiologic notice. Registrations takes place between March and July every year.



Primary education

Preparatory class: 6 years old

Classes I – IV: 7 – 10 years old

Primary classes are compulsory. Registration in the preparatory class is done every year between February and March. Usually, children continue their primary studies in the same school where they were admitted in the 0 class. Children learn in the primary classes from Monday to Friday, between 8-12, with a teacher. In some schools, there is an afterschool program, but you have to pay for it. Children do not get grades, but

are evaluated with a form of ratings (i.e. FB = foarte bine (*very good*), B = Bine (*Good*), S= Suficient (*Sufficient*), I = Insuficient (*Insufficient*)).

Secondary education

Gymnasium (lower secondary education): classes V – VIII (10 – 15 years old)

High school (upper secondary education): classes IX – XII (15 – 19 years old)

During the gymnasium, the study subjects are diversified and the second foreign language is introduced (usually English, French Italian or German). The students are studying each subject with a different teacher and receive grades (from 1 to 10, where 10 is the highest grade; grades under 5 are



unsatisfactory and do not allow the student to move further to the next school year (*corigenta*). In the case of the main subjects (Romanian language class, Mathematics and, starting from the 8th grade, also in the case of the history or geography classes) students are examined once per semester through a series of complex tests that cover all that has been studied, during the school year, up to that point.

When moving from gymnasium to high school, students take an assessment in Mathematics and Romanian language, known as ***national evaluation*** with unique examination subjects nationwide. After the national evaluation, the students are assigned to a high school, depending on the choices they have made and on the final grade (which is obtained by adding the grades received during the national evaluation – 75%, with the final grade for all the years of study (represented by the average of all the final grades of each year of study) – 25%).

In highschool, the study profiles can either be broad, for those that choose theoretical highschools, or very specific (i.e. initiation in a profession) for those that choose highschools with a technological profile (technical, environment protection) or vocational (military, teaching, sports, art). Highschool level studies are concluded with a baccalaureate exam, also called a *maturity exam*. To pass, the average grade for all the exams cannot be under 6, and for each subject the exam grade must be minimum 5. The baccalaureate diploma opens access to post-secondary and university education.



Primary and secondary education are split in two semesters and take place between September and June of the next year, with several holidays in between, such as during the winter – winter break (two weeks during December-January), during the spring – spring break (one week in March or April) and during the summer – the summer holidays (from the end of June to the beginning of September).

Each parent is responsible to arrange for school transportation for their children. Organized transportation, with busses, is provided for in the case of private schools or state schools, but only when the distance between school and home is very big and there are no other means of public transportation.

The school classes are mixed (boys and girls) and the number of students in a class is of about 25 to 30.

Post-secondary education

This is for high school graduates with or without a baccalaureate diploma; it lasts from 1 to 3 years and ensures a professional qualification in fields such as: electronics, informatics, agriculture, forestry, economy, energy, tourism, health and teaching assistance, aesthetics.

Parental Involvement

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that children attend school. Coming to school on time is important. It is also the responsibility of the parents to make sure children complete their assignments and obey school rules. Parents are also expected to participate actively in their children's education. They are encouraged to visit the school, to get to know the teachers and attend school meetings.

University Education

A university level education takes place in universities (state or private, with accreditation), academies or superior studies schools and has the following levels:

Bachelor studies: 3 or 4 years. In order to get to this level, you need a Baccalaureate diploma. Universities are also allowed to organize an admission exam. Studies at this level are concluded with an exam and a bachelor degree.



Masters studies: are specialized studies that take 1 or 2 years and are finalized with a dissertation thesis and a master's degree.



PhD studies: they take 3 years and are concluded with a PhD thesis and receiving the title of doctor in a specific field.

Generally, to enroll in university education, you need an original study diploma which provides proof that you have finished high school in your home country. However, in Romania, universities have autonomy. As such, they can have different admission requirements. Regardless of these, it is very important that you speak Romanian to be able to participate in classes and get the education you desire.

The universities are organizing an intensive Romanian language preparation course for one year duration for foreign students. At the end of it, the Romanian Language Institute organizes an evaluation examination for the B2 level, in accordance with the European Reference Framework for the Study of Languages and provides you with a Competence Language Certificate which you will need to register for studies. The university year starts in October and ends in June. It is split in two semesters with each lasting approximately 14 weeks.

Recognition of Diplomas and Qualifications

To work or study in Romania, employers and schools will ask for diplomas and proof of qualifications from your country of origin. Because your country of origin is outside the EU (in this space an automatic system of recognition of diplomas and qualifications has been agreed), all diplomas and proof of qualifications need to be recognized. To this end, you should contact the National Center for the Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED, <http://www.cnred.edu.ro>) and follow step by step the information presented on their website.

Key Vocabulary

Grădiniță, școală, liceu, facultate, educație, diplomă	Kindergarten, school, high school, faculty, education, diploma
E important să mergi la școală.	It is important to go to school.

8



8. Health

You have the same access to healthcare as for Romanian citizens. You must enroll in the national health insurance scheme, pay the monthly health insurance fee and register with a General Practitioner (GP). On demand, you will receive a health insurance card which you will present each time you visit your GP or any other physician, and when you go to the pharmacy with a prescription.

If you are employed, your monthly contribution will be paid by your employer, along with other social security contributions (e.g. pension, unemployment benefits etc.). If you work as an independent contractor or you are unemployed and you require special medical care, you can sign an individual contract with the Health

Insurance Agency from your county of residence and pay a monthly contribution to the Agency.

If you do not have an income:

You can pay a monthly fee for a period of 12 consecutive months (190 RON/month or 2.280 RON/year) or You can pay 1.330 RON only when you need medical support covered by the Insurance House.

Health insurance is available free of charge to the following: children and young people up to the age of 18; students; young people up to 26 years old who are studying and without income; and pregnant women and young mothers without income or with income below the national minimum wage.

If you are not covered by an insurance policy, there is still a minimum of services and specialized assistance for emergency situations or periodical checks of which you can benefit (first aid, hepatitis, tuberculosis, rabies, family planning). Emergency medical services are provided free of charge. If you are not yet insured, you can benefit from consultations and medical treatment for a fee.

In case of an emergency (accident, burns, cuts etc.), you can call 112 (free number) for an ambulance. The ambulance service is free of charge, as is the medical care and any type of medical-surgical interventions provided in response to an emergency. When you call 112 all the agencies responsible for emergency situations are activated (fire fighters, police and ambulance) and you can speak in your mother tongue.

If you are covered by medical insurance or not, your medical records are confidential.

Key Vocabulary

Medic, sănătate, boală, control medical, spital
Mă doare capul. Nu iau medicamente.

Doctor, health, disease, medical check-up, hospital
I have a headache. I don't take pills.

9



9. Employment

Getting a job must be a priority, especially if you have been granted international protection. This is essential so that you can support your family. Unfortunately, you may not be able to find work in your chosen profession. Instead, we recommend that you take the first job that is offered and work to learn the language, have your credentials recognised, and gain work experience that will allow you to improve your position.

You have the same access to the labour market as Romanian citizens. You are eligible to begin work at the age of 16 years old. Getting a job is a process for which you will need patience and determination. It begins with job searching.

Job Searching

You are eligible for job services from the County Employment Agencies (AJOFM). In addition to enrolling with AJOFM, you may:

- Search for jobs online at: www.bestjobs.ro, www.ejobs.ro, www.myjob.ro, www.anuntul.ro, www.hipo.ro, www.carriereonline.ro or on Facebook.
- Look at the job advertisements in the classified section of your local newspaper.
- Attend a “job fair” taking place in your town.
- Use the services of an employment agency that searches for jobs on your behalf, such as www.viajob.ro or www.manpower.ro
- Ask friends or relatives for job leads. Don’t isolate yourself; those around you may know of job openings!
- Offer your support as a volunteer, especially in NGOs or international organizations. If you do a good job, they may be able to hire you when something becomes available or refer you to another organizations.

Applying for Jobs

You do not apply for one job and wait for a response. You need to apply to many jobs at the same time and follow-up to ask about the status of your application.

Once you have identified a position, you need to apply by sending a resume (curriculum vitae) and a cover letter. A resume is a formal list of your qualifications and work experience. A cover letter is a short description of what makes you a strong candidate for that position. Counsellors in Regional Integration Centres can help you prepare the resume and cover letter. They can also help you prepare for the interview.

Interviews

An interview is a meeting with a potential employer where they ask about your skills and experience. If you make a positive impression in the interview, you increase your chances of getting employed significantly. You can make a positive impression by doing the following:

Be punctual. Punctuality is becoming increasingly important in Romania. If you are late, your employer might think that you will be late for work as well.

Dress neatly. It is very important not to go to an interview in shorts or with some shirt buttons missing.

Show positive body language. Smile, look the person in the eyes and confidently shake hands with him/her.

Have a self-confident attitude. Talk about yourself in a positive manner, and highlight your qualities and abilities.

Ask questions about the work environment and the company. This gives the impression that you are interested in the job.

Employment Contract

It is very important to be legally employed. Nothing can protect you if you accept work without a contract. Working without a contract exposes you to risks such as: poor working conditions, a wage lower than the one you agreed upon initially, late payment for work done, and social contributions not paid for by your employer.

In Romania, in 2018, the minimum wage is 1.900 RON (gross salary) for a work day of 8 hours/day. The gross salary includes all your income. The salary which you will receive is the net salary, which is the difference between your gross salary and your social security and health mandatory contributions as well as other expenses related to your professional position. For example, if you have a 1.900 RON gross salary, your net salary will be of 1.162 RON.

Social Security Contributions

From a gross salary of 1.900 RON, the following mandatory contributions will be deducted:

Social insurance (pension, unemployment benefits) – 25%	475 RON
Health insurance – 10%	190 RON
Employment insurance – 2.25%	43 RON
Tax on income – 10%	73 RON
Total	781 RON

Key Vocabulary

Loc de muncă, interviu, salariu	Job, interview, salary
Măine am un interviu pentru un loc de muncă nou.	I have an interview tomorrow for a new job.

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10.Housing

Housing varies by type, size and price. In cities, towns and villages, blocks of flats are most common. Blocks of flats may be as high as 10 floors with apartments that have one (1), two (2) or more rooms. A common older two-room apartment is 40 meters and a studio apartment around 25-30 meters. Newly built blocks have larger spaces (e.g. 50 meters for a two-room apartment), are brighter, and away from the city center, but also have a higher rent or purchase price. The structure of the space is similar, with most having a kitchen, bathroom and balcony.

Apartments and homes can be rented furnished or unfurnished. In unfurnished spaces, you will not find appliances (fridge, cooker, or washing machine). Typically, apartments and homes are

connected to the public water, gas and electricity networks. In some areas, however, housing is heated with firewood, stoves or individual heating stations.

Before renting a dwelling, you may wish to consider the following:

Zone or neighborhood: analyse whether there are work opportunities, school, public transport, and shops nearby.

Cost of rent: confirm you can afford to pay rent and have reserves for utilities (water, gas, electricity, cable TV/internet, other maintenance costs).

The lease: the rights and obligations it entails.

Renting a Dwelling

NGOs can help you find the most suitable housing. The length and amount of rent and utilities support that an NGO can provide you will vary depending on the programs the NGO runs and the funding they have available. Typically, the support will last up to one year; however, this is not guaranteed.

You may also find your own housing:

- Ask friends if they have or know other people who rent out living spaces;
- Track advertisements on rental-type buildings or newspapers under "rentals";
- Check online: www.imobiliare.ro, www.olx.ro, www.anuntul.ro, www.imopedia.ro, etc.
- Get in touch with a real estate agency.

Key Vocabulary

Casă, apartament, garsonieră	House, apartment, studio
Căutam o casă pentru toată familia.	We are looking for a house for the whole family.

11



11.Money

The Romanian national currency is the Romanian leu (plural of „lei”). One „lei” is equivalent to 100 bani. The official name of the Romanian currency is RON (Romanian New Leu).

1 ron = approx. 0,25 dollars

1 ron = approx. 0,22 euro



5 ron = approx. 1,25 dollars

5 ron = approx. 1,07 euro



10 ron = approx. 2,51 dollars

10 ron = approx. 2,15 euro



50 ron = approx. 12,58 dollars

50 ron = approx. 10,75 euro



100 ron = approx. 25,16 dollars

100 ron = approx. 21,51 euro



200 ron = approx. 50,33 dollars

200 ron = approx. 43,02 euro



500 ron = approx. 125,83 dollars

500 ron = approx. 107,56 euro



100 bani = 1 leu

Romanian coins

50 bani = 0.5 lei

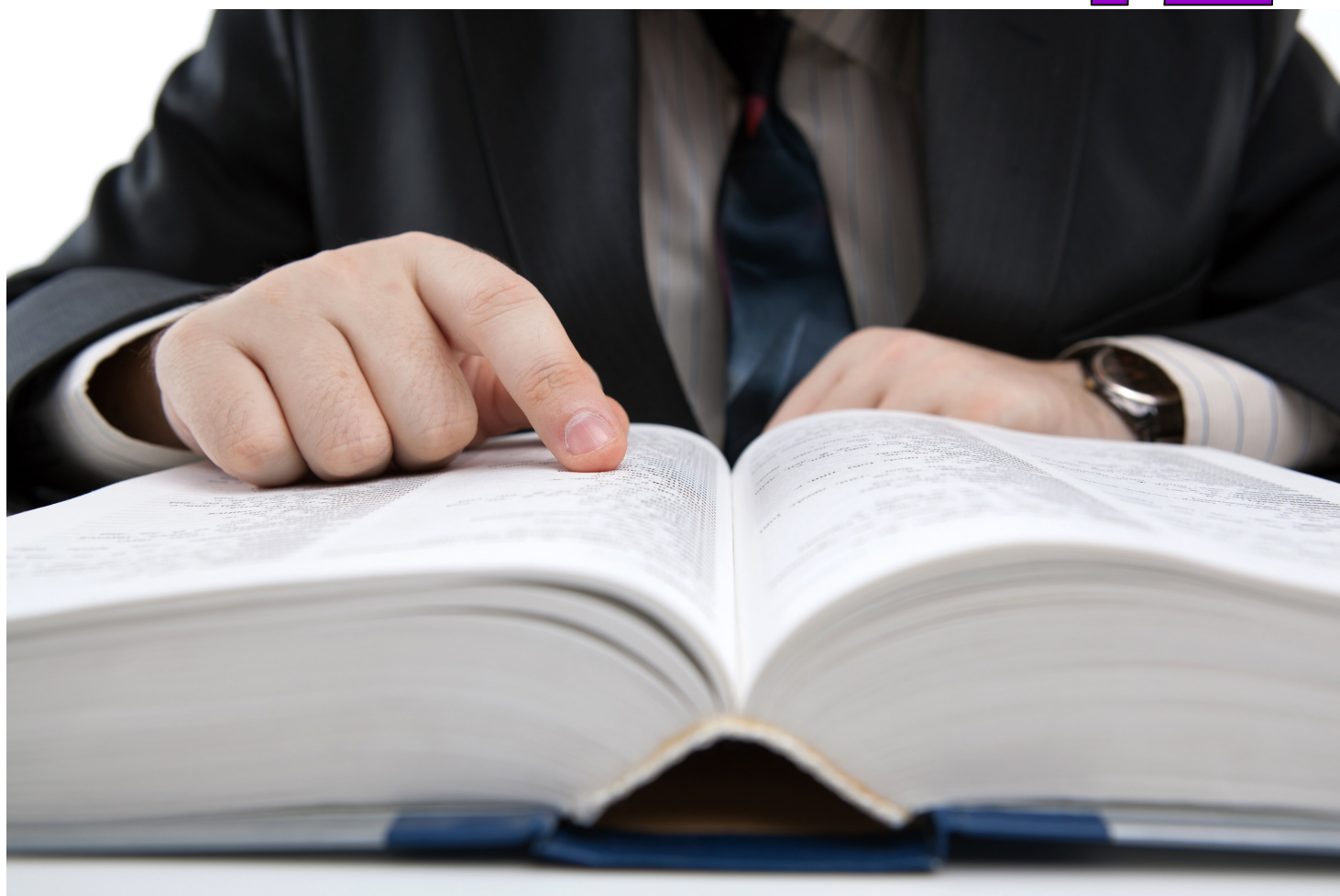
10 bani = 0.1 lei

5 bani = 0.05 lei

1 ban = 0.01 lei



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Organizations offering integration support in Romania

Regional Integration Centres

Region 1: Bucharest, Prahova, Buzau, Dambovita, Arges, Valcea, Gorj, Brasov, Covasna, Giurgiu, Calarasi, Ialomita, Teleroman, Olt, Dolj

Bucharest Regional Integration Centre:

11, Viitorului street, District 2, Bucharest

Phone: 021-210.30.50

E-mail: iombucharest@iom.int

Craiova Regional Integration Centre:

25. Fratii Buzesti street, Craiova

Phone: 0351-442.287

E-mail: a.globalhelp@yahoo.com

Brasov Regional Integration Centre:

25 bis, Aurel Vlaicu street, 2nd floor (former School nr.24), Brasov

Phone: 0766-28.090

E-mail: astrid2001ro@yahoo.com , astrid@arpcps.ro

Region 2: Galati, Vrancea, Bacau, Vaslui, Braila, Tulcea, Constanta

Constanta Regional Integration Centre:

13, Mamaia boulevard, Constanta

Phone: 0738-719.233; 0738-719.235

Fax: 0372-877.090

Email: jrsromania@gmail.com

Galati Regional Integration Centre :

37, Brailei street, 2nd floor, Galati

Phone: 0738-719.234; 0738-719.231

Fax: 0372-877.090

E-mail: jrsromania@gmail.com

Galati Field Office (Child Foundation):

7, Furnalistilor street, Galati

Phone: 0236-312.199

Fax: 0236-312.199

E-mail: office@inimadecopil.ro

Region 3: Suceava, Botosani, Neamt, Iasi

Iasi Regional Integration Centre:

66, Pacurari street, Iasi (contact person: Zota Ionut Lucian)

Phone: 0745-922.668

E-mail: rttiasi@gmail.com

Radauti Regional Integration Centre:

9A, I.L Caragiale street, Radauti (contact person: Iulia Cazaciuc)

Phone: 0754-494.400

E-mail: cazaciuc_iulia2112@yahoo.com

Region 4: Satu Mare, Salaj, Cluj, Bistrita Nasaud, Mures, Harghita, Sibiu, Alba

Cluj-Napoca Regional Integration Centre :

108, 21 Decembrie 1989 boulevard, apt 23-24, Cluj

Phone: 0264-434.806

E-mail: macaveiflorin@yahoo.com ; 93atoth@gmail.com

Baia Mare Regional Integration Centre :

3, Rachetei street, Baia Mare

Phone: 0260-222.226

E-mail: assoc@asoc.ro

Sibiu Field Office – Migrant Information Center Sibiu

1, Constantin Noica street, Sibiu

Phone/Fax: 0269-215.944

E-mail: costin1i@yahoo.com

Targu Mures Field Office – Migrant Information Center Targu Mures

10, Emil Dandea street, Tirgu Mures

Phone: 0742-029458

E-mail: hajnal_sz@yahoo.com

Somcuta Mare Field Office

1A, Cetatii street, Somcuta Mare, Maramures

Phone: 0260-222.226

E-mail: assoc@asoc.ro

Region 5: Mehedinti, Caras Severin, Bihor, Arad, Hunedoara

Timisoara Regional Integration Centre

9, Gheorghe Sincai street, Timisoara

Phone: 0256-217.096/0740-040.032

E-mail: ilioni.flavius@yahoo.ro

Oradea Regional Integration Centre

2B, Buzaului street, Oradea

Phone/ fax: 0259-436.601/0743-081.449

E-mail: adrianapopa@filantropiaoradea.ro

Signatory states of the European Agreement regarding visa free travel for refugees from 1959

Armenia	Luxemburg
Belgium	Malta
Czech Republic	Norway
Cyprus	Netherlands
Denmark	Poland
Switzerland	Portugal
Finland	Romania
Germany	Slovakia
Ireland	Spain
Iceland	Sweden
Italy	Hungary
Liechtenstein	

National Program – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Project title: REACT_RO: Educational resources for Romanian language and orientation courses for beneficiaries of international protection and third-country nationals in Romania

Beneficiary: Intercultural Institute Timișoara

Editor: The International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office in Romania

Publication date: July 2018

The content of this material does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Union

Any queries should be addressed to: iombucarest@iom.int

Contract no. ref. FAMI/17.03.03.01