



Community Orientation **Guidebook**

ROMANIA

Acknowledgements

PATRIR would like to thank the following institutions and organizations that have made available and enriched this guide through the information and advice provided: AIDRom - Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania; General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI); The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - Representation in Romania (UNHCR); International Organization for Migration (IOM), Romanian Mission.

At the same time, we express our appreciation for the generosity of all colleagues who contributed to the creation of this guidebook.

Impressum

Editor

Peace Action, Training and Research Institute - PATRIR

Authors

Andreea Hotopan, Mihai Tatomir

Photo credit Maria Teneva on Unsplash, Layout: nussiproductions.at, Print: Daisler Print House

Financing

This publication was created as part of the STIRE: Supporting the Integration of the Resettled project.

The project is funded by the Fund for Asylum, Migration and Integration of the European Union. The content of this publication represents only the views of the author and is the sole responsibility of the author. The European Commission is not responsible for the use made of the information contained therein.



Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Introduction | 5 |
| 1. Housing | 6 |
| 1.1 Reception | 6 |
| 1.2 Government funded housing | 6 |
| 1.3 Renting an apartment or a house | 7 |
| 1.4 Ownership | 8 |
| 2. Health care | 9 |
| 2.1 Health insurance | 9 |
| 2.2 Primary health care services | 10 |
| 2.3 Secondary health care services | 11 |
| 2.4 Emergency healthcare services | 11 |
| 2.5 Mental health | 13 |
| 3. Social services and welfare | 15 |
| 3.1 Financial benefits | 15 |
| 3.2 Social benefits | 16 |
| 4. Education | 18 |
| 4.1 Children and Youth | 18 |
| 4.2 Adult education | 20 |
| 4.3 Recognition of studies | 21 |
| 5. Work | 21 |
| 5.1 Right to work | 22 |
| 5.2 How to find work | 22 |
| 5.3 Employment contracts | 22 |
| 5.4 Salaries, social contributions and taxes | 23 |
| 5.5 Rights of employees | 24 |
| 6. Learning the language | 26 |
| 6.1 Children and Youth | 26 |
| 6.2 Adults | 26 |
| 6.3 Practicing the language online | 26 |
| 7. Community engagement | 27 |
| 8. Free legal aid | 28 |

Community Orientation **Guidebook**

ROMANIA

INTRODUCTION

This guidebook was created to support refugees who have resettled in Romania, and who are embarking on the process of starting a new life here. If you are going through such a process we hope this guide will contribute with making you feel more welcome in Romania, which we hope will soon feel like home. In this guidebook you will find basic information about available support and services which might help you to obtain social and healthcare services, learn the language and new skills, start work, get settled, and successfully integrate into Romanian society.

The objective of this guidebook and the STIRE project “Supporting the Integration of the Resettled” is to facilitate the integration of refugees who have resettled in one of the countries within the project, namely: Austria, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Romania. The information provided in this booklet can also be helpful to other refugees and Third Country Nationals on their way to establish a new life in one of the mentioned EU countries.

The guidebook is not meant to provide detailed information, but it rather serves as a starting point and a reference to available help and support.

You can find additional information about international protection (refugee status), the resettlement process and other useful information for refugees on the STIRE (stire.org) project website.

This guidebook is also a source of useful information for service providers and volunteers in the local communities in one of the mentioned countries, who work with refugees, providing basic information and a list of resources and contacts that can help make the integration process easier for everyone involved.

The resettlement operations in Romania are initiated by the Romanian authorities, based on the needs identified by the Romanian authorities or by the international refugee resettlement needs established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), but also based on the assessment of the situation of the refugees’ integration in Romania.

Each resettlement operation involves identifying refugees in need of resettlement, selection, providing assistance before leaving the country of first asylum, during the travelling, but also ensuring adequate conditions upon arrival in Romania, as well as opportunities and services to support the integration process.





1. Housing

1.1 RECEPTION

On your arrival in Romania, you will be greeted by representatives of the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), who will facilitate your entry into the country. *

Temporary accommodation is granted for a period of 45 days. The application for asylum is submitted after the arrival in Romanian territory; at the same time you are issued a temporary identity document that is valid until the recognition of the refugee status. This procedure usually takes 30 days and after completing it you are recognized as a refugee in Romania. After recognition of the form of protection, the residence permit shall be issued for a period of 3 years, after this document expires, a new residence permit with the same validity shall be issued.

After recognition of refugee status, within a maximum of 90 days (subject to the penalty of loss from this right) you can register in the National Integration Programme. Registration is made at the headquarters of Regional Accommodation Centres and Procedures for Asylum Seekers.

Resettled persons in Romania benefit from hotel accommodation services or rented apartments for a period of 45 days from the date of arrival in Romania. Housing is granted considering the number of family members and the specific needs. Utility expenditure is also settled during the first 45 days.**

1.2 GOVERNMENT FUNDED HOUSING

As a refugee you have the right to access social housing managed mainly by local public authorities. It is subsidized to individuals or families whose economic situation does not allow them to cover the cost of these. You should consider that these dwellings are small, the waiting lists are long and the distribution is made by the decision of the local council. For more information regarding the procedure for

*This information is valid for the persons who are not in Romania at the moment.

**Jesuit Refugee Service Association of Romania (JRS România) is offering throughout the program "A new home" subsidised housing and utility costs covering.

accessing public authorities. It is subsidized to individuals or families whose economic situation does not allow them to cover. You should consider that these dwellings are small, the waiting lists are long and the distribution is made by the decision of the local council. For more information regarding the procedure for accessing social housing you should consult the City hall in the city where you are currently living. You should ask for all the information needed, what documents, Request form, what is the number allocated/ available and in how much time will you receive an answer.

1.3 RENTING AN APARTMENT OR A HOUSE

One of the most used solutions to resolving the housing problem is renting. The prices vary depending on the city and location (e.g., the lowest rents are usually on the outskirts of the city).

You can look for a home by checking ads in specialized newspapers or special columns of local newspapers, real estate agencies and street ads or Facebook groups.

In case you are considering using an agency's services you should know that agencies in Romania charge fees for finding a place, usually a value representing 50% of the first month's rent.

The prices vary depending on the city and location (e.g., the lowest rents are usually on the outskirts of the city). It is more advantageous to share with someone a multiroom apartment than to live alone in a studio.

As demand for housing exceeds supply we recommend that you search for accommodation before you leave the accommodation centres.

More often than not, rental prices include the cost of furniture, home appliances (such as refrigerators, washing machines and ovens). However, the rental prices generally does not cover utilities (such as gas, water, electricity, internet and phone bills). These instead must be paid separately.

The lease/ leasing agreement is the official document through which the owner gives you his property for your use in exchange for a monthly payment called rent.



The lease contract/ agreement should make reference to the following:

The address of the house/flat; the rent and how it can be paid; the duration of the lease; the inventory of the items in the house and existing utilities; the responsibilities of the landlord regarding the maintenance of the house; and the price of the down payment. The down payment is usually equivalent of one month's rent and you will get it back when you end the lease as long as the house is in the same condition as it was at the beginning of your lease.



Important: The payment method, the date of the month in which the payment should be made, and the payment method for general utilities may be included in the rent cost, though some landlords will ask you to do it yourself. You should know that you don't need to try to fix broken parts of your accommodation yourself, as this will be the landlord's obligation to fix.

1.4 OWNERSHIP

When it comes to property rights, in Romania you have the same rights as all romanian citizens. Real estate can be acquired through inheritance, donation, purchase, contract or acquisitive prescription (in special conditions). If you are in a situation when you want to purchase an apartment or a house it will be best to contact a lawyer so that they can check all the documentation regarding the transaction and property.

Contacts:

Jesuit Refugee Service Association of Romania (JRS România)

Str. Opriș Ilie nr. 54, Bucharest
E-mail: jrsromania@gmail.com
E-mail: talos.m@iezuiti.ro
Tel.: 0726 724 291

The General Inspectorate for Migration

Str. Tudor Gociu, nr. 24A, Sector 4, Bucharest
E-mail: igi.dai@mai.gov.ro
Tel.: 0214 501 134

International Organization for Migration - (IOM)

Str. Viitorului no.11, Bucharest
E-mail: iombucarest@iom.int
Tel.: 021 210 3050

The National Council for Refugees CNRR

Str. Viesparilor, no. 19, floor 2, sector 2, Bucharest, România
E-mail: office@cnrr.ro
Tel.: 021 312 62 10 / 031 405 02 75


The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - Representation in Romania (UNHCR)

Blvd. Primaverii no. 48 A, Sector 1, Bucharest
E-mail: rombu@unhcr.org
Tel.: 021 201 78 72 / 021 201 78 73

Websites where you can search for a flat:
www.imobiliare.ro,
www.imopedia.ro
www.anuntul.ro
www.olx.ro



2. Health care

 Every hospital has the obligation to provide first aid and emergency care to anyone in need of care who is at a hospital. Professional first aid and emergency medical assistance shall be granted without discrimination regarding income, sex, age, ethnicity, religion, nationality or political affiliation or pre-existing medical conditions.

2.1 HEALTH INSURANCE

In order to benefit from the health care services you have to enrol in the national health insurance scheme, pay the monthly health insurance fee and register with a General Practitioner (GP) or family doctor.

If you are employed the monthly contribution will be paid by your employer, along with other social security contributions. If you are a **freelancer** or you are **unemployed** you can sign an individual contract with the Health Insurance Agency of your county of residence and pay an annual amount which represents 10% of the six minimum wages in Romania.*



For some categories of people, health insurance is available free of charge. Children and young people up to the age of 18; students; individuals up to 26 years old who are enrolled in a study program and do not possess any form of income; pregnant women and mothers with no income or with income below the national minimum wage are included in this scheme.**

However, consultations and medical treatment services are also available for a fee, if you are not insured. In addition to public health insurance there are also private health insurance providers at Private Clinics that you can access. Firstly you should visit these insurers' websites and check their prices because normally the services that private clinics provide are more expensive. One consultation at a GP (general practitioner) will be between 150 and 200 RON but at a private specialist, a consultation can go up to 400 RON.

*133 RON as of 2020, the amount changes every year. (1 EUR = ~ 4,8252 RON)

**Other categories were added to the list, such as: victims of trafficking, family members of a person that has a health insurance, beneficiaries of the social minimum guaranteed income; people with disabilities, and other categories.



2.2 PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The primary healthcare services are prophylactic, they therefore provide immunizations, consultations (including the taking of medical histories, examination and diagnosis) minor surgery, injections, prescriptions of drugs and services (such as therapy or physiotherapy) and emergency medical services.

In order to benefit from the medical services for an insured individual, you will need to contact National Health Insurance House (CAS) and sign up to an available family doctor. This is the doctor that you can see at any time you that have a medical issue or concern. From there, they will if appropriate direct you to a specialist doctor. Visits to doctors are paid through your medical insurance. If you are unemployed, or being insured as a minor, student or you belong to a vulnerable group (see 2.1 Health Insurance above), you can still access primary medical services but you will have to pay tax on each service. For example one general consultation (if you are not on a doctor's list of patients already) will cost you between 25 and 100 RON.



There are few dental services that are covered by National Health Insurance. Most dental practices are private clinics, but some of them work with National Health Insurance House which means that part of their costs are covered.**

For gynecological medical services you can contact the hospital in the city where you are living and ask for an appointment. If you have health insurance, the consultation and most of the investigations are covered through it.

In the cases when you need a specialized medical service, you can ask your family doctor who, after a first check, can redirect you to the right service. Through this procedure, a series of medical checks are paid through your medical insurance; for example, medical blood test, ultrasounds, women's health services, etc, depending on the number of places available and the period when you would like to be examined. Another way is choosing the private medical system from the start and going to the specialist doctor that corresponds with your symptoms, but most usually you'll have to pay these visits at their full price.

2.3 SECONDARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Secondary healthcare is the more specialized and it focuses on helping patients who are struggling with more severe or complex health conditions requiring the support of a specialist. Therefore, you can seek for it by making medical appointments at specialized doctors, like cardiologist, gynecologist, nutritionist or neurologist.

*In March 2020 1 EUR = ~ 4,8252 RON

**Dentist in Bucharest working with National Health Insurance House:
Centrul de Sănătate Multifuncțional "Sfântul Nectarie" din București
Bd. Uverturii nr. 81, Sector 6, Bucharest
E-mail: contact@nectarie6.ro
Tel.: 0319 593 or 0726 150 250

You can make these medical appointments by contacting the hospital in your city and asking for available appointments. You could as well go directly to the hospital

for urgent situations and ask for urgent medical check or for specialized medical services. If you need to be sent to a hospital, doctors will recommend either that you go directly to emergency services or that you have an appointment.

The same principle applies regarding costs coverage. For emergencies you will not be charged assuming that you are registered at The National Health House. Otherwise, you will have to pay a fee for the service that you are using. You can also choose to use private clinics, however these clinics tend to be much more expensive.

2.4 EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE SERVICES

For emergencies, do not hesitate to call 112 to contact an ambulance, or you can go directly to the emergency hospital in your city. There are emergency services in every hospital in Romania for urgent cases. Therefore, you can either go directly to the hospital - if you feel able to - or you can contact the ambulance.



You can access hospital emergency services at any time. Emergency services run 24 hours a day, and you can go for any kind of problem, if you feel any kind of pain or if you have any urgent health matter, like tooth pain, severe head ache, etc.



The Emergency phone number is 112. This is the unique number for alerting emergency services: Police, Ambulance, Firefighters, SMURD, and Gendarmerie. 112 is free and can be called from any phone. Please promptly answer the following questions:

- What is your problem, and which service do you need?
- Where should the emergency services go to help?
- Where are you at that moment?
- What is the phone number from which you are calling?
- What is your name?





Useful information regarding the services covered by the national health insurance:

www.cnas.ro/page/pachetul-minimalde-servicii-medicale-in-asistenta-medicala-primara

Contacts:

University Emergency Hospital

Splaiul Independentei 169 sect.5
Bucharest
Buses: 104, 122, 126, 137, 168, 236, 268, 306, 307, 336, 368 și 601
Tram: 61, 69, 90, 91, 96
Subway: station Eroilor (M1, M3)
Tel.: 0213 180 523; 0213 805 545

Multifunctional Health Center "Sfântul Nectarie" Bucharest

Bd. Uverturii nr. 81, Sector 6, Bucharest
E-mail: contact@nectarie6.ro
Tel.: 0740 319 593 or 0726 150 250

Romanian National Society of Family Medicine (SNMF)

Website: <https://snmf.ro/en/about/>
Str. Ion Perlea, nr 10, Bucharest
E-mail: office@snmf.ro
Tel.: 0212 154 656

Ministry of Health

Entry Cristian Popișteanu, Nr. 1-3
Sector 1, Bucharest
Tel.: 0213 072 500

AIDRom Timișoara is offering assistance in the process of finding a family doctor (county Timis, Mehedinti and Caras Severin)
Str. Gheorge Sincai Nr. 9, Timisoara
E-mail: oana.anca.talos@aidrom.ro
Tel: 0256 217 096/ 0757 049 902

Ecumenical Association of Churches AIDRom - Bucharest

Str. Ilarie Chendi no. 14, sector 2, Bucharest

ICAR Foundation is offering integrated medical services for asylum seekers
Romania – Bucharest
70 Unirii Boulevard, Bloc J5, Sector 3
E-mail: icar@icarfoundation.ro
Tel: 0213 212 221

Schottener Foundation

Str. Viitorului nr. 64, Bucharest
Tel.: 0773 366 674
E-Mail: info@fundatia-schotener.eu
www.fundatia-schottener.eu

Jesuit Refugee Service Association of Romania (JRS Romania)

is offering assistance in finding medical care, especially when it comes to finding a family doctor
Str. Brăilei nr. 37, et. 2, Galați
Tel.: 0738 719 234; 0738 719 230
E-mail: jrsromania@gmail.com

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Str. Viitorului no.11, Bucharest
E-mail: iombucarest@iom.int
Tel.: 021 210 3050

2.5 MENTAL HEALTH

Whenever you are confronted with intense emotions, depression, anxiety or any other disorder or issue that you feel you need help with but that you are unsure where to get it. You should consider psychological counselling to help you cope with:

- loss of loved ones, family context, job, issues in adapting to a new culture
- a mental health condition, such as depression, anxiety or any eating disorder
- a difficult life event, such as a bereavement a relationship breakdown or work-related stress
- low self-esteem or anger

Some charities and voluntary organisations offer counselling. These organisations usually specialise in an area. You don't need a referral from your family doctor for an appointment for these services, but you may have to pay a fee to cover the cost of your sessions.

The National Integration Program can provide you with general psychological support. Besides that, the National Health House does not cover psychological support, but you can access other organizations which offer these services for free. One of these organizations is JRS and Schottener Foundation, which besides its educational, social, legal and financial support offers psychological support particularly for refugees and migrants.

ICAR Foundation in partnership with AIDRom is offering psychological support for beneficiaries of an international form of protection through the project „The integration of the foreigners in Romania- a continuous process”.

Contact for specialized psychological support for refugees:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Jesuit Refugee Service Association of Romania (JRS Romania)</i> Str. Brăilei nr. 37, et. 2, Galați Tel.: 0738 719 234; 0738 719 230 E-mail: jrsromania@gmail.com | <i>ICAR Foundation</i> Romania – Bucharest 70 Unirii Boulevard, Bloc J5, Sector 3 E-mail: icar@icarfoundation.ro Tel: +40 21 321 22 21 |
| <i>Schottener Foundation</i> Str. Viitorului nr. 64, Bucharest Tel.: 0773 366 674 E-Mail: info@fundatia-schotener.eu www.fundatia-schottener.eu | <i>AIDRom</i> Str. Ilarie Chendi no. 14, sector 2, Bucharest |



The contact information for other organisations which offer psychological support are as follows:

Suicide / Crisis Hotlines

| | |
|---|---|
| Romanian Alliance for Suicide Prevention (Alianța Română de Prevenție a Suicidului) Phone number : 0800 801 200 (Suicide hotline - between 19:00 - 07:00) | ARAS - The Romanian Association Anti - Hiv/ Aids Bd. Eroii Sanitari nr. 49, Sector 5, Bucharest E-mail: aras@arasnet.ro Tel.: 0213 190 771 |
|---|---|

Alcohol and drugs addiction

Psymotion, Bucharest
 Str. Mihail Sebastian, no.
 203, Sec. 5, Bucharest
 Tel.:0217 812 259

Domestic Violence / Sexual Violence

| | |
|--|---|
| Casa Loana str. Șoseaua Oltenitei 39-41, Sec. 4, Bucharest Open between 9am and 5pm Monday - Friday Tel.: 0213 326 390 | The Adventist Agency for Development, Restoration and Help ADRA Street Pache Protopopescu No. 85, Sector 2, Bucharest Tel: 0212 525 117 |
| Sensi Blu Foundation - Bucharest Tel.: 0213 114 636 | Anais Association B-dul. Lacul Tei nr. 17, Bucharest Email: contact@asociatia-anais.ro Tel.: 0736 380 879 |



3. Social services and welfare

3.1 FINANCIAL BENEFITS/SUBSIDIES

All Romanian citizens and EU citizens, as well as foreign citizens or stateless persons residing /living in Romania, have the right to social assistance under the conditions of Romanian law and European law. The right to social assistance is granted on request or ex officio, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of Law 292/2011 (Law on Social Assistance).

One of the financial subsidies that you can benefit from is the **Non-reimbursable financial aid**. You can receive this form of aid only if you are enrolled in the National Integration Program. The amount per month per person is 540 RON for a period of 6 months, with the possibility of extension for another 6 months. You will also need to show proof of your residence permit and also a copy of the decision for protection form that you will have been granted by the time at which you are requesting an extension. You should apply as soon as you've been granted with a form of protection and no later than 90 days after this. The granting is conditioned by your participation in the integration program.

- **State Child Allowance:** is granted to all children residing in Romania, aged 0 to 18.** It 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. The amount of the state allowance is currently 300 RON / month for children up to the age of two and 150 RON for children over two years until the age of 18. Claims for childcare allowance are filed with the local authorities or the The General Direction for Social Assistance and Child Protection - DGASPC where you have your domicile or residence.
- **Guaranteed minimum income:** families and individuals without any income or with a very low income, while being in critical situations or in severe poverty can benefit from this. The application form should be submitted to the local administration (the City Hall) in the city where you have your domicile or residence
- **Compensation for persons with disabilities:** This is granted to people with physical or mental disabilities. The application form should be submitted to the local administration in the city where you have your domicile or residence..

*In March 2020 1 EUR = ~ 4,8252 RON

**This financial aid is granted to people who do not have a job.



- **Seasonal financial support for the payment of utilities:** families of individuals who can not afford to pay for some utilities (like heating for example) can benefit from this support which will help cover some of these expenses. The application form should be submitted at the local administration where you have your domicile or residence (City Hall).

3.2 SOCIAL BENEFITS (NON-FINANCIAL)

In order to access non-financial social services in the first months you can enroll in the National Integration Program.

You can benefit of some of the services offered in the Regional Integration Centres open in Bucharest, Braşov, Craiova, Galaţi, Constanţa, Iaşi, Rădăuţi, Baia Mare, Sibiu, Târgu Mureş, Şomcuţa Mare, Timişoara, Arad, Bihor, Hunedoara, Mehedinţi, Caraş Severin:

- Information and advisory services.
- Romanian language courses and cultural orientation for children, young people and adults.
- Social, cultural and recreational activities for children, young people and adults.
- Payment of health insurance, but also of other services / treatments / medical equipment
- Material assistance (eg purchase of material goods, settlement of services, etc.).
- Guidance for access to the labor market.
- Providing supplies and other necessary materials during children's learning.
- Settlement of nursery / boarding / after-school costs for children.
- Through some integration projects, the accommodation costs in the Regional Accommodation Centers and Procedures for Asylum Seekers can be settled, for a limited period of time.

Contacts:

Bucharest Regional Integration Center
Str. Viitorului, 2nd district, Bucharest
E-mail: iombucharest@iom.int
Tel.: 0212 103 050

Iasi Regional Integration Center
Str. Păcurari. Nr. 66, Iasi
Email: rttiasi@gmail.com
Tel.: 0745 992 668

Other financial support: The Jesuit Refugee Service Association of Romania is offering complementary services to those provided by the state for the following counties: Galaţi, Vrancea, Bacău, Vaslui, Brăila, Tulcea, Constanţa.

Contacts:

Craiova Regional Integration Center

Str. Frații Buzești, nr. 25, Craiova
Tel.: 0351 442 287
E-mail: a.globalhelp@yahoo.com

Brasov Regional Integration Center

Str. Iuliu Maniu, no 52, building B,
Brasov, Tel.: 0766 282 090
E-mail: astrid2001ro@yahoo.com,
astrid@arpcps.ro

Constanta Regional Integration Center

Bd. Mamaia, nr. 13, Constanta
Tel: 0738 719 233; 0738 719 235
E-mail: jrsromania@gmail.com

Centrul Regional de Integrare Galati (Asociatia JRS Romania)

Str. Brăilei nr. 37, et. 2, Galați
Tel.: 0738 719 234; 0738 719 230
E-mail: jrsromania@gmail.com

Foundation Heart of Child Galati (Fundatia Inimă de Copil)

Adresa: Str. Furnalistilor, nr. 7, Galați
Telefon: 0236 312 199
Email: office@inimadecopil.ro

The ICAR Foundation

Romania – Bucharest
70 Unirii Boulevard, Bloc J5, Sector 3
E-mail: icar@icarfoundation.ro
Tel: +40 21 321 22 21

Radauti Regional Integration Center

Str. I.L. Caragiale nr. 9A, Rădăuți
Email: cazaciuc_iulia2112@yahoo.com
Telefon: 0754 494 400

The League for Human Rights Cluj- (LADO)

21 Decembrie 1989, nr. 108, ap. 23-24
E-mail: lado.clujnapoca@yahoo.com
Tel.: 0264 434 806

Baia Mare Regional Integration Center (ASOC Baia Mare)

str. Libertății Square nr. 10, Baia Mare
E-mail: cribaiamare@gmail.com
Tel: 0262 222 226

Centre for information and counseling for foreigners Sibiu

Str. Luptei nr. 18, ap. 19, Sibiu
E-mail: costin1i@yahoo.com
Tel.: 0740 407 870

Centre for information and counseling for foreigners Tirgu Mures

Str. Emil Dandea nr. 10
E-mail: asociatiasolitudine@gmail.com
Tel: 0739 120 143

Centre for information and counseling for foreigners Somcuta Mare

Str. Cetatii nr. 1A
E-mail: cribaiamare@gmail.com
Tel.: 0262 222 226

Regional Centre for Integration Phylantrophy Oradea

Str. Buzaului, nr. 2B, Oradea, Bihor
E-mail: adrianapopa@filantropiaoradea.ro
Tel: 0259 436 601 / 0743 081 449

AIDRom Timișoara (county Timiș, Mehedinți and Caraș Severin)

Str. Gheorge Sincai Nr. 9, Timisoara
E-mail: flavius.ilioni@aidrom.ro
Tel: 0256 217 096 / 0757 049 902

Ecumenical Association of Churches AIDRom - Bucharest

Str. Ilarie Chendi no. 14, sector 2,
Bucharest





4. Education

Public education in Romania is free and compulsory up to the tenth grade (which corresponds with the age of sixteen or seventeen). The teaching language is usually Romanian, but there are schools which teach in another language (usually English, German or Hungarian).

4.1 CHILDREN AND YOUTH

For **nurseries** (0-3 years) and **Preschool education** (3-5 years), registration is free. However you have to provide a medical history file. Registrations usually start in March - April. For enrollment into nurseries you should prefer the options that are available in your neighborhood.

Primary Education

Participation in primary school is mandatory. The registration period for this takes place between February and March. Mostly, children continue to go to the same school where they went to nursery. Most schools are open Monday to Friday, between 8 am to 12 pm, with each class having one teacher. Some schools offer an after-school program, but these come at a price. During primary school children are not graded or examined, instead the children are evaluated by the following ratings. FB = foarte bine (very good), B = Bine (Good), S = Suficient (Sufficient), I = Insuficient (Insufficient).*

Primary education is structured in the following way: Preparatory Grade or Grade 0 (for 6 year old children) and Grades I-IV (for 7 to 10 years old children).

The registration period differs from year to year. It is recommended that you inquire in advance about the registration period, the number of available places and the necessary documents.

Secondary Education

Years V-VIII (for 10 to 15 year olds) are known as **Secondary School (Gymnasium)**. At the end of this stage there is a National Evaluation Exam and subsequent allocation to High School (the equivalent for Collage in other countries or „Liceu“ in Romanian). At secondary school there is a greater range of subjects and a second foreign language is now taught (usually English, French or German). There will be a different teacher for each subject. Students are graded from 1 to 10, where 10 is the highest grade (grades below 5 are considered unsatisfactory and therefore students that have an average of grades lower than 5, will be unable to graduate that year).

The National Evaluation is the exam that all students may take at the end of secondary school in Mathematics and Romanian Language as well as a third optional subject.

Upper Secondary Education

As a form of upper secondary education you can choose between continuing school at a college.

Vocational education has a duration of 3 years. Graduates of vocational education who pass the certification of professional qualification can attend collage.

High school Years IX-XII (15-19 year olds) make up College or Sixth Form education. This education can focus on theoretical, vocation or technological skills and knowledge. Students are assigned to each college or sixth form based upon the grades that they achieved in the national evaluations as well as the end-of-year grades achieved at the end of each year of Secondary School.

The baccalaureate exam concludes secondary school education (it is also called the maturity exam). The average score across all subjects in this exam should be 6 in order to pass, and 5 should be the minimum grade in each subject. With this you can now enroll in higher education using the baccalaureate diploma. It will also be easier to find a job or a part time job, as most of the employers ask for this level of education.

Even if you don't have the baccalaureate diploma you can enroll in the **post secondary education**. The study period is between 1 to 3 years and it focuses on professional qualifications like: electronics, agriculture, forestry, business studies, energy, tourism, health and teaching assistance, aesthetics.



Contacts: It's recommended to contact the universities that you are interested in, get detailed information about each aspect in terms of documents needed, application submission period and other conditions.



Higher Education

University studies are organized with the following structure:

Bachelor studies: most of the faculties are structured under the Bologna system, which would include 3 or 4 years for the bachelor studies. In order to be accepted you need a Baccalaureate diploma and in some universities, you will have to pass an admission exam. For graduation you will have to pass an exam (in some cases) and to support your bachelor thesis.

Masters studies: are advanced studies with a duration of 1 or 2 years and are concluded with a dissertation thesis and a master's degree.

PhD studies: with a duration of 3 years, finalized with a PhD thesis and with the title of doctor of a certain area of studies.

In Romania the Universities have different admission requirements. As they possess a certain level of autonomy. It means that even that in most of the cases you would need an original study diploma which provides proof that you have finished high school in your home country - you could still find some universities that do not have this mandatory requirement.*



In order to enrol in university programs conducted in Romanian, you must consider the Romanian Preparatory Year. This language course is mandatory for foreign students who want to follow programs of studies with teaching in Romanian. During the preparatory year the students acquire the necessary knowledge of the Romanian language, as well as the specific knowledge, related to the profile of the future studies.*



Contacts: It's recommended to contact the universities that you are interested in, get detailed information about each aspect in terms of documents needed, application submission period and other conditions.

4.2 ADULT EDUCATION

Education is valuable at any age, and it will help you advance your career. At any age you can choose to learn something new or to improve already gained skills. You can do this through formal education (as described here), or you can take non-formal education. You can attend practical courses where you can learn processes and methods, or theoretical courses, or personal development courses.

Some NGOs offer adult education and training, (such as the WomenN Project which hopes to foster recognition of women at risk of exclusion so that they can find new paths.

You can find more information here: <https://whomen.eu>, <http://www.irea.ro/>

**In October 2019, The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - Representation in Romania (UNHCR) concluded a collaboration protocol with the West University of Timișoara, through which the university will grant scholarships for refugees in Romania.

4.3 RECOGNITION OF STUDIES

Proofs of your completed studies will be required in case you will want to continue studding in Romania or in case you will want to work in a certain field that requires specific studies. As most likely the country that issued your diplomas is not a member of EU and that there is no regulated system of diploma or qualifications recognition, all these documents will have to be recognized as valid in Romania. In order to have your diplomas recognized you will have to contact the National Centre for the Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas.



Important:

For pre-university studies (grades I-XII) recognition/equivalence you should contact the School Inspectorate from your county (Inspectoratul Scolar Judetean). For the University studies recognition/equivalence you should contact Center for the Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED).

Contacts:

Center for the Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas CNRED

Str. Spiru Haret nr. 12, Sec. 1,
Bucharest,
Tel.: 0214 055 659
Website: <https://www.cnred.edu.ro>

West University of Timisoara - UVT

Street Vasile Pârvan no. 4, Timișoara
Tel.: 0256 592 111
Email: secretariat@e-uvt.ro

Intercultural Institute Timisoara

Street Bd. 16 Decembrie 1989, no. 8,
Timisoara
Tel.: 025 649 8457
E-mail.: iit@intercultural.ro

Ministry of Education and Certification

Website: <http://anc.edu.ro> - you will find a list of all the centres in the country that perform a competence evaluation

The National Council for Refugees CNRR

Str. Viesparilor, nr. 19, etaj 2, sector 2, Bucharest, Romania
E-mail: office@cnrr.ro
Tel: 0213 126 210
0314 050 275

International Organization for Migration - Bucharest Office

Str. Viitorului no.11, Bucharest
E-mail: iombucarest@iom.int
Tel.: 021 210 3050





5. Work

5.1 RIGHT TO WORK

You will have the same rights for working as a Romanian citizen, therefore you do not need a work permit. In the first year, if you are enrolled in the National Integration Program you will be enrolled as a job seeker and the County Employment Agency will assist you in the process to find a job. As part of the support you will get help in preparing for interviews or participate in programs or classes for professional training.

In the same time, it's best if you consider that there are several ways you can work in Romania: as an **employee**, a **freelancer** or as an **entrepreneur**.

5.2 HOW TO FIND WORK?

In the first year of your installment you can have the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) support as part of the National Integration Program. Meanwhile of after this period you can receive additional support in job hunting through the County Employment Agency (AJOFM).

In the same time you can try to:

- Attend a "job fair" in your city
- Volunteering in NGOs, it increases the chance to meet more people, get recommendations, gain practical experience, improve your skills and maybe get a paid job in the organization where you are volunteering.
- Search online for jobs on sites that are specialized on this topic*

5.3 EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

It is important to avoid working without a contract, since it will expose you to risks such as: poor working conditions, a wage lower than the one you agreed upon initially, late payment, and social contributions not being paid.



The individual employment contract is concluded based on the written consent of the parties (the employer and the employee) in Romanian.

The obligation to conclude an individual employment contract in written form rests with the employer, prior to the commencement of the employment relationship. In order to sign an individual labour contract, you will be asked by the employer to present identity documents, certificates of education or qualification (if they are required for the job). Some employers ask also for your Criminal Record; Marriage Certificate; a declaration in case you have a minor or other people in care; a Birth certificate; or your bank account details. Do not feel intimidated if you are asked for a long list of documents which you may not have all to hand. Instead try to have an open discussion with the employer regarding what is absolutely mandatory, and what can be re-issued or recognized (like the case for diplomas and qualifications). Also, seek help to guide you through the whole process in case you are encountering unpredicted problems.

The duration of a labour contract is stipulated/ mentioned in it, some are with determined period and some have undetermined period, which means that it will last if you and your employer are not ending it. When you want to end a labour contract, the **legal notice term** is 20 working days, which means that you'll have to announce your leaving one month in advance of the date that you wish to leave (including the weekends). Also, the same period of notice applies to your employer in case he wants to end the contract. This period of pre-notice can be shorter if you both agree, but it cannot be longer than one month.

When you want to officially make the notice you should advance a written form called **Resignation** (or "Demisie" in Romanian), which can be written by hand. It should have all your personal data on it, the date, your signature. It has to be signed by your employer as well, in order to provide proof of which day was the day of notice.

When the employer initiates the termination of the individual employment contract, it is called dismissal (Concediere). Dismissal may be ordered for reasons that are related or not to you as an employee. The reasons for dismissal which are related to you as an employee may be the following: serious or repeated misconduct from the rules of the workplace; physical or mental incapacity, impossibility to perform the duties corresponding to the job; pre-trial detention for more than 30 days; professional inadequacy in the workplace. In the case of dismissal for serious misconduct or for gross negligence, those should be ordered only on the basis of a disciplinary investigation or assessment.

Dismissal for reasons beyond your person is possible by disbanding the job when a company restructure its business, abolishes certain functions, or bankruptcy. In both cases, the decision to dismiss must be made in writing and must be substantiated by facts, mentioning the legal basis at the same time. If these conditions are not complied by the employer, the court may order the annulment of the dismissal decision.

There are a few special situations in which an employee cannot be fired: temporary incapacity for work (if you have a medical certificate); during the suspension of activity as a result of quarantine; in the case of pregnancy; during maternity leave or parental leave; during sick child care leave or while you are on rest leave.



At the same time, you cannot be fired on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, political orientation, disability, family situation or trade union activity.

The decision to reject unduly or unlawfully may be challenged in court within 45 days from the date of communication.

! **Self-employment (freelancing)** can be legally regulated either by an **Authorized Physical Person (PFA)** legal form or by a **copyright contract**, for creative activities. These two types of contracts are most common for those who want to work on their own in Romania.

5.4 SALARIES, SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

The minimum gross salary in Romania is of 2.230 RON(Lei)/Month or 470 EUR/Month, and the net salary (after taxes) is 1346 RON(Lei)/Month or 283 EUR/Month. This is calculated for a full-time job, on a program of 40 hours/week. Individuals who have a degree and at least one-year experience in the field will have a gross salary of 2350 RON/Month or 495 EUR/Month and the net salary (after taxes) is 1413 RON(Lei) or 297 EUR/Month. This is calculated for a full-time job, on a pro-gram of 40 hours/week.*

! Taxes deducted from the salary:

25% CAS (contribution for social insurance) – pensions

10% CAS (contribution for social health insurance) – health insurance

10% income tax

5.5. RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES

If you are an employee in Romania, you are mainly entitled to: payment for the work done; daily and weekly rest, annual leave (21 days), equal opportunities and treatment, workplace dignity, occupational safety and health, access to vocational training, information and consultation, to take part in determining and improving working conditions and the employed environment, redundancy protection, collective and individual bargaining, participation in collective action, establishment or membership of a trade union.

Bank holidays or national holidays are those days when all institutions except the emergency service, hospitals and police are closed. Also, there are some companies that must ensure their functionality of the services are provided. If you are working in one of these companies then you could work during one national holiday and take another day off or you can get extra payed for that day. In Romania there are around 13 days declared National Holidays.

Parental leave is one of the aspects that you might consider in case you are planning to have a child.

*The amounts specified are valid for the year 2020, month March.

Useful resources:

Website for calculating your net salary based on the gross salary; also you can check how much are the taxes in amounts <http://www.calculator-salarii.ro/2020-brut-calcul-salarii-net/>

For the parents who are employed you can benefit from it until the child is two years old or, in the case of a disabled child three years old.


Both parents can benefit from it, either the mother or the father, and it can be granted with the condition to have the social insurance payed at least in the last 12 months. The request form should be submitted to the County Payments and Social Inspection Agencies where you have your domicile or residence.

You may also be entitled to **maternity leave**, which can have a duration of 126 days (63 days before birth and 63 days after birth).

Your employer should not oblige you to work overtime. The overtime work should be done only with your free consent, willingness and should be mentioned in the contract. The overtime worked hours should be compensated with free time or with in payment. The overtime hours should be paid with 75% more for the extra hours. Also, in case you are providing night-time work you should know that you are legally entitled to a 25% increase from the base salary.

Other rights that are arising from a possible special situation, vulnerability or disability that you might encounter, are for example in case you are a pregnant woman you should not work night shifts even though this is stipulated in your labour contract. In case you have a certain physical disability and you need special equipment or carriage ramp you should know that your employer has the obligation to provide this needs or to find a way to respond to them in order that you to have the same opportunities and access to work conditions as other colleagues.

Keep in mind that unjust or prejudicial treatment on the grounds of race, age, sex, sex orientation, religion, ethnicity, nationality is considered discrimination and it is illegal. If you are facing any kind of this situations don't hesitate to consult one of the organizations that is offering legal assistance for free.

 In terms of your **obligations** as an employee, you should follow what is written in your job description and also the internal behavioural rules. Another obligation is **to respect your working hours, announce when you have a problem and are late at job or in case you are sick**. In case of sickness you have the obligation and the right to announce your absence **within 24 hours** and you should provide a medical proof which can be obtained from the family doctor, or ask the doctor who is doing the consultation who is in charge to do it in your specific case.

Contacts:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>County Payments and Social Inspection Agencies Bld. General Gheorghe Magheru, nr. E-mail: secretariat@mmanpis.ro Tel.: 0213 136 047 Website: www.mmanpis.ro</p> | <p>Municipal Agency for Employment Bucharest AJOFM Street Tăbăcarilor 20, Bucharest Tel.: 0213 312 020 The Teritorial Labour Inspectorates https://www.inspectiamuncii.ro/contact</p> |
|---|--|





6. Learning the language

6.1 CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Free Romanian classes are offered through the National Integration Program. To benefit from this service, you will have to register at the local immigration office within 30 days from the day in which you obtained a status of beneficiary of protection in Romania.

6.2 ADULTS

Besides the language courses that you can benefit of through the National Integration Program, you can find other language classes for adults and for children. The Regional Integration Centres countrywide also organize Romanian language courses that complement the Inspectorate's language courses.

The universities in Romania are organizing an intensive Romanian language preparation course for one year duration for foreign students. At the end of the course, the Romanian Language Institute organizes an evaluation for the B2 level, in accordance with the European Reference Framework for the Study of Languages and provides the graduates with a Competence Language Certificate.

6.3 PRACTICING ROMANIAN LANGUAGE ONLINE

- <https://ih.ro/cursuri-deschise-pentru-adulti/>
- <https://www.vorbitiromaneste.ro/>
- <http://limba-romana.mprp.gov.ro/elearning/>
- <https://www.goethe-verlag.com/book2/RO/ROAR/ROAR003.HTML>
- Romanian language manual
- <https://www.romaniaeacasa.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Manual-limba-romana-adulti.pdf>

Contacts:

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) - The Regional Center for Integration - Bucharest
(see contact details at page 16)
Ecumenical Association of Churches from Romania- AIDRom
(see contact details at page 16)

Schottener Foundation
(see contact details at page 11)

Jesuit Refugee Service Association of Romania (JRS Romania)
(see contact details at page 7)



7. Community engagement

Volunteering can be an extraordinary way of engaging in the community life. You can start by looking for opportunities in different organizations, depending on your interests and passions, but you may even consider funding your own NGO.

 **Below you can find some of the organizations in Romania that are creating opportunities for community engagement and socio-cultural activities:**

- Jesuit Refugee Service Association of Romania (JRS România) in partnership with the Child Heart Foundation (Fundatia Inimă de copil) is running the programme „My Place- a bridge for integration of the beneficiaries of a form of protection and legal stay in Romania”
- The League for Human Rights Cluj (LADO) is organizing social, cultural and recreational activities.
- IOM is organizing orientation sessions
- Fundația Schottener is organizing activities for recreation and social orientation

Contacts:

The League for Human Rights Cluj (LADO)

21 Decembrie 1989, nr. 108, ap. 23-24
E-mail: lado.clujnapoca@yahoo.com
Tel.: 0264 434 806

Bucharest Regional Integration Center

Viitorului street, 2nd district, Bucharest
E-mail: iombucharest@iom.int
Tel.: 0212 103 050

Schottener Foundation

Str. Viitorului nr. 64, Bucharest
Tel.: 0773 366 674
E-Mail: info@fundatia-schotener.eu
www.fundatia-schottener.eu

Jesuit Refugee Service Association of Romania (JRS România)

Str. Opreș Ilie nr. 54, Bucharest
E-mail: jrsromania@gmail.com
E-mail: talos.m@iezuiti.ro
Tel.: 0726 724 291

AIDRom Timisoara

Str. Gheorge Sincai Nr. 9, Timisoara
E-mail: oana.anca.talos@aidrom.ro
Tel: 0256 217 096/ 0757 049 902

Filantropia Association Oradea

Str. Buzaului, nr. 2B, Oradea, Bihor
E-mail: adrianapopa@filantropiaoradea.ro
Tel: 0259 436 601 / 0743 081 449





8. Free legal aid

One of the fundamental rights guaranteed in Romania is the access to justice. In order to protect your interests you have the right to address to the justice system. The right to a fair trial and to a reasonable solving time is closely connected with the right to access to justice;

In the situation of a lawsuit, if you do not speak Romanian, you have the right to an interpreter. If you are a victim of a crime that falls under the criminal law then you will receive automatically legal aid in form of assistance, representation and tax exemptions. In other civil matters, you can look for a lawyer in the national bar web site, or you can ask for public legal aid. In order to be eligible to receive public legal aid for civil matters you should make the proof of your economic status, by providing the income proof of yours and other adult persons that are living with you.

The public legal aid is granted depending on your economic situations: For an income that does not accede 300 Ron per family member you can receive money to pay the lawyer/ interpreter/ translation/ other expertise or the possibility for installments or tax exemptions.

For an income that doesn't exceed 600 Ron per family member you can receive 50% of the total expense.

The request for public legal aid form should be introduced to the competent Court for solving the case, which in most of the cases would be the one in the county of residency.*

Useful information and contacts:

- ***The National Council for Refugees (CNRR) is offering:***
 - access to specialized legal counseling for registered asylum seekers from the regional centers for procedures and accomodation under the General Inspectorate for Immigration
 - assistance in elaborating procedural documents (complaints, appeals, recourses) for asylum seekers
 - specialized assistance for vulnerable categories (separated children, women, elderly etc.)
 - legal assistance in courts for cases with potential to create legal precedent
- ***Jesuit Refugee Service Association of Romania (JRS România) is offering - social and legal assistance and counselling throughout the project „MyPlace”***

*In March 2020 1 EUR = ~ 4,8252 RON

Contacts:

The National Council for Refugees CNRR

Str. Viesparilor, nr. 19, etaj 2, sector
2, Bucharest, Romania
E-mail: office@cnrr.ro
Tel: 0213 126 210
0314 050 275

Jesuit Refugee Service Association of Romania (JRS România)

Str. Opriș Ilie nr. 54, Bucharest
E-mail: jrsromania@gmail.com
E-mail: talos.m@iezuiti.ro
Tel.: 0726 724 29

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - Representation in Romania (UNHCR)

Blvd. Primaverii nr. 48 A, Sector 1,
Bucharest
E-mail: rombu@unhcr.org
Tel.: 0212 017 872/ 0212 017 873

Other useful contacts:

The General Inspectorate for Immigration - Headquarters

Str. Lt. Col. Marinescu Constantin nr.15
A, Sector 5, Bucharest
E-mail: igi@mai.gov.ro
Tel.: 0214 100 042

The General Inspectorate for Immigration - Asylum Department

Strada Tudor Gociu, nr. 24 A,
Sector 4, Bucharest
E-mail: igi.dai@mai.gov.ro
Tel.: 0214 501 134

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

E-mail: presa@ms.ro

Bud's Flower Association

Str. Daniel Ciugureanu 35,
Bucharest, 012196
E-mail: hello@alhambra.com
Website: [https://budsflowers.ro/ar/
contacts/](https://budsflowers.ro/ar/contacts/)

Social media groups that might be useful:

- <https://www.facebook.com/Foreigner-in-Timisoara-Discover-Romanian-Culture>
- An application developed by JRS for asylum seekers (nevertheless, it could be useful also for individuals with other forms of protection): <http://asylumro.jrsromania.ro>

Other useful resources:
Immigration Lawyers and Law Firms in Romania
<https://www.hg.org/law-firms/immigration/romania.html>
<https://www.immigrationromania.lawyer/>
The Bar Union Association in Romania
<http://www.unbr.ro/>





RCT ZAGREB



For nearly 20 years Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania - PATRIR has been recognized as one of the leading centers of excellence in peacebuilding, mediation and peace support around the world. We are committed to achieving a just world and empowering the dignity and rights of all. Since 2015 PATRIR has developed a major program line on migration and refugee support, focusing on direct support for people in need, improving collaboration amongst all key sectors - including government authorities, civic organizations, front line practitioners and the private sector - and drawing upon lessons learned and best practices in migration and refugee support across Europe and internationally to improve local integration and support programming. PATRIR works through people- and needs-based programming, using action, training and research and fostering collaboration, empowerment and solidarity to achieve real change in people's lives and improve policy and practice in the field.

PATRIR would like express appreciation towards the efforts made by all the people in organisations, local governments and Ministries, companies and citizens, doctors, medical workers, schools and teachers, who welcome and help those resettled in Romania.