

MEDIA MONITORING

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**CENTRUL PENTRU STUDIUL DEZVOLTĂRII
INTERNAȚIONALE ȘI MIGRAȚIEI**

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION



Table of Contents

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

◆ Economy and society

The World Bank approved on Thursday a Development Policy Loan for Romania, amounting to €599.1 million.

Ministry of Labor Strengthens Partnership with UNICEF in Social Assistance

Romania, a top performer in the EU for economic growth. But Galați and Dâmbovița grew by 0.1%, while Cluj and Timiș by 4%.

◆ Education

Hannah Kitchen, OECD expert: vocational and technical education graduates in Romania have no advantage on the labor market compared to theoretical high school graduates

◆ Labor Market

Romania: highest female employment rate in the last 6 years

◆ Technological Evolution

Progress and Challenges: Romania's Performance in Research, Innovation, and Development in the EU 2024 Context

◆ International Cooperation

CCIR – U.S. Embassy Cooperation to Strengthen Bilateral Trade Links

Romania and Türkiye strengthen cooperation in labor and social security

Transatlantic Partnership Forum on Energy and Climate Cooperation, in Bucharest

Romania and Japan Initiate Cooperation in Labor and Social Security

Romanian - Serbian cooperation for gas interconnector

Cooperation in sustainable development between Romania and the United Arab Emirates

◆ Romania in international organisations

Schengen Accession: Hungary Supports Romania. Key Meeting Held

Romania's goal is to join the OECD by 2026, says the Government. What is the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development?

MEP Dragoș Benea Elected Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development



Table of Contents

MIGRATION

◆ Romania's Borders.

Romania will receive support for the implementation of the Pact on migration and asylum. What does the help consist of?

Ministry of Internal Affairs: Romania does not face migratory pressure

◆ Immigrants in Romania

"Sri Lankans are beginning to perceive Romania as an abusive place" - interview about "desperate" migration to our country

Romania Prepares for Land Schengen. Migration Decreases. Vienna Without Arguments

Foreigners Are Using Romania's Work Visas to Reach Other EU Countries Irregularly, Authorities Claim

◆ Refugees in Romania

Ukrainian refugee children and their families can now benefit of a newly dedicated space at the Siret border crossing point

At the end of June, Romania was hosting over 160,000 Ukrainian refugees

◆ International

Italy Implements Last-Minute Measures: Significant Impact on Romania's Schengen Accession

◆ Romanian Emigrants

UK Launches Initiative to Cut Migration Dependency: Construction and Healthcare Sectors targeted

Nearly half of Romanian youth intend to emigrate

◆ Illegal Immigration

Human Trafficking Network Coordinated from Romania Dismantled

Romania's goal is to join the OECD by 2026, says the Government. What is the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development?

◆ Cinematography

"Tata": Documentary on Generational Trauma and Migrant Worker Exploitation Premieres at TIFF Toronto



SUBJECTS OF THE MOMENT

according to media, think-tanks, international organizations and other actors interested in international development and migration

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

◆ Economy and society

The World Bank approved on Thursday a Development Policy Loan for Romania, amounting to €599.1 million.

The World Bank has approved a €599.1 million loan for Romania, aimed at supporting fiscal reforms and promoting green economic growth. The funds will facilitate **the decarbonization of the transport sector, the issuance of Romania's first green bonds**, and stimulate private investments in renewable energy. This loan also supports measures to increase the equity of the pension system and develop public-private partnerships. The financing aligns with Romania's commitments under the European Green Deal and its efforts to mitigate climate change.

News, Digi24, 25.07.2024: <https://t.ly/QmcFF>

Ministry of Labor Strengthens Partnership with UNICEF in Social Assistance

Romanian Labor Minister Simona Bucura-Opreșcu announced the reinforcement of the partnership with UNICEF to enhance social assistance services. The collaboration aims to support vulnerable communities, especially children and struggling families, through integrated programs. Goals include improving access to services and training social workers. This partnership remains crucial in raising the quality of life for disadvantaged groups in Romania.

News, Agerpres, 01.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/NoTUC>



Romania, a top performer in the EU for economic growth. But Galați and Dâmbovița grew by 0.1%, while Cluj and Timiș by 4%.

Romania's economy recorded a 0.8% growth in the second quarter of 2024, one of the highest in the EU, but this growth is not uniformly reflected across regions or in citizens' well-being. Economic disparities between counties and income inequality make GDP a limited indicator of welfare. Many Romanians continue to feel financial pressures despite declining inflation and relatively low unemployment. The Romanian economy faces microeconomic tensions, exacerbated by financial indiscipline and the unequal distribution of economic benefits.

News, HotNews, 14.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/zb6Zj>

♦ Education

Hannah Kitchen, OECD expert: vocational and technical education graduates in Romania have no advantage on the labor market compared to theoretical high school graduates

Over 50% of students in Romania are enrolled in vocational and technical education, but this does not give them an edge in the job market, according to an OECD expert. While in other European countries this type of education supports graduation rates and increases employability, in Romania vocational graduates do not perform better than those from general high schools. Hannah Kitchen emphasizes that public policy reforms are needed to improve the effectiveness of vocational education. Romania faces a disconnect between vocational training and labor market demands, and reforms should focus on reorganizing and adapting the upper secondary education system.

News, Edupedu, 08.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/FHsA3>



◆ Labor Market

Romania: highest female employment rate in the last 6 years

In 2024, the percentage of employed women reached its highest level in the past six years, hitting 40.8% in the first quarter compared to 34.3% in 2019. This increase in employment has been supported by ANOFM programs that provide training and assistance for labor market integration. Additionally, the number of employed women is higher than in 2014, despite a decrease in the overall population. The rate of NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) young women has significantly dropped by 10 percentage points since 2019. The government has implemented measures to support work-life balance, including paternity leave and the expansion of child care services.

News, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, 29.07.2024: <https://shorturl.at/3VygQ>

◆ Technological Evolution

Progress and Challenges: Romania's Performance in Research, Innovation, and Development in the EU 2024 Context

The report on the European Union's innovation performance shows that innovation continues to grow, albeit at varying rates among member states. While the EU has made progress in research and development investments, it still lags behind the U.S. and China in advanced technologies and startup funding. Romania, despite modest improvements in science and innovation, faces significant challenges, including low research investment, a limited number of tech startups, and substantial brain drain. To improve its situation, Romania needs to increase investments and support the development of a more robust innovation ecosystem.

News, Market Watch, 19.07.2024: <https://t.ly/yNFGx>



◆ International Cooperation

CCIR – U.S. Embassy Cooperation to Strengthen Bilateral Trade Links

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania (CCIR) and the U.S. Embassy have launched a collaboration to enhance bilateral trade relations. This partnership aims to promote trade exchanges and attract investments between Romania and the United States. The initiative includes organizing events and forums to facilitate connections between businesses and investors from both countries. The main goal is to strengthen economic ties and support international trade development. This cooperation reflects both parties' commitment to boosting trade exchanges and bilateral investments.

News, B1, 16.07.2024: <https://n9.ci/7x3npf>

Romania and Türkiye strengthen cooperation in labor and social security

Romania and Türkiye have signed a cooperation protocol to enhance dialogue and collaboration in the field of labor. The protocol aims to develop joint projects and exchange best practices between the two countries to support commitment to workers' rights and effective policies in the sector. This agreement reflects both parties' intent to strengthen partnerships and promote more efficient labor policies. Through this protocol, Romania and Türkiye seek to improve working conditions and facilitate cooperation in the labor market.

News, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, 18.07.2024: <https://shorturl.at/FSRNM>



Transatlantic Partnership Forum on Energy and Climate Cooperation, in Bucharest

The Transatlantic Energy Partnership and Climate Cooperation Forum in Bucharest gathers European and U.S. public and private sector representatives to discuss the future of energy and address the global energy trilemma of security, affordability, and cleanliness. The forum focuses on transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy through new technologies and enhanced cooperation between countries and sectors. Energy Minister Sebastian Burduja emphasized the need for a shared vision, a willingness to embrace change, and ambitious projects backed by strong partnerships.

News, România Actualități, 23.07.2024: <https://n9.cl/l0ah9k>

Romania and Japan Initiate Cooperation in Labor and Social Security

Simona Bucura-Oprescu, the Minister of Labor, met with the Ambassador of Japan to discuss the start of collaboration in the fields of labor and social security. The meeting marked the launch of joint projects and the exchange of best practices between the two countries. This partnership aims to enhance labor policies and social protection, emphasizing a commitment to closer collaboration. The agreement is seen as a significant step in strengthening bilateral ties and supporting a commitment to workers' rights.

News, Puterea, 31.07.2024: <https://t.ly/8q9ep>



Romanian - Serbian cooperation for gas interconnector

Romania and Serbia have agreed on a cooperation project to build a gas interconnector, which will enhance energy security and facilitate natural gas transport between the two countries. The project aims to diversify supply sources and improve efficiency in the regional gas network. The interconnector will strengthen energy links in the Balkans and bolster economic collaboration between Romania and Serbia. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to integrate European energy markets.

News, Bursa, 06.08.2024: <https://n9.cl/1drid>

Cooperation in sustainable development between Romania and the United Arab Emirates

Romania and the United Arab Emirates have emphasized the importance of cooperation in sustainable development, according to a message from Borbely Laszlo, State Advisor. He highlighted both countries' commitment to collaborating on promoting ecological solutions and green energy projects. The meeting focused on strengthening partnerships to implement sustainable initiatives and adapt to climate change. This strategic partnership underscores both nations' increased interest in addressing global environmental challenges.

News, Zi de Zi Mureș, 15.08.2024: <https://n9.cl/i28y2>



♦ Romania in international organisations

Schengen Accession: Hungary Supports Romania. Key Meeting Held

Romanian Interior Minister Cătălin Predoiu and Hungarian Interior Minister Sándor Pintér have met to discuss Romania's Schengen accession. The meeting focused on advancing Romania's bid to join the Schengen Area, addressing technical and political aspects. Both ministers emphasized the importance of strengthened border cooperation and mutual support in achieving Schengen membership. The talks reflect ongoing efforts to resolve outstanding issues and **expedite Romania's integration into the Schengen Zone. The cooperation between Romania and Hungary is seen as crucial for enhancing regional security and facilitating border management.**

News, Evz.ro, 31.07.2024: <https://shorturl.at/yHp7V>

Romania's goal is to join the OECD by 2026, says the Government. What is the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development?

The Secretary General of the Government, Mircea Abrudean, announced that Romania aims to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) by 2026, considering it the "most important national objective" following its accession to NATO and the European Union. Abrudean emphasized that joining the OECD would bring significant benefits, including increased foreign direct investments, economic development, job creation, and prosperity. Founded in 1961, the OECD is an international organization consisting of 38 member countries, mostly European, that promotes economic growth and social stability.

News, EVZ.ro, 04.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/1aQts>



MEP Dragoș Benea Elected Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development

MEP Dragoș Benea has been elected as the Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development. This appointment represents a significant moment for Romania's representation in European regional policy. Benea will lead the committee in discussions and decisions regarding regional development and EU funding. Elected with a substantial majority, he will shape future cohesion and development policies in the European Union. This role highlights his commitment to enhancing regional cohesion and development projects.

News, TVRInfo, 23.07.2024: <https://tinyurl.com/4yhnb2n6>



MIGRATION

◆ Romania's Borders

Romania will receive support for the implementation of the Pact on migration and asylum. What does the help consist of?

Romania will receive technical support from the European Commission to implement the Migration Pact, as part of a pilot project launched in March 2023. This support includes operational, technical, and financial assistance, aimed at more effective management of borders and migration flows, in collaboration with European agencies like Frontex and Europol. The project is part of a broader European effort to ensure the security and control of the EU's external borders.

News, Ziare.com, 01.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/4jY87>

Ministry of Internal Affairs: Romania does not face migratory pressure

Romania's Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that the country is not facing significant migratory pressure, effectively managing its borders, including the one with Ukraine. In a recent meeting with Frontex officials, Romanian authorities highlighted the success of bilateral cooperation and pilot projects like those at the Serbian border. Frontex acknowledged Romania's contributions to European operations and reiterated its support for the country's full Schengen accession.

News, Ziarul Prahova, 08.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/nUV1P>



♦ [Immigrants in Romania](#)

"Sri Lankans are beginning to perceive Romania as an abusive place" - interview about "desperate" migration to our country

Sri Lankan migrants increasingly view Romania as an abusive destination, according to an investigative journalist from Sri Lanka. They face significant difficulties and abuses in Romania, experiencing a stark contrast between initial expectations and the actual conditions. Living conditions are harsh, and treatment is often inadequate. The journalist highlights the migrants' desperation and the need for reforms in migration policy and human rights protections. The perspective underscores the systemic challenges these migrants encounter.

News, HotNews, 21.07.2024: <https://shorturl.at/Y9QZK>

Romania Prepares for Land Schengen. Migration Decreases. Vienna Without Arguments

Romania is advancing preparations to join the Schengen Area's land borders, aiming to eliminate border queues by the end of the year. Border authorities are enhancing security measures, including aerial surveillance, to address migration challenges, which have decreased compared to last year. Despite Romania's progress and reduced illegal migration, Austria continues to block Romania's full Schengen accession, citing ongoing issues with the Schengen system. The Austrian Interior Minister has controversially suggested that Romanian citizens are a greater risk than migrants, which has been criticized as misleading.

News, Newsweek, 09.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/Qs5SX>



Foreigners are using Romania's work visas to reach other EU countries irregularly, authorities claim

Romanian authorities report that many foreigners arriving in Romania on work visas are attempting to enter the Schengen Zone irregularly. In the first half of 2024, 400 migrants were detained at the Arad Accommodation Centre, with most coming from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. Despite a current low occupancy rate at the centre, many foreign workers are leaving Romania after the country's partial Schengen accession in search of better-paying jobs in Europe, impacting Romanian companies facing labor shortages.

News, Schengen News, 05.08.2024: <https://n9.cl/c2rj5>

◆ **Refugees in Romania**

Ukrainian refugee children and their families can now benefit of a newly dedicated space at the Siret border crossing point

A space dedicated to children and families seeking refuge from the war in Ukraine has been inaugurated at the Siret Border Crossing Point in Suceava County, through a partnership between the Territorial Inspectorate of the Border Police **Sighetu Marmăției, UNICEF, and UNHCR. The facility provides basic assistance and** a safe environment for mothers with children, equipped with necessary resources. UNICEF and UNHCR representatives emphasized the importance of this initiative and the need for ongoing collaboration with authorities and partners. This effort is part of a series of joint actions aimed at addressing the needs of refugees.

News, Unicef România, 07.08.2024: <https://cl.gy/PENkY>



At the end of June, Romania was hosting over 160,000 Ukrainian refugees

As of June 30, 2024, over 4.3 million non-EU citizens fleeing Ukraine due to the Russian aggression were under temporary protection in the EU, with 162,045 Ukrainian refugees in Romania. The largest numbers of temporary protection beneficiaries are in Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic, with the highest ratios of beneficiaries relative to the population seen in the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Poland. By the end of June 2024, Ukrainian nationals made up over 98% of those under temporary protection, with the majority being women and children. Temporary protection has been extended until March 4, 2026, according to the European Council's decision on June 25, 2024.

News, Veridica, 12.08.2024: <https://n9.cl/impv6>

♦ International

Italy implements last-minute measures: significant impact on Romania's Schengen accession

Italy has officially announced measures taken by the government in Rome to reduce illegal migration, including a €160 million investment in migrant centers in Albania. This initiative will help Italy reduce its annual migrant management costs, currently amounting to €1.7 billion. Italy also managed to repatriate more migrants in 2023 compared to 2024. These changes could aid Romania's Schengen accession, although the timeline for this process remains uncertain.

News, iDevice.ro, 08.08.2024, <https://bitly.cx/ja10A>



◆ Romanian Emigrants

UK Launches Initiative to Cut Migration Dependency: Construction and Healthcare Sectors targeted

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced the creation of Skills England, an agency designed to enhance workforce training and reduce the labor market's reliance on migration. The agency will be rolled out over the next 9-12 months, focusing on key sectors like construction and healthcare, where many Romanians are employed. Starmer emphasized the need to lessen the UK's economic dependency on foreign labor by improving training opportunities for British youth to address skill shortages.

News, ProTv, 22.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/TaCD6>

Nearly half of Romanian youth intend to emigrate

A study conducted by CURS between April and June 2024, commissioned by the Ministry of Family, Youth, and Equal Opportunities, reveals that nearly half of Romanian youth aged 14 to 35 express the intention to emigrate. The primary reasons cited include the lack of professional opportunities, low wage levels, and economic challenges. In 2023, a record number of young people - over 20,000 - permanently left Romania, doubling the average annual figure of the past decade.

News, HotNews.ro, 16.08.2024, <https://shorturl.at/TaCD6>



♦ Illegal Migration

Human Trafficking Network Coordinated from Romania Dismantled

A human trafficking network based in Romania has been dismantled by DII-COT prosecutors. The network transported migrants to Germany and Austria, hidden in trucks that officially carried goods. Over the past few months, the network earned more than 800,000 euros, illegally transporting 70 migrants who paid between 10,000 and 12,000 euros for the journey. Following nine searches, 32 migrants from Syria and Iraq were found, along with cash and relevant documents.

News, Euronews, 31.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/NR1pH>

Austria announces intensive measures to support Romania's Schengen accession

Austria has announced a series of intensive measures, implemented alongside Romania's efforts, to facilitate its Schengen accession. Interior Minister Gerhard Karner highlighted ongoing cooperation between Austria and Serbia to combat illegal migration. Austria has already deployed customs officers to Serbia and plans to increase their number. Measures include tightening border controls and visa policies, which have significantly reduced pressure on Austrian borders.

News, iDevice.ro, 07.08.2024, <https://n9.cl/lu5js>



- [Cinematography](#)

"Tata": Documentary on Generational Trauma and Migrant Worker Exploitation Premieres at TIFF Toronto

The documentary *Tata*, directed by Lina Vdovîi and Radu Ciorniciuc, will premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. It examines the complex relationship between a daughter and her father, a migrant worker who faces workplace abuses. The film tackles themes of generational trauma and domestic violence, blending personal narrative with broader social investigation. This marks Lina Vdovîi's **directorial debut in feature documentaries**.

News, Jurnalul.ro, 10.08.2024: <https://bitly.cx/PDH1>

MEDIA MONITORING

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