

MEDIA MONITORING

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**CENTRUL PENTRU STUDIUL DEZVOLTĂRII
INTERNAȚIONALE ȘI MIGRAȚIEI**
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION



SUBJECTS OF THE MOMENT

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

The loan agreement between Romania and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has been ratified by the Government.

The Government of Romania has adopted a bill that ratifies a €599 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The funds will support the green transition, focusing on renewable energy, including offshore wind energy, and transportation, while encouraging public-private partnerships. The loan will also contribute to financing the budget deficit and refinancing government public debt, with a maturity of up to 15 years. Priority projects target transport infrastructure and green energy for Bucharest.

News, News.ro, 18.09.2024:<https://shorturl.at/kmAi8>

Over a third of Romanians do not have a high school diploma (Bacalaureat), according to the OECD report.

An OECD report reveals that over a third of Romanians have not obtained their high school diploma (Bacalaureate), which significantly impacts their professional and educational prospects. Furthermore, a substantial percentage, over 80%, of those pursuing university studies do not manage to graduate. These statistics highlight major issues in the Romanian education system, creating difficulties in accessing the labor market and advancing careers. The report emphasizes the need for measures to improve access to and completion of studies in Romania.

News, EuroNews, 10.09.2024:<https://shorturl.at/5F2NT>



Decline in labor demand: Romanian companies face difficulties in attracting

In the first half of 2024, Romania's labor market gradually cooled, with employers becoming more cautious about hiring. According to data from INS, 29 sectors saw a reduction in staff, four remained stagnant, and only 26 sectors with small teams hired new employees. This slowdown is linked to a decline in external demand, particularly affecting industries **that rely on exports. Ciprian Dascălu, chief economist at BCR, highlighted the country's dependence on Germany's economy, particularly in the automotive sector, suggesting that any economic turbulence in Germany could directly impact Romania's job market recovery.**

News, Business Magazin, 14.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/fNxof>

16 cities in Romania have officially entered the race to become climate-neutral. Ten of these will be selected by an international jury.

A total of 16 cities in Romania have entered the M100 competition to become climate-neutral, from which ten will be selected by an international jury. The participating cities, each with over 50,000 inhabitants, will receive support in developing action plans for climate neutrality, including workshops and technical assistance sessions. The selection process will include eligibility verification, technical evaluation, and strategic selection, aiming to promote diversity and partnerships. **The official announcement of the ten selected cities will take place on October 29, 2024, during the "Climate Neutrality Forum M100" event in Bucharest.**

News, Profit.ro, 17.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/mIRTN>



The government is supplementing budgets for regional development and international projects in 2024

The Romanian government has approved two resolutions to supplement the budget from the Reserve Budget Fund for 2024, including 5 million lei for the Interreg VI-A Romania-Hungary 2021-2027 Program, aimed at developing a greener region. Additionally, the budget of the General Secretariat of the Government will be supplemented by 66.9 million lei, of which 39.6 million lei will cover salary expenses and maintenance of the RAAPPS heritage. These measures underscore the government's commitment to ensuring the necessary resources for essential development projects and the efficient functioning of administrative structures.

News, legestart.ro, 21.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/joVL6>

Romania wants to buy the Giurgiulești International Free Port in the Republic of Moldova

The Romanian government will begin negotiations with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for the acquisition of shares in the Giurgiulești International Free Port in Moldova, the country's only maritime port. The Romanian government spokesperson, Mihai Constantin, stated that a memorandum has been adopted to allow the Romanian state to purchase the shares held by EBRD. The representative of the Moldovan government confirmed that EBRD is negotiating with entities from other countries too.

News,Digi24, 29.08.2024:<https://shorturl.at/xpOCR>



Bucharest will become the capital of European cultural heritage in October

Romania will adopt a Manifesto for Cultural Heritage, outlining public policy priorities for the protection of cultural heritage at the EU and national levels. The European Cultural Heritage Summit in Bucharest, from October 6 to 8, 2024, will feature discussions among experts and officials, along with the presentation of top heritage conservation projects, including two from Romania. The event aims to enhance awareness and quality in heritage restoration while promoting sustainability and community engagement.

News,rfi Romania, 19.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/x4flb>

A record of the last 30 years. 2023, the year in which the most Romanians left the country permanently

Last year, Romanian migration reached a record level, with a loss equivalent to the population of Iași County, approximately 700,000 permanent emigrants, according to INS data. Although Romania has seen population growth due to immigrants, most Romanians leave for studies or work in countries such as the United Kingdom, the USA, and the Netherlands, where many are overqualified for the jobs they hold. Studies show that nearly 90% of emigrants feel that their skills are not fully utilized, which affects their income and job satisfaction.

News, HotNews, 30.09.2024: <https://tinyurl.com/25shb9vc>



The massive return of Romanians and international migration exceed expectations, with implications for the national budget

Romania has become a net positive migration destination, with a migration rate of 15.4 per 100,000 inhabitants, surpassing the EU average, due to the return of 190,000 Romanians and the attraction of 100,000 migrants from outside the European Union in 2022. This trend suggests a significant change in the perception of Romania, transforming it from an emigration country into one that is attractive for living and working. The impact on the state budget will be considerable, requiring adjustments to support population growth and public services. This demographic shift could also improve the country's credit rating and open up new economic opportunities.

News,Bugetar.ro, 28.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/vz5Tn>

Romania has joined the ranks of the nations where the population is growing, with the increase in the immigration flow

Romania has become a country where migration, rather than birth rates, contributes to population growth, which reached 19.06 million people as of January 1, 2024, an increase of nearly 9,900 from the previous year. According to data from the National Institute of Statistics (INS), immigration is the main factor behind this increase, with a positive net migration of 82,000 people in 2023. This change contrasts with previous trends, as Romania experienced a steady decline in population between 2015 and 2022. During this period, the population decreased from 19.87 million in 2015 to 19.04 million in 2022, marking a decline of approximately 4.2% over seven years.

News,Ziarul Financiar, 07.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/eVpNb>



Nearly 70% of Romanians believe that migrants help the economy. What do they think about the return home of those from the diaspora?

A survey conducted by INSCOP Research shows that 68.1% of Romanians believe that immigrants coming to Romania for work represent an opportunity for the economy, filling jobs that are unoccupied by Romanians, while 25.1% see them as a threat. Younger individuals and those with higher education are more likely to support the view that immigrants are beneficial to the country. Additionally, 67.4% of respondents support providing financial incentives for Romanians in the diaspora who choose to return home. The survey was conducted between September 11 and 16, 2024, with a representative sample of 1,102 people.

News, *Stirile Pro Tv*, 18.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/2PHaB>

Jobs for Ukrainian refugees

Over 3,000 Ukrainians have found jobs in Romania since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, with the majority of refugees employed in Bucharest. Between February 24, 2022, and August 12, 2024, 23,335 Ukrainian citizens registered with the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM) to benefit from counseling and placement services. The largest communities of registered Ukrainians are located in the counties of **Constanța, Bucharest, and Ilfov**. Nearly 700 Romanian employers are willing to hire Ukrainian citizens, with most job opportunities being for unskilled workers.

News, *Viata Libera*, 24.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/U45I3>



Number of Ukrainian Refugees Entering Romania Since the War Began Surpasses 10 Million

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, over 10 million Ukrainian refugees have entered Romania, according to the Border Police. Ukrainian refugees can receive financial assistance from the Romanian government, including 600 lei for food and 750 lei for housing for four months. After this period, housing aid will be provided only to those refugees who are employed in Romania and have children enrolled in the Romanian education system.

News, Libertatea, 17.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/fV6X9>

Germany Proposes Deporting Asylum Seekers to Rwanda, Reviving UK's Abandoned Plan

Germany's migration commissioner, Joachim Stamp, has proposed deporting asylum seekers entering the EU illegally via Belarus to Rwanda. The proposal follows heightened pressure on Germany to curb illegal migration after a recent terrorist attack. Stamp suggested the EU use existing asylum facilities in Rwanda, initially intended for a now-abandoned UK plan. The measure would target migrants crossing the EU's eastern borders, with asylum procedures overseen by the UN. This comes as Germany looks to tighten its migration policies amidst growing security concerns.

News, HotNews.ro, 05.09.2024: <https://rb.gy/p4hf73>



Viktor Orbán at the Cernobbio Forum: "Our issue is preventing migrants from entering the country"

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán made controversial statements at the Cernobbio Forum in Italy, emphasizing that migration is a divisive issue for the European Union. Orbán criticized the EU's common migration policy, stating that Hungary has never accepted migrants and its priority is to prevent their entry. He argued that countries unwilling to follow the common migration path should have the option to abstain, rather than being forced to cooperate, warning that such tensions could fracture the EU.

News, Digi24, 07.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/cmRa5>

Chinese Immigrants Move to Mexico in Search of Economic Opportunities and Freedom

A growing number of Chinese immigrants are settling in Mexico, attracted by economic **opportunities and a freer life. Amid China's slowing economy and high youth unemployment**, many seek to start businesses in Mexico. Last year, the Mexican government issued over 5,000 temporary residence visas to Chinese immigrants, double the previous year. A new Chinese community is emerging in Mexico City, with many opening businesses or working with multinational companies.

News, Digi24, 08.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/DhVKF>



Several EU States Reinstate Border Controls Amid Security and Migration Concerns

Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Denmark, and other European countries have reinstated border controls due to growing concerns over migration and security. Germany's decision, following a terrorist attack, has caused tensions with Poland and Austria. Other states, such as Sweden, Finland, and Norway, have taken similar steps, citing threats from the Middle East, the Gaza conflict, and pressures from Ukraine. EU officials warn of potential economic and logistical disruptions, emphasizing the impact on free movement within the Schengen Area.

News, Vocea Basarabiei, 12.09.2024: <https://rb.gy/34yvrB>

Germany Signs Migration Agreement with Uzbekistan to Support Economy and Return Immigrants

Germany has signed an agreement with Uzbekistan to facilitate the migration of skilled workers to support the German economy, Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced. The deal also includes procedures for the return of immigrants. Scholz did not comment on rumors that the agreement might be used to deport Afghan criminals. The move follows Germany's recent resumption of deportations of Afghan nationals convicted of serious crimes. Interior Minister Nancy Faeser confirmed plans for further deportation flights.

News, Reuters, 15.09.2024: <https://t.ly/s6Yrz>



Netherlands Requests Opt-Out from EU Migration Rules, but Brussels Pushes Back

The Netherlands has requested an opt-out from EU asylum rules following the adoption of the country's strictest anti-immigration measures by the new right-wing coalition government, which includes the far-right. Marjolein Faber, Minister for Asylum and Migration, stated that the Netherlands wants to regain control over its asylum policy to drastically reduce migration. PVV leader Geert Wilders emphasized making the country less attractive to migrants. However, the European Commission has indicated that the request will likely be rejected, as such an opt-out would require revising the EU Treaty.

News, Agerpres, 18.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/cCsNe>

German Chancellor Scholz Hails New Naturalization Law as a "Historic" Step for Immigration

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz praised the new immigration law, which allows citizenship after five years of residency instead of eight, as a "historic" opportunity for the country. The reform, effective since June, aims to attract more workers and ensure Germany's future growth. Scholz emphasized that permanent residents who contribute and respect democracy should become citizens. The city of Bremen expects up to 10,000 naturalization applications this year, following a surge in interest.

News, Știrile ProTv, 19.08.2024: <https://shorturl.at/6BtPL>



Romania's Silent Crisis: Depopulation and its Far-reaching Impact

Romania faces a severe depopulation crisis, driven by mass emigration of young people and the working population, according to data from the National Institute of Statistics (INS). In 2023, Romania recorded the highest emigration in the past 30 years, with many leaving in search of better healthcare, education, and economic stability abroad. **This issue affects even wealthy regions like Bucharest and Timiș. Although wages have increased, they have not been enough to curb the exodus.** Interestingly, Romania's resident population has been marginally maintained thanks to immigrants and refugees, particularly from Ukraine.

News, Spot, 01.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/dmwID>

Frontex Buys Drones to Monitor Migrants; NGOs Criticize EU's Strategy

Frontex, the European Border Agency, is set to purchase drones and surveillance equipment worth €400 million to monitor migrants at EU borders, including routes allegedly used by Russia to push migrants towards Europe. Ursula von der Leyen announced plans to strengthen Frontex, but human rights organizations warn this could lead to migrants being pushed back into authoritarian regimes. NGOs fear the technology may be used to **prevent asylum seekers from reaching the EU's territory, raising concerns about human**

News, Digi24, 05.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/phGbm>



39% Decrease in Fraudulent Border Crossings at EU External Borders in the First Eight Months of 2024

In the first eight months of 2024, the number of fraudulent border crossings into the European Union decreased by 39% compared to the same period in 2023, totaling 139,847 cases, according to Frontex data. The largest drops were recorded on the Western Balkans route (-77%) and the Central Mediterranean route (-64%). In contrast, the Eastern Mediterranean route saw a 39% increase, while the West African route witnessed a 123% rise. The top nationalities detected were from Syria, Mali, and Afghanistan.

News, MigrantCenter, 17.09.2024; <https://shorturl.at/7c7rL>

Sweden Proposes Offering €30,000 to Immigrants Who Wish to Repatriate

The Swedish government plans to increase the repatriation allowance to 350,000 Swedish kronor (€30,000) by 2026 for immigrants who wish to leave the country, as announced by Migration Minister Johan Forssell. This policy shift comes after years of Sweden being a generous destination for refugees. Currently, repatriation allowances are much smaller and underutilized. The government is focusing on reducing immigration, especially under pressure from the Sweden Democrats, a right-wing party.

News, Digi 24, 18.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/7cpR9>



Migrant Smuggling Ring Dismantled in Timișoara; Migrants Paid up to €11,000 for Illegal Border Crossings

Border police in Timișoara dismantled a migrant smuggling ring involving Romanian, Afghan, and Pakistani citizens. Migrants paid between €2,500 and €11,000 to be illegally guided across Romania's borders into Serbia or Hungary. Following investigations, two members of the network were arrested for 30 days. The ring attempted to smuggle over 50 Afro-Asian migrants out of Romania. Migrants were guided using GPS and crossed borders on foot before being transported to Schengen countries.

News, Digi24, 20.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/fAxWc>

Nearly 3,000 Foreign Nationals Attempted to Cross Romania's Borders Illegally in the First 8 Months of the Year

Nearly 3,000 foreign nationals were caught attempting to cross Romania's borders illegally in the first eight months of the year, according to a report by the Border Police. Of these, 1,857 were stopped while trying to exit the country, and around 9,500 Ukrainians tried to enter illegally, later seeking asylum or temporary protection. Over 40 million people passed through Romania's borders during this period, with 28 million from the EU. Authorities have increased surveillance and control measures at the borders with Serbia, Bulgaria, and Hungary.

News, Digi24, 22.09.2024: <https://shorturl.at/SVoHa>

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