

A hand is shown from the bottom, holding a globe. The globe is rendered with a blue wireframe network overlay, representing global connectivity. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

MEDIA MONITORING

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I.1. Economy and Society

- Ten Romanian cities selected to receive support and funding to achieve climate neutrality by 2035
- Preparing Financial Markets for Romania's OECD Accession – On the Agenda of the ISF 2024 International Conference

I.2. Health

- Romanian nuclear energy provider Nuclearelectrica to produce medical isotopes for cancer treatment
- Romanian autism non-profit launches social franchise
- WHO Donates Emergency Medical Equipment to Romania with U.S. Support

I.3. Labor Market

- Romania Needs up to 300,000 Foreign Workers to Address Workforce Shortages in 2025

I.4. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

- Accelerating the Energy Transition: Myths and Realities About Renewable Energy Acceleration Areas
- Romania's largest photovoltaic park blocked in court by an environmental NGO
- Romanian Mission Aboard the International Space Station: What is DropCoal, the Fully Romanian Project
- Romania is among the EU countries with the largest decreases in industrial production prices
- WWF-Romania urges adoption of a new Forestry Code

I.5. Clean Water and Access to Food

- Global food prices reach highest level in 18 months

I.6. International Cooperation

- **WWF–Romania calls for transparency in Romsilva’s reform**
- **Romania: Ukraine’s most active partner in European integration**

I.7. Romania in International Organizations

- **COP29: Global leaders gather to tackle climate change**

II. MIGRATION

- **Romania Issued Over 77,000 Work Permits This Year In Efforts to Fill Market Gaps**
- **Poland: Plans to suspend the right to seek asylum ‘flagrantly unlawful’**
- **How Migration Shook Europe to Its Core. Romanian Expert from Harvard: “The Situation is Expanding to Countries Like Romania”**
 - **Why immigration is back on the European Union’s agenda**
 - **The first migrants sent to Albania for processing return to Italy**
 - **Türkiye tightens eastern border security against migration, smuggling**
- **Democracy, climate change and migration – why Poland might be ‘Europe’s fulcrum country’**
- **Abela says irregular migration requires joint action in the European community**
- **Romania: Between Migration and Schengen Area Expansion**
- **Turnaround: Austria gives the green light for Romania's accession to the Schengen Area.**
- **Romanian women, in the top of births in the UK**
- **Taoiseach insists ‘firm and compassionate’ migration policies will not emulate UK’s ‘despicable’ Rwanda plan**
- **Labor Migration: What Solutions Have Romania and Other EU Countries Adopted**
- **Romania and Bulgaria Aim to Eliminate Border Controls Between the Two Countries. What Officials from the Ministries of Internal Affairs Discussed**
- **Record Migration in 2023 in Developed European Countries. Germany’s Particular Situation**

SUBJECTS OF THE MOMENT

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

I. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I.1. Economy and Society

M100: Ten Romanian cities selected to receive support and funding to achieve climate neutrality by 2035

The M100 Hub, a comprehensive national initiative dedicated to accelerating the green transition in Romania, has officially unveiled the 10 cities selected for its flagship program, the M100 Mission. This ambitious project seeks to guide these cities toward achieving climate neutrality by 2035, setting a benchmark for sustainable urban development across the country. The selected cities – Alba Iulia, Bistrița, Brașov, Bucharest, Buzău, Constanța, Iași, Oradea, Reșița, and Timișoara – will serve as pioneers in this transformative journey. Each city will receive tailored support, resources, and guidance to implement innovative solutions addressing energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, waste management, and renewable energy integration.

News, romania-insider.com, 30.10.2024: <https://shorturl.at/XCw8b>

Preparing Financial Markets for Romania's OECD Accession – On the Agenda of the ISF 2024 International Conference

The 10th edition of the ISF 2024 International Conference was held at the Marriott Hotel in Bucharest, focusing on Romania's accession to the OECD and topics such as corporate governance, the capital market, digitalization, and financial education. The event brought together experts, investors, and regulators to discuss strategies for meeting the accession criteria. Key topics included European regulations, financial education, innovation, and the development of the capital market.

News, lasig.ro, 12.11.2024: <https://shorturl.at/CbXab>

I.2. Health

Romanian nuclear energy provider Nuclearelectrica to produce medical isotopes for cancer treatment

Romania's Nuclearelectrica and France's Framatome have partnered on a project to produce the medical isotope Lutetium-177 (Lu-177), used in cancer treatments, at the Cernavodă nuclear plant. The project, set to launch in 2028, will involve adapting Framatome's technology at Unit 2 to produce high-quality Lu-177 from Ytterbium-176. Lu-177 is used in targeted therapy for prostate cancer and other cancers, offering a promising treatment option. The initiative will also help ensure a stable supply of the isotope for both Romania and global markets, meeting growing demand for advanced cancer therapies.

News, romania-insider.com, 15.10.2024, <https://t.ly/Q8vv7>

Romanian autism non-profit launches social franchise

Help Autism, a Romanian non-profit organization focused on children and youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), has launched a social franchise to expand therapy services across the country. This initiative aims to increase the number of therapy centers by replicating the NGO's social model through a commercial franchise structure. The goal is to improve access to therapy for children and families, with centers offering free services and contracts with the National Health Insurance House. Franchisees will receive support for center accreditation, along with a comprehensive business model and training to ensure successful operation.

News, romania-insider.com, 17.10.2024, <https://shorturl.at/oAPZ7>

WHO Donates Emergency Medical Equipment to Romania with U.S. Support

The World Health Organization (WHO), with support from the U.S. through the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, donated medical equipment worth approximately \$400,000 to Romania's General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU). The donation, handed over at the National Coordination and Intervention Management Center in Ciolpani, aims to strengthen Romania's capacity to respond to medical emergencies. U.S. Ambassador Kathleen Kavalec highlighted that this support reflects the strong partnership between Romania and the U.S., as well as their shared commitment to protecting the health and safety of communities.

News, TVR Info, 15.11.2024, <https://shorturl.at/uhKJ3>

I.3. The Labor Market

Romania Needs up to 300,000 Foreign Workers to Address Workforce Shortages in 2025

As Romania faces a labor shortage after many Romanians went abroad to work, the need for foreign workers on the local market is forecast to be between 200,000 and 250,000, driven by the demands of various industries, especially in the construction and hospitality (Horeca) sectors. Commenting on the issue, Melania Pop, Business Development Manager at International Work Finder (IWF), points out that if bureaucratic barriers were eased, Romania could bring to the country up to 300,000 foreign workers in 2025 to fill gaps in its economy.

News, schengen.news, 03.10.2024, <https://shorturl.at/u2H92>

I.4. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Accelerating the Energy Transition: Myths and Realities About Renewable Energy Acceleration Areas

The European Union has accelerated the energy transition through the creation of Renewable Energy Acceleration Areas (RAAs), which support the rapid development of green projects with minimal environmental impact. Despite persistent myths about the cost and reliability of renewable energy, it is becoming increasingly accessible and efficient. The RENewLand project plays a crucial role in promoting renewable energy in Romania, Hungary, and Bulgaria.

News, WWF Romania, 17.10.2024, <https://shorturl.at/QKZry>

Romania's largest photovoltaic park blocked in court by an environmental NGO

The development of Romania's largest photovoltaic park, worth €800 million and with a capacity of 1,044 MW, has been delayed by a legal challenge from the "Societatea Carpatină Ardeleană" Association. The NGO claims the site, part of the Natura 2000 network, would harm bird habitats. Monsson, the developer, plans to start construction in 2025 and has committed to additional environmental measures to address concerns.

News, HotNews.ro, 21.10.2024, <https://shorturl.at/OOYn>

Romanian Mission Aboard the International Space Station: What is DropCoal, the Fully Romanian Project

Romanian InSpace Engineering (RISE) will launch the "DropCoal" mission in early November, a Romanian-developed scientific experiment funded by the European Space Agency (ESA). The mission, aimed at studying liquid coalescence and mixing in microgravity, will run for six months aboard the International Space Station. This project marks Romania's first entirely developed and tested space mission, showcasing the country's growing presence in space technology.

News, Stirile Pro TV, 30.10.2024,<https://shorturl.at/4GPsd>

Romania is among the EU countries with the largest decreases in industrial production prices

In September 2024, industrial production prices fell by 0.6% in both the European Union and the eurozone, with Romania experiencing one of the largest drops at 2.2%. The decrease was mainly driven by a 1.8% drop in energy prices across the EU. On an annual basis, industrial production prices declined by 3.4% in the eurozone and 3.3% in the EU, with Romania seeing a 2.7% decrease. Within the industrial sector, prices for capital goods and consumer goods increased, while energy and intermediate goods sectors saw price drops.

News, Profit.ro, 06.11.2024,<https://shorturl.at/uT69A>

WWF-Romania urges urgent adoption of a new Forestry Code

WWF-Romania calls on Parliament to urgently adopt a new Forestry Code that integrates key reforms to tackle illegal logging, ensure sustainable forest management, and promote the higher valorization of wood. The organization emphasizes the need to clarify forests' status as a public interest good and proposes banning the transfer of land from the National Forest Fund's public to private ownership to prevent fragmentation. The amendments align with the National Forest Strategy (SNP30).

News, WWF, 12.11.2024,<https://shorturl.at/OOOYn>

I.5. Clean water and access to food

Global food prices reach highest level in 18 months

Global food prices hit their highest level in 18 months in October, according to a report by the United Nations. The increase was driven by rising costs of vegetable oils, sugar, wheat, and dairy. The global food price index rose by 2%, reaching 127.4 points compared to September. Meat remains one of the few food categories that has not seen a price hike.

News, stiripesurse.ro, 08.11.2024, <https://shorturl.at/10fl5>

I.6. International Cooperation

WWF-Romania calls for transparency in Romsilva's reform

WWF-Romania urges authorities to clearly and transparently present their vision for the reform and reorganization of Romsilva, aligning it with the new Forestry Code and the National Forest Strategy (SNP30). The organization highlights flaws in the opaque process and the unjust limitation of public service obligations, which could undermine sustainable forest management and public interests. WWF emphasizes the need for a participatory and predictable system prioritizing biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and local community development.

News, WWF, 22.10.2024, <https://shorturl.at/JzEeW>

Romania: Ukraine's most active partner in European integration

Romania has become Ukraine's most active partner in its European integration efforts, according to Ukrainian political scientist Volodymyr Fesenko, director of the Penta Center for Political Studies in Kyiv. In an interview with OstroV, Fesenko highlighted Romania's consistent support in this area, surpassing Poland and the Baltic states, which focus more on military assistance. Ukraine's connection with Moldova provides additional advantages, emphasizing the importance of a strategic partnership with Moldova.

News, stiripesurse.ro, 06.11.2024, <https://shorturl.at/h3XUx>

I.7. Romania in International Organizations

COP29: Global leaders gather to tackle climate change

The COP29 conference kicked off in the third week of November in Baku, Azerbaijan, bringing together world leaders to address climate change challenges. The event follows the Copernicus announcement that 2024 is the hottest year on record. The European Union, the largest global climate action funder, allocated nearly €37.2 billion in 2023 to support developing countries. Ana Haurie, founder of Respira International, highlights the need for a public-private partnership to combat the climate crisis.

News, Euronews, 10.11.2024, <https://shorturl.at/i26fw>

II.MIGRATION

Romania Issued Over 77,000 Work Permits This Year In Efforts to Fill Market Gaps

From January to September, Romania granted a total of 77,426 work permits for non-EU citizens, receiving some of the highest rates of immigrant workers ever. According to data by the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), out of the total number of permits issued during this period, 76,713 or 99 per cent, were granted to permThe remaining were issued for different types of employment, including positions for skilled workers (310), seasonal workers (214), poster workers (151), and workers transferred within the same company (37) anent workers – an all-time high record.

News, schengen.news, 31.10.2024, <https://shorturl.at/DWVBp>

Poland: Plans to suspend the right to seek asylum 'flagrantly unlawful'

The Polish government is planning to suspend asylum over claims that Russia and Belarus are using migration to destabilise the country. Amnesty International has described the plan as "manifestly illegal" and says it penalises those who may have been subjected to violence and human trafficking. The proposal would see a temporary and regional suspension of the "right to apply for asylum", affecting both those crossing the land border "irregularly" and those at official border crossings. Poland is facing scrutiny from the European Court of Human Rights over such practices. Amnesty International is calling on the European Commission to send a clear message that fundamental rights cannot be sacrificed for political gain.

News. Amnesity International, 16.10.2024, <https://shorturl.at/BLzyB>

How Migration Shook Europe to Its Core. Romanian Expert from Harvard: "The Situation is Expanding to Countries Like Romania"

Migration is a challenge for EU countries, which have reinstated border controls due to illegal flows. Although migrants are essential for supporting the European economy, their integration remains difficult, and current policies are generating controversy. The European Union collaborates with transit countries to manage migration, but these partnerships are criticized for abuses against migrants. Balanced solutions are needed to address both economic demands and the protection of human rights.

News, adevarul.ro, 17.10.2024, <https://shorturl.at/x36YW>

Why immigration is back on the European Union's agenda

The European Union (EU) is working on new policies to combat the increasing irregular migration following the migrant crisis of 2015 and 2016 and to distribute asylum seekers more fairly among its member states. With the rise of far-right parties, some EU countries, such as Italy, France and Germany, have tightened border controls and asylum laws. The EU is discussing an "offshoring" approach, which would involve setting up "hotspots" or "return centres" in third countries to process or return asylum seekers. However, human rights organisations are concerned that these centres could lead to human rights violations and it is unclear which countries are willing to set them up. The EU's new migration policies will require intensive negotiations both between member states and between the EU and third countries.

News, The Guardian, 18.10.2024, <https://shorturl.at/AjuZk>

The first migrants sent to Albania for processing return to Italy

Italy and Albania have signed a five-year migration agreement that will see migrants rescued by the Italian coastguard in international waters sent to centres in Albania in groups of 3,000 per month. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni described the agreement as a new "model" for combating illegal immigration, saying those granted asylum in Italy would be admitted to the country while those whose applications were rejected would be deported from Albania. In the first implementation of the agreement, 12 migrants sent to newly opened asylum centres were returned to Italy after a court in Rome ruled that Bangladesh and Egypt were unsafe. The court ruled that the migrants could not be sent back because they would face discrimination or persecution in those countries. Meloni said she would appeal the decision .

News, Ap News, 19.10.2024, <https://shorturl.at/B0GRR>

Türkiye tightens eastern border security against migration, smuggling

Turkey is reducing illegal crossings, smuggling and terrorist infiltration along the country's border with Iran with the construction of a protective wall, launched in 2021, in Van province. In addition to physical deterrents, advanced local and national technologies from Türkiye's defense industry have been deployed, enhancing surveillance across the border. 70 percent of the modular concrete wall now complete remaining sections is scheduled to resume in 2025. More than 15,000 irregular migrants were prevented from crossing the border this year as of October. Turkey is hosting over 4 million migrants, mainly Syrians, many of whom are attempting to reach Europe.

News, Daily News, 06.11.2024,<https://shorturl.at/q8V4V>

Democracy, climate change and migration – why Poland might be 'Europe's fulcrum country'

The ISRF conference in Poland focused on democracy, climate change and migration. Under Tusk's government, Poland has kept a tough stance on migration, similar to the previous regime. Poland welcomes Ukrainian refugees but rejects those from Syria and Afghanistan. In response to Russia encouraging migrants at the Belarus-Poland border, Poland has enforced "pushbacks," forcing migrants to return. The conference also offered valuable insights on accelerating green technology adoption. The ISRF is working on finding solutions to pressing social issues.

News, The Conversation, 07.11.2024,<https://tinyurl.com/22t7b4hs>

Abela says irregular migration requires joint action in the European community

At the European Political Community Summit, Prime Minister Robert Abela has stressed the importance of joint action within the European Union (EU) and cooperation with countries along major migration routes to combat irregular migration. Abela said there was no single solution to irregular migration and that a range of measures, backed by solid funding, were needed. His recommendations include informing potential migrants about the risks of dangerous journeys, cooperating with countries such as Libya and dismantling human trafficking networks. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola echoed Abela's call for unity, saying no nation can manage migration alone and stressing that a collaborative European response is the only solution.

News, Malta Today, 07.11.2024,<https://shorturl.at/5ihct>

Romania: Between Migration and Schengen Area Expansion

President Klaus Iohannis emphasized at the fifth Summit of the European Political Community in Budapest that migration remains a major challenge for Europe, requiring a coordinated and comprehensive response. He highlighted Romania's efforts, including the pilot project at the border with Serbia, which showcased best practices in addressing illegal migration, asylum procedures, and returns. Iohannis reaffirmed Romania's commitment to securing the EU's external borders and stressed that joining Schengen is a key national objective, reflecting the country's dedication to the European project.

News, Viata Libera, 08.11.2024, <https://shorturl.at/oB8Fk>

Turnaround: Austria gives the green light for Romania's accession to the Schengen Area.

Austria's Minister of the Interior, Gerhard Karner, stated that Austria may lift the veto on Romania and Bulgaria's accession to Schengen, acknowledging Romania's significant progress in combating illegal migration. Austria will request the adoption of a "sustainable global package" during a meeting in Budapest, and if this is accepted, the veto will be lifted. European Commissioner for Migration, Magnus Brunner, and Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu are optimistic that Romania will join Schengen in March 2025. Romania's progress in managing migration and its bilateral cooperation with Austria are seen as decisive arguments for lifting objections. The final decision will be made at the December JAI Council.

News, Stiripesurse.ro, 08.11.2024, <https://shorturl.at/RMI43>

Romanian women, in the top of births in the UK

The number of Romanian women giving birth abroad has increased significantly, with 25,000 children born outside the country last year, mostly in the UK. In 2023, nearly a quarter of births in the UK had mothers born outside the country, with Romania ranking third, with 13,717 children born there. This trend highlights a growing issue for Romania's healthcare and social systems, as the proportion of births to foreign-born mothers has been steadily rising in recent years. London remains the region with the highest percentage of births to parents born outside the UK.

News, adevarul.ro, 09.11.2024, <https://shorturl.at/6HfuY>

Taoiseach insists 'firm and compassionate' migration policies will not emulate UK's 'despicable' Rwanda plan

Taoiseach Simon Harris stated that Fine Gael's tougher migration policies are based on common sense, fairness, and compassion. He denied any comparison to the UK's controversial Rwanda deportation plan, which he had previously called "despicable and stupid." Harris mentioned that Irish people want a migration system that is both compassionate and grounded in common sense. He clarified that the new measures are a component of the party's 2024 election policies. These measures aim to ensure migration benefits Ireland while being fair and firm. He also clarified that the focus is on returning people to their country of origin or another country where they may have already sought asylum.

News, Irish Independent, 10.11.2024, <https://shorturl.at/Zbgfr>

Labor Migration: What Solutions Have Romania and Other EU Countries Adopted

The Global Immigration Trends and Highlights report shows that Europe is striving to balance the need for foreign labor with strict migration control measures and initiatives to attract highly skilled talent, such as simplifying procedures for the Blue Card. The European Union is implementing common policies through the Migration and Asylum Pact, as well as local measures in member states like Romania, which recently adopted stricter regulations for managing migration.

News, adevarul.ro, 12.11.2024: <https://shorturl.at/kwoVL>

Romania and Bulgaria Aim to Eliminate Border Controls Between the Two Countries. What Officials from the Ministries of Internal Affairs Discussed

Romania and Bulgaria's Interior Ministries held an online meeting to discuss measures aimed at achieving the common goal of removing internal border controls. The meeting focused on evaluating the implementation of the Joint Action Plan signed in June 2024, with particular emphasis on September and October 2024. Key points included the excellent cooperation between the two countries' border authorities, real-time information sharing, joint border patrols, and efforts to combat corruption. They also agreed to continue improving border traffic flow, especially at the Giurgiu-Ruse crossing, and to enhance cooperation in immigration control.

News, Stirile Pro TV, 13.11.2024: <https://shorturl.at/56oYZ>

Record Migration in 2023 in Developed European Countries. Germany's Particular Situation

According to the OECD's 2024 Migration Outlook report, 6.5 million people migrated to member countries last year, with notable increases in temporary labor migration and asylum requests, particularly in the U.S. Germany also saw a rise in asylum applications, with 329,000 requests, a 51% increase from 2022. Nearly 50% of migration is due to the EU's freedom of movement, and in 2023, 15.2 million people living in Germany were born outside the country. The report also highlights that a significant portion of migrants in OECD countries came from Ukraine, Romania, and Poland.

News, Stirile Pro TV, 14.11.2024, <https://shorturl.at/BwKbK>

MEDIA MONITORING

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