

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

Villages bigger than cities, municipalities that should be downgraded, lack of administrative reform

Romania faces a large influx of migrants, demographic decline and an aging population, which has led to a population decrease in many localities of more than **70%**. **In this context, some municipalities such as Floresști (Cluj), Giroc (Timis) and Chiajna (Ilfov) have overtaken the county capitals in terms of population.** Floresști has grown by over 800% in 30 years and has the youngest and most educated population in the country. Romania has almost 500 communes with more than 5,000 inhabitants and 20 cities with less than 5,000 inhabitants.

News, Hotnews.ro, 12.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/4WAXl>

What Issues Hinder Major Development Projects in Romania?

The National Conference RO 3.0 "Investors for the Future. Major Projects That Move Romania" brought together project developers and government representatives to discuss major obstacles to investments in Romania. The steel industry faces financial challenges exacerbated by the current geopolitical situation, highlighting the need for governmental financing solutions. The construction sector encounters difficulties due to the lack of regulations on waste recycling. Experts warn that the absence of regulations can block development in the energy sector. Government officials emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships for the success of these investments.

News, Europa Liberă România, 13.07.2024; <https://shorturl.at/t08s5>



Environmental organizations: The energy strategy lacks concrete and measurable objectives

Environmental organizations, including WWF-Romania, Declic, Bankwatch, and 2 Celsius, have proposed a series of measures to the Ministry of Energy for revising Romania's Energy Strategy 2025-2035. Their proposals include reducing planned fossil gas capacities, decreasing gas consumption, raising the renewable energy target to 41.1%, and implementing concrete measures to combat energy poverty. They also call for the establishment of energy communities and the inclusion of energy efficiency measures, particularly in buildings. The current strategy is criticized for its reliance on fossil fuels and the lack of concrete, measurable objectives. The organizations emphasize the need for a transparent and participatory approach to successfully implement the energy strategy. The strategy is set to receive inter-ministerial approval and be officially adopted.

News, Invest Energy, 15.07.2024, <https://t.ly/h9jq1>

The EU will invest a record €7 billion in safe and smart transport infrastructure

The European Commission has selected 134 transport projects to receive over €7 billion in EU grants under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). Romania will receive €149 million for 9 projects, including one national and eight multinational projects. Approximately 83% of the funding will support projects aligned with the EU's climate objectives, focusing on the modernization of railways and maritime routes within the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). Key projects include cross-border rail connections and port infrastructure modernization for shore-side electricity supply for ships. Additionally, the projects will enhance the capacity of the EU-Ukraine solidarity corridors to improve transport infrastructure.

News, MediaFax.ro, 17.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/HPbFN>



Ministry of the Family, discussions for European funds to support single-parent families

Minister of Family, Natalia Intotero, met with representatives of religious denominations to discuss the use of European funds to support single-parent families and their specific needs. Topics included the cases of Romanian children taken by social services abroad and how the state and churches can better collaborate **to assist them. Senator Titus Corlățean also attended the meeting. Additionally, it** was decided to establish an inter-institutional committee, including religious representatives, to identify new measures to support children and families both in Romania and abroad.

News, MediaFax.ro, 17.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/mVDSN>

58% of students in Romania reach at least the third level of competence - PISA results

According to the 2022 PISA results, 58% of Romanian students achieve at least level 3 competency in creative thinking, considered a basic level. Girls demonstrated higher competencies compared to boys, with scores 2.1 points higher.

News, Digi 24, 18.06.2024, <https://shorturl.at/GISqa>



The Labor Crisis in Romania: A Phenomenon with Profound Impact and Some Comparisons

Romania is facing a significant labor force crisis that profoundly impacts the country's economy. This phenomenon is caused by several factors, including the massive emigration of skilled workers to other European Union countries and a declining birth rate. Compared to other European countries, Romania is in a disadvantaged position, having one of the highest emigration rates of its workforce. This situation creates major challenges for local companies, which struggle to find the necessary personnel.

New, Puterea, 09.07.2024, <https://t.ly/flPaj>

South Korea donates 550,000 USD for Ukrainian children in Romania

The Government of the Republic of Korea has donated 550,000 USD to UNICEF for the education and protection of Ukrainian refugee children in Romania. The funding will support 500 children in the school enrollment process and will train 150 teachers for the effective integration of refugee children. Additionally, 100 children will benefit from adequate care, and 400 children separated from their families will receive integrated community services. Ambassador Rim Kap-soo reaffirmed South Korea's commitment to supporting vulnerable children.

News, Unicef.org, 08.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/jyjV1>



Romania sends new aid to Gaza strip worth 8.5 million lei

Romania sends new humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, consisting of food and shelter items worth 8.5 million lei. The transport is organized with the support of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations and in collaboration with UN agencies and the European Union. This is the second batch of humanitarian aid sent by Romania this year.

News, Euractiv.ro, 11.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/UxJQh>

What is Sweep, the robot made in Romania, with a laser projector and "personality", and what it can do

A groundbreaking robot named Sweep, manufactured in Romania, was recently unveiled. Equipped with a laser projector and a unique personality, Sweep can autonomously navigate various environments, avoiding obstacles and mapping spaces in real-time. This advanced technology promises to revolutionize the cleaning robot industry, offering increased efficiency and more natural interactions with users.

News, ProTV, 19.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/HwaXk>



Romania and Malta, through the foreign ministers, sign a protocol to avoid double taxation and prevent tax evasion

Romania's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luminița Odobescu, and her Maltese counterpart, Ian Borg, signed a protocol aimed at avoiding double taxation and preventing tax evasion. The agreement is intended to support the economic relations between the two countries by providing a legal framework to eliminate double taxation and prevent tax evasion. This initiative reflects the commitment of both nations to enhance economic cooperation and protect the fiscal interests of their investors and citizens.

News, Caleaeuropeană.ro, 04.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/oQL1n>

Romania reduced the tax on electricity imports and exports from and to

Romania has reduced the tax on electric energy imports and exports to and from Moldova and Ukraine. This measure aims to support Ukraine in the current context and facilitate the energy flow between the three countries, thus contributing to regional energy stability.

News, Profit.ro, 09.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/rvUay>



Romania and Ukraine sign a security agreement in Washington. The document has strictly political value, not legal

Romania and Ukraine have signed a security agreement in Washington, which is of strictly political, not legal, value. This agreement symbolizes the commitment of both countries to collaborate in the field of security and to support regional stability amid a complex geopolitical context.

News, G4Media.ro, 11.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/dgMG2>

The Republic of Moldova and Romania will implement new mechanisms to combat border crime

Collaboration perspectives between the border authorities of the Republic of Moldova and Romania were discussed by the head of the IGPF, Ruslan Galușca, and the Romanian general inspector, Cornel-Laurian Stoica. They addressed the need for new cooperation mechanisms to combat cross-border crime and facilitate traffic at the common border. Discussions also covered the introduction of new border crossing rules by Romania in the context of joining the Schengen Area and the rehabilitation of the Giurgiu-Ruse Bridge.

News, Moldpres, 13.07.2024, <https://t.ly/AiXmY>



Debate in the EU important for Romania: will the future European funds be conditional on reforms as in PNRR or will they be allocated unconditionally?

A heated debate is taking place in the European Union regarding the allocation of future European funds to Romania. The main question is whether these funds will be conditional on implementing strict reforms, similar to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), or if they will be allocated unconditionally. The final decision will significantly impact Romania's economic and structural development, influencing the country's ability to implement crucial projects for modernization and economic growth.

News, G4 Media.ro, 21.06.2024, <http://g4media.ro/>

ECA: Management errors have hindered the effective implementation of EU cohesion policy. Economic disparities persist

According to a report by the European Court of Auditors (ECA), inefficient management and implementation errors have hindered the EU's cohesion policy from effectively reducing economic disparities between regions. Despite substantial investments, economic differences persist, indicating a need for more efficient measures and rigorous monitoring.

News, Digi 24, 09.07.2024, <https://rb.gy/gzbc06>



Romania receives formal OECD approval on regional development

As part of Romania's accession process to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Committee for Regional Development Policy has adopted its formal opinion, which confirms Romania's capacity to implement the OECD legal instruments in regional development and to align its policies with OECD standards. The opinion includes recommendations for improving the policy, governance and financing framework in the field of regional development, to be implemented by the Ministry of Development.

News, Euractiv.ro, 10.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/K6Bs2>

France supports Romania's Schengen accession

France's Ambassador to Bucharest, Nicolas Warnery, said at the French National Day reception that France supports Romania's efforts to join the Schengen area as soon as possible with land borders. Romania already joined the area of free movement for sea and air borders on March 31. Mr. Warnery underlined the importance of this year for Europe, mentioning the recent European elections and the start of accession negotiations with Ukraine.

News, Euronews.ro, 12.07.2024 - <https://shorturl.at/ZNhAl>



How Romania controls its borders to stop illegal migration to the EU

Many migrants initially arrive in Romania with valid work permits or visas but later attempt to cross into Western European countries by hiding in cargo lorries, trucks, or private cars. Romanian authorities showed InfoMigrants how they try to curb irregular migration. The video is available on the InfoMigrants.net website at the link below.

News, Infomigrants.net, 17.06.2024: <https://shorturl.at/zze21>

Border Police Caught 11 Migrants from Bangladesh, Syria, Ethiopia, and Egypt Trying to Illegally Cross into Hungary

The border police at Nădlac II caught 11 migrants from Bangladesh, Syria, Ethiopia, and Egypt attempting to illegally cross into Hungary, hidden in metal rolls transported by a truck driven by a Turkish driver. The migrants, aged between 15 and 40, intended to reach the Schengen Area and are being investigated for attempted illegal border crossing. The Turkish driver is being investigated for migrant trafficking.

News, Știrepesurse.ro, 23.06.2024 - <https://shorturl.at/liYMz>



Dozens of Migrants Saved at the Last Moment from a Truck

Border police at Nădlac II, Arad County, discovered 24 migrants hidden in a truck registered in Turkey, which was transporting furniture. Several of them were dehydrated, and a SMURD ambulance intervened to transport one of the foreign nationals to the hospital. The migrants, hidden in the cargo compartment, were detected during a specific inspection. The other individuals were stabilized and are out of danger. Authorities are continuing investigations to establish the entire criminal activity.

News, TIRMagazin.ro, 01.07.2024: <https://rb.gy/reec2l>

Nine Foreign Citizens Found at the Border Hidden in a Truck Transporting Frozen Bread

Border police at Nădlac discovered nine citizens from Syria, Iraq, and Palestine hidden in a truck transporting frozen bread on the Turkey-Germany route. The migrants, aged between 19 and 52, were attempting to illegally cross the border into Hungary to reach Western European countries. The Turkish truck driver is being investigated for migrant trafficking, while the migrants are being investigated for attempted illegal border crossing.

News, Știrepesurse.ro, 12.07.2024 - <https://shorturl.at/W8pWt>



There will be a new JHA Council on Schengen this autumn. Predoiu is optimistic: Romania has reduced illegal migration by 72% in 12 months

The Minister of the Interior, Cătălin Predoiu, expressed cautious optimism regarding Romania's accession to the Schengen area, emphasizing the ongoing efforts and progress made. Predoiu highlighted that Romania has reduced illegal migration by 72% over the past 12 months and is considered an example of best practices in combating this phenomenon within the European Union. He mentioned the close cooperation with neighboring countries and European partners, including Austria and Hungary, to support diplomatic efforts. The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council, which could decide on Romania's accession to the Schengen area with land borders, will meet on October 10.

News, Șpotmedia.ro, 01.07.2024 - <https://shorturl.at/W8pWt>

Abuses and injustices faced by Asian workers in Romania

Manik and Athos, two workers from Sri Lanka, came to Romania seeking a better life but encountered abuses and low wages. Manik, a kitchen assistant, worked unpaid overtime and was hospitalized due to exhaustion. Athos, a food delivery worker, worked up to 15 hours a day to cover his expenses. While Romania has good legislation for protecting foreign workers, it is not always enforced.

Report, Hotnews.ro, 09.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/6kW2h>



EU extends temporary protection for ukrainian refugees until 2026

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, welcomed the EU Council's decision to extend temporary protection for Ukrainian refugees until March 2026. This extension ensures stability for over 4.2 million refugees, the majority of whom are hosted in Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic. In Romania, approximately 6,604 refugees have found employment, benefiting from support for socio-economic integration. UNHCR emphasizes the importance of continued support for vulnerable groups and the application of lessons learned from this crisis to other refugee contexts.

News, UNHCR Romania, 26.06.2024, <https://shorturl.at/DfHMI>

Ukrainian refugee children in Romania request Romanian language courses from authorities

Ukrainian refugee children, gathered in a forum organized by Save the Children Romania, have requested Romanian language courses, better school integration, anti-bullying measures, school canteens, and access to medical and psycho-emotional support services from the authorities. According to a survey conducted by Save the Children Romania, over half of these children frequently experienced anxiety, and some required psychological counseling. Their recommendations include setting up counseling centers, Romanian language courses taught by bilingual Ukrainian-Romanian teachers, and training teachers to work with refugee children.

News, Gazeta de Maramureș, 01.07.2024: <https://shorturl.at/qmI2N>



Rights and Assistance for Ukrainians and Foreign Refugees Under a Government Emergency Ordinance

The government has issued an emergency ordinance to ensure the social inclusion of foreign citizens and stateless persons from the armed conflict zone in Ukraine. This ordinance provides for the allocation of lump sums to cover accommodation and food expenses, granting them rights similar to those of Romanian citizens in health, education, and employment. Citizens who obtained temporary protection permits before July 1, 2024, will benefit from child state allowance, minimum inclusion income, and other social benefits. Those who obtain the permit after this date will receive a monthly lump sum for a period of four consecutive months, after which they will have access to Romania's social assistance system.

News, ProTv, 28.06.2024, <https://tinyurl.com/mp92yyje>

The first Ukrainian refugees who can prove they know Romanian: "It's very hard not to understand what those around you are saying"

The first 24 Ukrainian refugees in Romania have obtained certificates of Romanian language proficiency after a two-month intensive course, recognized by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor. They attended these courses to validate their studies and to practice regulated professions in Romania, such as accounting or medicine. The project is organized by Innovation Cons, a Romanian startup that offers certified integration and inclusion courses for foreign citizens. In total, nearly 80,000 Ukrainian refugees are currently in Romania, some of whom wish to settle permanently in the country.

News, Europa Liberă România, 07.07.2024: <https://rb.gy/zk2qrv>



Right to education in their native language for Ukrainian refugee children, respected in the Republic of Moldova. Special classes will be opened.

Over 2,300 children of Ukrainian refugees are attending schools and kindergartens in the Republic of Moldova, with new classes in Ukrainian and Romanian opening **at the 'Taras Shevchenko' Gymnasium in Chișinău for the 2024-2025 school year.** Discussions are ongoing for financial support to renovate study spaces and translate textbooks into Ukrainian. Since March 2023, over 62,000 Ukrainians have sought temporary protection in Moldova, with over 50,600 receiving identity cards and more than 2,100 being granted Moldovan citizenship.

News, Evz.ro, 12.07.2024: <https://shorturl.at/ZWOLJ>

Romanian border police on a Frontex mission in the Mediterranean Sea rescued 79 migrants

Romanian border police officers aboard the MAI 3064 patrol vessel, on a mission in Italy, rescued 79 migrants from a small wooden boat in the Mediterranean Sea, south of Lampedusa, on June 30, 2024. The operation was reported by an Italian surveillance helicopter and was carried out under difficult conditions at night, with the MAI 3064 exceeding its transport capacity. Among those rescued were 70 men, 5 women, and 4 children from Egypt, Pakistan, and Syria. The Romanian vessel, part of the Frontex Themis 2024 operation, continues to assist Italian authorities in maritime patrol and search-and-rescue missions.

News, G4Media, 12.07.2024: <https://shorturl.at/toIBx>



Romania Among EU Member States with Population Growth in 2024 Despite Declining Birth Rates

In January 2024, Romania experienced a population increase of 9,900 people compared to January 2023, reaching a total of 19.06 million residents. This growth is primarily attributed to immigration, which Eurostat estimated at 99,400 people, offsetting the decrease in birth rates, which amounted to 89,500. Romania is one of the 20 EU member states that reported a population increase during this period. Although birth rates are declining, immigration has had a positive impact on the overall population growth. Thus, immigration has become a crucial factor in sustaining population growth amidst declining birth rates.

News, Ziarul Financiar, 25.06.2024: <https://shorturl.at/NLZEt>

Breakthrough: More Romanians Returning Home Than Leaving for the West

The National Institute of Statistics (INS) has revealed that 2022 was the first year since Romania's EU accession in 2007 when more Romanians returned to the country than those who left. The analysis focuses on migration balance concerning Western countries. In 2022, Romania recorded 293,024 immigrants returning home, with 168,215 being men and 124,809 women. The majority of these returnees were between 18 and 40 years old, followed by those aged 41 to 60, while minors under 18 and seniors over 61 comprised smaller portions of the returning population.

News, Ziare.com, 28.06.2024: <https://shorturl.at/Yc7jY>



Why is the Netherlands Becoming Increasingly Attractive to Romanians?

Migration of Romanians to the Netherlands significantly increased between 2015 and 2023, nearly quadrupling compared to other European countries. This trend aligns with the broader pattern of migration from Southern to Northern Europe, while migration to Southern Europe is declining. The high proportion of pro-REPER votes from Romanians in the Netherlands during the 2024 European Parliament elections suggests a high level of education among these migrants. The analysis shows that migration to the Netherlands is positively associated with migration to Norway, Germany, Belgium, the Czech Republic, and Greece, and is particularly concentrated in urban and extracarpathian regions of Romania.

Analysis, Contributors.ro, 01.07.2024, <https://t.ly/EARFB>

2022: Romania was the EU country with the higher number citizens living in other MS of the EU

As of 2022, Romania has the highest number of its citizens living in other EU countries, with 3.15 million Romanians abroad. Poland follows with over 1.5 million Polish citizens living in the EU, while Italy and Portugal have around 1.5 million and 970,000 respectively. Despite having large populations, Germany and France have relatively lower numbers of their citizens living abroad compared to smaller EU countries like Bulgaria and Croatia. Bulgaria, with a population of about seven million, has 836,065 of its citizens living abroad, and Croatia, with fewer than four million people, has 563,773 citizens living outside the country.

Analysis, Statista, 13.07.2024, <https://shorturl.at/FyDFs>

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