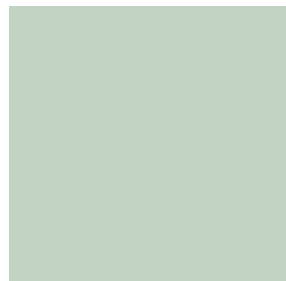


UPDATE ON 2025



ROMANIA



COUNTRY REPORT

JUNE 2026

Acknowledgements & Methodology

This 2025 update to the country report was written by JRS Romania and was edited by ECRE. The TPD annex to this report was written by JRS Romania.

The information in this report draws upon statistics and further information provided by the General Immigration Inspectorate (IGI), the General Inspectorate of Border Police (IGPF), the Ombudsman Institution, the National Employment Agency (ANOFM), the Labour Inspectorate (ITM), the General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), UNHCR Romania and the International Organization for Migration (IOM Romania), as well as Romanian NGOs, including JRS Romania, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), LOGS – Group of Social Initiatives, Habitat for Humanity and the Romanian Red Cross, Center for Comparative Migration Studies (CCMS). Requests for information were also sent to other relevant authorities and organisations, which did not provide input at the time of writing.

The information in this report is up to date as of 31 December 2025, unless otherwise stated.

The Asylum Information Database (AIDA)

The Asylum Information Database (AIDA) is managed by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). It aims to provide up-to date information which is accessible to researchers, advocates, legal practitioners and the general public through the dedicated website www.asylumineurope.org. It covers 27 countries, including 21 EU Member States (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, ES, FR, GR, HR, HU, IE, IT, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK) and 6 non-EU countries (Egypt, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Egypt). The database also seeks to promote the implementation and transposition of EU asylum legislation reflecting the highest possible standards of protection in line with international refugee and human rights law and based on best practice.

The 2025 update to the AIDA country report on Romania was shared with the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) to provide an opportunity for comments. Any feedback received was reviewed by the author and, where appropriate, incorporated into the final version of this report.



This report is part of the Asylum Information Database (AIDA) funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and ECRE. The contents of the report are the sole responsibility of the author and ECRE and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.



Table of Contents

Glossary & List of Abbreviations	6
Statistics	8
Overview of the legal framework	13
Overview of the main changes since the previous report update	15
Asylum Procedure	18
A. General	18
1. Flow chart	18
2. Types of procedures	19
3. List of authorities that intervene in each stage of the procedure	19
4. Determining authority	20
5. Short overview of the asylum procedure	22
B. Access to the procedure and registration	25
1. Access to the territory and push backs	25
2. Preliminary checks of third country nationals upon arrival	48
3. Registration of the asylum application	49
C. Procedures	51
1. Regular procedure	51
2. Dublin	68
3. Admissibility procedure	78
4. Border procedure (border and transit zones)	81
5. Accelerated procedure	86
6. National protection statuses and return procedure	92
D. Guarantees for vulnerable groups	97
1. Identification	97
2. Special procedural guarantees	100
3. Use of medical reports	101
4. Legal representation of unaccompanied children	103
E. Subsequent applications	109
F. The safe country concepts	112
1. Safe country of origin	112
2. Safe third country	113
3. First country of asylum	114
G. Information for asylum applicants and access to NGOs and UNHCR	114
1. Provision of information on the procedure	114
2. Access to NGOs and UNHCR	118
H. Differential treatment of specific nationalities in the procedure	119
Reception Conditions	120
A. Access and forms of reception conditions	120
1. Criteria and restrictions to access reception conditions	120
2. Forms and levels of material reception conditions	122

3.	Reduction or withdrawal of reception conditions	126
4.	Freedom of movement	128
B.	Housing	131
1.	Types of accommodation	131
2.	Conditions in reception facilities	134
C.	Employment and education	146
1.	Access to the labour market	146
2.	Access to education	148
D.	Health care	152
E.	Special reception needs of vulnerable groups	156
1.	Reception of unaccompanied children	158
F.	Information for asylum applicants and access to reception centres	162
1.	Provision of information on reception	162
2.	Access to reception centres by third parties	163
G.	Differential treatment of specific nationalities in reception	163
	Detention of Asylum Seekers	164
A.	General	164
B.	Legal framework of detention	166
1.	Grounds for detention	166
2.	Alternatives to detention	169
3.	Detention of vulnerable applicants	170
4.	Duration of detention	171
C.	Detention conditions	173
1.	Place of detention	173
2.	Conditions in detention facilities	174
3.	Access to detention facilities	185
D.	Procedural safeguards	187
1.	Judicial review of the detention order	187
2.	Legal assistance for review of detention	191
E.	Differential treatment of specific nationalities in detention	193
	Content of International Protection	194
A.	Status and residence	199
1.	Residence permit	199
2.	Civil registration	200
3.	Long-term residence	202
4.	Naturalisation	204
5.	Cessation and review of protection status	206
6.	Withdrawal of protection status	209
B.	Family reunification	209
1.	Criteria and conditions	209
2.	Status and rights of family members	213
C.	Movement and mobility	214

1.	Freedom of movement	214
2.	Travel documents	214
D.	Housing	215
1.	Stay in reception centres	215
2.	Social housing	217
E.	Employment and education	218
1.	Access to the labour market	218
2.	Access to education	227
F.	Social welfare	236
G.	Health care	242
ANNEX I – Transposition of the CEAS in national legislation		246
Annex II – EU Pact on Migration and Asylum		249

Glossary & List of Abbreviations

Public custody centre	Detention centre for persons facing removal or transfer under the Dublin Regulation. There are two such centres, located in Otopeni and Arad.
Regional centre	Regional Centre for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants ("reception centre"). There are six such centres, located in: Timișoara, Șomcuta Mare, Rădăuți, Galați, Bucharest and Giurgiu.
AIDRom	Ecumenical Association of Churches from Romania Asociația Ecumenică a Bisericilor din România
AJOFM	County Employment Agency Agenția Județeană Pentru Ocuparea Forței de Muncă
AJPIS	County Agency for Payments and Social Inspection Agenția Județeană Pentru Plăți Și Inspecție Socială
AMIF	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
ANOFM	National Employment Agency Agenția Națională Pentru Ocuparea Forței de Muncă
CAS	Health Insurance House Casa de Asigurări de Sănătate
CJAS	County Health Insurance House Casa Județeană de Asigurări de Sănătate
CNRED	National Centre for Recognition and Validation of Diplomas Centrul Național Pentru Recunoașterea Și Echivalarea Diplomelor
CNRR	Romanian National Council for Refugees Consiliul Național Român pentru Refugiați
DGASPC	Directorate-General for Social Assistance and Child Protection Direcția Generală de Asistență Socială Și Protecția Copilului
EASO	European Asylum Support Office
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EDAL	European Database of Asylum Law
EU	European Union
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
IGPF	General Inspectorate of Border Police Inspectoratul General al Poliției de Frontieră
ITPF	Territorial Inspectorate of Border Police Inspectoratul Teritorial al Poliției de Frontieră
IGI	General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări
IGI-DAI	General Inspectorate for Immigration – Directorate for Asylum and Integration Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări – Direcția Azil și Integrare
INML	National Institute of Legal Medicine Institutul Național de Medicină Legală
IOM ROMANIA	International Organisation for Migration Romania

IPJ	County Police Inspectorate Inspectoratul de Poliție Județean
ISJ	County School Inspectorate Inspectoratul Școlar Județean
ISR	Social Reference Index Indicator Social de Referință
ITM	Labour Inspectorate Inspecția Muncii
JRS	Jesuit Refugee Service Romania
LADO	Human Rights Defence League Liga Apărării Drepturilor Omului
LOGS	Social Initiatives Group Grupul de Inițiative Sociale
NAC	National Authority for Citizenship
ROI	Internal Rules and Regulations Regulamentul de Ordine Interioară
ANPDCA	National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption Autoritatea Națională pentru Protecția Drepturilor Copilului și Adopție
ANC	National Authority for Citizenship Autoritatea Națională pentru Cetățenie
CCMS	Center for Comparative Migration Studies Centrul pentru Studiul Comparat al Migrației

Statistics

Overview of statistical practice

Detailed statistics are not available in the annual reports published on the website of the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) Directorate for Asylum and Integration (DAI); they were provided based on the official request of the AIDA expert.

Applications and granting of protection status at first instance: figures for 2025 (1)

Regarding data collection, the system managed by the General Inspectorate for Immigration allows for obtaining statistical information based on the following criteria:

- ❖ Statistics on applicants and pending concern people including children and dependents;
- ❖ Applicants in 2025 refers to the total number of applicants and not only to first-time applicants;
- ❖ Total decisions refer to decisions to admit and to reject the asylum applications (the IGI do not uses as criteria in merit rejection/in merit admission);
- ❖ Total number of persons who were granted refugee status, subsidiary protection by IGI-DAI;
- ❖ “-” indicates that the authorities did not provide this information.

These numbers present slight divergences with the data presented in Eurostat, which are also provided by the authorities, but these do not lead to any substantial changes. This may be due to correction of data sent to Eurostat, as it is published later than when the expert received the data presented below from the authorities.

Country of origin (1)	Applicants in 2025 (2)	First-time asylum applicants in 2025 (IGI-DAI) (3)	Access to new asylum procedure (IGI-DAI) (4)	Pending applicants at end of 2025 (5)	Total decisions in 2025 (6)	Total rejection (7)	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection
Total	1,199	1,163	107	297	1,190	565	309	306
Breakdown by main countries of origin of the total numbers								
Syria	300	277	31	79	N/A	63	80	74
Palestine	182	181	N/A	N/A	N/A	70	156	152
Iraq	110	108	10	36	N/A	20	11	16
Sudan	86	84	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	4	5
Afghanistan	69	69	N/A	19	N/A	30	21	28
Ukraine	37	N/A	N/A	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bangladesh	36	N/A	N/A	16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Russian Federation	33	N/A	N/A	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Türkiye	31	N/A	6	10	N/A	15	4	6
Iran	22	N/A	11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ethiopia	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Somalia	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	17	5	6
Egypt	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	N/A	14	4	3
Nigeria	N/A	N/A	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cameroon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	6	9
Pakistan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	4	2

*Source: Information provided by the General Inspectorate for Immigration, 2 March 2026¹ and collected through Eurostat, migr_asydcfsta.

Note 1: statistics on applicants and pending concern people, including children and dependents bases on their country of origin. The rest of the columns concern a number of decisions as that is usually the (only) data available.

Note 2: "Applicants in year" refers to the total number of applicants, and not only to first-time applicants.

Note 3: Statistics regarding first time asylum applicants according to IGI-DAI.

Note 4: Statistics regarding first time asylum applicants from Eurostat website – information on Romania 2025.

Note 5: Statistics regarding pending asylum application at the end of 2025 according to IGI-DAI.

Note 6: Statistics regarding total decision according to Eurostat. Statistics on decisions cover the decisions taken throughout the year, regardless of whether they concern applications lodged that year or in previous years.

Note 7: Statistics regarding total decisions rejecting asylum application according to Eurostat.

Note 8: IGI-DAI does not provide a full numerical breakdown by main countries but only lists them by name. While both IGI-DAI and Eurostat offer data on first-time asylum applications, the figures differ and remain incomplete.

* Some figures may not reflect the exact number of cases, as Eurostat rounds data to the nearest multiple of five (e.g. 5, 10, 15). As a result, small variations may not be visible in the reported values.

¹ These figures cannot be directly compared, as approval and rejection rates vary by country of origin. In addition, decisions issued in 2025 also include cases registered in late 2024, while some applications lodged at the end of 2025 will only be decided in 2026.

Applications and granting of protection status at first instance: rates for 2025

The information in the table below is calculated by ECRE based on Eurostat data. It should be noted that several discrepancies exist compared to data provided by the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

	Overall protection rate	Refugee rate	Subsidiary protection rate	Overall rejection rate
Total	52.5%	25.7%	26.8%	47.5%
Syria	74.6%	23.8%	50.8%	25.4%
Palestine	97.2%	83.3%	13.9%	2.8%
Iraq	15.8%	10.5%	5.3%	84.2%
Sudan	94.1%	5.9%	88.2%	5.9%
Afghanistan	75%	50%	25%	25%
Ukraine	37.5%	0%	37/5%	62.5%
Bangladesh	0%	0%	0%	100%
Russian Federation	33.3%	0%	33.3%	66.7%
Türkiye	14.3%	14.3%	0%	85.7%
Iran	0%	0%	0%	100%

Source: The recognition rates are calculated by the authors of the report, based on data available on Eurostat - migr_asydcfsta.

Gender/age breakdown of the total number of applicants: 2025

	Men	Women
Number	809	390
Percentage	67.47%	32.53%

	Adults	Children	
		Accompanied	Unaccompanied
Number	1,199	356	34
Percentage	70.34%	29.69%	2.84%

Minor Asylum applicant	
Gen	TOTAL
F	153
M	203

Unaccompanied Minor Asylum applicants	
Gen	TOTAL
F	1
M	33

Vulnerable asylum applicants per category																		
Category	Minors		Unaccompanied minors		Pregnant women	Single parents with minor children		Persons with disabilities		People with mental health conditions or serious illnesses		Elderly		People who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of violence		Potential victims of trafficking		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Number	155	144	42	3	1	10	34	1	2	8	1	4	5	0	7	1	2	
Total number / category	299		45		1	44		3		9		9		7		3		
Total			420															

Source: Information provided by the General Inspectorate for Immigration, 02 March 2026.

Note: The gender breakdown (Men/Women) applies to all applicants, not only adults.

According to IGI, 298 applicants were identified as vulnerable, while a breakdown by categories indicates a total of 420 instances of vulnerability. Applicants may fall under more than one vulnerability category.

First instance and appeal decision rates: 2025

In 2025, IGI-DAI did not provide a total number of rejections at first instance, but only partial data indicating 274 rejections on the merits for the main countries of origin, while no information was available on inadmissibility decisions or appeal outcomes.² A total of 265 appeals were lodged against negative first-instance decisions on applications for international protection.³

² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

³ *ibid.*

Overview of the legal framework

Main legislative acts on asylum procedures, reception conditions, detention and content of international protection

Title (EN)	Original Title (RO)	Abbreviation	Web Link
Act No. 122 of 4 May 2006 on Asylum in Romania <i>Last updated: 23 May 2025</i>	Legea nr. 122 din 4 mai 2006 privind azilul în România <i>Formă actualizată: 23 mai 2025</i>	Asylum Act	https://bit.ly/45ONEKW (RO)

Main implementing decrees, guidelines and regulations on asylum procedures, reception conditions, detention and content of international protection

Title (EN)	Original Title (RO)	Abbreviation	Web Link
Government Decision No. 1251 of 13 September 2006 approving the Methodological Norms for the implementation of Act No. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania <i>Last updated: 18 March 2022</i>	Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 1251 din 13 septembrie 2006 pentru aprobarea Normelor metodologice de aplicare a Legii nr. 122/2006 privind azilul în România <i>Formă actualizată: 18 martie 2022</i>	Asylum Decree	https://bit.ly/4ePg6XL (RO)
Government Emergency Ordinance No. 194 of 12 December 2002 on the regime of foreigners in Romania <i>Last updated: 10 July 2025</i>	Ordonanță de urgență nr. 194 din 12 decembrie 2002 privind regimul străinilor în România <i>Formă actualizată: 10 iulie 2025</i>	Aliens Ordinance	https://bit.ly/3VSkf4u (RO)
Government Ordinance No. 44 of 29 January 2004 regarding the social integration of foreigners granted international protection or a right of residence in Romania, as well as the citizens of the Member States of the European Union, the European Economic Area and the citizens of the Swiss Confederation <i>Last updated: 10 October 2019</i>	Ordonanța Guvernului Nr. 44 din 29 ianuarie 2004 privind integrarea socială a străinilor care au dobândit protecție internațională sau un drept de ședere în România, precum și a cetățenilor statelor membre ale Uniunii Europene, Spațiului Economic European și a cetățenilor Confederației Elvețiene <i>Formă actualizată: 10 octombrie 2019</i> <i>Cadrul legislativ privind integrarea rămâne în mare parte bazat pe Ordonanța Guvernului nr. 44/2004, care nu a suferit modificări substanțiale în ultimii ani.</i>	Integration Ordinance	https://bit.ly/3XR0Pzi (RO)

<i>The legislative framework on integration remains largely based on Government Ordinance No. 44/2004, which has not undergone substantial amendments in recent years.</i>			
Decision No. 945 of November 5, 2020 for the approval of the Methodological Norms for the application of the Government Ordinance no.44/2004 regarding the social integration of foreigners who have acquired a form of protection or a right of residence in Romania, as well as of the citizens of the state's members of the European Union and the European Economic Area <i>Last updated: 12 November 2020 (no further amendments could be confirmed up to 31 December 2025)</i>	Hotărâre nr. 945 din 5 noiembrie 2020 pentru aprobarea Normelor metodologice de aplicare a Ordonanței Guvernului nr. 44/2004 privind integrarea socială a străinilor care au dobândit protecție internațională sau un drept de ședere în România, precum și a cetățenilor statelor membre ale Uniunii Europene, Spațiului Economic European și a cetățenilor Confederației Elvețiene <i>Formă actualizată: 12 noiembrie 2020 (nu au putut fi confirmate modificări ulterioare până la 31 decembrie 2025)</i>	Integration Decree	https://bit.ly/4cIlwIF (RO)
Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs No. 441 of 4 April 2008 for determining the attributions of the authorities responsible for implementing the data in the Eurodac system and for establishing the practical methodology of cooperation in the application of European regulations, with amendments and additions <i>Last updated: 22 July 2015</i>	Ordinul Ministrului Afacerilor Interne nr.441/2008 din 4 aprilie 2008 pentru stabilirea atribuțiilor autorităților responsabile cu implementarea datelor în sistemul Eurodac și pentru stabilirea metodologiei practice de cooperare în vederea aplicării regulamentelor europene în domeniu, cu modificările și completările ulterioare <i>Formă actualizată: 22 iulie 2015</i>	Ordinance 441/2008	https://bit.ly/4bwng0a (RO)
Regulation of Internal Order in the Regional Centres of Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants of 25 August 2016	Regulamentul de ordine interioară al centrelor regionale de proceduri și cazare a solicitanților de azil din 25.08.2016 Aprobat prin Ordinul Ministrului Afacerilor Interne nr. 130/2016	ROI	https://bit.ly/3RS9MVR (RO)
Regulation of Centres for Aliens Taken into Public Custody of 30 July 2014	Regulamentul centrelor de cazare a străinilor luați în custodie publică din 30.07.2014 Aprobat prin Ordinul Ministrului Afacerilor Interne nr. 121/2014	Public Custody Centres Regulation	https://bit.ly/3XO4Chm (RO)
Decision no. 1.596 of 4 December 2008 regarding the resettlement of refugees in Romania <i>Last updated: 12 February 2024</i>	Hotărâre nr. 1.596 din 4 decembrie 2008 privind relocarea refugiaților în România <i>Formă actualizată: 12 februarie 2024</i>	Resettlement Decision	https://bit.ly/45OaokQ (RO)

Overview of the main changes since the previous report update

The previous update was published in **August 2025**.

International protection

Asylum procedure

- ❖ **Key statistics:** In 2025, the number of asylum applications in Romania continued to decrease significantly compared to previous years. 1,199 applications for international protection were registered, representing a 48.6% decrease compared to 2024. The number of first-time asylum applicants also declined, from 2,344 in 2024 to 1,163 in 2025. This follows an already notable decline in 2024, indicating a sustained downward trend in arrivals and applications. Regarding decisions, in 2024 a 1,932 decisions were issued, including 1,208 rejections, whereas in 2025 the number of decisions dropped significantly to 615. Out of the total decisions issued in 2025, 309 persons were granted refugee status and 306 were granted subsidiary protection. In terms of countries of origin, while in 2024 the main nationalities included Syria, Iraq and Nepal, in 2025 the main countries of origin continued to include Syria, Palestine and Iraq, with lower overall figures. In 2025, the 30 days legal deadline for resolving asylum applications was extended for 171 asylum applications, in well-justified situations, representing 14.3% of the total number of asylum applications registered.
- ❖ **Border procedures:** In 2025, the border procedure continued to be applied only in a very limited number of cases (24 applications).
- ❖ **Pact implementation:** In 2025, the Romanian authorities continued preparations for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, which is expected to require significant legislative and institutional adjustments by June 2026. On 4 February 2026, the Ministry of Internal Affairs published in public decision-making transparency process the draft Law ensuring the transposition of EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.⁴ (see further details below - EU Pact on Migration and Asylum)
- ❖ **National Strategy on Immigration:** On 17 March 2026 the Ministry of Internal Affairs published the Draft Government Decision for the approval of the National Immigration Strategy for the period 2026 - 2030 and for the amendment and completion of Government Decision no. 572/2008 on the establishment of the Immigration Management Commission. The Strategy has not been adopted by mid-May 2026.

Reception conditions

- ❖ **Reception capacity:** Reception conditions remained broadly unchanged in 2025, with accommodation and basic services continuing to be provided in centres managed by IGI. However, the decrease in the number of asylum applicants had an impact on the reception system. With a significantly lower number of applicants in 2025 compared to 2024, pressure on reception facilities was reduced, with a lower occupancy rate registered in all reception centres compared to the previous year. No substantial changes in the types of accommodation or material reception conditions were reported. The total accommodation

⁴ Ministry of Internal Affairs, Draft Law for the establishment and organization of screening centers, as well as for the amendment and completion of certain normative acts in the field of foreigners published in the decision-making transparency procedure on 04.02.2026, (RO only), available [here](#).

capacity was of 1,100 places with the possibility of supplementing, in the existing spaces, with 262 places. The average occupancy rate during 2025 was 15.32%.

- ❖ **Reception conditions:** NGOs continued to provide complementary support through AMIF-funded projects, including information and counselling, Romanian language courses, cultural orientation, and material assistance.

Detention of asylum applicants/migrants

- ❖ **Key statistics on detention:** In 2025, a total of 397 persons were placed in detention in public custody centres, out of which 42 were applicants for international protection. At the end of the year, 29 persons remained in detention (9 in Otopeni and 20 in Arad). The average duration of detention was 35 days, although legal provisions allow detention for up to 6 months, extendable to a maximum of 18 months in specific cases. Detention continued to be carried out in two public custody centres, with a total capacity of 354 places (240 in Arad and 114 in Otopeni).
- ❖ **Detention of asylum applicants:** The use of detention remained primarily linked to return procedures, with asylum applicants representing a relatively small proportion of those detained. No individuals were reportedly placed in special arranged closed areas within reception facilities as a restrictive measure taken against asylum-seekers during the asylum procedure.
- ❖ **Detention of vulnerable individuals:** Regarding vulnerable groups, one minor was detained in 2025, with detention duration of 29 days, while two persons with special reception needs (e.g. victims of trafficking or torture) were also recorded among detainees. No unaccompanied minors were reported as detained.

Content of international protection

- ❖ **Constraints in access to rights:** Beneficiaries of international protection have access, according to the law, to a range of rights, including residence permits, access to the labour market, education, healthcare, and social assistance. In practice, however, ongoing challenges remain in the possibility to effectively enjoy these rights, particularly in relation to access to adequate and stable housing, integration on the labour market, and access to tailored support for vulnerable beneficiaries.
- ❖ **Integration:** Integration support continued to rely significantly on NGOs and AMIF-funded projects, which provided assistance such as counselling, housing, language courses, and support for access to services. In 2025, 1,019 beneficiaries of international protection originating, inter alia, from Palestine, Syria, Sudan, and Afghanistan were included in the integration programs.

Temporary protection

The information given hereafter constitutes a short summary of the 2025 Report on Temporary Protection, for further information, see [Annex on Temporary Protection](#).

Temporary protection procedure

- ❖ **Key temporary protection statistics:** According to IGI, 201,890 residence permits were issued or reissued to temporary protection beneficiaries since 2022, of which 199,358 were issued to Ukrainian citizens. According to Eurostat, 27,330 persons were granted temporary protection in Romania in 2025, while the total number of decisions granting temporary protection between

2022 and 2025 was 215,600. According to UNHCR data based on information from IGI, the top five nationalities of third-country national temporary protection holders in 2025 were Türkiye (564), the Russian Federation (553), the Republic of Moldova (383), Iraq (159), and Azerbaijan (147).

- ❖ **Access to the territory:** According to the Territorial Inspectorate of the Border Police of Sighet, 10,250 Ukrainian citizens were detected crossing irregularly from Ukraine into Romania in 2025. 37 Ukrainian nationals applied for asylum in Romania in 2025. No reports or testimonies from 2025 suggested that anyone fleeing Ukraine was refused entry at the Ukrainian-Romanian border crossing points in 2025.
- ❖ **Registration:** Registration for temporary protection was carried out by the General Inspectorate for Immigration. No problems with registration were reported and registration was described as swift, with no delays reported.

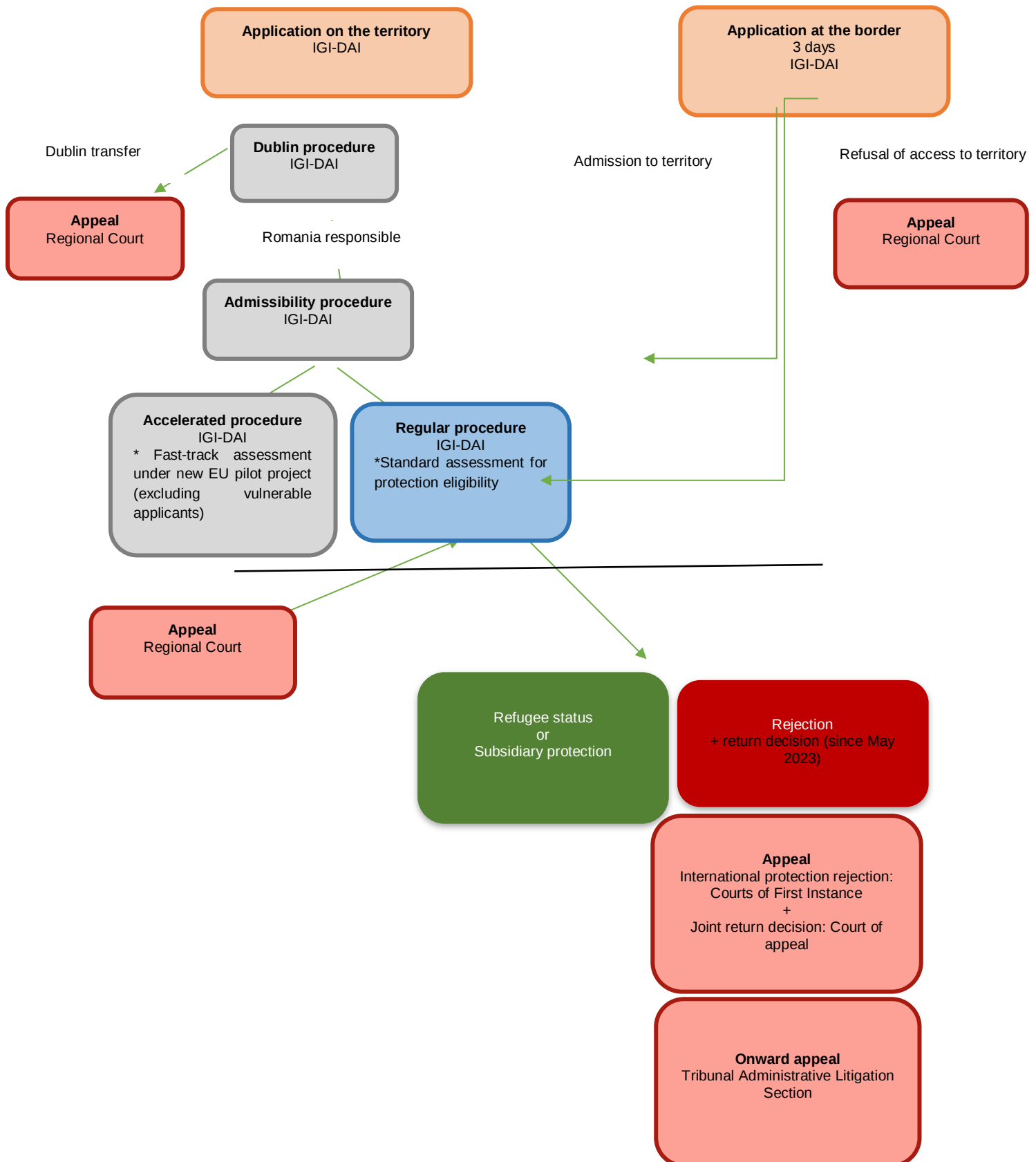
Content of temporary protection

- ❖ **Access to the labour market:** According to the National Employment Agency, 3,411 Ukrainian citizens benefited from employment support services by 31 December 2025.
- ❖ **Access to education:** One of the main barriers in the education sector remains the language, many Ukrainian children continued parallel participation in Ukrainian online education, education hubs and Romanian schools.
- ❖ **Housing:** Housing challenges persisted in 2025, including rising rental costs, delays in financial assistance and limited accommodation options for vulnerable people.
- ❖ **Access to healthcare:** Barriers to healthcare access included language barriers, long waiting times, administrative difficulties and shortages of family doctors.
- ❖ **Inclusion measures:** Romania continued implementing temporary protection for persons displaced from Ukraine under Government Decision No. 367/2022, following Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 and its subsequent extensions. Temporary protection beneficiaries are not included in the general integration framework applicable to beneficiaries of international protection or foreigners with a right of residence in Romania, while separate inclusion measures are applicable for them, based on Emergency Ordinance no. 100/2022. However, several support activities were reportedly reduced or closed in 2025 due to lack of funding.

Asylum Procedure

A. General

1. Flow chart



2. Types of procedures

Indicators: Types of Procedures

1. Which types of procedures exist in your country?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ❖ Regular procedure: | ☒ Yes | ☐ No |
| ❖ Prioritised examination: ⁵ | ☒ Yes | ☐ No |
| ❖ Fast-track processing: ⁶ | ☒ Yes | ☐ No |
| ❖ Dublin procedure: | ☒ Yes | ☐ No |
| ❖ Admissibility procedure: | ☒ Yes | ☐ No |
| ❖ Border procedure: | ☒ Yes | ☐ No |
| ❖ Accelerated procedure: ⁷ | ☒ Yes | ☐ No |
| ❖ Other: | ☐ Yes | ☒ No |

2. Are any of the procedures that are foreseen in the law, not being applied in practice?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. List of authorities that intervene in each stage of the procedure

Stage of the procedure	Competent authority (EN)	Competent authority (RO)
Application ❖ At the border ❖ On the territory	General Inspectorate for Immigration – Directorate for Asylum and Integration (IGI-DAI)	Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări – Direcția Azil și Integrare (IGI-DAI)
Dublin	General Inspectorate for Immigration – Directorate for Asylum and Integration (IGI-DAI)	Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări – Direcția Azil și Integrare (IGI-DAI)
Refugee status determination	General Inspectorate for Immigration – Directorate for Asylum and Integration (IGI-DAI)	Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări – Direcția Azil și Integrare (IGI-DAI)
First appeal (at the same time with appeal against the joint return decision)	Regional Court	Judecatorie Secția Civilă, materie: Contencios Administrativ și Fiscal
Appeal against return decision issued jointly with the international protection rejection decision	Regional Court of Appeal	Curtea de Apel materie: Contencios Administrativ și Fiscal
Onward/Second appeal	County Tribunal Administrative Litigation Section	Tribunal Secția de Contencios Administrativ și Fiscal
Subsequent application	General Inspectorate for Immigration – Directorate for Asylum and Integration (IGI-DAI)	Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări – Direcția Azil și Integrare (IGI-DAI)
Revocation and withdrawal	General Inspectorate for Immigration – Directorate for Asylum and Integration (IGI-DAI)	Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări – Direcția Azil și Integrare (IGI-DAI)

⁵ For applications likely to be well-founded or made by vulnerable applicants.

⁶ Accelerating the processing of specific caseloads as part of the regular procedure.

⁷ Labelled as “accelerated procedure” in national law.

4. Determining authority

Name in English	Number of staff	Ministry responsible	Is there any political interference possible by the responsible Minister with the decision making in individual cases by the first instance authority?
General Inspectorate for Immigration – Directorate for Asylum and Integration (IGI-DAI)	26 ⁸ decision-case officers	Ministry of Internal Affairs	☐ Yes ☒ No

The General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) is a government agency operating under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This agency is responsible for overseeing the asylum process through DAI, which is responsible for decisions on asylum applications. Additionally, IGI-DAI manages the Regional Centres for Asylum applicants, also known as reception centres, as well as specially designated closed areas within these centres. IGI-DAI may request necessary documentation from public institutions, agencies, or organizations operating in Romania to assess the applicant's situation and make a decision, while respecting confidentiality rules. In these cases, the applicant's consent is not required.⁹

The Head of IGI, known as the General Inspector, is appointed by the Minister of Internal Affairs.¹⁰ The head is assisted by two Deputy General Inspectors, selected through a competitive examination organized by IGI, in accordance with the law.¹¹ IGI-DAI includes a director and a deputy director. These positions are filled through an exam, the reassignment from a different location or by direct designation.¹² Both the institutional structure and the IGI's mandate are prescribed by Government Decision no. 639 of 20 June 2007.¹³

At the regional level, IGI-DAI operates six regional centres that are specifically designed for the accommodation of asylum applicants and the processing of their asylum cases. Each centre is managed by a director and a deputy director, supported by integration officers, personnel responsible for fingerprinting and photographing applicants, officers who conduct preliminary interviews, and case officers tasked with interviewing applicants and drafting decisions. Each centre also engages staff members specializing in logistics, finance, and medical services. Notably, the same case officers who oversee the regular procedures are responsible for managing border and accelerated procedures as well. Furthermore, the legal counsellors represent IGI in court for matters pertaining to asylum cases.¹⁴

⁸ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

⁹ Article 49(2) Asylum Act.

¹⁰ Art.2(1) DECISION no. 639 of 20 June 2007 (amended) on the organizational structure and attributions of the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

¹¹ Law no. 360/2002 on the Status of the Police Officer, available [here](#).

The Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs no. 140/2016 on the human resources management activity in the Ministry, the General Manager's Order of the General Directorate of Human Resources Management no. II/1620/15.09.2015 on procedures and forms used in human resource management activity by the Ministry of Internal Affairs

¹² Law 360/2002 on the Status of the Police Officer.

¹³ Government Decision No. 639 of June 20, 2007 on the organizational structure and duties of the General Inspectorate for Immigration, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹⁴ According to art. 5 b. 4. Government Decision No. 639 of June 20, 2007 on the organizational structure and duties of the General Inspectorate for Immigration, available in Romanian [here](#).

In both 2022 and 2021, IGI-DAI had 29 case officers.¹⁵ In 2023, the number of case officers qualified to conduct preliminary interviews increased to 39,¹⁶ but in 2024 the number of case officers dropped to 24.¹⁷ In 2025, according to information provided by IGI, the number of case officers increased to 26. According to IGI-DAI, all case officers receive specific training, through the organisation of seminars, the processing of guidelines, ad-hoc meetings, monitoring visits and quality assessment.¹⁸

Besides, information provided in individual cases if requested. Case officers are provided information regularly through the specialised department within IGI-DAI and through the materials developed by UNHCR and the European Union Agency for Asylum.¹⁹

According to the IGI 2024 report, alongside its national duties IGI was also actively engaged at the European level in 2024, notably through its participation in a pilot project coordinated with the European Commission, EU agencies, and international partners. Additionally, it played a significant role in supporting Romania's efforts to join the Schengen Area. The institution's ability to handle migration and asylum matters was underscored by its leadership in completing the National Implementation Plan for the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.²⁰

For 2025, however, no publicly available information could confirm whether IGI continued its participation in the same pilot project or similar EU-level operational initiatives. Available national reports and publicly accessible sources do not provide updated details on IGI's operational involvement in EU-coordinated pilot projects during 2025.²¹ EUAA and Romania concluded a new Operational Plan for 2025-2026.²²

EUAA involvement in decision making

Starting in May 2023,²³ competence to examine asylum applications was extended to the experts of the European Union Agency for Asylum, in accordance with article 16(2)(c) of the EUAA Regulation (EU) 2021/2303, including activities of interviewing and analysing pending asylum procedures. According to the reasoning provided by the initiator of this change, the Ministry of Internal Affairs,²⁴ the proposed addition takes into account the situation generated by the armed conflict in Ukraine, the increase in the presence of people displaced from Ukraine on the territory of Romania and who were registered as beneficiaries of temporary protection pursuant to the Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of the Council (approximately 180,000), and who can at any time request the granting of a form of international protection, either of their own volition or if they had to so following the expiration of temporary protection. In this context, it is necessary to highlight that EUAA experts are not given decision-making tasks or power: they carry out interviewing and file analysis activities, but do not directly take decisions. However, EUAA experts also support the Romanian authorities in drafting assessment reports at first instance for

¹⁵ Information provided by IGI-DAI, on the 11 March 2022 and on 22 February 2023.

¹⁶ *ibid.*, 18 January 2024.

¹⁷ *ibid.*, 23 January 2025. However, art. 48 (4) of the Asylum Act (as modified on 18 May 2023) provides that the interviewing and analysis of the reasons invoked may also be carried out by experts of the European Union Agency for Asylum, according to art. 16 para. (2) letter c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2.303.

¹⁸ *ibid.*, 22 February 2023.

¹⁹ *ibid.*

²⁰ According to the *Assessment of the activity of the general inspectorate for immigration in the year 2024* of the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), published in April 2025, summarizing its operations during 2024. Official source [here](#).

²¹ Information provided by JRS Romania, April 2026.

²² Operational plan 2025-2026 Agreed by the European Union Agency for Asylum and Romania, available [here](#).

²³ On 18 May 2023, article 48 of Section 1, Chapter V was supplemented by Point 4, Article I of Emergency Ordinance no. 35 of May 17, 2023, published in the Official Gazette no. 436 of May 18, 2023, available in Romanian [here](#).

²⁴ Ministry of Internal Affairs, *Notă de fundamentare, Ordonanță de urgență pentru modificarea și completarea unor acte normative privind domeniul străinilor și azilului în România*, available in Romanian [here](#).

applicants for international protection.²⁵ (see further under [Registration of the asylum application and Regular procedure – Personal interview](#)).

According to the EUAA, the primary challenges regarding the national asylum system are associated with limited human resources, which affect the timeliness of procedures and the quality of decision-making. Additionally, there are challenges in the existing mechanisms for identifying, assessing, and referring vulnerable individuals. Additional challenges on reception persist in the provision of information to beneficiaries, the identification and assessment of vulnerable individuals, and in addressing the existing training needs. Several needs were identified in the areas of asylum and reception. In the field of asylum, the identified needs are related to the registration and lodging of applications for international and temporary protection, as well as first-instance case processing. Additionally, a need was identified in the area of Dublin, and more particularly, in the update of Dublin-related workflows, as well as in the development or update of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), guidelines, and workflows related to vulnerability in asylum. In light of gaps identified in the provision of information, a need for support in this area through 2025 and 2026 was recognised, including providing support with information sessions as well as through the development and / or adaptation of relevant information provision materials and tools in the area of temporary protection and asylum. In light of the challenges faced by the Romanian authorities, a need to enhance their capacity through targeted training sessions was acknowledged. This includes the organisation of study visits to EU+ countries to facilitate the exchange of expertise and best practices on targeted, relevant topics. Additionally, in light of the need to better integrate the EUAA's Quality Assurance Mechanism with Romania's national system to enhance quality assurance in asylum processes, support will be provided in quality assurance in asylum. Finally, addressing the need for interpretation services will be crucial to support asylum-related activities, particularly those linked to temporary protection and asylum procedures.²⁶

5. Short overview of the asylum procedure

Application

Access to the asylum procedure is guaranteed to any foreign national or stateless person who is either on Romanian territory or at the border, from the moment they express their intention to request protection from the Romanian state, whether in writing or orally. An asylum application can be submitted at the border or within the country.²⁷

In addition to IGI-DAI, several other authorities are authorized to receive asylum applications. These include Border Police offices, police units (including those in pre-trial detention and detention centres), and structures of the National Administration of Penitentiaries under the Ministry of Justice.²⁸ The IGI-DAI must register an asylum application within a maximum of 3 working days if the application is submitted directly to them.²⁹ If the application is made to another competent authority, it must be registered within a maximum of 6 working days.³⁰ In cases of a mass influx of applications for international protection submitted to any of these authorities, the registration period may extend to 10 working days from the date the application is filed.³¹

First instance procedure

²⁵ IGI reply, provided on 25 May 2026. See also the Country Report at page number 54: *EUAA experts were involved in conducting personal interviews and drafting first-instance assessments, complementing the work of IGI-DAI officials.*

²⁶ EUAA, *Evaluation Report – Operational Support to Romania 2023–2024*, June 2025, available [here](#).

²⁷ Article 4 Asylum Act.

²⁸ *ibid.* Article 36¹(2) citing Article 35.

²⁹ *ibid.* Article 36¹(1).

³⁰ *ibid.*

³¹ *ibid.*, citing Article 35 Asylum Act.

The first instance procedure is carried out by IGI-DAI, with support from the EUAA starting from May 2023. This phase involves an administrative procedure where asylum applicants are photographed, fingerprinted, and issued a temporary identity document³² that includes a personal numeric code.³³ This temporary identity document is subject to periodic renewal.

Upon the registration of the asylum application, a preliminary interview is conducted to collect essential information regarding the applicant's personal details, as well as information about family members, relatives, or other relevant individuals. The interview also seeks to ascertain the applicant's journey from their country of origin to Romania, any prior asylum applications made in other Member States or third countries, and any identity or travel documents that the applicant possesses.³⁴ Should there be evidence indicating that another Member State holds responsibility for assessing the asylum claim, the Dublin Regulation procedure is activated, resulting in the suspension of the asylum process in Romania.

Subsequently, a case officer from IGI-DAI conducts a personal interview with the applicant. According to the law, a decision must be issued within 30 days following the assignment of the case file to the designated case officer.³⁵ In the event of a negative decision, the applicant is entitled to appeal to the Regional Court within 10 days of receiving the decision, with the appeal being effective in suspending any action until a resolution is reached.³⁶ Since May 2023, Romania has implemented legislative changes, based on which return decisions be issued simultaneously with negative asylum decisions.³⁷ This means that individuals whose asylum applications are rejected also receive a return decision, obliging them to leave Romania.³⁸ If they wish to challenge the rejection, they must also request the suspension of the return decision. Notably, appeals against return decisions are filed with the Court of Appeals within the jurisdiction of the Regional Reception Centre that issued the decision, differing from the courts handling asylum appeal cases. For details see [Return procedure](#).

Accelerated procedure

The Asylum Act establishes an accelerated procedure for handling manifestly unfounded asylum applications. This includes applications from individuals who, due to their activities or affiliation with a specific group, pose a threat to national security or public order in Romania, as well as applications from individuals arriving from safe countries of origin.³⁹ The accelerated procedure can be initiated during the regular process if the case officer identifies sufficient grounds for it.⁴⁰ A decision must be made within 3 days from the start of the accelerated procedure.⁴¹ If a negative decision is issued in the accelerated procedure, it can be appealed within 7 days of receiving the decision. If the appeal is submitted within this timeframe, it automatically suspends the decision.⁴² The court's ruling on the appeal is considered final and cannot be contested.⁴³

³² *ibid.* Article 17(1)(h). Such a document is not issued to applicants: (i) who have applied for asylum at a border crossing point, as long as they have not been granted access to the territory by a decision of IGI-DAI; (ii) detained in public custody for reasons of national security and public order requesting asylum, as long as this measure is maintained; and (iii) who are taken into public custody due to a "significant risk of absconding" in a Dublin procedure.

³³ Article 17(1[^]1) Asylum Act.

³⁴ *ibid* Article 43(1).

³⁵ *ibid* Article 52(1).

³⁶ *ibid* Article 55(1).

³⁷ EMERGENCY ORDINANCE No. 35 of May 17, 2023 for the amendment and completion of certain normative acts regarding the field of foreigners and asylum in Romania, available [here](#).

³⁸ Art. 70 Asylum Act.

³⁹ *ibid* Article 75(1). Note: Romania does not have a list of safe countries of origin. This is related also to diplomatic relations between Romania and third countries. However, Romania considers EU countries to be safe.

⁴⁰ Article 78 Asylum Act.

⁴¹ *ibid.* Article 79.

⁴² *ibid.* Article 80(1).

⁴³ *ibid.* Article 81(2).

In 2023, Romania participated in a European Commission pilot project aimed at fast-tracking asylum and return procedures. This initiative led to an enhanced application of the accelerated procedure, with a focus on swiftly identifying both eligible cases and applicants with vulnerabilities. Notably, vulnerable individuals were exempted from the accelerated process and referred for appropriate support.⁴⁴

The accelerated procedure received renewed interest in Romania through the pilot initiated re. crossings at the Serbian-Romanian border (see [The European Commission pilot with Romania and cooperation with Frontex](#) and [Accelerated procedure](#)). The pilot project ended in October 2023, showing positive outcomes and identifying best practices. As a result, Romania and the European Commission decided to extend and broaden this collaboration into 2024, further improving the expedited asylum procedures and border management methods.⁴⁵

According to IGI-DAI,⁴⁶ in 2025 a total of **162** asylum applications were analysed in an accelerated procedure.

Statistics on the Accelerated Asylum Procedure		
No.	Country of origin	Asylum Requests Processed Under Accelerated Procedure (first five countries of origin)
1.	Bangladesh	26
2.	Iraq	22
3.	Nepal	16
4.	Sri Lanka	15
5.	Pakistan	12

Of the total number of applications for international protection processed under an accelerated procedure, only one application was submitted by an unaccompanied minor in 2025.⁴⁷

According to The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), in several cases, the applicant understands their case has been channelled in an accelerated procedure only after receiving a negative decision.⁴⁸

Border procedure

The border procedure applies to asylum and subsequent applications submitted at a border-crossing point. The law stipulates a 3-day deadline for issuing a decision regarding the border procedure.⁴⁹ Similar to the accelerated procedure, if a negative decision is made, it can be appealed within 7 days from the date of notification. The court's decision in this case is final and cannot be overturned.⁵⁰

According to IGI-DAI, the total number of asylum requests processed under border procedure in 2025 was 24, including 1 unaccompanied minor.⁵¹

⁴⁴ EUAA, 'Accelerated Procedures', Asylum Report 2024, available [here](#).

⁴⁵ European Commission, 'Reporting on the results of the Pilot Project for fast asylum and return procedures with Romania', 26 June 2024, available [here](#).

⁴⁶ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁴⁷ *ibid.*

⁴⁸ Meeting with NGOs during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 17 March 2025.

⁴⁹ Article 82 Asylum Act.

⁵⁰ *ibid.* Article 86(2).

⁵¹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

Statistics on the Asylum Border Procedure		
No.	Country of origin	Asylum Requests Processed Under Border Procedure (first five countries of origin)
1.	Russian Federation	11
2.	Morocco	3
3.	Azerbaijan	3
4.	Syria	2
5.	Afghanistan	1

Appeal

The second phase of the asylum procedure consists of a two-instance judicial review procedure. The Regional Court has jurisdiction as first-instance judicial review. The County Tribunal, Administrative Litigation Section (Administrative County Court), has jurisdiction over the area of the Regional Court whose decision is appealed. These courts are not specialised in asylum.⁵²

B. Access to the procedure and registration

1. Access to the territory and push backs

Indicators: Access to the Territory

- Are there any reports (NGO reports, media, testimonies, etc.) of people refused entry at the border and returned without examination of their protection needs? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- Is there a border monitoring system in place? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- Who is responsible for border monitoring? ☐ National authorities ☒ NGOs ☒ Other (UNHCR)
- How often is border monitoring carried out? ☒ Frequently ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

According to a report of the Romanian Border Police from 2022, asylum applicants arrive in Romania mainly by land through the south-western border with Serbia,⁵³ through the southern border with

⁵² Articles 64 and 67 Asylum Act.

⁵³ Border Police, 'Doisprezece migranți din India și Pakistan, sprijiniți de un cetățean român, depistați la granița cu Serbia', 14 February 2022, available in Romanian [here](#); 'Doisprezece cetățeni din Afganistan și Pakistan, depistați de polițiștii de frontieră timișeni', 23 April 2022, available in Romanian [here](#); Cetățean sârb cercetat în stare de arest preventiv pentru trafic de migranți, 25 November 2022, available in Romanian [here](#).

Bulgaria,⁵⁴ and through the northern border with Ukraine.⁵⁵ In 2024, Romanian authorities intercepted multiple cases of attempted irregular border crossings through the Danube river, including a group of 19 Syrian migrants crossing by boat, while dismantling a large smuggling network facilitating irregular transit via the river; no casualties were reported.⁵⁶ According to information published by the Romanian Border Police, the main methods used for irregular border crossing in 2025 continued to include concealment in means of transport, irregular crossing through green border areas, and the use of false or falsified documents. These practices were identified in various regions of the country, reflecting a diversification of routes and modalities depending on the border segment.⁵⁷

The Border Police have reported that persons who are detected by border guards in connection with an unauthorised crossing of the state border and who do not make an asylum claim are returned to the neighbouring state, either on the basis of readmission agreements concluded by the European Union with third countries (Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia), or on the basis of bilateral treaties (Bulgaria, Hungary). They receive an entry ban for 5 years which is communicated and includes information on the reason and possibility to challenge the measure. This information is provided with the help of an authorised interpreter.⁵⁸

In 2024, CNRR established a daily presence at Border Crossing Points (BCPs) with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, specifically at Sighetu Marmăției, Siret, and Isaccea for Ukraine, and at Sculeni, Albita, and Galați for Moldova. In addition to this daily presence, CNRR conducted 16 independent monitoring missions at the borders with Ukraine, Moldova, and Bulgaria, as well as at international airports. The border monitoring activities are based on thorough assessments, taking into account previous reports, alleged incidents, statistical data, and other information collected directly from the Border Police, IGI, FDSPs, or through third parties. The visits are announced in advance to ensure the availability of relevant stakeholders.⁵⁹ During the visits, CNRR has access to the BCP, but not to the transit zone.⁶⁰

In 2025, independent border monitoring continued to be carried out by CNRR, UNHCR's implementing partner, as well as by UNHCR through monitoring missions at several border crossing points. CNRR maintained a daily presence at three strategic border crossing points at the Romanian border with Ukraine (Isaccea, Siret and Sighetu Marmăției) until May 2025. Following the discontinuation of this presence due to funding constraints, monitoring activities continued in the form of ad hoc or targeted missions. Throughout 2025, CNRR conducted 15 monitoring missions at the borders with Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Hungary, as well as at Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport. Monitoring activities continued to rely on assessments of previous reports, alleged incidents, statistical data and information gathered directly from the Border Police, IGI, FDSPs or through third parties.⁶¹

⁵⁴ Border Police, 'Cetățean libian, depistat ascuns într-un autocamion la PTF Giurgiu', 26 January 2022, available in Romanian [here](#); 'Doi cetățeni străini depistați ascunși în cabina unui autocamion, sub o saltea', 19 January 2022, available in Romanian [here](#); 'Un migrant în stare de hipotermie, ascuns pe șasiul unui autocamion, salvat de polițiștii de frontieră doljeni', 14 February 2022, available in Romanian [here](#); 'Patru cetățeni afgani ascunși printre covoare, depistați de polițiștii de frontieră doljeni', 26 March 2022, available in Romanian [here](#); 'Trei cetățeni afgani, ascunși într-un TIR încărcat cu piese auto', 09 March 2022, available in Romanian [here](#); 'Cinci cetățeni străini ascunși printre conserve și sucuri, descoperiți în P.T.F. Giurgiu', 06 June 2022, available in Romanian at [here](#); 'Șoferul unei autoutilitare arestat preventiv pentru trafic de migranți', 04 June 2022, available in Romanian [here](#); 'Doi cetățeni sirieni depistați ascunși în podeaua unui autoturism la PTF Calafat', 08 August 2022, available in Romanian [here](#); 'Șoferul unei autoutilitare cercetat în stare de arest preventiv pentru trafic de migranți', 19 September 2022, available in Romanian [here](#); 'Opt cetățeni sirieni, ajutați de doi cetățeni români, descoperiți de polițiștii de frontieră giurgiuveni în timp ce încercau să treacă ilegal frontieră', 26 November 2022, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁵⁵ Border Police, 'Depistați din elicopter când au trecut ilegal frontiera', 21 April 2022, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁵⁶ Agerpres, 'O navă s-a scufundat în Marea Neagră, în apropiere de Sf. Gheorghe; opt persoane salvate, trei dispărute', 18 May 2024, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁵⁷ Romanian Border Police, *Activitatea Poliției de Frontieră în 2025 – primele zece luni*, available [here](#).

⁵⁸ Information provided by Border Police, 3 March 2021.

⁵⁹ Information provided by CNRR, February 2025.

⁶⁰ Meeting with NGOs during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 17 March 2025.

⁶¹ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026. Information provided by UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

According to CNRR and UNHCR, monitoring visits are announced in advance in order to ensure the availability of relevant stakeholders. UNHCR also reported conducting monitoring visits during the second half of 2025, including at Siret, Sighetu Marmăției and Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport. Both organisations reported that they did not encounter obstacles when carrying out monitoring activities and were granted access, including at airport facilities. Contact information for referrals is available at most major border crossing points through information boards displaying the contact details of CNRR and UNHCR.⁶²

1.1 Readmissions to neighbouring countries

Over the years, according to the information provided by IGI-DAI,⁶³ the Romanian Government has concluded readmission agreements with 18 countries, among which: the Republic of Moldova, Albania, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Türkiye, Russia Federation, Georgia, Ukraine, India, Iraq, Armenia and China. According to CNRR, both returns and readmissions are made based on protocols, so these decisions are based on legal provisions and notified to the persons in question.⁶⁴

In recent years, Romania has seen a significant decline in the number of returns to neighbouring countries under readmission agreements. According to the Border Police, 1,396 individuals were returned in 2022, compared to 831 in 2021.⁶⁵ However, by 2023, this number dropped sharply to 214, with returns decreasing notably at the borders with Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, and the maritime border.⁶⁶ In 2024, under the readmission agreement with Serbia, less than 40 individuals were returned, marking a significant decrease compared to previous years.⁶⁷ According to the AIDA Serbia 2024 report, in 2024, a total of 20 individuals were officially readmitted from Romania to Serbia under the EU–Serbia Readmission Agreement, including 15 adult males, 1 underage male, 2 adult females, and 2 underage females.⁶⁸ In 2025, comprehensive national data on returns under readmission agreements were not publicly available at the time of writing. However, regional Border Police reports indicate that readmission procedures, particularly to Serbia, continued to be applied in practice, including in cases of persons apprehended at the border.⁶⁹

Information published by regional Border Police structures indicates different dynamics across border segments. In the Western region, a decrease in irregular migration, particularly secondary movements, was reported, alongside an increased use of readmission procedures to Serbia.⁷⁰ At the same time, at the northern border with Ukraine, irregular crossings continued to be recorded, including cases involving Ukrainian nationals crossing through difficult terrain such as river or mountainous areas, often involving significant risks.⁷¹ According to the Border police, a total of 84 persons were detected crossing irregularly into Romania, the majority being subsequently returned to Serbia under readmission agreements.⁷²

⁶² Information provided by UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

⁶³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁶⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 7 February 2023.

⁶⁵ Information provided by Border Police, 6 April 2023.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 16 January 2024.

⁶⁷ Meeting with the General Inspectorate of the Border Police (IGPF) during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 18 March 2025.

⁶⁸ Information provided by the Ministry of Interior of Serbia, Department for Readmission, 07–2/25 and 07–34/24, cited in AIDA, *Country Report: Serbia – 2024 Update*, July 2025, available [here](#).

⁶⁹ Most of the 84 persons detected were returned to Serbia under readmission agreements. Romanian Border Police – Territorial Inspectorate Timișoara, *Activități pentru prevenirea și combaterea migrației ilegale – 2025*, available [here](#).

⁷⁰ Romanian Border Police – Territorial Inspectorate Timișoara, *Activități pentru prevenirea și combaterea migrației ilegale – 2025*, available [here](#).

⁷¹ Romanian Border Police – Territorial Inspectorate Sighetu Marmăției, *Analiza activității 2025*, available [here](#).

⁷² Information provided by IGPF, 09 March 2026. See Romanian Border Police – Territorial Inspectorate Timișoara, *Activități pentru prevenirea și combaterea migrației ilegale – 2025*, available [here](#).

1.2 Access to Romanian territory and asylum: statistics and practices

In 2024, a significant decrease (over - 60%) in the migratory pressure at the Romanian border with Serbia was observed, despite other countries in the region seeing an increase in the number of arrivals. In 2024, the Border Police reported that 259 people were prevented from entering the country, the indicator decreasing by 67% compared to 2023.⁷³ In the past years, significantly less arrivals were registered on the border near Timișoara compared especially to the period between 2016 and 2021. According to the Border Police, the decrease in the number of arrivals at this border is due to an increased focus on migration management at this border and to the collaboration with border authorities of Serbia to prevent the irregular crossing of migrants from the neighbouring country.

This shift, however, is likely also to be attributed to an overall shift of the Balkan migratory route. Following Croatia's Schengen accession, migration routes shifted, as it became easier and more cost-effective for irregular migrants to travel through Croatia instead of entering Romania and transiting through Hungary.⁷⁴

The figures reported for 2025 indicate a continued decrease in migratory pressure at Romania's borders. According to information provided by the Romanian Border Police, in 2025 a total of 12,066 persons were detected attempting to enter Romania irregularly. When broken down by type of border, 22 persons were detected at the maritime border, 23 at airports and 12,744 at the land border. The total number of persons detected in connection with irregular border crossings reached 12,789, which also includes 587 persons identified while attempting to exit Romania irregularly and 136 persons whose travel direction was interrupted by the authorities. According to the Romanian Border Police, the largest group of persons detected in connection with irregular entry attempts in 2025 were Ukrainian nationals (10,955). Other nationalities included Iraqi (475), Syrian (249), Moroccan (104), Turkish (81), Iranian (64), Bangladeshi (58), Egyptian (53), Afghan (46) and Chinese nationals (46), while 189 persons belonged to other nationalities.⁷⁵

According to IGPF,⁷⁶ in 2024, Romanian border authorities identified 18,396 foreign nationals attempting to irregularly cross into Romania. This number includes more than 14,800 Ukrainians who entered the country seeking protection from the Romanian government.⁷⁷ Moreover, 2,389 foreign nationals were found trying to irregularly leave Romania, mostly at the Hungarian border. In most of these cases, the individuals had originally entered Romania legally with work visas and were attempting to continue their journey toward Western Europe.⁷⁸ The main nationalities of the people attempting to cross the border are Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, Nepal, Bangladesh, Turkey, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and India.⁷⁹

As a comparison with 2023, the total number of registered irregular crossings in 2024 decreased slightly (18,396 in 2024 vs. 19,793 in 2023), but the proportion of protection-seeking individuals, especially Ukrainians, increased. The number of irregular exits in 2024 (2,389) dropped substantially compared to 2023 (12,278), possibly due to enhanced border controls or shifting migration routes. Even though migration patterns indicate a shift, Romania remains a transit country, especially for legally employed migrants attempting secondary movement toward Western Europe.

According to the 2025 activity report of the Territorial Inspectorate of the Border Police (ITPF) Timișoara, in 2025 a significant decrease in irregular migration was observed in the inspectorate's area of competence, particularly with regard to secondary movements. On the entry route into Romania, border

⁷³ Romanian Border Police, *Evaluarea activității Poliției de Frontieră Române desfășurate în anul 2024*, 19 February 2025, available [here](#).

⁷⁴ Meeting with IGPF during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 18 March 2025.

⁷⁵ Information provided by IGPF, 09 March 2026.

⁷⁶ Romanian Border Police, 'Analiza activității Poliției de Frontieră Române pe anul 2023', 13 February 2024, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁷⁷ Romanian Border Police, *Evaluarea activității Poliției de Frontieră Române desfășurate în anul 2024*, 19 February 2025, available [here](#).

⁷⁸ *ibid.*

⁷⁹ *ibid.*

authorities detected 84 persons who had crossed the state border irregularly, most of whom were returned to Serbia under readmission agreements. On the exit route from Romania, attempts to cross the border irregularly decreased significantly, with a reduction of 85% in attempts to cross towards Serbia and 91% towards Hungary compared to 2024. Secondary movements continued to involve mainly nationals of South Asian countries, particularly Nepal and Sri Lanka, who enter Romania legally for work or studies and subsequently attempt to leave the country irregularly in order to reach Western European states. The authorities also reported a 51% decrease in the number of persons involved in migrant smuggling offences compared to 2024, which was attributed to strengthened operational measures, including intensified border surveillance, additional patrols, the use of technical monitoring equipment and drones, joint Romanian–Serbian patrols, cooperation with neighbouring authorities and the deployment of approximately 260 FRONTEX officers within Joint Operation Romania 2025.⁸⁰

According to ITPF Timisoara, in 2024, it was more common to observe individuals attempting to leave Romania and cross irregularly into other countries. Many of these individuals enter the country on work visas but do not comply with the intended purpose of their stay.⁸¹ The 78% decrease in irregular exit attempts from Romania between 2023 and 2024 suggests a decline in the number of people entering with work visas and subsequently seeking to move onward. Notably, since 2017, there have been no incidents involving the use of firearms or complaints related to excessive force by ITPF Timisoara.⁸² More recently, a decrease in both arrivals and exit attempts has been observed, potentially as a result of shifts in migration routes and enhanced border surveillance measures implemented by the Romanian Border Police.⁸³

According to GRETA, pushbacks heighten trafficking risks by fostering distrust in officials, forcing asylum seekers into unsafe migration routes and discouraging them from reporting exploitation. Additionally, some interlocutors pointed out that undocumented migrants were deported without risk assessments.⁸⁴

1.2.1 People detected crossing or attempting to cross the border entering Romania and people apprehended for irregular entry

In 2024, the European Union recorded a 38% decline in the number of irregular border crossings compared to the previous year, according to data published by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex). The national border police identified a total of 18,396 foreign nationals who entered the country by irregularly crossing the border, approximately the same number as in 2023. This figure includes over 14,800 Ukrainian citizens who sought protection from the Romanian state upon their arrival.⁸⁵ According to the Romanian Border Police, the countries of origin of those apprehended at the border in 2024 included Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, Nepal, Bangladesh, Turkey, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and India. However, no disaggregated statistical breakdown per nationality was made publicly available in the official report.⁸⁶

⁸⁰ Romanian Border Police, Evaluarea activității Inspectoratului Teritorial al Poliției de Frontieră Timișoara pe anul 2025, 26 February 2025, available [here](#).

⁸¹ Meeting with ITPF Timisoara during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 20 March 2025.

⁸² *ibid.*

⁸³ *ibid.*

⁸⁴ Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), Evaluation Report Romania, Fourth Evaluation Round, Measures to prevent and detect vulnerabilities, to human trafficking, published on 12 November 2025, available [here](#).

⁸⁵ Romanian Border Police, Evaluarea activității Poliției de Frontieră Române desfășurate în anul 2024, 19 February 2025, available [here](#). However, according to the General Inspectorate for Immigration, a number of 4,507 Ukrainian citizens have been registered as asylum-seekers in Romania between 24 February 2022 and 31 December 2024, available [here](#).

⁸⁶ The information is based on the Romanian Border Police's official 2024 activity report. For detailed data and context, see the *Evaluation of the Activities of the Romanian Border Police in 2024* (March 19, 2025), Available [here](#).

Over 351 people, Romanian and foreign citizens, were charged for being involved in migrant smuggling by supporting foreign citizens in their attempt to illegally cross the border. Regarding the nationality of the people detected while attempting an irregular border crossing, most of those detected were nationals of the following countries: Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, Nepal, Bangladesh, Turkey, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India.⁸⁷

If we refer to the mode of action at the border in relation to the total number of people detected crossing or attempting to cross, 85% of migrants were detected attempting to irregularly cross a green border. 12% tried to cross borders by hiding in means of transport. 2% attempted to cross at maritime and river areas using boats. 1% were detected trying to irregularly cross using other methods, such as false travel documents and visas, person substitution, or avoiding border controls.⁸⁸

According to information provided by the Romanian Border Police, in 2025 a total of 12,066 persons were detected attempting to enter Romania irregularly, representing a decrease compared to 2024, when 18,396 persons were detected in connection with irregular border crossings. The majority of detections in 2025 occurred at the land border, while a small number of cases were recorded at the maritime border and airports. The largest group of persons detected attempting irregular entry were Ukrainian nationals, followed by Iraqi, Syrian, Moroccan, Turkish, Iranian, Bangladeshi, Egyptian, Afghan, Chinese and other nationals.⁸⁹ Disaggregated statistical data by type of border (land, sea, air) were not publicly available at the time of writing. However, available regional data indicate that detections are concentrated along the land borders, particularly at the borders with Serbia and Ukraine.⁹⁰

Persons apprehended for irregular entry	
2019	2,048
2020	6,658
2021	9,053
2022	4,966
2023⁹¹	19,793 ⁹²
2024	18,396
2025	12,066

At the regional level, the Territorial Inspectorate of the Border Police (ITPF) Timișoara strengthened border control measures and collaborated with Serbian authorities to address migration challenges.⁹³ Information published by ITPF Timișoara indicates that in 2025, a total of 84 persons were detected crossing the state border irregularly into Romania in the inspectorate's area of competence, most of them at the border with Serbia. According to the Border Police, the majority of these persons were subsequently returned to Serbia under the applicable readmission agreements. The authorities reported that the number of irregular entries detected at the Serbian border remained significantly lower than in previous years,

⁸⁷ Romanian Border Police, *Evaluarea activității Poliției de Frontieră Române desfășurate în anul 2024*, 19 February 2025, available [here](#).

⁸⁸ *ibid.*

⁸⁹ Information provided by IGPF, 09 March 2026.

⁹⁰ Romanian Border Police – Territorial Inspectorate Timișoara, *Activități pentru prevenirea și combaterea migrației ilegale – 2025*, available [here](#). Romanian Border Police – Territorial Inspectorate Sighetu Marmăției, *Analiza activității Inspectoratului Teritorial al Poliției de Frontieră Sighetu Marmăției pe anul 2025*, available [here](#).

⁹¹ Information provided by Border Police, 16 January 2024

⁹² Ministry of Internal Affairs, 'Main results of the activities carried out by MAI structures in 2023 for crime prevention and combating, as well as citizen protection', available in Romanian [here](#).

⁹³ Timișoara Border Police Territorial Inspectorate, *Evaluarea activității Inspectoratului Teritorial al Poliției de Frontieră Timișoara pe anul 2024*, 20 February 2025, available [here](#).

reflecting strengthened border surveillance measures and continued cooperation with Serbian border authorities.⁹⁴

Data on the total number of cases of prevented irregular entries in 2025 were not publicly available at the time of writing. However, the Border Police reports indicate a continued decrease in irregular migration and attempts to cross the border, suggesting that preventive measures remained in place.⁹⁵ Romanian authorities also prevented 268 irregular entries in 2024, a 67% decrease from 2023 (804 cases) and a striking 99% drop from 2022 (27,469 cases). According to the border police, this was due to improved surveillance, including the use of thermal cameras, Frontex's "Sparrow2" aerial missions, and real-time data exchange with Serbia. Secondary migration toward Hungary also dropped by 77%, with only 18 cases involving 56 migrants, compared to 38 cases and 244 migrants in 2023.⁹⁶

To combat smuggling, the judicial police at ITPF Timișoara targeted trafficking networks, leading to 16 individuals being investigated while at liberty and legal measures against 45 individuals – with 11 arrests and 34 persons placed under judicial supervision. These efforts reflect Romania's ongoing commitment to securing its borders and addressing irregular migration through surveillance, cooperation, and enforcement.⁹⁷ Regarding combating migrant smuggling, in 2025 the number of people involved in such crimes decreased by 51% compared to 2024, which reflects the efficiency of the operational measures adopted.⁹⁸

According to ITPF Timișoara, following Romania's entry into the Schengen Area, two internal borders remain in place, where the Border Police has continued to allocate personnel and resources. Joint operations are being conducted in coordination with both Hungarian and Bulgarian authorities to combat irregular migration networks, supported by effective inter-agency communication. Additionally, Romania has contributed 40 police officers to the joint deployment at the Turkish-Bulgarian border, alongside Austria, Hungary, and Bulgaria. These coordinated efforts have contributed to a noticeable decrease in irregular migration between Bulgaria and Romania.⁹⁹ This was the case up to early 2025. These coordinated efforts have contributed to a noticeable decrease in irregular crossings between Bulgaria and Romania.

According to ITPF Timișoara, in 2025 the number of people involved in migrant smuggling decreased by 51% compared to 2024, which reflects the efficiency of the operational measures adopted. In the context of anti-smuggling efforts, the following measures were ordered:¹⁰⁰

- An optimal number of patrols was created by supplementing the personnel allocated to surveillance activities;
- The technical means of surveillance were diversified and supplemented (thermal imaging, fixed and portable observation equipment, helicopters, drones and Frontex aircraft);
- Approximately 260 officers of the European Agency FRONTEX were integrated into the border police device, within the Joint Operation JO ROMANIA 2025;
- The interventions of joint (Romanian-Serbian) ad-hoc patrols were used effectively, acting promptly in the event of border events;
- Efficient cooperation with the authorities of neighbouring states by organizing mixed patrols to combat cross-border crime, as well as meetings for the exchange of data and information;

⁹⁴ Romanian Border Police, Evaluarea activității Inspectoratului Teritorial al Poliției de Frontieră Timișoara pe anul 2025, 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

⁹⁵ Romanian Border Police, *Bilanțul Poliției de Frontieră pentru anul 2025*, available [here](#).

⁹⁶ Romanian Border Police, Evaluarea activității Inspectoratului Teritorial al Poliției de Frontieră Timișoara pe anul 2025, 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

⁹⁷ *ibid.*

⁹⁸ *ibid.*

⁹⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ ITPF Timișoara, Evaluation of the activity of the Timișoara Border Police Territorial Inspectorate for 2025, published on 26 February 2026, available only in RO [here](#).

- Organization and implementation of actions in an integrated system in which all M.A.I. structures participate to detect foreigners with irregular entry/stay on Romanian territory;
- Application of compensatory measures after Romania's entry into the Schengen Area by organizing and implementing BLITZ and HOT-SPOT type actions, in cooperation with national authorities and similar bodies of neighbouring states.

1.2.2 Pushbacks: refusals of entry and people 'prevented from entering' Romania

In 2025, 10,135 foreign nationals were refused entry at Romania's external borders, representing a slight decrease compared to 2024.¹⁰¹ In 2024, Romanian border authorities denied entry to 10,266 foreign nationals who did not meet the legal requirements for entering the country, representing an increase by 41.7% compared to 2023.¹⁰²

Persons issued refusals of entry into Romania	
2019	7,640
2020	12,684
2021	11,232
2022	9,044
2023	7,089
2024	10,266 ¹⁰³
2025	10,135 ¹⁰⁴

According to ITPF Timișoara, which oversees border security in Timiș, Caraș-Severin, and Mehedinți counties (mainly at the border with Serbia), the statistics for individuals stopped from entering the country in this region alone were as follows:

Persons prevented from entering Romania according to the ITPF Timișoara	
2019	6,107
2020	34,938
2021	75,303
2022	27,469
2023	803
2024	268 ¹⁰⁵
2025	N/A

In 2024, a significant decrease (over 60%) in the migratory pressure at the border with Serbia was observed, regardless of the high number of arrivals that were still registered by other countries in the Western Balkans region. In 2024, only 259 people were prevented from entering the country at the border

¹⁰¹ Eurostat, *Third country nationals refused entry at the external borders – annual data (rounded)*, available [here](#).
¹⁰² The information is based on the Romanian Border Police's official 2024 activity report. For detailed data and context, see the *Evaluation of the Activities of the Romanian Border Police in 2024* (March 19, 2025), Available [here](#).

¹⁰³ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ Eurostat, *Third country nationals refused entry at the external borders – annual data (rounded)*, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁵ Timișoara Border Police Territorial Inspectorate, *Evaluarea activității Inspectoratului Teritorial al Poliției de Frontieră Timișoara pe anul 2024*, 20 February 2025, available [here](#).

with Serbia, which represented a 67% decrease compared to 2023.¹⁰⁶ In 2025, updated data on persons prevented from entering at the border with Serbia were not made available. As previously mentioned, in recent years, arrivals have dropped significantly, largely due to migration routes shifting after Croatia's Schengen entry, reducing pressure on the once-busy Timișoara border.¹⁰⁷ This decline is also likely due to a police operation in Serbia that took place in the end of 2023 during which migrants were forcibly evacuated from the entire northern border area with Hungary and Romania. 7,000 people were relocated to different camps in southern areas without being informed of their destination.¹⁰⁸

Information published by the Territorial Inspectorate of the Border Police (ITPF) Timișoara indicates that the declining trend in migratory pressure at the Serbian border continued in 2025, particularly with regard to secondary migration movements. Border authorities reported a significant reduction in irregular migration incidents in the inspectorate's area of competence, which was attributed to strengthened surveillance measures, operational cooperation with Serbian border authorities and the continued deployment of joint patrols and Frontex personnel within Joint Operation Romania 2025.¹⁰⁹

Refusal of entry procedure and appeal

Pursuant to the Aliens Act, refusal of entry is motivated by the Border Police authorities and it is immediately communicated to the person concerned, using the form provided in Part B of Annex V of the Schengen Borders Code and the National Visa Centre within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.¹¹⁰ This form is provided to the person concerned in Romanian and English.¹¹¹

As the Aliens Act does not foresee a special remedy against the decision of refusal of entry, general administrative law applies.¹¹² As a result, the person concerned may lodge an action against the decision before the Administrative Court with territorial jurisdiction over the area in which the issuing body of the contested administrative act is located.¹¹³

Prior to lodging an appeal at the Administrative Court, the person, who considers that their rights have been breached by an administrative act issued by a public institution, shall appeal to the issuing public authority within 30 days. The complaint should be addressed to the hierarchically superior body if there still is one (for example when the act had already been taken by a superior there might no longer be a hierarchically superior body).¹¹⁴ The appeal is assessed in 30 days.¹¹⁵ An appeal lodged to the Administrative Court without fulfilling this prior procedural step will be declared inadmissible. The complaint and the appeal to the Administrative Court have no suspensive effect.

The applicant may request the suspension of the administrative act to the competent court, when lodging the prior appeal,¹¹⁶ or when appealing to the court.¹¹⁷

¹⁰⁶ Romanian Border Police, Evaluarea activității Poliției de Frontieră Române desfășurate în anul 2024, 19 February 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁷ Meeting with the General Inspectorate of the Border Police during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 18 March 2025. See also: ECRE/AIDA, Country Report on Serbia – Update on 2024, July 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁸ Pushed, beaten, left to die, European Pushback Report 2024, February 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁹ Romanian Border Police, Evaluarea activității Inspectoratului Teritorial al Poliției de Frontieră Timișoara pe anul 2025, 26 February 2025, available [here](#).

¹¹⁰ Article 8(4) Aliens Act.

¹¹¹ Information provided by Border Police, 12 February 2020.

¹¹² Act 554/2004 on Administrative Litigation.

¹¹³ *ibid.* Articles 6-18.

¹¹⁴ *ibid.* Article 7(1).

¹¹⁵ *ibid.* Article 7(4) in conjunction with Article 2(1) g).

¹¹⁶ *ibid.* Article 14.

¹¹⁷ *ibid.* Article 15.

The Aliens Act prescribes that the foreigner against whom the measure of non-entry to Romania has been taken has the possibility to voluntarily leave the border crossing point within 24 hours. The term is calculated from the time when the measure of non-entry to Romania was ordered.¹¹⁸

Upon the expiration of the 24-hour term, the decision of refusal of entry to Romania is enforced by the Border Police, taking into account the state of health of the person concerned. The person is sent to the country of origin or to another destination accepted both by the person and the third state concerned, except Romania.¹¹⁹ The consequence of this provision is that the foreigner against whom a decision of refusal of entry was taken has only 24 hours to lodge the appeal against the decision.

If the Border Police needs more than 12 hours to carry out the removal from the border-crossing point, the individual is accommodated in a space arranged for this purpose in the transit area, or, if this is not possible, to another location established outside the border-crossing point with transit area status.¹²⁰

The Aliens Act prescribes a special procedure when the foreigner declares to the Border Police authorities that, in case they were forced to leave the border crossing point, they would have to go to a state where they fear that their life is endangered or they will be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and they do not submit an asylum application.¹²¹ When this occurs the Border Police officers shall immediately inform IGI-DAI, which, within maximum of 10 days, shall analyse the situation of the foreigner and determine whether the declaration is well-founded.¹²² If a person's statement is unfounded, IGI-DAI communicates the decision to the border police authorities, which will inform the person concerned in this respect.¹²³

If the foreigner's declaration is well-founded, IGI-DAI will enforce the decision of refusal of entry to Romania by removal under the escort of the foreigner. The provisions of the Aliens Act on removal under the escort, public custody of foreigners and toleration status on the territory of Romania apply accordingly.¹²⁴

Reported pushbacks

No new documented pushback incidents were reported in 2025.

In a report published in May 2024, the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) reported incidents of pushbacks at the Serbia-Romania border. In spring, the Serbian organization InfoPark revealed details of a violent pushback from Romania, where a man from Kazakhstan claimed he was subjected to physical violence by Romanian police before being forcibly returned to Serbia.¹²⁵ UNHCR received information on five incidents of lack of access to an asylum procedure where the person concerned reported to have asked for international protection at the border.¹²⁶

Regarding border incidents, UNHCR Romania reported that on three occasions in January 2023, Romanian government authorities at the border with Serbia pushed back refugees and asylum applicants from third countries transiting through Serbia.¹²⁷ The US Department of State 2023 report mentioned that according to NGOs, several incidents of harassment, discrimination, abuses against refugees and asylum

¹¹⁸ Article 9(1) Aliens Act.

¹¹⁹ *ibid.* Article 9(2).

¹²⁰ *ibid.* Article 9(3).

¹²¹ *ibid.* Article 9(5).

¹²² *ibid.* Article 9(6).

¹²³ *ibid.* Article 9(7).

¹²⁴ *ibid.* Article 9(8).

¹²⁵ BVMN, *Balkan Regional Report*, May 2024, available [here](#).

¹²⁶ Meeting with UNHCR during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 19 March 2025.

¹²⁷ US Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour, *2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Romania*, April 2024, available [here](#).

applicants, pushbacks, and deviations from asylum procedures at border areas occurred throughout the year. Most incidents were not reported because of fear, lack of information, inadequate support services, and inefficient redress mechanisms. CNRR reported¹²⁸ that persons claimed that potential abuses at the border were notified to the border police, and the institutional response was hesitant, including denial of access to potential beneficiaries at Otopeni Airport, while there were gaps in access to the territory and the asylum procedure, mainly in situations involving other nationals than Ukrainians (Russian Federation or Belarus) who were allegedly 'discouraged entry to Romania' by Border Police officers.

1.2.3 Applications for asylum at border crossing points

According to the Border Police, asylum applications are generally not submitted at border crossing points, as legislation restricts access to Romanian territory, permitting a maximum stay of 20 days within transit zones.¹²⁹ When a third-country national is apprehended for irregular crossing and submits an asylum claim, the border police may detain the individual for up to 24 hours solely to conduct a preliminary interview related to the irregular entry.¹³⁰ Upon receipt of an asylum request, the IGI is promptly notified, and the border police also inform the UNHCR implementing partner accordingly.¹³¹

According to information provided by IGI-DAI, 24 asylum applications were processed under the border procedure in 2025, including one application submitted by an unaccompanied minor. The main countries of origin of applicants whose claims were examined under the border procedure in 2025 were the Russian Federation (11 applications), Morocco (3 applications), Azerbaijan (3 applications), Syria (2 applications), and Afghanistan (1 application).¹³²

In 2023, 772 third-country nationals applied for asylum at the border crossing points.¹³³ According to IGI-DAI, a total of 45 applications for international protection were processed under a border procedure, in accordance with Article 43 of Directive 2013/32/EU.¹³⁴ The top five countries of origin for applicants in this procedure were: the Palestinian Authority in Palestine, with 31 applications, followed by Uzbekistan (3 applications), Ukraine (2 applications), Syria (2 applications), and the Russian Federation (2 applications).¹³⁵ In 2025, a total of 24 applications for international protection were processed under the border procedure. The main countries of origin were the Russian Federation (11 applications), Morocco (3), Azerbaijan (3), Syria (2), and Afghanistan (1).¹³⁶

The figures confirm that the border procedure continues to be used only in a limited number of cases in Romania, with most asylum applications being registered after the applicant has been transferred to reception centres on the territory and examined under the regular procedure.

According to CNRR, asylum applications continue to be rarely lodged directly at border crossing points in practice. In 2025, the organisation received 11 requests for assistance from individuals who reported having expressed the intention to seek international protection in the border area. Four individuals confirmed that their asylum applications were registered. In the remaining cases, the persons concerned stated that their intention to apply for international protection had not been acknowledged and that they had been returned to third countries previously transited. CNRR notified the Border Police regarding these cases; however, the authorities reported that no asylum request had been made in those situations.¹³⁷

¹²⁸ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

¹²⁹ Meeting with the General Inspectorate of the Border Police during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 18 March 2025; Art. 87 Asylum Act.

¹³⁰ *ibid.*

¹³¹ *ibid.*

¹³² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

¹³³ Information provided by the Border Police, 16 January 2024.

¹³⁴ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

¹³⁵ *ibid.*

¹³⁶ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

¹³⁷ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

UNHCR also reported a limited number of cases involving potential difficulties in accessing the asylum procedure at the border. Based on UNHCR's observations, the main obstacles appear to relate to language barriers and interpretation challenges. In several instances, local intervention by CNRR and/or UNHCR contributed to solving the situation.¹³⁸

1.2.4 Issues related to exiting Romania

While irregular entry or stay in Romania committed by persons who have been granted a form of protection is not punishable,¹³⁹ irregular exit from the country is punishable under the Criminal Code by imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years or a fine.¹⁴⁰

According to the Romanian Border Police, 587 persons were detected in 2025 while attempting to leave Romania irregularly, representing a significant decrease compared to the cases recorded in 2024.¹⁴¹

At the regional level, the Border Police Inspectorate of Timișoara reported a significant decrease in attempts to cross irregularly from Romania into neighbouring countries in 2025. Attempts to cross irregularly towards Serbia decreased by approximately 85%, while attempts at the border with Hungary decreased by around 91% compared to the previous year. According to the authorities, cases of secondary movements continued to involve mainly nationals of South Asian countries, particularly Nepal and Sri Lanka, who had initially entered Romania legally for work or study purposes.¹⁴²

In 2024, 2,389 foreign citizens were detected while attempting to irregularly cross a border into neighbouring countries, with most of them being detected at the border with Hungary. In these cases, it is mostly about the migration towards Western European Countries of the labour force coming from foreign countries to Romania, meaning individuals who entered the country legally, with work visas.¹⁴³

1.2.5 Measures taken by Romanian authorities to “close migration routes” and limit irregular entries

In 2024 according to the Romanian Border Police, 259 migrants were prevented from entering Romania via the Serbian border - a 67% decrease compared to the 803 prevented in 2023. Irregular border crossings declined by over 60% following enhanced collaborative measures with Serbian authorities.¹⁴⁴ In 2025, available information indicates a continued decrease in irregular migration along the Western border, including the Serbia route. According to regional Border Police data, in the area of competence of the Territorial Inspectorate Timișoara, only 84 persons were detected crossing irregularly into Romania, the majority of whom were returned to the Serbian authorities under readmission agreements.¹⁴⁵ No updated data on the number of persons prevented from entering Romania in 2025 were publicly available.

In 2024, Romanian authorities intensified efforts to combat migrant trafficking along key border segments, particularly those with Serbia and Hungary. According to the Romanian Border Police, a total of 728 individuals suspected of being involved in migrant smuggling networks (guiding, transporting, facilitating

¹³⁸ Information provided by UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

¹³⁹ Article 11 Asylum Act.

¹⁴⁰ Article 262(1) Criminal Code.

¹⁴¹ Information provided by IGPF, 09 March 2026.

¹⁴² Romanian Border Police, Evaluarea activității Inspectoratului Teritorial al Poliției de Frontieră Timișoara pe anul 2025, 26 February 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁴³ Romanian Border Police, Evaluarea activității Poliției de Frontieră Române desfășurate în anul 2024, 19 February 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁴⁴ The information is based on the Romanian Border Police's official 2024 activity report. For detailed data and context, see the *Evaluation of the Activities of the Romanian Border Police in 2024* (March 19, 2025)

¹⁴⁵ Romanian Border Police – Territorial Inspectorate Timișoara, *Activități pentru prevenirea și combaterea migrației ilegale – 2025*, available [here](#).

illegal entry) were identified and detained—representing a 30.5% increase compared to the previous year. This significant rise occurred despite an overall drop in irregular migration figures, suggesting more targeted law enforcement and intelligence-led operations. In 2025, this approach continued, with Border Police reports highlighting a focus on enhanced surveillance, risk-based controls, and operational cooperation aimed at identifying and dismantling migrant smuggling networks.¹⁴⁶

These efforts were supported by a comprehensive package of measures, including:¹⁴⁷

- ❖ Reinforced surveillance along the western and southern borders;
- ❖ Joint patrols and operations with the National Police, Gendarmerie, and the General Inspectorate for Immigration;
- ❖ Mobile controls in key transit areas such as the vicinity of Timișoara's North Station, a known hotspot for secondary movement;
- ❖ The deployment of aerial surveillance missions, supported by FRONTEX and the Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- ❖ Participation in the Joint Operation Terra 2023, extended into 2024, focused on external EU border control with Serbia, Ukraine, and Moldova. No information on its continuation in 2025 was publicly available at the time of writing.

In 2024, as mentioned above, the overall number of arrivals from the Serbian border further dropped compared to the previous year. Beyond a general decrease in the number of arrivals on the route, the Romanian Border Police also implemented a series of measures directed at curbing irregular arrivals at this specific border, such as deploying new technology, strengthening surveillance at key borders, increasing patrols with advanced equipment, and conducting aerial surveillance and joint operations with national security forces.¹⁴⁸ According to the Border Police, in 2024, irregular crossings at the Romania-Serbia border showed more departures from Romania to Serbia than entries from Serbia. This shift is likely due to challenges in Hungary and easier access through Croatia. Fingerprints taken upon entry to Romania increase the risk of people being identified and returned from other EU countries. Authorities recorded 125 detection events involving 526 third-country nationals: 172 attempts to exit Romania irregularly, 30 entries from Serbia, 59 unauthorized presences in the border zone, 251 irregular stays in Romania, and 34 readmissions from Serbia.¹⁴⁹

In 2025, available regional data indicate that this trend continued, with a further decrease the number of attempted irregular crossings along the Romania–Serbia border. According to the Territorial Inspectorate of the Border Police Timișoara, attempts to exit Romania irregularly towards Serbia decreased significantly compared to the previous year, while irregular entries remained limited and were primarily addressed through readmission procedures. Attempts to cross the border irregularly exiting Romania decreased by 85% at the border with Serbia and by 91% at the border with Hungary compared to the previous year. Some secondary movements continued to be observed, particularly involving third-country nationals who had entered Romania legally for work or study purposes and subsequently attempted to leave the country irregularly.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁶ Romanian Border Police, *Bilanțul Poliției de Frontieră pentru anul 2025* and regional activity reports, available [here](#).

¹⁴⁷ The information is based on the Romanian Border Police's official 2024 activity report. For detailed data and context, see the *Evaluation of the Activities of the Romanian Border Police in 2024* (March 19, 2025), available [here](#).

¹⁴⁸ Romanian Border Police, *Evaluarea activității Poliției de Frontieră Române desfășurate în anul 2024*, 19 February 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁴⁹ Meeting with the General Inspectorate of the Border Police during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 18 March 2025.

¹⁵⁰ Romanian Border Police – Territorial Inspectorate Timișoara, *Activități pentru prevenirea și combaterea migrației ilegale – 2025*, available [here](#).

1.2.6 The European Commission pilot with Romania and cooperation with Frontex

After Romania's accession to the Schengen area, the number of applications for international protection did not increase, as it may have been expected. One consequence of Romania being part of the Schengen area is that border crossings are no longer subject to systematic checks, but rather to non-systematic and potentially more profile based controls.¹⁵¹

Starting in March 2023, Romania implemented a six-month pilot project initiated by the European Commission. The pilot included a "border management and international cooperation" component, given the Terra Joint Operation with Frontex across all of Romania's external land borders, especially that with Serbia which is "considered of critical importance" by the Commission. The Commission made available EUR 10.8 million to Romania for reinforcement of the management of the EU's external borders, in addition to Romania's national allocations under the BMVI, which is of EUR 129.77 million for the period 2021-2027. The Commission considers recent activities at Romania's border with Serbia to be good practices to be further enhanced through:

- ❖ Continued "successful management" of the external border with Serbia, with "continued activities for prevention of irregular migration" through common patrols with Serbian authorities;
- ❖ Europol continued support to the Romanian Police and Border Police, to be extended;
- ❖ Romania maintaining "maximum hosting capacity for Frontex standing corps officers for border surveillance" at the border with Serbia, and expanding their access to databases for a "more efficient use of the standing corps"
- ❖ Deployment of Frontex mobile surveillance vehicles operation for border surveillance as Frontex aerial surveillance.
- ❖ The Commission is to assess potential needs for funding for more equipment in order to maintain "a high level of border surveillance and control at the Romanian-Serbian border".

The pilot also included aspects related to asylum, particularly the [Accelerated procedure](#) and a [joint return decision](#) together with the international protection rejection; and other measures to streamline return, and the enhancement of voluntary returns.

In October 2023, at the end of the 6-month pilot, the European Commission reported¹⁵² "solid results" and "best practices identified" in all three aspects of the pilots. Regarding border management specifically, according to the European Commission,¹⁵³ Romania continued to demonstrate "successful management" of its external borders with Serbia, based on activities for prevention of irregular migration with the Serbian authorities. The following activities, realised in those 6 months, were highlighted as "good practices" by the European Commission:

- ❖ Joint patrol missions: a total of 448 joint patrols on the territory of both States were carried out.
- ❖ Joint "ad hoc" patrols: 140 cases with 422 people were registered and following exchanges of information with the Serbian authorities, 34 migrant smugglers were identified and further investigated by the relevant authorities. Where there is concrete operative information or other indications regarding a border event, the signatory parties can organise joint "ad hoc" patrols. Supporting the activities in question can also be carried out with the help of some means of aerial surveillance (Frontex surveillance aircraft, helicopter, drones).
- ❖ International cooperation with Serbia: according to agreed procedures, the Romanian and Serbian authorities constantly exchange information about any aspects related to irregular migration, in order to prevent and combat cross-border criminality through Common Contact Point Portile de Fier I. At the same time, Romania is an active host of the Joint Operation Terra by Frontex that covers the entirety of its external land border sections with Serbia, Ukraine and

¹⁵¹ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹⁵² European Commission, *Reporting on progress made the Pilot Project for fast asylum and return procedures with Romania*, October 2023, available [here](#).

¹⁵³ *ibid.*

Moldova. The border section with Serbia is considered of critical importance and deployments for green border surveillance “fully meet” the operational needs agreed between Frontex and Romania.

At a public event, an official from the Ministry of Internal Affairs described the pilot as enabling Romanian authorities to identify groups of migrants approaching the Serbian-Romanian border and thus to notify Serbian authorities “long before they reach the border”. According to the official, the Serbian authorities then have an obligation to intervene, and manage to do so most of the time. These preventive activities contribute to reducing “illegal” flows. According to the statistics presented, only 221 “aliens having entered illegally through Serbia” submitted asylum applications to the border police in 2023, as opposed to 1,455 in 2022, i.e. an over 80% decrease. The project is presented as a “whole of route cooperation” initiative that involved Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and the European Commission. It has allowed for improved cooperation with the Serbian authorities but also with Frontex, whose staff, through a change in legislation in May 2023, can now access all relevant databases.¹⁵⁴

Following the results that were considered to have been achieved through the 2023 EU pilot project, Romania continued in 2025 to strengthen its border management capacities and deepen cooperation with both Frontex and Serbian authorities. The Romanian Border Police maintained the strategic approach established during the pilot, including coordinated patrols, real-time data exchange, and targeted risk-based controls at the border with Serbia, which remains a critical area for the EU’s external border policy. In addition, Frontex Standing Corps are present at the Romanian-Serbian border, within the Terra 2023 operational area, using Mobile Surveillance Vehicles.¹⁵⁵

These developments reflect Romania’s continued alignment with EU priorities on border governance and migration control, and the institutionalization of practices initially introduced under the 2023 pilot.¹⁵⁶

As regards border management, among other things, Romania continued to implement a “strategic approach to apprehensions and border controls” with the aim of addressing irregular migration and preventing secondary movements, to ensure a constant level of preparedness at the external borders, and building on the cooperation established between Romania and Frontex in the context of the pilot project and going forward.¹⁵⁷ In June 2023, FRONTEX launched operation Centurion, as a new pilot project in Romania taking into account the rapidly growing number of officers, the agency considered it needs to take steps to reinforce the command in the field and decentralise some of its activities for better coordination and communication with host country authorities.¹⁵⁸ According to CNRR, in 2025, in relation to border monitoring and collecting information at the border, the focus has shifted from Romania’s borders with EU Member States (Bulgaria, Hungary) to external borders (Romania’s borders with Serbia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova). As a result, it has become more difficult to collect information and identify possible fundamental rights violations or at the borders with Bulgaria and Hungary, particularly since the Romanian Border Police’s main priority when migrants are detected at these borders is to apply readmission agreements.¹⁵⁹

In 2024:

¹⁵⁴ Presentation by the Head of Risk Analysis Department, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romania, in Panel 3, ‘A new system for the border’, at the *EMN Belgium Presidency Conference*, 25 June 2023, video available [here](#).

¹⁵⁵ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹⁵⁶ The information is based on the Romanian Border Police’s official 2024 activity report. For detailed data and context, see the *Evaluation of the Activities of the Romanian Border Police in 2024* (March 19, 2025)

¹⁵⁷ European Commission, *Cooperation framework between the European Commission, the EU Agencies and Romania*, 2023, available [here](#).

¹⁵⁸ FRONTEX, ‘Frontex launches new pilot project in Romania’, 18 June 2023, available [here](#).

¹⁵⁹ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

- Romania sustained its role as an active host for the Joint Operation Terra, with deployments covering all external land borders with Serbia, Ukraine, and Moldova.¹⁶⁰
- The Commission confirmed ongoing support for Romania's green border surveillance activities, building on the operational framework established during the pilot phase.¹⁶¹
- FRONTEX operation Centurion, launched in 2023, was further consolidated in 2024 as a mechanism to reinforce field command and improve direct coordination with Romanian border authorities.¹⁶²
- Legislative reforms enacted in 2023 allowing Frontex officers access to relevant Romanian databases were fully operationalized in 2024, facilitating more effective cooperation on surveillance and return.¹⁶³
- According to the personnel at Moravita BCP, there are always 2 Frontex border guards that work in shifts with different areas of expertise.¹⁶⁴

According to CNRR, these elements, combined with changes in migratory routes, documented practices at the Bulgaria-Turkey border, a more restrictive EU migration and asylum policy, limited possibilities for people to leave areas of persecution, and the systematic use of readmission agreements, have contributed to a decrease in the number of asylum applications in Romania.¹⁶⁵

1.2.7 III-treatment at the border

2025: No publicly available sources reported on systematic ill-treatment at the border.

2024: According to the Border Violence Monitoring Network (via InfoPark), in spring 2024 a man from Kazakhstan reported being physically assaulted by Romanian police before being forcibly returned to Serbia. This represents one of the few documented incidents, and while overall pushback figures are low, the presence of physical violence - including alleged beatings - remains a serious concern.¹⁶⁶

2023: For the year 2023, CNRR¹⁶⁷ states that, based on discussions its legal counsellors had with asylum applicants, some of them said that they had been hit or had experienced other abusive behaviour on the Romanian territory, for example at border crossings in the western region of Romania. The abuse behaviour described by them consisted in using a high tone of voice, applying strokes (in the abdomen/legs area), not granting permission to use the toilet for a certain period of time. For example, in Timisoara, a Russian citizen, who applied for asylum at the Moravita Border Crossing Point, during the asylum procedure at the border, stated that the Romanian authorities did not show respect towards him, the border police officers displaying a disrespectful attitude.

Most of the incidents related to Romania were reported on by various organisations mainly present in Serbia. KlikAktiv¹⁶⁸ reported cases of “formalised push-backs” between Romania and Serbia which clearly violated the people’s right to seek asylum and the principle of non-refoulement with deportations of higher numbers of third country nationals, including people seeking international protection, back to Serbia by applying the readmission agreement between the EU and Serbia without an effective assessment of protection needs or asylum claims. One person seeking international protection was deported from

¹⁶⁰ The information is based on the Romanian Border Police’s official 2024 activity report. For detailed data and context, see the *Evaluation of the Activities of the Romanian Border Police in 2024* (March 19, 2025), available [here](#).

¹⁶¹ *ibid.*

¹⁶² *ibid.*

¹⁶³ *ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ Meeting with the Border Police at Moravita BCP, 21 March 2025.

¹⁶⁵ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹⁶⁶ As documented in the Border Violence Monitoring Network’s May 2024 report, a Kazakh national reported being physically assaulted by Romanian police before being forcibly returned to Serbia, available [here](#).

¹⁶⁷ Information provided by CNRR, 16 January 2024.

¹⁶⁸ KlikAktiv, Pro Asyl (Network of German refugee councils), *Formalizing Pushbacks – The use of readmission agreements in pushback operations at the Serbian-Romanian border*, 2023, available [here](#).

Romania to Serbia immediately after he was caught on Romanian territory. Were also documented cases of people transferred back to Romania under Dublin further deported to Serbia based on the readmission agreement. Also, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung¹⁶⁹ reported that several dozen thousand persons were pushed back from Croatia and Romania.

CNRR received reports from people claiming potential abuses at the border, which were subsequently brought to the attention of the border police. The answer of the authorities to these claims remained limited. For instance, CNRR was not granted access to potential beneficiaries of international protection at Otopeni Airport, despite having notified the relevant authorities of possible rights violations.¹⁷⁰

1.2.8 International reactions regarding access to the Romanian territory

In 2023, the UN Committee for the Prevention of Torture¹⁷¹ noted that there was a lack of experienced, qualified interpreters to assist in victim identification processes, and in the asylum system more generally and recommended that the authorities ensure access to its territory and sufficient and effective protection from *refoulement* at borders by making sure that people seeking asylum at the border receive appropriate information about their rights, including information on procedures, appeal mechanisms and legal aid, immediately and in a language that they understand.

In 2022, GREVIO¹⁷² reported delayed access to legal representatives, NGOs and UNHCR of people apprehended at the border (in some cases, they have received information about people apprehended at the border who may need international protection, only after they had been readmitted to neighbouring countries or denied access to Romanian territory) and asked that the authorities ensure effective provision of accessible, easy-to-understand and gender-sensitive information on protection measures, to persons apprehended at the borders, prior to their application for readmission/return procedures.

According to the European Annual Asylum and Migration Report 2025,¹⁷³ Romania recorded one of the highest numbers of refusals of entry at the EU's external borders. According to data from Eurostat, 10,135 persons were refused entry at Romania's external borders in 2025.¹⁷⁴ The report highlights that sustained efforts are needed to strengthen the quality and resilience of the Schengen area's external borders, reflecting continued attention at EU level on border management practices.

In 2025, Romania became a full member of the Schengen area following the decision of the Council of the European Union in December 2024 to lift land border controls as of 1 January 2025.¹⁷⁵ This development marked the completion of a process that lasted more than a decade, during which Romania had been considered technically ready for accession but faced repeated political delays¹⁷⁶. A first step in the accession process took place in March 2024, when controls at air and maritime borders were lifted, allowing partial integration into the Schengen area.¹⁷⁷ Full accession was achieved only in a second stage, with the removal of controls at land borders as of 1 January 2025, following agreement at EU level.¹⁷⁸ The

¹⁶⁹ Nikola Kovačević, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, *Human Rights Pushbacks in the Western Balkans*, December 2023, available [here](#).

¹⁷⁰ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

¹⁷¹ UN committee for the Prevention of Torture, CAT/C/ROU/CO/3/23.08.2023, *Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Romania*, August 2023, available [here](#).

¹⁷² Council of Europe GREVIO Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, *Baseline Evaluation Report Romania [GREVIO/Inf(2022)6]*, June 2022, available [here](#).

¹⁷³ See [here](#). See also [here](#).

¹⁷⁴ Eurostat Database, Third country nationals refused entry at the external borders – annual data, available [here](#).

¹⁷⁵ Council of the European Union, *Schengen: Council decides to lift land border controls with Bulgaria and Romania*, 12 December 2024, available at [here](#).

¹⁷⁶ European Commission, *Schengen area: Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia*, Press release IP/22/6945, 16 November 2022, available [here](#).

¹⁷⁷ European Commission, *Bulgaria and Romania join the Schengen area*, 3 January 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁷⁸ Council of the European Union, *Schengen: Council decides to lift land border controls with Bulgaria and Romania*, 12 December 2024, available at [here](#).

two-step accession process took place in a broader context at EU level, including discussions on migration management and the strengthening of external border security.¹⁷⁹

Following the Council Decision of 12 December 2024, checks on persons at the internal land borders with and between Romania and Bulgaria were lifted as of 1 January 2025.¹⁸⁰ The European Commission also welcomed the decision, stating that it would strengthen the Schengen area.¹⁸¹ In addition, discussions at EU level in the context of the Justice and Home Affairs Council emphasized priorities related to strengthening security and the protection of external borders, as well as the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.¹⁸² Reactions from Member States were generally supportive but remained linked to concerns regarding migration management and border security. In particular Austria,¹⁸³ which had previously blocked Romania's full accession, lifted its opposition following negotiations at EU level concerning migration and border management.¹⁸⁴

1.3 The bipartite agreement on border monitoring

In Romania there is a framework on border monitoring, which takes place under a bipartite agreement between UNHCR and IGPF. CNRR is UNHCR's implementing partner as described in the Memorandum of Understanding. The border monitoring activities include formal meetings with the authorities, monitoring missions at border crossing points and public custody centres, and counselling sessions on international protection with people who request assistance at the border.

When carrying out monitoring activities, there were no major obstacles. However, when immediate intervention is needed, the access of the counsellors is delayed by formal notifications and prior approvals. CNRR will have further meetings with the Border Police to discuss a quicker way of accessing persons of concern in urgent cases.

Visits are usually conducted at border crossing points where a relevant number of entries or exits was registered. The number of visits conducted depends on the circumstances, such as the number of arrivals, influx of migrants.

In case of regular monitoring visits, the Border Police is notified in advance. In case of emergency interventions regarding specific asylum cases, the Border Police is notified on the same day or shortly before the visit is conducted.

In 2024, there were 16 monitoring visits at the borders with Ukraine, Moldova, and Bulgaria, as well as in International Airports. The visits were carried out by CNRR, as implementing partner of UNHCR, based on a memorandum of understanding among the three parties.¹⁸⁵ In addition, Frontex maintained its presence through regular monitoring, conducting more than four to five visits annually to ITPF Timisoara.¹⁸⁶

In 2025, border monitoring activities continued, although with some adjustments. According to CNRR and UNHCR, monitoring at border crossing points was carried out mainly through ad hoc or targeted

¹⁷⁹ European Commission, *Bulgaria and Romania partially join Schengen area*, Press release IP/24/1283, 30 December 2023, available [here](#).

¹⁸⁰ Council of the European Union, *Schengen: Council decides to lift land border controls with Bulgaria and Romania*, 12 December 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁸¹ European Commission, *Bulgaria and Romania become fully part of Schengen*, Statement, 11 December 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁸² European Commission, Justice and Home Affairs Council: Bulgaria and Romania becoming fully part of Schengen, 13 December 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁸³ Euronews, *Austria lifts veto on Schengen accession of Romania and Bulgaria*, November 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁸⁴ Reuters, *Austria drops opposition to Romania and Bulgaria joining Schengen*, 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁸⁵ UNHCR, CNRR and IGPF. Information provided by CNRR, February 2025.

¹⁸⁶ Meeting with ITPF Timisoara, 20 March 2025.

monitoring missions, following the discontinuation of CNRR's regular presence at most border crossing points in May 2025 due to funding constraints. Nevertheless, monitoring visits continued to be conducted at key locations, including Siret, Sighetu Marmatiei and Bucharest Otopeni International Airport, and access to border facilities was generally granted by the authorities. Frontex also continued to support Romanian authorities through operational deployments and cooperation activities at the external borders.¹⁸⁷

1.4 Information provision, interpretation at the border and NGO access

Information provision

According to the Asylum Act, if there are elements that indicate that a foreigner intends to apply for international protection in Romania in the context of pre-trial detention or detention facilities, penitentiaries, border crossing points or transit area, the competent authorities for the asylum application provide information on the possibility of submitting the request.¹⁸⁸

As regards the information about the possibility to make an asylum application, the Border Police stated that the territorial structures of the Border Police have leaflets in several international languages in circulation, including Arabic, Kurdish, Pashto, and Farsi. The leaflets cover information on the rights and obligations of asylum applicants and information regarding the assistance provided by NGOs.¹⁸⁹

The Border Police reported that they provide information both orally and in writing. The available leaflets in English, French, Arabic and different dialects of the Arabic are made by UNHCR. No interpreter is present at the information session.¹⁹⁰

In 2025, contact information for referrals is ensured at the border through information boards displaying the contact details of CNRR and UNHCR, which are available at most major border crossing points.¹⁹¹

In 2024, CNRR had daily presence in BCPs with Ukraine and Republic of Moldova, namely Sighetu Marmatiei, Siret and Isaccea (with UA) and Sculeni, Albita and Galati (with MD). Information on asylum is available at the BCPs via UNHCR-placed visibility materials. However, given the chosen location of the materials, it is not always accessible to those who may be in need of protection and do not receive access to territory. The information is complemented with CNRR-designed flyers on the asylum procedure, available in 6 languages. Governmental materials on asylum are not available at the BCPs, nor a language-sensitive information.¹⁹²

In 2023, CNRR reported that, following consultations with UNHCR on the information needs at the border with Ukraine and Moldova, 10,000 leaflets with information on the asylum procedure were drafted and translated into Ukrainian and distributed at border crossing points with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in order to increase access to accurate information on the RSD procedure. In 2022, leaflets with *DOPOMOHA*¹⁹³ were distributed by CNRR to the people coming from Ukraine. The leaflet promoted the DOPOMOHA platform which contained official and secure information. It also indicated contact data for all the relevant Romanian authorities.¹⁹⁴

¹⁸⁷ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026 and UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

¹⁸⁸ Article 35^1 Asylum Act.

¹⁸⁹ Information provided by Border Police, 2 March 2022.

¹⁹⁰ *ibid.*, 6 April 2023.

¹⁹¹ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026 and UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

¹⁹² *ibid.*, February 2025.

¹⁹³ DOPOMOHA (means help in Ukrainian) is a web support and information platform for migrants fleeing the war in Ukraine. It is a project created by Code for Romania in partnership with the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), The UN Refugee Agency, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the National Romanian Council for Refugees (CNRR), more information is available on the website [here](#).

¹⁹⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 7 February 2023.

CNRR discovered that there were no updated information leaflets on the asylum procedure in other languages. The team started working on a new leaflet on the right to ask for asylum in Romania to disseminate in 2023. Leaflets can only be displayed at border-crossing points with prior approval by the authorities (Border Police). CNRR stated that any person detained at the border for illegal crossing or who presents themselves at a border-crossing point, following hearings by the judicial police officer, is informed that they have the right to make an asylum application. In 2024, CNRR counsellors provide leaflets on the asylum procedure in several languages of interest in Reception centres and detention centres, alongside the videos about the asylum procedure are also displayed in the Regional Centres. Leaflets were distributed at the borders as well in 2024 during the monitoring visits.¹⁹⁵ In 2025, according to CNRR, asylum applicants received information on the asylum procedure both from the General Inspectorate for Immigration and from CNRR counsellors. CNRR continued to provide information through leaflets on the asylum procedure in various languages of interest, which were distributed to asylum applicants, as well as through video materials displayed in the Regional Centres.¹⁹⁶

CNRR counsellors observed that few reports were received regarding the information provision at the Bulgarian, Serbian and Hungarian borders. However, at the Otopeni International Airport, three people reported that they did not have access to information during their detention in the transit area. They also stated that the Border Police officers ignored their requests and did not call interpreters when needed.¹⁹⁷

Interpretation

CNRR mentioned that any interview, hearing or investigation made by the authorities (Border Police) is accompanied by an interpreter.

According to CNRR, at the border when a person requests asylum, interpretation is in most cases provided and the procedure is explained verbally by representatives of the Border Police and, when available, by CNRR counsellors.¹⁹⁸

The representatives of ITPF Timișoara declared that an interpreter is called when foreigners are apprehended. Foreigners are informed about the right to make an asylum application immediately verbally in English or in writing through FRONTEX leaflets. The Border Police has access to interpreters in all languages spoken by apprehended migrants and in case of need they can contact the embassies for guidance.

According to the Border Police, when an interpreter is not available, they use digital translation devices to communicate with the people apprehended at the border.¹⁹⁹

According to UNHCR, in a limited number of cases concerning access to the asylum procedure at the border, the main limitations appeared to relate to language barriers and interpretation challenges. In several cases, local intervention by CNRR and/or UNHCR helped solve the situation.²⁰⁰

Access to NGOs

At this stage, NGOs have access to border-crossing points only once third-country nationals have submitted the asylum application. Furthermore, NGOs need to be informed about the migrant's presence directly by the Border Police, through UNHCR Romania or by the migrant's family or friends or by him/

¹⁹⁵ *ibid.*, February 2025.

¹⁹⁶ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026

¹⁹⁷ *ibid.*, 7 February 2023.

¹⁹⁸ *ibid.* Confirmed in April 2026.

¹⁹⁹ Meeting with the General Inspectorate of the Border Police during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 18 March 2025.

²⁰⁰ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026 and UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

herself. Given the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNHCR and the General Inspectorate of the Border Police, the representatives will mutually notify each other when immediate intervention is needed at the border crossing-point/transit area, via telephone/e-mail.²⁰¹

According to CNRR in 2024 the access to border areas was formally granted by the Border Police to its staff, based on needs, and includes regular access for areas covered by CNRR with daily presence, as well as access-upon-request for other monitoring activities. Given the continuous collaboration with authorities at the border with Ukraine and Republic of Moldova, access is granted without impediments. However, there have been situations where limitations have been imposed, including when requesting to offer counselling on protection procedures, upon beneficiary's request.²⁰²

In 2025, CNRR carried out independent border monitoring through frequent monitoring missions and maintained a daily presence at three strategic border crossing points at the border with Ukraine (Isaccea, Siret and Sighetu Marmatiei) until May 2025. After that, due to funding constraints, monitoring continued through ad hoc monitoring missions. Throughout 2025, CNRR conducted 15 monitoring missions at the borders with Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Hungary, as well as at Otopeni Airport. According to CNRR, no new limitations or obstacles to independent monitoring activities were identified in 2025 compared to previous years. UNHCR also reported that, since May 2025, monitoring was mainly carried out in the form of ad hoc or targeted missions, and that access to border facilities, including airport locations, was granted in practice.²⁰³

1.5 Legal access to the territory

Between 2018 and 2022, Romania resettled refugees primarily from Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon, with quotas varying by year.²⁰⁴ In 2023, Romania transferred 154 Syrian refugees - 54 from Turkey, 25 from Jordan, and 78 from Lebanon. These refugees could access Romania's integration program, which facilitates employment, education, housing, medical care, and social assistance.²⁰⁵ Each institutional stakeholder (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, Ministry of Health) is responsible for the integration of foreigners in its area of activity; the coordination and monitoring of the policies are the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior through the General Inspectorate for Immigration. The program includes Romanian language courses, cultural orientation, job and education assistance, and psychological support.²⁰⁶ For 2024-2025, Romania should have accepted 200 refugees in need of resettlement.²⁰⁷ There were no resettlements in 2024.

In September 2025, Government Decision No. 712/2025 amended Article 3¹ of Government Decision No. 1596/2008 on the resettlement of refugees to Romania, introducing a new paragraph (1⁷) setting a quota of 300 refugees to be resettled to Romania during the period 2026–2027.²⁰⁸ According to the explanatory memorandum, the decision followed the meeting of the Committee for the Resettlement of Refugees in Romania held on 9 May 2025, where the authorities approved the resettlement of refugees, primarily Eritrean, Sudanese and South Sudanese nationals, temporarily present in Egypt and Kenya, in line with identified resettlement needs and relevant EU commitments.²⁰⁹ The logistical aspects of the resettlement

²⁰¹ Meeting with the General Inspectorate of the Border Police during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 18 March 2025.

²⁰² Information provided by CNRR, February 2025.

²⁰³ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026 and UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

²⁰⁴ IGI-DAI, Annual Activity Report of 2019, available in Romanian [here](#). Information provided by IGI-DAI, 20 February 2020. Information provided by IGI-DAI, 16 February 2021. Information provided by IGI-DAI, 11 March 2022. Information provided by IGI-DAI, 22 February 2023.

²⁰⁵ Article 20 Asylum Act.

²⁰⁶ Information provided by the IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

²⁰⁷ DECISION no. 87 of 8 February 2024 to supplement art. 3¹ of Government Decision no. 1596/2008 on the resettlement of refugees in Romania, available [here](#).

²⁰⁸ Government of Romania, H.G. nr. 712/2025 pentru completarea art. 3¹ din Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 1.596/2008 privind relocarea refugiaților în România

²⁰⁹ Government of Romania, Nota de fundamentare a H.G. nr. 712/04.09.2025, available [here](#).

process, including selection missions, transfer and assistance in Romania, are to be supported through national programs funded under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).²¹⁰ However, according to information provided by JRS Romania, no resettlement transfers were carried out in 2025.²¹¹

In view of full accession to the Schengen area, in March 2024, Romania adopted several measures in a speedy procedure (Emergency Ordinance 25/2024) in conjunction with the need to ensure the control of irregular migration and the reduction of secondary movements.²¹² According to the Explanatory Memorandum to the Ordinance, the justification was related also to the full application of the Schengen acquis by Romania involving the need to increase measures to ensure public order and safety, especially in relation to the contingent of 100,000 foreign workers newly admitted to the labour market (in 2024), given that Romania faced a wide range of irregular migration methods, given its geographical position, at the confluence of the East - as the area of departure for migrants, and the West - as the destination area for illegal migration. The main forms of illegal migration identified on the territory of Romania refer to illegal entry into the territory, legal entry and, subsequently, remaining on the territory after the expiry of the term granted by the entry visa, established in the documents abolishing the visa regime or granted by the temporary residence permit, all followed by detection in illegal situations and the imposition of restrictive measures. Some of the foreigners detected in the situations may request a form of international protection on the territory of the state, which leads to the creation of artificial pressure on the national asylum system by delaying or preventing the implementation of the restrictive measures. Therefore, the Ordinance was amended by providing that the measure of revocation of the visa may be ordered by the authorities, *inter alia*, if the individual employment contract was not concluded within 15 working days from the entry of the foreigner into the territory of Romania or, as the case may be, from obtaining the new employment permit, in the case of a long-stay visa for employment. This shall not be ordered in the situation where the failure to conclude the individual employment contract is due to the fault of the employer (Art. 33 of the Emergency Ordinance 25/2024²¹³).

1.5.1 Romania's humanitarian response to Gaza

Since late 2024, Romania has continued to respond to the humanitarian consequences of the conflict in the Gaza Strip through a combination of medical evacuation operations, humanitarian assistance, and participation in EU-coordinated mechanisms. The response has primarily focused on the evacuation and treatment of vulnerable civilians, particularly children requiring urgent medical care.²¹⁴

Romania has played an active role in EU-supported medical evacuation (medevac) operations for patients from Gaza. In September 2024, Romania received a first group of patients directly evacuated from the Gaza Strip under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, marking one of the first such operations at European level.²¹⁵ The transfer included children in need of urgent medical treatment, accompanied by family members.

Throughout 2025, Romanian authorities continued to organise and participate in repeated MEDEVAC missions in cooperation with the European Commission, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other international partners.²¹⁶ These operations were coordinated by the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), with logistical support from the Ministry of National Defence and involvement of the Ministry of

²¹⁰ *ibid.*

²¹¹ Information provided by JRS Romania, April 2026.

²¹² Substantiation Note of the Emergency Ordinance 25/21.03.2024 for the amendment and completion of certain normative acts in the field of foreigners and the border, available [here](#).

²¹³ Emergency Ordinance 25/21.03.2024 for the amendment and completion of certain normative acts in the field of foreigners and the border, available [here](#).

²¹⁴ Ministry of External Affairs, see: <https://www.mae.ro/node/65872> and <https://www.mae.ro/node/67126>.

²¹⁵ European Commission, *EU facilitates new medical evacuation operation directly from Gaza*, 1 October 2024, available [here](#).

²¹⁶ Ministry of External Affairs, see: <https://www.mae.ro/node/67126>.

Foreign Affairs.²¹⁷ By early 2025, several patients evacuated from Gaza were receiving treatment in Romanian hospitals, notably the “Marie Curie” Emergency Clinical Hospital for Children and the “Grigore Alexandrescu” Emergency Clinical Hospital for Children in Bucharest.²¹⁸ According to available data, at least 20 patients and their accompanying family members had been transferred to Romania for specialised treatment, the majority being children in need of urgent care.²¹⁹

Medical evacuation operations continued throughout 2025, with multiple humanitarian flights organised by Romanian authorities. These included transfers of children accompanied by relatives, reflecting a sustained commitment to providing life-saving medical care.²²⁰ Romania acted both as a receiving state and as an operational partner within the EU-wide evacuation framework.²²¹ Romania’s response has been closely linked to European-level coordination mechanisms. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism, activated at the request of WHO, has enabled the transfer of patients from Gaza to European states, including Romania.²²²

Upon arrival in Romania, evacuated patients and their families have been received by a range of public authorities and institutions. Medical care has been provided within the public healthcare system, while additional support has been ensured through coordination between health authorities, emergency services, and social protection structures.

Beneficiaries of medical evacuation operations have been granted refugee status within a couple of days. This facilitated their inclusion in integration projects funded under national AMIF, enabling access to support measures such as financial assistance, accommodation, Romanian language courses, and other integration services. In practice, however, the situation of these beneficiaries presents significant challenges that go beyond those typically encountered in the integration of people granted international protection. Most cases involve a single adult – often a parent or sometimes another relative – caring for several children. At the same time, in almost every family there is at least one child with a very serious medical condition requiring constant care or repeated hospitalization. This means that the adult is often moving between the hospital and the responsibility of caring for the other children and managing daily needs. In this context, the main challenge is not participation in integration activities, but rather the fact that existing integration projects are not designed to respond to these types of situations. Standard support measures do not fully take into account the level of medical vulnerability, the caregiving burden, and the overall instability affecting these families. As a result, their needs often fall outside the scope of regular integration support.²²³

According to information provided by General Directorate of Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest, in 2025 the institution also provided assistance to persons displaced from the Gaza Strip. 302 individuals received support, including accommodation in dedicated facilities such as the Femina Centre.²²⁴ According to DGASPC Sector 2, among the persons displaced from Gaza assisted in 2025 were 88 children and 33 persons with disabilities. DGASMB also reported the presence of persons with medical or psychosocial needs and victims of trauma among the assisted population.²²⁵

²¹⁷ See: <https://www.dsu.mai.gov.ro/comunicate-oficiale/1120>

²¹⁸ Agerpres, *Patients from Gaza treated in children’s hospitals in Bucharest*, 16 January 2025, available [here](#).

²¹⁹ World Health Organization (WHO), *Saving lives: transportation of patients from Gaza – perspectives from Romania*, March 2025, available [here](#).

²²⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE), *Humanitarian flights from Gaza*, 2025 (e.g. September and October 2025 operations). <https://mae.ro/node/67674>

²²¹ See for instance, see: Digi24, *Zece pacienți palestinieni și 28 de membri ai familiilor, aduși în România cu o aeronavă militară. Unii vor fi transferați în Belgia*, September 2025, available [here](#).

²²² European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, *Palestine*, available [here](#).

²²³ Information provided by JRS Romania, April 2026.

²²⁴ Information provided by DGASMB, 16 February 2026.

²²⁵ Information provided by DGASPC Sector 2, 13 February 2026.

Beneficiaries received emergency accommodation, daily meals, clothing, hygiene products, as well as information, counselling and emotional support. DGASMB also facilitated access to healthcare services, including medical consultations and treatment, and provided assistance in accessing social services.²²⁶

In 2025, according to Habitat for Humanity Romania, housing support was provided to 67 refugees from Gaza (51 children and 16 adults) through the allocation of apartments during the period from 1 January to 31 May 2025. During the same initial period (1 January – 31 May 2025), Habitat for Humanity Romania covered utility costs, and, following the handover of certain apartments, financed renovation works, in accordance with contractual arrangements concluded with the parties involved.²²⁷ In March 2025, JRS Romania started assisting refugees from Gaza, through the AMIF project on housing.²²⁸

2. Preliminary checks of third country nationals upon arrival

Indicators: Preliminary checks at the arrival point

1. Are there any checks that are applied systematically or regularly at the point of entry when a person enters the territory? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Is the person considered under law to have entered the territory during these checks? ☐ Yes ☒ No

OUG 194/2002 governs the legal regime applicable to foreign nationals in Romania. Articles 8 and 9 specifically address the conditions under which foreign nationals may be denied entry into Romania.

A third country national who has been denied entry into Romania has up to 24 hours to voluntarily leave the border crossing point. If the person does not leave within this timeframe, the Romanian Border Police will enforce the denial of entry, while having to take into account the individual's health condition and follow relevant legal provisions. If the departure process requires more than 12 hours, the foreign national will be housed in a designated area within the transit zone at the border crossing point. If no such space is available, they will be accommodated in another designated location outside the border crossing point, which functions as a transit area.²²⁹

The General Inspectorate of the Border Police establishes the location of these facilities outside the border points, sets internal regulations for foreigners housed there, and organizes access, security, and escort arrangements. Other authorities, including those from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (IGI) and local administration, provide support as needed for the management of these locations.

While housed in the designated locations, foreign nationals are entitled to food, emergency medical care, and basic treatment for illnesses. Vulnerable persons receive special consideration.

In the event of a detected or imminent 'mass influx of migrants', the IGPF is authorized to establish one or more Integrated Centres. These centres may be set up through an official order and serve as facilities for border control, public health protection, and clarification of the legal status of foreign nationals arriving at Romania's borders.²³⁰

Integrated Centres are designated facilities that operate under the legal framework of transit zones. Their primary functions include:

²²⁶ Information provided by DGASMB, 16 February 2026.

²²⁷ Information provided by Habitat for Humanity Romania, 3 February 2026.

²²⁸ Information provided by JRS Romania, April 2026.

²²⁹ Article 9 Aliens Ordinance.

²³⁰ Article 4 Emergency Ordinance 53/2015 on establishing measures applicable in the event of a massive influx of immigrants appearing at the Romanian state border.

- Epidemiological Screening – Assessing and identifying potential public health risks among arriving migrants.
- Border Control – Conducting checks to determine whether individuals meet the legal requirements for entry into Romania.
- Processing International Protection Requests – Receiving, registering, and assessing asylum applications submitted by foreign nationals.
- Clarification of Legal Status – Determining the legal situation of foreign nationals who do not seek international protection and deciding on the appropriate measures to be taken.
- Accommodation – Providing temporary housing for foreign nationals while their status is being assessed.
- Other Specific Activities – Carrying out any additional procedures necessary to clarify the situation of foreign nationals present in the centres.²³¹

In order to ensure public order and safety, during the border control process at the integrated border centres, the Romanian Border Police personnel will collect fingerprints and facial images of all foreign nationals who, according to the documents presented or their declarations, are at least 14 years old.²³²

Third country nationals subject to activities carried out within the integrated centres are entitled to accommodation, food, medical assistance, preventive measures, and personal hygiene materials, which are provided free of charge. These provisions will be granted, as far as possible, in respect of their religious, philosophical, and cultural beliefs, regardless of their legal status.²³³

Third country nationals accommodated in the integrated centres have the right to be informed, in a language they understand or are reasonably assumed to understand, about the internal rules they must follow within the centres, about their rights and obligations during their stay in the centres, as well as about the consequences of illegally crossing Romania's state border.²³⁴

The centres are administered by the Border Police.²³⁵

After the border control is completed, the head of the crossing point takes measures to inspect the transit area. If persons are found illegally present in this area, measures are taken to verify their situation. Foreign nationals in the transit areas who do not meet the conditions for entry into Romania are returned to the neighbouring state or are placed on the ships or aircraft from which they disembarked, for return to the state from which they were embarked, in accordance with the provisions established by the legislation on the regime of foreigners in Romania.²³⁶

IGPF indicated not being responsible for carrying out preliminary checks at arrival.²³⁷

3. Registration of the asylum application

Indicators: Registration

1. Are specific time limits laid down in law for making an application? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 ❖ If so, what is the time limit for making an application?

²³¹ *ibid.* Article 5.

²³² *ibid.* Article 12.

²³³ *ibid.* Article 19.

²³⁴ *ibid.* Article 20.

²³⁵ *ibid.*

²³⁶ Art. 14 METHODOLOGICAL RULES of 9 May 2002 for the application of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 105/2001 on the state border of Romania, available [here](#).

²³⁷ Information provided by IGPF, 09 March 2026.

2. Are specific time limits laid down in law for lodging an application? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 ❖ If so, what is the time limit for lodging an application?
3. Are registration and lodging distinct stages in the law or in practice? ☐ Yes ☒ No
4. Is the authority with which the application is lodged also the authority responsible for its examination? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Can an application be lodged at embassies, consulates or other external representations? ☐ Yes ☒ No

In Romania, asylum applications are registered by IGI-DAI within 3 working days if submitted directly to IGI and within 6 days if filed with other authorities such as the Border Police, police staff in detention centres, or the National Administration of Penitentiaries within the Ministry of Justice.²³⁸ In cases of high number of applications, registration can take up to 10 working days.²³⁹

At border crossings, detention centres, or units subordinated to the National Administration of Penitentiaries within the Ministry of Justice, applications are recorded in special registers before being sent to the Regional Centres for Asylum applicants, along with any relevant documents.²⁴⁰ At the border, applicants fill out a form in a language they understand, receive information on their rights via an interpreter, and their application is sent to IGI-DAI.²⁴¹ If submitted at an airport or land border, the application is accompanied by details such as arrival time, documents, and accompanying persons.²⁴²

In 2024 IGI-DAI mentioned that only few asylum applicants have their claim assessed in border procedures, as this can be applied only for those applying for asylum at border crossing points. Those who apply for asylum after being apprehended in the context of an irregular crossing are instead brought to centres on the territory.²⁴³ This is also reflected in the low number of cases processed under the border procedure, with only 45 applications examined in this framework in 2023 and 24 in 2025.

There is no legal time limit for filing an asylum application, and authorities cannot reject an application solely due to the fact it was submitted late.²⁴⁴ Once an application is registered in IGI-DAI's database, the applicant is fingerprinted, photographed, and issued a temporary identity document, which is periodically renewed.²⁴⁵

For unaccompanied minors, applications are recorded in a special register, but they can only be formally lodged after a legal representative is appointed. If a minor applies through an authority other than IGI-DAI, they are immediately transferred to a competent Regional Centre.²⁴⁶

In 2024, there were 2467 asylum applications, marking a 76% decrease compared to the previous year.²⁴⁷ In 2025, there was a total of 1199 asylum applications, marking a 48.6% decrease compared to 2024.²⁴⁸

²³⁸ Article 36¹(2) Asylum Act, citing Article 35 Asylum Act.

²³⁹ *ibid.*

²⁴⁰ *ibid.* Article 38(5) citing Article 35.

²⁴¹ Information provided by Border Police, 27 August 2018.

²⁴² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 21 August 2018.

²⁴³ Meeting with the General Inspectorate for Immigration – Asylum and Integration Directorate during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 18 March 2025.

²⁴⁴ Article 36(3) Asylum Act. Article 13(3) Asylum Act.

²⁴⁵ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 21 August 2018.

²⁴⁶ Article 39(3) – (4) Asylum Act. Information provided by IGI-DAI, 21 August 2018.

²⁴⁷ *ibid.*, January 2025.

²⁴⁸ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

There were no cases where IGI-DAI refused to have the asylum application lodged. Applicants receive a plastic temporary identity document containing a photograph, personal details and a registration number, similar to a residence permit, which replaced the previous paper format in 2021.²⁴⁹

EUAA involvement

In March 2022, the EUAA signed its first operational plan with Romania, within the context of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine and subsequent displacement. A new operating plan was signed in December 2022 to cover the year 2023.²⁵⁰ In December 2023, the 2023 operational plan was amended and extended until 31 December 2024.²⁵¹ In December 2024, the EUAA and Romania agreed on an operational plan for 2025-2026, with support in temporary protection, asylum procedures and reception.²⁵²

In 2025, the EUAA deployed 56 experts in Romania,²⁵³ mostly external experts (38) and Member State experts (16). The majority of these experts were access to asylum procedures expert (17), asylum registration experts (16), junior asylum registration experts (15) and case experts (9) as well as other programme and support staff.²⁵⁴

As of 15 December 2025, there were 30 EUAA experts present in Romania, out of which 17 were access to asylum procedures experts, 5 asylum procedures experts, 3 asylum registration experts, 2 roving team, 2 reception and site management experts and one programme and project management expert.²⁵⁵

In 2025, the number of lodged asylum applications registered with the support of EUAA personnel in Romania decreased to 219 (down from 933 in 2024). 79% of these related to the same 10 citizenships, mainly of nationals from Syria (85), Sudan (31) and Palestine (11).²⁵⁶

In 2025, the EUAA carried out 30,953 registrations for temporary protection in Romania, an increase from 23,820 in 2024.²⁵⁷ Nevertheless, Romania remained by far the country where the EUAA registered the highest number of persons under temporary protection in 2024. This total includes both new TPD registrations (71% of the total) and registrations of beneficiaries concerning extensions of protection (29%).

In 2025, the EUAA delivered 19 training sessions to a total of 203 local staff members.²⁵⁸

C. Procedures

1. Regular procedure

1.1 General (scope, time limits)

²⁴⁹ A template can be found [here](#).

²⁵⁰ EUAA, *Operational Plan 2023 agreed by the European Union Agency for Asylum and Romania*, December 2022, available [here](#).

²⁵¹ *ibid.*

²⁵² *ibid.*

²⁵³ EUAA personnel numbers do not include deployed interpreters by the EUAA in support of asylum and reception activities.

²⁵⁴ Information provided by the EUAA, 05 March 2026. In the course of 2025, 16 persons were deployed in Romania under two different profiles. These cases are reported separately under each category.

²⁵⁵ Information provided by the EUAA, 05 March 2026.

²⁵⁶ *ibid.*

²⁵⁷ *ibid.*

²⁵⁸ *ibid.*

Indicators: Regular Procedure: General

1. Time limit set in law for the determining authority to make a decision on the asylum application at first instance: 30 days
2. Are detailed reasons for the rejection at first instance of an asylum application shared with the applicant in writing? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Backlog of pending cases at first instance as of 31 December 2025: 297

The law foresees a 30-day deadline to issue a decision, starting from the moment when the file is handed over to the case officer.²⁵⁹

The timeframe of 30 days provided in Article 52(1) of the Asylum Act shall be suspended during:

- (a) the Dublin procedure for determining the Member State responsible for examining the asylum application;
- (b) the [First Country of Asylum](#) procedure;
- (c) the [Safe Third Country](#) procedure; or, where appropriate,
- (d) the European safe third country procedure.
- (e) When the reason for suspension no longer exists, the assessment period cannot be less than 20 days.²⁶⁰

The 30-day time limit shall be extended successively with further periods of no more than 30 days, and not exceeding 6 months from the lodging of the asylum application in total²⁶¹: if the assessment of the case requires additional documentation, which makes it impossible to carry out the activities necessary to decide on the asylum application or could lead to the non-observance of the guarantees recognised by the law due to causes not imputable to the applicant.

However, if the maximum timeframe of 6 months is exceeded, the applicant should be informed of the delay and shall receive, upon request, information on the reasons of the delay and the time limit for the decision to be taken on their application.²⁶²

The term of 6 months may be extended successively for new cumulative periods, not exceeding 9 months, when:²⁶³

- ❖ The asylum procedure involves complex elements of fact and/or law;
- ❖ A large number of applications for international protection are lodged, making in practice very difficult to assess the claims within 6 months.

Exceptionally, in duly justified cases, a further extension may be applied for a maximum of 3 months.²⁶⁴

According to IGI-DAI statistics, in 2024 the average duration was between 30 and 60 days (1-2 months) in the regular asylum procedure.²⁶⁵ In 2025, the average duration of the regular asylum procedure in the administrative procedure (from the submission of the application to the issuance of a decision at first instance) is about 35.6 days.²⁶⁶ There were no cases of unaccompanied minors who were subjected to an age assessment procedure.²⁶⁷

²⁵⁹ Article 52(1) Asylum Act.

²⁶⁰ *ibid.* Article 52(4).

²⁶¹ *ibid.* Article 52(2).

²⁶² *ibid.* Article 52(3).

²⁶³ *ibid.* Article 52(5).

²⁶⁴ *ibid.* Article 52(6).

²⁶⁵ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

²⁶⁶ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

²⁶⁷ *ibid.*

In 2024, CNRR observed regional discrepancies in decisions issued to asylum applicants, likely due to variations in legal interpretation and case-specific factors.²⁶⁸ In Galați, JRS representatives reported that all asylum applicants undergo two interviews as part of the procedure, usually conducted promptly. However, delays may occur when interpreters for rare languages are unavailable or when asylum applicants leave the CRPCSA Galați before their interview. The interviews are carried out by IGI staff in collaboration with EUAA personnel.²⁶⁹

During 2025, certain differences between Regional Procedure and Accommodation Centers could still be observed. During December 2024 - September 2025 the suspension of the analysis of asylum applications of Syrian citizens, based on the change of regime in Syria was maintained. After the resumption of the analysis of applications, there were differences in the decisions issued, with centres, such as Galati, where all applicants were granted a form of protection, but also centres where, for the majority of applicants, the decisions were to reject the asylum applications. There were no regressions compared to 2024, the general situation was constant, with some centres even noticing certain improvements. In Timisoara a streamlining of the procedure was identified, both in terms of scheduling candidates for interviews in the shortest possible time and eliminating extensions for issuing decisions by the IGI.²⁷⁰

1.2 Prioritised examination and fast-track processing

According to the law, priority is given to asylum applications lodged by unaccompanied children.²⁷¹ IGI takes all the necessary measures for the appointment of a legal representative, who will assist the unaccompanied asylum-seeking child in all stages of the asylum procedure, as soon as possible.²⁷² In practice, IGI-DAI instructs the Directorate-General for Social Assistance and Child Protection in writing to appoint a legal representative for the unaccompanied child, who will assist them during the asylum procedure. The notification is sent the next day or in a maximum of 3 days after the application is registered and the unaccompanied child has been accommodated in one of the Regional Centres.

In case of vulnerable asylum applicants who are placed in specially designated closed spaces in the Regional Centres (see [Detention of Asylum applicants](#)), the identity check and the assessment of their applications should be done with priority.²⁷³ There have been no reported cases of this situation in practice.

In 2024, CNRR observed that, across all Regional Centres where it provides legal counselling, priority is given to vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors, pregnant women, the elderly, and individuals with severe disabilities — a practice in place since 2022.²⁷⁴ However, other cases may also be prioritized if deemed well-founded by the determining authority. For instance, during 2024, asylum applicants transferred between camps or those previously held in designated closed spaces were often interviewed immediately after their relocation or accommodation.²⁷⁵ The prioritization of certain caseloads - cases of vulnerable groups: unaccompanied minors, pregnant women, elderly people, people with major disabilities was maintained in 2025, although it was not a consistent practice throughout the territory. However, there are other groups for whom the cases could be prioritised, if the determining authority decides that it is a well-founded case. For example, during 2025, the practice showed a case of an asylum applicants previously placed in a specially designed closed space who was interviewed very shortly after accommodation. The prioritisation of the cases meant a much faster examination, which led to shorter decision process.²⁷⁶

²⁶⁸ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

²⁶⁹ Information provided by JRS representative in Galati in February 2025.

²⁷⁰ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

²⁷¹ Article 16(1) Asylum Act.

²⁷² *ibid.* Article 16(2).

²⁷³ *ibid.* Article 19^11.

²⁷⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 7 February 2023 and February 2025.

²⁷⁵ *ibid.*

²⁷⁶ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

UNHCR did not observe or receive reports of systemic problems regarding the registration of asylum applications. In the context of arrivals from Ukraine, UNHCR observed several cases in which Ukrainian nationals applied for asylum due to insufficient or unclear information regarding the differences between asylum and temporary protection. In these situations, individuals had intended to benefit from temporary protection but, submitted an asylum application instead. Once they received clearer information about the legal frameworks and associated rights, they withdrew their asylum applications and requested temporary protection. According to UNHCR, these cases were linked to misunderstandings or gaps in initial information provision, rather than to obstacles in accessing either form of protection.²⁷⁷

1.3 Personal interview

Indicators: Regular Procedure: Personal Interview

1. Is a personal interview of the asylum applicant in most cases conducted in practice in the regular procedure? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - ❖ If so, are interpreters available in practice, for interviews? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. In the regular procedure, is the interview conducted by the authority responsible for taking the decision? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are interviews conducted through video conferencing? ☐ Frequently ☒ Rarely ☐ Never
4. Can the asylum applicant request the interviewer and the interpreter to be of a specific gender? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - ❖ If so, is this applied in practice, for interviews? ☒ Yes ☐ No

According to the law, an interview is conducted in order to assess the elements of an application for international protection.²⁷⁸ Although the general rule is that an interview should be held in order to correctly assess the asylum claim, there are two situations where the interview is not mandatory:²⁷⁹

- ❖ When IGI-DAI may take a decision to grant refugee status on the basis of evidence in the file;
- ❖ When there are serious doubts about the capacity of the adult asylum applicant.

All personal interviews, assessments of the reasons invoked by the asylum applicant and decisions are conducted by a designated case officer of IGI-DAI.²⁸⁰

In 2024, 185 interviews were conducted through videoconference. IGI-DAI reported that they had no statistics on the total number of interviews conducted and on asylum applications assessed without an interview in 2024.²⁸¹ In 2025, the total number of interviews conducted through remote communications means was 186.²⁸²

In 2025,²⁸³ as in 2024, the EUAA continued to support the Romanian asylum system by deploying caseworkers and interpreters in several Regional Centres, including Bucharest, Timișoara, Șomcuta Mare and Galați. EUAA experts were involved in conducting personal interviews and drafting first-instance assessments, complementing the work of IGI-DAI officials. Additionally, the Agency facilitated the

²⁷⁷ Information provided by UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

²⁷⁸ Article 19^6(2) Asylum Act.

²⁷⁹ *ibid.* Article 45(3).

²⁸⁰ *ibid.* Article 48.

²⁸¹ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

²⁸² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

²⁸³ Information provided by JRS Romania, April 2026.

development of national standard operating procedures and templates for interviews and decisions, contributing to greater consistency and procedural alignment. A quality feedback exercise led by the EUAA's Quality Procedures and Tools Sector was also carried out, culminating in a workshop and the production of a podcast summarising key findings for use by national caseworkers. These actions, coupled with training and capacity-building measures, aimed to enhance the quality and efficiency of the regular procedure.²⁸⁴

According to the EUAA, despite a marked decrease in the number of applications in 2024, a dedicated needs assessment confirmed the necessity to maintain support, particularly in the areas focusing on effective implementation of temporary protection, enhanced capacity for the processing of asylum applications and enhanced capacity to provide reception conditions in line with the CEAS.²⁸⁵

In 2025, EUAA caseworkers carried out interviews concerning 143 applicants, of which 86% related to the same 10 citizenships, mainly nationals from Syria (32), Iraq (19) and Sudan (16).²⁸⁶

The EUAA drafted 188 concluding remarks (down from 1,091 in 2024), of which 77% related to the same 10 citizenships, mainly Syria (48), Sudan (29), Iraq (21) and Cameroon (13).²⁸⁷

Interviews are conducted individually, with members of the same family being interviewed separately. When there are underage children in a family, they are interviewed in the presence of a parent. For children under 12 or even 14 years old (or when the child's age, maturity, and understanding do not permit), the presence of the child is not mandatory, and the IGI officer may decide to interview only one of the parents. Interviews are tailored to the child's age, level of education, and understanding. The staff is trained in all legal instruments related to interviewing and assisting children.²⁸⁸

In its Concluding Observations adopted in May 2025, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomed the legislative amendments that explicitly include asylum-seeking children and children under international protection among the beneficiaries of Law No. 272/2004 on child rights. The Committee recommended effective implementation of the law and urged Romania to ensure the participation of children in decisions affecting them, including in asylum procedures.²⁸⁹

According to CNRR, in 2024 all asylum applicants were interviewed, and no cases were recorded in which refugee status was granted only based on documents present in the personal file. During the same year, both officers designated under Article 48, para. (2) of the Asylum Act and EUAA experts (para. (4) of the same article) conducted interviews with asylum applicants, with most decisions being made solely by case officers at the Regional Centre. Asylum legislation does not require the applicant's consent for the video conference system but does require consent for conducting the interview with a trusted interpreter for translation and/or interpretation. The video conference system was used for applicants speaking rare languages (e.g., Lingala) when interpretation services were not available from the EUAA or in exceptional cases when the interpreters were on vacation.²⁹⁰

In 2025, personal interviews were conducted by both the IGI officers and EUAA experts. In practice, all asylum applicants are interviewed as part of the asylum procedure, with no categories or nationalities exempt from this stage. In certain situations, interviews can be conducted via videoconference, especially when a local interpreter is not available. This solution is to avoid excessive delays in the procedure. Overall, no major issues related to confidentiality or IT infrastructure were reported, and the use of digital

²⁸⁴ EUAA, *Evaluation Report – Operational Support to Romania 2023–2024*, June 2025, available [here](#).

²⁸⁵ European Union Agency for Asylum, *Country overview 2025 – Romania*, February 2025, available [here](#).

²⁸⁶ Information provided by the EUAA, 05 March 2026.

²⁸⁷ *ibid.*

²⁸⁸ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

²⁸⁹ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Romania*, CRC/C/ROU/CO/6-7, 5 June 2025, available [here](#).

²⁹⁰ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

means allowed the interviews to be conducted under appropriate conditions. The asylum applicant has the right to request that the interviewer and/or interpreter be of a particular gender, depending on personal needs or beliefs. In most cases, this option is provided, but it depends on the availability of interpreters. There were cases when young children could participate in the interview with their parents, e.g. single mother with 2-year-old child. In the case of children, special protection measures are applied. Interviews of minors, especially those between the ages of 4 and 16, are conducted in the presence of the designated representative from the family or of a representative of the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection. The questions and the manner of addressing are adapted to the age and level of understanding of the child, in order to avoid traumatic situations and to respect the best interests of the minor.²⁹¹

Courts also use the video conference system, particularly for rare languages. Some asylum applicants have reported that the quality of interpretation via videoconference was poor, making it difficult to understand, and the process felt impersonal.²⁹² Whenever possible, if requested by the applicant, both the officer and the interpreter will be of the same gender as the person being interviewed. This is generally implemented in practice, though it depends on the availability of interviewers and interpreters.²⁹³

According to CNRR, JRS, and UNHCR, the reports containing the analysis and recommendations of EUAA officers are not communicated to applicants together with the rejection decision issued by IGI. The Committee further encouraged the State to establish procedures ensuring that asylum-seeking, refugee, unaccompanied and separated children are systematically consulted in decisions that affect them. It also underlined the need for detailed procedural safeguards, clear mandates for representatives assisting unaccompanied children, and child-friendly complaint mechanisms.²⁹⁴

According to UNHCR, language and interpretation remains an important challenge in the asylum procedure. However, UNHCR also reported a positive example of cooperation in a case involving a rare language. An asylum applicant spoke only a rare language, and no other language could be used for communication. IGI requested UNHCR's assistance. UNHCR ensured that remote interpretation is arranged. Interpretation support was provided both during the administrative phase and later at judicial stage. This case was highlighted as a good practice example of institutional cooperation in complex linguistic situations.

UNHCR carries out yearly a joint quality assessment exercise with IGI. According to UNHCR, no new structural shortcomings were identified. The main limitations remain related to: interpretation challenges, and the way in which interviews are conducted, recorded and analysed.

At the same time, UNHCR observed an overall improvement in the quality of interviews and decisions. The impact of previous training activities is reportedly visible in the way questions are formulated during interviews and in the reasoning and drafting of decisions. Nonetheless, room for improvement exists, especially in lack of uniformity/alignment of quality across centres and officers.

Notification of the personal interview continues to be provided at short notice. Under a protection monitoring system implemented by UNHCR in cooperation with CNRR, questionnaires were applied in several reception centres. More than half of the respondents indicated that they had been informed two days or less in advance of their main interview. This practice particularly affects applicants accommodated in reception centres.

²⁹¹ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

²⁹² *ibid.*, February 2025.

²⁹³ *ibid.*

²⁹⁴ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Romania*, CRC/C/ROU/CO/6-7, 5 June 2025, available [here](#).

Romanian legislation does not provide for a minimum notification period to allow applicants sufficient time to prepare for their interview. While applicants may be assisted by a lawyer or NGO representative, short notification periods may limit effective preparation.²⁹⁵

JRS Romania reported on one instance in which challenges emerged in the context of an asylum interview in 2025. In this occasion, a JRS counsellor accompanied a mother to an asylum interview for her infant child in Bucharest. Upon arrival, the counsellor was initially denied access by the immigration officer at the entrance, who stated that only lawyers are permitted to attend interviews. Following clarification and consultation with a supervisor, the counsellor was ultimately allowed to participate. The interview was conducted by a EUAA officer and lasted approximately six hours, with a single 20-minute break. Interpretation was provided through cascade interpretation (via an intermediary language); while one interpreter demonstrated a high level of professionalism, the other presented some inconsistencies, which were addressed during the review process. This experience also illustrates some of the practical challenges related to interpretation during asylum procedures.

According to the EUAA-Romania Operational Plan 2025-2026,²⁹⁶ in the framework of EUAA quality mechanism, the Agency conducts quality assurance exercises. These exercises entail the quality reviews of samples of anonymized lodging interviews, first-instance interviews and opinions/recommendations, Dublin processes and vulnerability assessments carried out by the ASTs, where relevant. The sample of cases can also include anonymized cases processed by the national administrations upon request.

1.3.1 Interpretation

Article 45(2) of the Asylum Act sets out the rules regarding the right to have an interpreter during the personal interview. At the request of the applicant and when deemed necessary for presenting all the reasons for the asylum application, the interview shall be carried out by the case officer, with the support of an interpreter, in the language indicated by the applicant or in a language they understand and can communicate clearly. As far as possible, if the applicant requests it, both the case officer and the interpreter will be of the same gender as the interviewee.²⁹⁷

Availability of interpreters and double interpretation

In 2024, translators receive RON 30.91 / hour (approx. EUR 8.14) for interpreting services foreign languages – Romanian and RON 44.82 / page (approx. EUR 9.14) for translation of documents, according to the legal provisions stipulated in Order no.2907/C/2340/2020.²⁹⁸ These rates do not include VAT.²⁹⁹ The rates remained the same in 2025. These amounts can be increased according to art. 7 of the Law no. 178/1997 for the authorisation and payment of interpreters and translators,³⁰⁰ as follows:

- ❖ by 50% for translations from or into an oriental language (Japanese, Chinese, etc.) or rarely used language;
- ❖ by 50% for translations carried out on an urgent basis (24-48 hours);
- ❖ by 100% for simultaneous translations performed at the hearing, in courts, criminal investigation bodies and prosecutors' offices;
- ❖ by 100% when interpreters and translators are required on the weekend, public holidays or between 10 PM and 6 AM.

Quality and conduct

²⁹⁵ Information provided by UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

²⁹⁶ Operational plan 2025-2026 Agreed by the European Union Agency for Asylum and Romania, available [here](#).
²⁹⁷ Article 45(2) Asylum Act.

²⁹⁸ Order no. 2907/C/2340/2020, available in Romanian [here](#).

²⁹⁹ *ibid.*

³⁰⁰ Law no. 178/1997 for the authorization and payment of interpreters and translators, available in Romanian [here](#).

Several problems regarding the quality of the interpretation and conduct of interpreters have been reported. Interpreters are not sufficiently trained and, therefore, they are not impartial. Related problems were also pointed out:

- ❖ Some interpreters still have private conversations with the asylum applicant and do not translate the conversation, or they express emotions, however not at the same scale as in previous years;
- ❖ Asylum applicants complained that an interpreter selected the documents that the asylum applicant should present at IGI-DAI, and translated only a summary of what is written on the page and not the whole interview (question and answer).
- ❖ Asylum applicants complained that the transcript was not read at the end of the interview in most of the centres.

In 2023, there was also an issue related to the role of interpreters in the interview at **Galați**, which affected how interpretation was done and had a clear impact on the quality of the asylum process.

In 2024, CNRR observed some discrepancies from one region to another regarding the decisions issued to the asylum applicants. The reasons could be differences in the interpretation of the law, as well as the individual elements of each case. During CNRR legal counselling sessions with applicants, some of them claimed that the interpreters did not exactly translate their answers, gave another meaning to statements in the interview, or had a biased attitude towards them. According to the procedure, the interview note must be read at the end; however, applicants often declare that this step did not happen, nor were they given the opportunity to express their will for this to occur. Moreover, there are cases where asylum applicants' interview (in the administrative phase) or hearing (in the judicial phase) are postponed due to the lack of interpreters, mostly in cases of very rare languages or dialects. Besides that, there are also financial reasons for the lack of interpreters. Some of the interpreters complained about low fees, payment delays, or lack of payment for their services.

In 2023, CNRR³⁰¹ made specific efforts to ensure that interpreters received training. In February 2023, CNRR organised a specific training session for the interpreters with which it collaborates in order to respond to the imperative needs of improving language assistance in the asylum procedure. In 2024, because of a gap in the provision of AMIF funds at the national level, no trainings for interpreters were organised. Information materials were also made available on the methods and techniques for interviewing persons undergoing the asylum procedure, the glossary of terminology related to the field and the UNHCR recommendations on communication and interpretation techniques in cases of vulnerable persons, with particular reference to unaccompanied minors. CNRR has a network of interpreters that covers most of the key languages. Interpreters are trained and provided with information materials for continuous training.³⁰²

According to CNRR, while interpreters were available in 2024, some Regional Centres lack coverage for key languages such as Amharic, Somali, or Kurdish Sorani, which has caused delays in the asylum process and in the examination of several cases.³⁰³ According to CNRR, similar challenges persisted in 2025, with insufficient interpreter coverage for certain key languages continuing to cause delays in the asylum procedure.³⁰⁴ The unavailability of interpreters can lead to delays in the process. The problem is more pronounced at the second instance level, where interpreters must be certified - although, in practice, trusted individuals are sometimes used instead.³⁰⁵ Although there was a decrease in the number of reported issues with interpretation quality in 2024, some asylum applicants still raised concerns. Interpreters are trained and required to adhere to a code of conduct.³⁰⁶ CNRR has observed that applicants may request interpreters of a specific gender. Interpreters collaborate with them, and

³⁰¹ Information provided by CNRR, 16 January 2024.

³⁰² *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

³⁰³ *ibid.*, 16 January 2024.

³⁰⁴ *ibid.*, April 2026.

³⁰⁵ Meeting with CNRR during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 17 March 2025.

³⁰⁶ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

authorities rely on NGOs to provide interpretation services. Additionally, child protection authorities lack their own interpreters and must also depend on NGOs for language support.³⁰⁷ As in previous years, there were cases also in 2025 where asylum applicants reported discrepancies in the interpretations of interviews. They claimed that their statements were not translated correctly, therefore the interview did not contain information important to their case. There is a code of conduct that interpreters must adhere to.³⁰⁸

Representatives of JRS in Galati have noted that EUAA interpreters are used in interviews during the asylum process. They have hired interpreters for languages such as English, French, Arabic, Kurdish, Somali, Russian, and Ukrainian. However, challenges arise with asylum applicants from Afghanistan, as CRPCSA Galati does not have interpreters on staff for this language. It takes longer to find an interpreter, which complicates the asylum process and leads to delays in decision-making.³⁰⁹

1.3.2 Recording and report

The law does not prescribe audio/video recording of the personal interview. Personal interviews and preliminary interviews are not audio/video recorded.

Court sessions are recorded according to the Civil Procedure Code.³¹⁰ The rules concerning the recording of court hearings are set out in Article 13 of Act 304/2004 on Judicial Organisation, which provides that:

- ❖ The court hearings are recorded by video or audio technical means or recorded by stenography. Recordings are immediately transcribed;
- ❖ The clerk or the stenographer shall record all the affirmations, questions and submissions of those present, including the president of the court panel;
- ❖ Upon request, the parties may receive a copy of the transcript of the Registrars, minutes or notes of the Registrar.

In 2024 according to CNRR the videoconference system is also used by the courts, mainly in the case of rare languages. There were cases when some asylum applicants stated that the quality of the interpretation through video conferencing was not that good, they had troubles understanding and the process was quite impersonal.³¹¹ The videoconference system remained in use in 2025.

Transcript

The case officer conducting the interview transcribes the questions and the answers/statements *verbatim*. The transcript includes at least the following data: identification data of the applicant, the name of the case officer who performs the interview, the name of the interpreter and, as the case may be, of the legal representative, the counsellor and/or the lawyer assisting the applicant, the language of the interview, the reasons for the request for international protection, as well as the applicant's statement that all the data and information presented at the interview are correct. Where appropriate, the interview note shall also include the applicant's explanations of the failure to present elements to be considered when examining the asylum application and/or clarification of inconsistencies or contradictions in their statements.³¹²

At the end of the interview, the transcript of the interview is orally translated by the interpreter to the applicant.³¹³ The applicant has the possibility to formulate observations and/or to offer clarifications

³⁰⁷ Meeting with CNRR during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 17 March 2025.

³⁰⁸ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

³⁰⁹ Information provided by JRS Representative in Galati in February 2025.

³¹⁰ Article 231(4) Civil Procedure Code: The court will record the court hearings. If the parties are challenging the content of the clerk's notes, it will be verified and, if necessary, supplemented or rectified based on the records of the court hearing.

³¹¹ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

³¹² Article 45(5) Asylum Act.

³¹³ *ibid.* Article 45(7).

relating to any errors of translation or misunderstanding, which will be recorded in the interview transcript.³¹⁴ After this, the transcript is signed on every page by all the persons present at the interview.³¹⁵ A copy of the transcript is given to the asylum applicant or legal representative, their lawyer or counsellor, as the case may be, which assisted them at the interview, after the document was signed.³¹⁶ If the applicant refuses to sign the transcript, the reasons for their refusal will be mentioned on the transcript. The applicant's refusal to sign the transcript does not prevent IGI-DAI from taking a decision on the asylum application.³¹⁷

1.4 Appeal

Indicators: Regular Procedure: Appeal

1. Does the law provide for an appeal against the first instance decision in the regular procedure?

☒ Yes ☐ No

❖ If yes, is it

☒ Judicial

☐ Administrative

❖ If yes, is it suspensive

☒ Yes

☐ Some grounds

☐ No

2. Average processing time for the appeal body to make a decision:

1-3 months (see a detailed overview per Regional Court below)

The decision taken (admission or rejection) by IGI-DAI is communicated, immediately, to the asylum applicant in writing, through direct communication by the representatives of the IGI-DAI if the asylum applicant lives in the Centre, or by post at the last declared residence of the applicant.³¹⁸ The decision may be communicated to the lawyer or NGO representative representing the asylum applicant, upon request from the asylum applicant.³¹⁹

The decision is accompanied by written information, in Romanian and in a language that the applicant understands or is reasonably supposed to understand, related to the admission or rejection of the asylum application and the conditions under which the decision may be appealed, as the case may be.³²⁰ In practice, the justification of the decision is written in Romanian and is translated by NGO representatives.

The decision taken by IGI-DAI may be challenged in a two-instance judicial review procedure.

According to CNRR,³²¹ asylum applicants face many challenges in the appeal process: bureaucracy, short deadlines, inaccessible information. This makes them heavily reliant on the guidance provided by NGOs in this phase. There are many situations where asylum applicants do not receive the court's notification (due to their own fault or not) and they miss the hearing. An asylum applicant's absence from the hearing is most of the time interpreted by the court as a lack of responsibility, and it may influence the decision to some extent. Accessing the file in court is also very difficult for asylum applicants due to the language barrier. Moreover, they do not benefit from legal representation in court, due to the lack of financial means to hire a lawyer or because they are not aware of their right to ask for a legal aid lawyer or the court rejects their legal aid request. In 2025, as in 2024, CNRR indicated that similar situations were still encountered in practice, although asylum applicants who benefited from legal counselling generally managed to submit their appeals within the legal deadline.³²²

³¹⁴ *ibid.* Article 45(6).

³¹⁵ *ibid.* Article 45(8).

³¹⁶ *ibid.* Article 45(9).

³¹⁷ *ibid.* Article 45(10).

³¹⁸ *ibid.* Article 54(1).

³¹⁹ *ibid.* Article 54(1[^]1).

³²⁰ *ibid.* Article 54(1).

³²¹ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

³²² Information provided by CNRR, April 2026.

When asylum applicants contacted CNRR after receiving a negative decision on their application, the reasons for the denial were explained and translated for them by staff of the organisation, along with the mandatory deadline for filing a complaint. Based on CNRR's experience in 2024, the asylum applicants they assisted did not face obstacles when appealing a decision. The communication received by applicants includes details about the decision, the deadline for filing a complaint, and the competent court, all translated into a language the applicant is presumed to understand. In 2024, the average processing time for the reviewing body to make a decision was between one and three months, although some cases took up to four months (for both instances).³²³ In 2025, asylum applicants who received legal counselling from CNRR filed their complaints within the legal deadline and did not encounter issues in this regard.³²⁴

A systemic issue identified by UNHCR concerns the quality of legal assistance provided by court-appointed (*ex officio*) lawyers. In practice, lawyers do not consistently assist applicants throughout the entire procedure, as they may be replaced during the process. In addition, many lack specialized training in asylum law. As such, the overall quality of representation is considered low.

A good practice observed by UNHCR in certain jurisdictions, consists of Deans of county Bar Associations appointing lawyers who have informally specialised in asylum cases, which contributes to improved quality in those courts. No dedicated training for *ex officio* lawyers was organised in 2025.

In 2025, UNHCR developed a practical training package for Romanian judges, based on case studies and interactive discussions. The programme was piloted in November 2025 in Radauti (Suceava county), at the request of judges from the northern region of the country. The initiative was designed to complement existing EUAA training activities and avoid duplication. Further sessions are planned for 2026 in other regions.³²⁵

Asylum applicants who receive a rejection at first instance have the opportunity to file a complaint and have their case moved to the judicial phase. They are informed about this option, given sufficient time, and receive support in submitting their complaint. If necessary, they are assisted by a CNRR legal advisor or a lawyer. However, many asylum applicants do not reach this stage of the process either because they receive a favourable decision or because they leave the CRPCSA before a decision is made.³²⁶

1.4.1 Appeal before the Regional Court

The Regional Court (*Judecătoria Secția Civilă*) has jurisdiction in asylum cases, as the first-instance judicial review. The Regional Court rules in a single judge composition. The judges are not specialised in asylum law. UNHCR and CNRR organized seminars for judges in 2024.³²⁷ Although the initiative was met with interest, there remains a strong need for specialized judges. Training for lawyers is planned for 2025, as legal counsellors cannot formally represent asylum applicants and this role may be fulfilled by *ex officio* bar lawyers who often lack specialization.³²⁸ According to CNRR, judges are not open to attend the training sessions, one of the reasons being the presence of IGI personnel at the sessions.³²⁹

In 2025, UNHCR developed a practical training package for Romanian judges, based on case studies and interactive discussions. The programme was piloted in November 2025 in Radauti (Suceava county), upon the request of judges from the northern region of the country. The initiative was designed to complement existing EUAA training activities and avoid duplication. Further sessions are planned for 2026 in other regions. No dedicated training for *ex officio* lawyers was organised in 2025.³³⁰

³²³ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

³²⁴ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

³²⁵ Information provided by UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

³²⁶ Information provided by JRS Galati in February 2025.

³²⁷ Information provided by UNHCR in March 2025.

³²⁸ Meeting with UNHCR during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 19 March 2025.

³²⁹ Meeting with CNRR during ECRE fact-finding visit to Romania, 17 March 2025.

³³⁰ Information provided by UNHCR, March 2026.

The appeals, as well as the other procedural acts regarding the resolution of the appeal, are exempt from legal taxes and legal expenses cannot be demanded.³³¹

In 2023, a total of 674 appeals against IGI-DAI decisions were filed before the Regional Courts. In 2024, a total of 616 appeals against IGI-DAI decisions were filed before the Regional Courts.³³² In 2025, according to IGI-DAI, 265 appeals against negative first-instance decisions were lodged.³³³

Time limits

The deadline for lodging an appeal is 10 days from the day the decision was communicated.³³⁴ The appeal has automatic suspensive effect, if it was lodged within the term prescribed by law.³³⁵ Since May 2023, a return decision is issued together with the negative administrative decision in the asylum procedure. If the person wants to file a complaint against the rejection decision, they must also request the suspension of the return decision (see above, [Appeal](#)).

The law contains a procedural safeguard in case of appeals lodged after the time limit set out in the law.³³⁶ Therefore, in case of filing the appeal or onward appeal after the deadline, the applicant may request the suspension of the execution of the return decision. The request for suspension shall be settled within 7 days from its registration, by the competent court, which shall pronounce the decision in the council chamber, without the parties being summoned, by an irrevocable decision.³³⁷ While the review is pending, the applicant cannot be removed from the country.³³⁸

If the court admits the request to suspend the execution of the removal decision, the foreigner has the right to remain in the country pending the outcome of the request for reinstatement of the legal term to appeal.³³⁹ The foreigner will benefit from all the rights provided by Articles 17 and 18 of the Asylum Act from the moment the court admits the request for reinstatement of the legal term to appeal.³⁴⁰

The appeal has to be motivated in fact and in law.³⁴¹ It may be lodged at IGI-DAI, which has issued the decision or directly to the competent court.³⁴² The appeal has to be accompanied by a copy of the IGI-DAI decision and other documents or elements on which the appeal is based.³⁴³ The court carries out an assessment of both points of facts and law. The decision of the first instance court incorporates the reasons in fact and law on which it is based.³⁴⁴

In general, there are no problems in appealing a decision, if asylum applicants consult the legal counsellor of an NGO.³⁴⁵ In Bucharest, when communicating the decision, IGI-DAI also provides the asylum applicant with the postal address of the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) in English. Asylum applicants are told by the representative of IGI-DAI who communicates the decision that they have to go to CNRR for legal counselling and assistance for lodging an appeal. This practice has been in place since 2017.

³³¹ Article 65 Asylum Act.

³³² *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

³³³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

³³⁴ Article 55(1) Asylum Act.

³³⁵ *ibid.* Article 55(2).

³³⁶ *ibid.* Article 69.

³³⁷ *ibid.* Article 69(1).

³³⁸ *ibid.* Article 69(2).

³³⁹ *ibid.* Article 69(3).

³⁴⁰ *ibid.* Article 69(4).

³⁴¹ *ibid.* Article 57(1)(c).

³⁴² *ibid.* Article 56.

³⁴³ *ibid.* Articles 56(1) and 57.

³⁴⁴ Article 425(b) Civil Code.

³⁴⁵ Information provided by CNRR, 9 January 2018.

Article 62 of the Asylum Act provides that asylum cases should be dealt with priority before other civil matters.³⁴⁶ The court should take a decision on the appeal within 30 days.³⁴⁷ The court has to motivate its decision within 5 days of it being pronounced.³⁴⁸

In 2023, IGI-DAI statistics indicate that on average, appeal procedures lasted 60 days. In 2024, IGI-DAI statistics indicate that on average, appeal procedures lasted 60 days.³⁴⁹ In 2025, according to IGI-DAI, the average duration of the appeal procedure was 2 months.³⁵⁰

Hearing

The law establishes that the court may order the hearing of the asylum applicant when it considers that it is useful to settle the case.³⁵¹

There is no updated information available for 2024 regarding the number or scheduling of hearings in appeal procedures; the courts did not provide any further data following the 2023 reporting period. The only information provided for 2024 was from the Bucharest Bar, where they had 151 requests for legal assistance.³⁵² For 2025, no information on hearings in appeal procedures was available. The Maramureş Bar Association indicated that it does not collect such data,³⁵³ while other Bar Associations (Bucharest, Galaţi, Giurgiu, Suceava and Timişoara) and the National Institute for the Training and Improvement of Lawyers (INPPA) did not provide information.

At the national level, there is a court portal available online,³⁵⁴ and since 2022 asylum cases registered at the Regional Courts (Giurgiu, Rădăuţi, Giurgiu, Timişoara, Baia Mare, Galaţi, and Bucharest) are no longer published on it.

According to Law No. 122/2006, and in line with the confidentiality of asylum procedures, case files uploaded to the national electronic system are not public. In practice, neither the General Inspectorate for Immigration nor the applicants themselves have direct access to these files without prior approval.

The practice shows that with no support from NGOs or attorneys, it is impossible for asylum applicants to find out the decision of the appeal courts. In certain instances, even for the NGO representatives and attorneys it is a hurdle. This has a direct effect on their access to onward appeal. Thus, in order to learn the decision of the court, the legal counsellor has to go or call the Court's Registry.

1.4.2 Onward appeal

In 2023, according to the information provided by the courts, the number of appeals was 354. For 2024, no information was provided from the Courts. No updated data on onward appeals was available for 2025.

The law prescribes the possibility to appeal the decision of the Regional Court.³⁵⁵ The competent court is the County Tribunal, Administrative Litigation Section (Administrative County Court), which has jurisdiction over the area of the Regional Court whose decision is appealed.³⁵⁶ The Administrative County

³⁴⁶ Article 62(1) Asylum Act.

³⁴⁷ *ibid.* Article 64(2).

³⁴⁸ *ibid.* Article 64(3).

³⁴⁹ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

³⁵⁰ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 February 2026.

³⁵¹ Article 63 Asylum Act.

³⁵² Information provided by Bucharest Bar, 16 February 2021.

³⁵³ Information provided by the Maramures Bar Association in March 2026.

³⁵⁴ Ministry of Justice, *Portalul instanțelor de judecată*, available in Romanian [here](#).

³⁵⁵ Article 66 Asylum Act.

³⁵⁶ *ibid.* Article 67.

Court is composed of three judges. The onward appeal has to be lodged within 5 days from the day the Regional Court decision was pronounced and has automatic suspensive effect, if it is lodged in due time.³⁵⁷

In 2023, IGI-DAI reported that onward appeals had an average duration of 3 months.³⁵⁸ No information on 2024 was provided. No information on the average duration of onward appeals was available for 2025.

The onward appeal does not look at facts but examines if the appealed decision is compliant with the applicable rules.³⁵⁹ As a consequence, the onward appeal has to include the grounds for illegality on which the appeal is based.³⁶⁰ The decision has to be motivated within 10 days from the day it is communicated by the Regional Court.

According to the Civil Procedure Code, the attorney who has represented or assisted the party during the hearing may, even without a mandate, take any action for the preservation of rights subject to a term and appeal against the judgment, that may be lost by failing to do so on time. In these cases, only the party will handle all the procedural documents. The support of the appeal can only be based on a new power of attorney.³⁶¹

Therefore, attorneys can appeal the Regional Court decision even without a mandate in this regard, in order to preserve the rights of their client, which are subject to a term and will otherwise be lost by failure to act in time. The provision emphasises that the attorney may also appeal against a judgment without having a mandate. It also mentions that a new power of attorney is needed for representing/ arguing the appeal in the higher court. Therefore, the law makes a difference between declaring/filing an appeal and representing/arguing it.

Decisions

According to statistics provided by the courts, in 2023, a total of 272 decisions were issued. No information on the number of decisions issued by the courts in onward appeal procedures was available for 2024 and 2025.

1.5 Legal assistance

Indicators: Regular Procedure: Legal Assistance

1. Do asylum applicants have access to free legal assistance at first instance in practice?
☒ Yes ☐ With difficulty ☐ No
 - ❖ Does free legal assistance cover: ☒ Representation in interview
☒ Legal advice
2. Do asylum applicants have access to free legal assistance on appeal against a negative decision in practice?
☒ Yes ☐ With difficulty ☐ No
 - ❖ Does free legal assistance cover ☐ Representation in courts
☒ Legal advice

According to Article 17(1)(e) of the Asylum Act, the asylum applicant has the right to counselling and assistance from a representative of a Romanian or foreign NGO, in any phase of the asylum procedure.

³⁵⁷ *ibid.* Article 66(2) and (4).

³⁵⁸ Information provided by IGI-DAI, February 2024.

³⁵⁹ Article 483(3) Civil Procedure Code.

³⁶⁰ *ibid.* Article 486(1)(d).

³⁶¹ *ibid.* Article 87(2)(3).

The asylum applicant has the right to be given, upon request, legal and procedural information, including information on the first instance procedure, in line with the provisions on public judicial assistance in civil matters, taking into account their personal situation.³⁶²

The law sets out the right of the asylum applicant to be provided, upon request, according to the legislation on public judicial assistance in civil matters and taking into account the personal situation of the foreigner, information on the motivation of the rejection of the asylum application, the procedure for challenging the ordinance through which the measure of placement in a specially closed space was taken, as well as the possibility to challenge the decision which granted, reduced or withdraw the material reception conditions.³⁶³

Legal assistance at first instance

There are no restrictions or conditions for accessing legal counselling at first instance.

In the administrative phase of the procedure, free legal counselling and assistance is provided by NGOs through projects funded by the national Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) scheme and UNHCR Romania. The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provides specialised legal counselling and assistance to all asylum applicants upon request in the 6 Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants, through a project funded by the national Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) program. CNRR's legal counsellors have an office in the regional centres where they are available every weekday for 8 hours per day. In 2025, CNRR's legal counsellors were available every weekday for 8 hours per day.³⁶⁴

IGI-DAI stated that they did not have information on the total number of legal assistance requests submitted by applicants for international protection in 2024 in the context of the first instance procedure, nor on the breakdown of these requests by type of procedure (regular procedure, accelerated procedure, border procedure, Dublin procedure) or by outcome (granting or refusal of legal assistance) for each type of procedure.³⁶⁵ No information on legal assistance requests at first instance was provided by IGI-DAI for 2025.

In 2025, the Maramureş Bar Association indicated that it does not currently have the institutional mechanisms or resources required to collect and centralise data on legal aid requests submitted by applicants for international protection. Consequently, it was not able to provide statistical information on the number of requests, their distribution by type of procedure, or their outcomes for the year 2025.³⁶⁶ In addition, the Bar Associations of Bucharest, Galaţi, Giurgiu, Suceava and Timișoara, as well as the National Institute for the Training and Improvement of Lawyers (INPPA), did not provide information. Therefore, no input or data from these institutions is available for the 2025 reporting period.

According to the Bucharest Bar Association, 151 requests for legal assistance were submitted by applicants seeking international protection during the first-instance procedure in 2024.³⁶⁷

Through the "Advocacy for access to the territory, information regarding international protection, child protection and refugee integration" project, implemented by CNRR, UNHCR Romania has the possibility to grant lawyers' fees for asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, based on their vulnerability, complexity or strategic interest for advocacy campaigns. Through this project, 14 attorneys' fees were awarded in 2022.³⁶⁸ Between 2023 and 2025, CNRR continued with the implementation of the

³⁶² Article 17(1)(s) Asylum Act.

³⁶³ *ibid.*

³⁶⁴ Information provided by CNRR, April 2026.

³⁶⁵ Information provided by IGI, January 2025.

³⁶⁶ Information provided by the Maramureş Bar Association in March 2026.

³⁶⁷ Information provided by the Bucharest Bar Association in January 2025.

³⁶⁸ Information provided by CNRR, 7 February 2023.

project and provided advice and information to asylum applicants and migrants who met the conditions for submitting a new asylum application. Concerning the procedure, it assisted in the drafting and submission of procedural documents and provided legal assistance in court through specialised lawyers. CNRR also provided legal assistance in court through lawyers to beneficiaries of international protection when their rights were violated. In this respect, in 2023 CNRR awarded a total of 24 fees to lawyers in this project: specifically, 21 fees on Output 1 - Access to territory (in the asylum procedure and for access to a new asylum procedure) and 3 fees on Output 3 - Child protection (in the asylum procedure). In 2023, 18 lawyers were remunerated for legal advice/assistance activities.³⁶⁹ No updated information was available for 2024. In 2025, CNRR reported that 77 lawyers were remunerated for providing legal assistance under the project.³⁷⁰

Legal representation by a lawyer under the Legal Aid Act includes representation in the administrative phase of the procedure.³⁷¹ According to Article 35 of the Legal Aid Act, legal aid may also be extra-judicial and consist in consultations, filing of applications, petitions, referrals, initiation of other related legal steps, as well as representation before public authorities or institutions other than judicial or with jurisdictional powers, with a view to achieving the individual's legitimate rights or interests. This was confirmed by the National Union of Romanian Bar Associations.³⁷² However, according to the head of the Judicial Assistance Service at the Bucharest Bar Association no legal aid applications for representation in the administrative phase of the procedure had been lodged until now in any of the regional centres.

In all other cases, the asylum applicant has to pay the lawyer's fee if they wish to be represented by a lawyer during the personal interview.

According to CNRR, in 2024, as in previous years, applications for public legal aid were accepted, and asylum applicants were assigned an *ex officio* lawyer. These lawyers may have experience in asylum law (including those from the CNRR network) or may be trainee lawyers. No documentation was required to verify the applicant's income. Asylum applicants reported that one issue with *ex officio* lawyers was the lack of interaction before the court hearing, and the lawyers appeared unfamiliar with the case and provided superficial assistance.³⁷³ JRS representatives in Galati noted that a limitation on legal assistance for asylum applicants is the duration of the projects that fund this support. Asylum applicants receive legal aid through NGOs that implement such projects.

According to CNRR, in 2025, there were no asylum applicants who benefitted from public legal aid at first instance in the form of extrajudicial assistance provided by a lawyer designated by the Bar (for example, to be assisted at the interview for determining a form of protection). Asylum applicants whose asylum applications were rejected were advised by the legal advisors of the CNRR regarding the reasons for rejecting the asylum application, the deadline for exercising the appeal, the court entrusted with resolving the complaint, the possibility of benefiting from an *ex officio* lawyer (or chosen in situations where the case is susceptible to positive jurisprudence or the applicant is a vulnerable person within the meaning of art. 51 paragraph (2) of Law 122/2006). For applicants who filed a complaint against the rejection decision and requested public legal aid, the Bar (following the address submitted by the Judges) appointed an *ex officio* lawyer. The lawyers were both trainees (only to assist applicants in first Court) and permanent (in both first and second Court). The problems that asylum applicants declare and bring to CNRR's attention, regarding *ex officio* lawyers, are related to the fact that they meet with the lawyer only at the Court and, therefore, the lawyers do not have the opportunity to know and study the file thoroughly. Another reported problem is the fact that some *ex officio* lawyers, appointed in asylum cases, are not specialized in this field.³⁷⁴ No information was available in 2025 on how legal counselling will be organised under the future Asylum Procedures Regulation (APR) in Romania.

³⁶⁹ *ibid.* 16 January 2024.

³⁷⁰ Information provided by the Maramures Bar Association in March 2026.

³⁷¹ Government Emergency Ordinance 51/2008.

³⁷² Information provided by the National Union of Romanian Bar Associations, 8 January 2018.

³⁷³ Information provided by CNRR, February 2025.

³⁷⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

Legal assistance in appeals

In court proceedings, legal aid may only be provided by CNRR, who have limited funds for legal representation.

As in previous years, in 2023 CNRR collaborated with lawyers to provide legal assistance to asylum applicants. Legal assistance was not provided at the administrative phase of the asylum procedure before the IGI-DAI, instead it was ensured during the legal phase at courts that have competencies in the asylum procedure: 60 lawyers ensured legal assistance in first instance and 40 lawyers in the appeal. According to CNRR, in 2023 there were cases where asylum applicants stated that the legal assistance provided by the ex officio lawyers was superficial, with applicants claiming that the lawyers did not discuss their case with them or did not show a willingness to know their situation thoroughly. In some cases, the ex officio lawyers did not perform the necessary procedure to file an appeal within the time limit provided by the law.³⁷⁵ Other information on legal assistance and lawyers was not provided by organisations and institutions. No updated information was available for 2024. In 2025, legal assistance at the appeal stage continued to be provided mainly through ex officio lawyers appointed by the Bar. According to CNRR, while asylum applicants assisted by the organisation were able to submit appeals within the legal time limits, concerns persisted regarding the quality of legal assistance, including limited preparation of cases and lack of specialisation among some lawyers.³⁷⁶

³⁷⁵ *ibid.*, 16 January 2024.

³⁷⁶ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

2. Dublin

2.1 General

Outgoing procedure				Incoming procedure			
	Requests	Accepted	Transfers		Requests	Accepted	Transfers
Total	70	59	6	Total	1,948	1,360	41

Source: IGI – DAI, 02 March 2026.

In the outgoing procedure, in 2024 Romania sent 248 requests, of which 190 were accepted and 7 transfers were implemented, marking a 3.7% outgoing transfer rate; the country received 3,122 requests in the incoming procedure, of which 2,004 were accepted, and 161 were then transferred, marking a 8% incoming transfer rate. In 2025, Romania sent a total of 70 outgoing Dublin requests (11 take charge requests and 2 re-examination requests, as well as 56 take back requests and 1 re-examination request). Of these, 59 requests were accepted (7 take charge and 52 take back), and 6 transfers were implemented, all under the take back procedure. In the incoming procedure, Romania received 1,948 Dublin requests (1,315 take charge and 633 take back requests). Of these, 1,360 were accepted (1,136 take charge and 224 take back), and 41 transfers were implemented.³⁷⁷

Outgoing procedure

According to IGI-DAI, in 2025, there were 57 **“take back” requests sent** – 56 initial take back requests and 1 re-examination request.³⁷⁸ Countries of origin: Austria (1), Bulgaria (44), Germany (6), Spain (1), Greece (2), Italy (1), Sweden (2). In 2025, there were 52 **“take back” requests accepted** – Austria (1), Bulgaria (42), Germany (5), Spain (1), Italy (1), Sweden (2).³⁷⁹

According to IGI-DAI, in 2025, there were 13 **“take charge” requests sent** – 11 initial takeover requests and 2 re-examination requests.³⁸⁰ The country of origins Germany (6), France (2), the Netherlands (1), Poland (2), Slovakia (2). The number of Dublin **“take charge” requests accepted** are 7 – Germany (2), Slovakia (2), Poland (2), the Netherlands (1).³⁸¹

Outgoing and incoming Dublin requests by criterion: 2025		
Dublin III Regulation criterion	Outgoing	Incoming
Family provisions: Articles 8-11	4	11
Regular entry: Articles 12 and 14	9	1,229
Irregular entry: Article 13	N/A	69
Dependent persons and humanitarian clause: Articles 16 and 17(2)	N/A	6
“Take back”: Articles 18 and 20(5)	57	633
Total	70	1,948

Source: IGI-DAI, information provided upon request, 02 March 2026.

³⁷⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

³⁷⁸ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

³⁷⁹ *ibid.*

³⁸⁰ *ibid.*

³⁸¹ *ibid.*

Outgoing Dublin requests by criterion: 2025		
Dublin III Regulation criterion	Requests sent	Requests accepted ³⁸²
"Take charge": Articles 8 to 17		
Article 8 (minors)	1	N/A
Article 9 (family members granted protection)	2	N/A
Article 10 (family members pending determination)	1	1
Article 11 (family procedure)	N/A	N/A
Article 12 (visas and residence permits)	9	6
Article 13 (entry and/or remain)	N/A	N/A
Article 14 (visa free entry)	N/A	N/A
"Take charge": Article 16	N/A	N/A
"Take charge" humanitarian clause: Article 17(2)	N/A	N/A
"Take back": Articles 18 and 20(5)		
Article 18 (1) (b)	56	20
Article 18 (1) (c)	N/A	2
Article 18 (1) (d)	1	30
Article 20(5)	N/A	N/A

Source: IGI – DAI, 02 March 2026.

Incoming procedure

The total number of Dublin in 2025 **"take charge" applications received** was 1315. Distribution of total number of Dublin "take charge" applications received, by sending country (including country name and number of applications) was the following: Austria (21), Belgium (23), Bulgaria (6), Switzerland (29), Czech Republic (8), Germany (144), Denmark (5), Finland (4), France (44), Greece (103), Croatia (11), Ireland (2), Iceland (3), Italy (821), Lithuania (4), Luxembourg (6), Malta (2), Netherlands (32), Norway (24), Poland (12), Sweden (5), Slovenia (3).³⁸³

The total number of Dublin **"take back received** in 2025 was 633. The division by country sending the request was the following: Austria (38), Belgium (8), Bulgaria (1), Switzerland (11), Czech Republic (17), Germany (163), Denmark (4), Spain (2), France (195), Greece (15), Croatia (8), Hungary (1), Ireland (26), Italy (85), Luxembourg (3), Netherlands (21), Norway (2), Poland (4), Portugal (2), Sweden (1), Slovenia (5), Slovakia (1).³⁸⁴

The total number of take charge requests accepted was the following: 1136. Austria (14), Belgium (19), Switzerland (24), Czech Republic (7), Germany (119), Denmark (4), Finland (2), France (32), Greece (53), Croatia (5), Italy (802), Lithuania (2), Luxembourg (4), Malta (1), Netherlands (30), Norway (12), Poland (3), Sweden (5), Slovenia (1).

Take back requests accepted were 224. Austria (26), Belgium (8), Switzerland (8), Czech Republic (8), Germany (89), Denmark (3), France (41), Greece (3), Croatia (1), Hungary (1), Ireland (2), Italy (16), Netherlands (10), Poland (1), Sweden (1), Slovakia (1).

³⁸² *ibid.*, 23 January 2025.

³⁸³ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

³⁸⁴ *ibid.*

Incoming Dublin requests by criterion: 2025		
Dublin III Regulation criterion	Requests received	Requests accepted
“Take charge”: Articles 8 to 17		
Article 8 (minors)	2	N/A
Article 9 (family members granted protection)	2	1
Article 10 (family members pending determination)	N/A	N/A
Article 11 (family procedure)	7	5
Article 12 (visas and residence permits)	1,229	1,129
Article 13 (entry and/or remain)	69	4
Article 14 (visa free entry)	N/A	N/A
“Take charge”: Article 16	N/A	N/A
“Take charge” humanitarian clause: Article 17(2)	6	2
“Take back”: Articles 18 and 20(5)		
Article 18 (1) (b)	622	47
Article 18 (1) (c)	N/A	28
Article 18 (1) (d)	11	136
Article 20(5)	N/A	N/A

Source: IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

The total number of Dublin “take charge” requests received in 2025 was **1,315**. The distribution per issuing country was as follows: Austria (21), Belgium (23), Bulgaria (6), Switzerland (29), Czech Republic (8), Germany (144), Denmark (5), Finland (4), France (44), Greece (103), Croatia (11), Ireland (2), Iceland (3), Italy (821), Lithuania (4), Luxembourg (6), Malta (2), Netherlands (32), Norway (24), Poland (12), Sweden (5), Slovenia (3).³⁸⁵

The total number of Dublin “take back” requests received in 2025 was **633**. The distribution per issuing country was as follows: Austria (38), Belgium (8), Bulgaria (1), Switzerland (11), Czech Republic (17), Germany (163), Denmark (4), Spain (2), France (195), Greece (15), Croatia (8), Hungary (1), Ireland (26), Italy (85), Luxembourg (3), Netherlands (21), Norway (2), Poland (4), Portugal (2), Sweden (1), Slovenia (5), Slovakia (1).³⁸⁶

The total number of “take charge” requests accepted in 2025 was **1,136**, distributed as follows: Austria (14), Belgium (19), Switzerland (24), Czech Republic (7), Germany (119), Denmark (4), Finland (2), France (32), Greece (53), Croatia (5), Italy (802), Lithuania (2), Luxembourg (4), Malta (1), Netherlands (30), Norway (12), Poland (3), Sweden (5), Slovenia (1).³⁸⁷

The total number of “take back” requests accepted in 2025 was **224**, distributed as follows: Austria (26), Belgium (8), Switzerland (8), Czech Republic (8), Germany (89), Denmark (3), France (41), Greece (3), Croatia (1), Hungary (1), Ireland (2), Italy (16), Netherlands (10), Poland (1), Sweden (1), Slovakia (1).³⁸⁸

2.1.1 Application of the Dublin criteria

³⁸⁵ *ibid.*

³⁸⁶ *ibid.*

³⁸⁷ *ibid.*

³⁸⁸ *ibid.*

To prove family links, the asylum applicant is not required to present original documents or to undertake DNA tests. In general, they present copies of the family book, birth certificate, residence permit of the relative with whom they would like to be reunited and, in the case of unaccompanied children, the relative's desire to be reunited with the unaccompanied child, expressed in writing. According to legal counsellors, family unity is the most frequent criterion applied in practice, with the majority of cases concerning reunion with family outside Romania.

According to CNRR, before the interview, all asylum applicants are asked whether they have relatives in another Member State. If they confirm this, IGI-DAI staff provides information on the Dublin procedure; CNRR also provides legal counselling on the process. The primary evidence required by the authorities includes original documents proving family ties, such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, and residence permits. Based on cases observed in 2024, there were no reported instances where authorities conducting the Dublin procedure refused to apply the family provisions.³⁸⁹ CNRR has not encountered cases of refusal of the authorities to apply the family provisions if the asylum applicant has not indicated the existence of family members in another Member State from the outset of the application in the assistance provided in 2025.³⁹⁰

In 2025, CNRR observed the following practices: before the interview, asylum applicants are questioned about the existence of family members in another Member State. The Dublin procedure and the criteria underlying the initiation of the procedure are explained to them (also CNRR provides legal counselling regarding the Dublin procedure). If applicants declare that they have family members in another Member State, it is necessary to prove this fact and the kinship relationship through relevant and original documents. There were cases in which this procedure could not be applied, as applicants did not have the relevant documents to prove the family link.³⁹¹

2.1.2 The dependent persons and discretionary clauses

The sovereignty clause was not applied in 2022.³⁹² No information on the application of the clause was provided by IGI-DAI since 2023.

2.2 Procedure

Indicators: Dublin: Procedure

1. Is the Dublin procedure applied by the authority responsible for examining asylum applications?
☒ Yes ☐ No
2. On average, how long does a transfer take after the responsible Member State has accepted responsibility?
3-4 months

According to IGI-DAI, in 2023, the outgoing and incoming requests were processed within the terms stipulated in the Dublin III Regulation.³⁹³ According to IGI in 2024, the average duration of the Dublin procedure from the issuance of an outgoing request to the actual transfer to the responsible Member State was **6 months**. Similarly, the average duration from the acceptance of responsibility by another Member State to the actual transfer was also **6 months**. The average duration of the Dublin procedure in 2025, from the moment of issuing an exit application to the actual transfer to the Member State responsible, was of 3-4 months. The average duration of the Dublin procedure, from the moment of acceptance of responsibility by another Member State to the actual transfer to the Member State responsible, was of 1-2 months.³⁹⁴

³⁸⁹ Information provided by CNRR February 2025.

³⁹⁰ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

³⁹¹ *ibid.*

³⁹² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 22 February 2023.

³⁹³ *ibid.* 18 January 2024.

³⁹⁴ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

Article 119 of the Asylum Act states that, if after lodging an application for international protection and before taking a decision in the national asylum procedure, IGI-DAI discovers proof or circumstantial evidence which indicates the responsibility of another Member State to examine the application under the Dublin Regulation, it shall initiate the Dublin procedure.

All asylum applicants are fingerprinted, photographed and checked against the Eurodac database. In practice, there were cases where asylum applicants refused to be fingerprinted but, after they were explained that this was necessary for the asylum procedure and, in case of refusal, they would have been detained, they agreed to it. In case the applicant does not comply with the obligation to be photographed and fingerprinted,³⁹⁵ according to IGI-DAI, a coercive restraint may be applied (details about this measure were not provided).³⁹⁶

The use of these measures must be non-punitive, proportionate and applied only for the necessary period, if there is no other way of determining the asylum applicant to cooperate with the staff of IGI-DAI.³⁹⁷

According to CNRR, all asylum applicants are fingerprinted, except for minors under the age of 14. Of the applicants counselled, none stated that they refused to be fingerprinted.³⁹⁸ In the event of non-compliance by applicants for a form of international protection with the obligation to submit to being photographed and fingerprinted, according to art. 19 letter a) of Law 122/2006, means of coercion may be applied to the person involved. The use of means of coercion must be proportionate, applied only for the necessary period and only when there is no other way of determining the asylum applicant to cooperate with the staff of the General Inspectorate for Immigration and must never have the character of a sanction.³⁹⁹

2.2.1 Individualised guarantees

The decisions issued by IGI-DAI in Galați and Giurgiu do not mention any information regarding the fact that individual guarantees were requested by the Romanian Dublin Unit or any information regarding the state of play of the applicant's asylum procedure in the respective Member State. According to the director of Regional Centre Timișoara and Galați the Dublin Unit does not seek individualised guarantees but requests information regarding the stage of the procedure prior to a transfer. For 2023, IGI-DAI indicated that the Dublin Unit does not seek to request individualised guarantees; further details were not provided.⁴⁰⁰ There was no information given or available for 2024 and 2025.

According to CNRR, in cases of family unity criteria the authority conducting the Dublin procedure requests relevant and original documents of the relatives from another Member State: resident permit and other similar documents. Through these documents the authority conducting the Dublin procedure seek individualised guarantees that the asylum applicant will have adequate reception conditions upon transfer. From the practice encountered by the CNRR through the assistance provided to asylum applicants, individualised guarantees are sought before determining the responsible Member State.⁴⁰¹

2.2.2 Transfers

According to Article 127 of the Asylum Act, an asylum applicant who is subject to the Dublin procedure has the same rights and obligations as an asylum applicant in the regular procedure until the date when

³⁹⁵ In accordance with Article 19(a) Asylum Act.

³⁹⁶ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

³⁹⁷ Article 18(3) Asylum Decree.

³⁹⁸ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Information confirmed by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

³⁹⁹ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

⁴⁰⁰ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁴⁰¹ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

the transfer is effectively carried out. This means that they have the right to stay in the regional centres until the date they are actually transferred to the responsible Member State.

Nevertheless, IGI-DAI may reduce or withdraw the material reception conditions of asylum applicants, including asylum applicants subject to the Dublin procedure. The motivated decision may be challenged in court.⁴⁰²

The restrictive measures prescribed by law, which may be imposed to the asylum applicant subject to Dublin procedure are:

- ❖ The obligation to report at IGI;⁴⁰³
- ❖ Designation of their residence in a Regional Centre of Procedures for Asylum applicants;⁴⁰⁴
- ❖ Placement or, as the case may be, remaining in public custody (detention).⁴⁰⁵

The only restrictive measure not applicable to asylum applicants subject to Dublin procedure is the placement in specially designated closed places, which are defined as alternatives to detention but in practice consist of detention rooms in the Regional Centres.⁴⁰⁶ Reporting duties and residence in a specific place may be imposed in order to ensure the transfer.⁴⁰⁷ Detention for the purpose of a transfer is discussed in [Grounds for Detention](#).

If after the asylum applicant is placed in detention, one of the deadlines provided by Article 28(3) of the Dublin Regulation expires, the measure ceases to have effect. IGI draws up a notice on the cessation of the measure, which is communicated to the applicant.⁴⁰⁸ In general, asylum applicants subject to the Dublin procedure are not placed in detention, this was also confirmed by the IGI-DAI director from Timișoara.

According to IGI-DAI, the average duration of the Dublin procedure between the issuance of a request and the transfer is 2-3 months. The average duration of the process between acceptance of responsibility and transfer takes one month.⁴⁰⁹ In Bucharest, and Șomcuta Mare the stakeholders reported no transfers. For 2023 and 2024, IGI-DAI did not indicate an average duration of the process.

Romania issued 551 requests and implemented 11 transfers in 2022, thereby indicating a transfer rate of 1.99 %.⁴¹⁰ Based on the numbers communicated by IGI-DAI for 2023, with 1,288 requests and 99 transfers, the transfer rate was of 7.69% in 2023. No data were available for 2024.

The total number of transfers actually carried out under the Dublin "take back" procedure in 2025 was 41. The distribution of the total number of Dublin transfers carried out, by sending country (including country name and number of transfers) was the following: Austria (9), Czech Republic (3), Germany (21), France (2), Netherlands (3), Norway (2), Slovakia (1).⁴¹¹

There were no cases in which the discretionary clause was applied, according to Article 17(1).⁴¹²

⁴⁰² Article 19¹(1) -(2) Asylum Act.

⁴⁰³ *ibid.* Article 19²(1)(a).

⁴⁰⁴ *ibid.* Article 19²(1)(b).

⁴⁰⁵ *ibid.* Article 19²(1)(d).

⁴⁰⁶ *ibid.* Article 19²(3).

⁴⁰⁷ *ibid.* Articles 19³ and 19⁴.

⁴⁰⁸ *ibid.* Article 19¹⁴(10).

⁴⁰⁹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 11 March 2022.

⁴¹⁰ *ibid.* 22 February 2023.

⁴¹¹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁴¹² *ibid.*

2.3 Personal interview

Indicators: Dublin: Personal Interview

☐ Same as regular procedure

1. Is a personal interview of the asylum applicant in most cases conducted in practice in the Dublin procedure? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. If so, are interpreters available in practice, for interviews? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are interviews conducted through video conferencing? ☐ Frequently ☐ Rarely ☒ Never

According to the law, if during the preliminary interview the answers of the asylum applicant indicate the necessity to start the Dublin procedure, the preliminary interview is conducted pursuant to Article 5 of the Dublin Regulation.⁴¹³

As of 2022, in Șomcuta Mare the Dublin interview was held during the preliminary interview; there is a special column dedicated to questions related to the Dublin procedure asking whether they had previously applied for asylum in another Member State. The officer in charge of fingerprinting and photographing the asylum applicants holds the interview. In Rădăuți, the Dublin interview is held after the preliminary interview. In Galați the interview is conducted after the preliminary interview by the officer in charge of fingerprinting and photographing the applicants, also in 2023. In Giurgiu, the Dublin interview is conducted when, on the basis of the applicant's statements and other documents, the officers determine the need to start the Dublin procedure; this is usually decided after the applicant's preliminary interview. In Timișoara, according to the director of IGI-DAI Timișoara, the Dublin interview is an annex to the preliminary interview. The annex includes questions regarding presence in the respective Member State, knowledge of any decision taken on their application, willingness to return there. The interview is carried out by the same officer who conducts the preliminary interview.

The interview in the Dublin procedure takes place faster than in the regular procedure, even on the same day as the preliminary interview. A copy of the transcript of the interview is not handed over to the asylum applicant after the interview. However, they may request it under the provisions of the Asylum Act.⁴¹⁴ The modalities are the same as the regular procedure as regards the other aspects. There is no available or update information in this matter for 2024 and 2025.

2.4 Appeal

Indicators: Dublin: Appeal

☐ Same as regular procedure

1. Does the law provide for an appeal against the decision in the Dublin procedure? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - ❖ If yes, is it ☒ Judicial ☐ Administrative
 - ❖ If yes, is it suspensive ☐ Yes ☒ No

⁴¹³ Article 43(3) Asylum Act.

⁴¹⁴ Article 17(1) (f¹) sets out the right to have access, personally or through a representative, to the information contained in the personal file, unless the disclosure of the information or sources, from which it was obtained would jeopardize the national security, the organisations or persons who provided that information, or if it would be prejudicial to the examination of the application for international protection. Access to the information in the personal file is based on a request addressed to the specialised asylum structure of IGI. At the request of the applicant for international protection, copies of documents from the personal file may be issued free of charge, in accordance with the provisions of the present law.

Article 121 of the Asylum Act establishes the conditions of appeal in case of the Dublin procedure. The decision rejecting access to the asylum procedure in Romania and ordering the transfer to the responsible Member State may be challenged within 5 days of its communication. The transfer to the responsible Member State shall be suspended until the expiry of the legal deadline for filing the appeal.

In contrast with the regular procedure, lodging the appeal in the Dublin procedure does not have automatic suspensive effect. When appealing, the applicant may also request the suspension of the implementation of the transfer decision.⁴¹⁵ The request for suspension is decided urgently in the council chamber by final conclusion, and the parties are summoned.⁴¹⁶ The implementation of the transfer decision is suspended until the court decides on the request for suspension.⁴¹⁷

In situations that could not have been taken into consideration at the moment of issuing the decision, the case officer may, ex officio, decide to suspend the transfer decision until the court has ruled on the appeal. The measure is communicated to the applicant, according to the provisions on communication of decisions in the regular procedure.⁴¹⁸

The court shall settle the case within maximum 30 days.⁴¹⁹ The competent court is the Regional Court (Judecatoria) with territorial jurisdiction over the area in which IGI has issued the decision.⁴²⁰ The decision of the court is final.⁴²¹

If the court admits the appeal and decides that the application for international protection in Romania should be resumed and the applicant has already been transferred to the responsible Member State, IGI shall take the necessary steps to readmit them to the territory of Romania.⁴²²

No appeals were registered by the Regional Courts, according to the information provided. In 2023, according with data provided by IGI-DAI⁴²³, a total of 21 appeals were formulated by asylum applicants subjected to transfer to another country as part of the Dublin procedure (10 in Bucharest, 2 in Rădăuți and 9 in Timisoara). No further details were provided. There is no information available for 2024 and 2025.

2.5 Legal assistance

Indicators: Dublin: Legal Assistance

☒ Same as regular procedure

1. Do asylum applicants have access to free legal assistance at first instance in practice?

☒ Yes ☐ With difficulty ☐ No

❖ Does free legal assistance cover:

☒ Representation in interview

☒ Legal advice

2. Do asylum applicants have access to free legal assistance on appeal against a Dublin decision in practice?

☒ Yes ☐ With difficulty ☐ No

❖ Does free legal assistance cover

☐ Representation in courts

☒ Legal advice

⁴¹⁵ Article 121(3) Asylum Act.

⁴¹⁶ *ibid.*

⁴¹⁷ *ibid.* Article 121(4).

⁴¹⁸ *ibid.* Article 121(5).

⁴¹⁹ *ibid.* Article 121(6).

⁴²⁰ *ibid.* Article 121(2).

⁴²¹ *ibid.* Article 121(7).

⁴²² *ibid.* Article 121(8).

⁴²³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

According to Article 127 of the Asylum Act, an asylum applicant subject to the Dublin procedure has the same rights and obligations as an asylum applicant in the regular procedure until the date when the transfer is effectively carried out. Hence, they also have access to free legal assistance.

Asylum applicants have the same conditions to access legal assistance in the Dublin procedure as those subject to the regular procedure (see [Regular Procedure: Legal Assistance](#)). The only difference, which might be problematic, is the 5-day deadline to lodge an appeal against a Dublin decision. Nevertheless, legal counsellors have not reported any problems in filing appeals against negative decisions.

2.6 Suspension of transfers

Indicators: Dublin: Suspension of Transfers

1. Are Dublin transfers systematically suspended as a matter of policy or jurisprudence to one or more countries? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Greece: Romania resumed Dublin procedures to Greece as of 1 October 2018.⁴²⁴ 73 outgoing requests were made to Greece in 2022, according to the statistics provided by IGI-DAI and no transfers to Greece were carried out.⁴²⁵ The directors of the regional centres stated that transfers to Greece are not carried out. In 2023, transfers to Greece were not carried out.⁴²⁶ In 2024, although Romania continued to submit outgoing Dublin requests to Greece (a total of 2 take back requests, as indicated by IGI), no transfers to Greece were carried out, maintaining the trend observed in previous years.⁴²⁷

Bulgaria: The highest number of “take back” requests (205) were issued to Bulgaria in 2022 but only two transfers were carried out.⁴²⁸ In 2023, one request was sent, and one transfer was implemented. For 2024 there was no information provided. In 2024, Romania submitted a total of 163 “take back” requests and 11 “take charge” requests to Bulgaria. According to IGI data, a total of 174 requests were issued, and 4 transfers to Bulgaria were effectively carried out, indicating a modest increase in actual transfers compared to previous years.⁴²⁹

2.7 The situation of Dublin returnees

The Asylum Act includes provisions concerning cases of express and tacit withdrawal of an asylum application.⁴³⁰ An implicit or tacit withdrawal of an asylum application occurs when the applicant is not present on the scheduled time for the preliminary interview or personal interview, without presenting good reasons for their absence.⁴³¹ In case of tacit withdrawal, IGI-DAI writes a report regarding the absence of the asylum applicant from the interview.⁴³² In these cases, the decision to close the file shall be issued after the expiration of a period of 30 days from the date of the aforementioned report.⁴³³

When the asylum applicant expressly withdraws their asylum claim, this is considered an explicit withdrawal of the asylum application.⁴³⁴ The asylum applicant shall be informed of the consequences of their withdrawal in a language they understand or are reasonably supposed to understand.⁴³⁵

⁴²⁴ *ibid.*, 5 March 2019.

⁴²⁵ *ibid.*, 22 February 2023.

⁴²⁶ *ibid.*, 18 January 2024.

⁴²⁷ *ibid.*, 23 January 2025.

⁴²⁸ *ibid.*, 18 January 2024.

⁴²⁹ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

⁴³⁰ Article 51 Asylum Act.

⁴³¹ *ibid.* Article 51(1)(b).

⁴³² *ibid.* Article 51(3).

⁴³³ *ibid.* Article 51(5).

⁴³⁴ *ibid.* Article 51(1)(a).

⁴³⁵ *ibid.* Article 51(2).

When an asylum application was tacitly withdrawn and the asylum procedure was discontinued (i.e. the case of a person who left Romania and moved to another EU Member State), if the person makes an asylum claim within 9 months of the decision to close the file issued for implicit withdrawal, the asylum procedure may be continued.⁴³⁶ If the time limit has expired, the asylum claim is considered a [Subsequent Application](#).

The legal framework is different when a person has left the territory for at least 3 months or had been removed to a third country or to the country of origin under Articles 19(2) and (3) of the Dublin Regulation and, consequently, the asylum procedure was discontinued by a decision closing the file. In this case, a new claim lodged successively in Romania is not considered as a subsequent application.⁴³⁷

Therefore, persons who expressly withdrew their asylum applications without leaving the territory of the EU or being returned to a third country or the country of origin, cannot continue their asylum procedure in case of return to Romania. As a consequence, they will have to lodge a subsequent application.

It should be noted that the Asylum Act does not fully comply with Article 18(2) of the Dublin Regulation, which allows applicants whose claims have been withdrawn to have access to the procedure without lodging a subsequent application.

For persons returned to Romania who have been previously interviewed and received a negative decision in the administrative phase of the procedure and have not sought judicial remedy, the asylum procedure does not continue. They may only lodge a subsequent application. For persons returned to Romania who have not been previously interviewed the asylum procedure continues.

In 2025, Romania received 1,948 incoming Dublin requests and carried out 41 incoming transfers, according to official data provided by IGI, reflecting a significant decrease compared to 2024.⁴³⁸ In 2024, Romania received 3,122 incoming Dublin requests and carried out 161 incoming transfers, according to official data provided by IGI, reflecting a decrease in transfers compared to 2023.⁴³⁹

In 2023, KlikAktiv and ProAsyl⁴⁴⁰ reported cases of “formalised push-backs” between Romania and Serbia which clearly violated people’s right to seek asylum and the principle of non-refoulement with deportations of third country nationals, including people seeking international protection, back to Serbia by applying the readmission agreement between the EU and Serbia without an effective assessment of protection needs or asylum claims. One person seeking international protection was deported from Romania to Serbia immediately after he was identified on Romanian territory. Cases of Dublin returnees transferred back to Romania then being further deported to Serbia based on the readmission agreement were also reported. No cases were reported in 2024 and 2025.

3. Admissibility procedure

3.1 General (scope, criteria, time limits)

An application is inadmissible where the applicant:

- ❖ Has been granted international protection by another Member State;⁴⁴¹
- ❖ Comes from a [First Country of Asylum](#);⁴⁴²

⁴³⁶ *ibid.* Article 94^1.

⁴³⁷ *ibid.* Article 94^1(1)(a).

⁴³⁸ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁴³⁹ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

⁴⁴⁰ KlikAktiv, Pro Asyl, *Formalizing Pushbacks – The use of readmission agreements in pushback operations at the Serbian-Romanian border*, 2023, available [here](#).

⁴⁴¹ Article 50^1 Asylum Act.

⁴⁴² *ibid.* Article 95 Asylum Act.

- ❖ Comes from a European safe third country which has agreed to their readmission;⁴⁴³
- ❖ Comes from a [Safe Third Country](#);⁴⁴⁴
- ❖ Makes a subsequent application without new elements.⁴⁴⁵

The grounds relating to international protection granted by another Member State and safe country concepts were introduced in 2015.

According to IGI-DAI, Romania has no list of safe countries of origin, European safe third country or safe third country.⁴⁴⁶

The law does not mention any specific time limits for taking a decision on the admissibility of the application.

In 2024, IGI-DAI stated that they do not have statistical data regarding the distribution of the total number of inadmissibility decisions based on the reasons for inadmissibility (Article 33 of Directive 2013/32/EU). There is no data for 2025 regarding people rejected on the grounds of inadmissibility.⁴⁴⁷ According to IGI-DAI, since 2022 until 2024 there were no applications dismissed as inadmissible because the applicant came from a First Country of Asylum, European safe third country or safe third country, because Romania has no list of safe countries.⁴⁴⁸

3.2 Personal interview

Indicators: Admissibility Procedure: Personal Interview

☐ Same as regular procedure

1. Is a personal interview of the asylum applicant in most cases conducted in practice in the admissibility procedure? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - ❖ If so, are questions limited to nationality, identity, travel route? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - ❖ If so, are interpreters available in practice, for interviews? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Are interviews conducted through video conferencing? ☐ Frequently ☒ Rarely ☐ Never

Pursuant to Article 97¹ of the Asylum Act, the applicant is given the opportunity to present, in an interview, their personal situation in order to determine whether the safe country concepts are applicable. The responsible authority is IGI-DAI. The law does not prescribe specific requirements for the interview as part of the admissibility assessment.

An inadmissibility decision on first country of asylum, European safe third country or safe third country is issued without a substantive examination of the applicant's request and shall be communicated under the general provisions of the law.⁴⁴⁹ After communicating the decision, IGI-DAI informs the authorities of the European safe third country or, as the case may be, of the safe third country, in the language of that country, that the applicant's application has not been assessed on the merits.⁴⁵⁰

In case the conditions provided by the law are not fulfilled, IGI-DAI grants access to the asylum procedure on the basis of a reasoned decision and examines the asylum application on the merits.

⁴⁴³ *ibid.* Article 96 Asylum Act.

⁴⁴⁴ *ibid.* Article 97 Asylum Act.

⁴⁴⁵ *ibid.* Article 91(b) Asylum Act, in conjunction with Article 88(2)(a)-(b).

⁴⁴⁶ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 20 February 2020 and 11 March 2022.

⁴⁴⁷ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

⁴⁴⁸ *ibid.*, 22 February 2023.

⁴⁴⁹ Article 97¹(2) Asylum Act.

⁴⁵⁰ *ibid.* Article 97¹(4).

3.3 Appeal

Indicators: Admissibility Procedure: Appeal

☐ Same as regular procedure

1. Does the law provide for an appeal against an inadmissibility decision?

☒ Yes

☐ No

❖ If yes, is it

☒ Judicial

☐ Administrative

❖ If yes, is it automatically suspensive ☒ Yes ☐ Some grounds ☐ No

The appeal in case of the first country of asylum, European safe third country and safe third country is the same as in the *Accelerated Procedure*.⁴⁵¹ The deadline for submitting the appeal is 7 days from the notification of the decision. The appeal has suspensive effect if it is filed within the deadline.

3.4 Legal assistance

The rules and practice applicable in the [Regular Procedure: Legal Assistance](#) apply.

3.5 Suspension of returns for beneficiaries of protection in another Member State

According to the information provided by IGI-DAI, Romania did not suspend returns of BIPs to any particular country in 2023.⁴⁵² There is no relevant national jurisprudence on the matter of returns of beneficiaries of protection. The information provided by the courts for the year 2023 showed that they had no such cases, while no information was provided for 2024 and 2025.

4. Border procedure (border and transit zones)

4.1 General (scope, time limits)

Indicators: Border Procedure: General

1. Do border authorities receive written instructions on the referral of asylum applicants to the competent authorities? ☐ Yes ☒ No

2. Where is the border procedure mostly carried out? ☐ Air border ☒ Land border ☐ Sea border

3. Can an application made at the border be examined in substance during a border procedure? ☒ Yes ☐ No

4. Is there a maximum time limit for a first instance decision laid down in the law? ☒ Yes ☐ No
❖ If yes, what is the maximum time limit? 20 days

5. Is the asylum applicant considered to have entered the national territory during the border procedure? ☐ Yes ☒ No

According to the law, the border procedure applies to asylum applications made at a border-crossing point. The asylum application made at the territorial border offices of the Romanian Border Police at a border crossing point is immediately submitted or forwarded to the competent structure of IGI-DAI, which examines it and issues a decision within 3 days.⁴⁵³ In addition, foreigners are also subject to the border

⁴⁵¹ *ibid.* Article 97¹(3).

⁴⁵² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁴⁵³ Article 82 Asylum Act.

procedure when, after a first asylum procedure in Romania, they have made a subsequent application at a border crossing point.⁴⁵⁴

The substance of the application is assessed during the border procedure, if the case officer decides to do so, based on the statements of the asylum applicant during the interview. According to the law, after the interview and the assessment of the reasons invoked for granting international protection and country of origin information, IGI-DAI may: (a) grant a form of protection; (b) grant access to the territory and the regular procedure if the application is not manifestly unfounded or if there are indications that [Dublin](#) or [Admissibility](#) grounds apply; or (c) reject the application as manifestly unfounded and not grant access to the territory.⁴⁵⁵

According to Article 87 of the Asylum Act, an asylum applicant shall remain in the transit area of the border-crossing point until a decision granting access to the territory or a final decision rejecting the asylum application is issued. This period cannot exceed 20 days.⁴⁵⁶ However, if the asylum application is still pending after the 20-day deadline, the asylum applicant is granted access to the territory.⁴⁵⁷

The asylum applicant may be accommodated in special reception and accommodation centres near the border-crossing points, established by order of the Minister of Internal Affairs and having the legal status of a transit area.⁴⁵⁸ Asylum applicants accommodated in these centres receive 3 meals a day free of charge, under conditions established by a Government Decision.⁴⁵⁹ The dispositions referring to the amounts owed for nutrition are not applicable to the asylum applicant subject to border procedure.⁴⁶⁰

The asylum applicant shall be immediately provided information in writing, in a language that they understand or are reasonably supposed to understand, on the border procedure, granting or not granting access to the territory, their rights and obligations during the procedure, the possibility to challenge the decision issued by the case officer, as well as the possibility to request legal aid according to the law.⁴⁶¹ In 2023 and 2024⁴⁶², and 2025⁴⁶³ CNRR distributed leaflets in all Regional Centres for Procedures and Accommodation for Asylum applicants, as well as at the CNRR headquarters in Bucharest. Leaflets about asylum procedure and Dublin procedure, material available in Pashto, Arabic, Kurdish, French, English, Amharic, Somali, Bengali, Urdu, Turkish. Leaflets about rights and obligations of asylum applicants during the asylum procedure, translated into 7 languages: English, French, Arabic, Kurdish, Pashto, Urdu, Turkish.⁴⁶⁴

In practice, asylum applicants subject to the border procedure are accommodated in specially designed places, which officially should exist at every border crossing point:

- ❖ Moravița: There are two rooms specially designed for the border procedure. There is no courtyard where asylum applicants may go out.
- ❖ Timișoara “Traian Vuia” Airport: There is a separate building designed for the border procedure. The building has three rooms, each of the rooms have 4 or 5 beds, 2 toilets, 4 showers and a kitchen. The building has a courtyard where people may go out, but only under supervision, as they are under a closed regime.

⁴⁵⁴ *ibid.* Article 83(3).

⁴⁵⁵ *ibid.* Article 83(1)(a), (b) and (c).

⁴⁵⁶ *ibid.* Article 87(1).

⁴⁵⁷ *ibid.* Article 87(5).

⁴⁵⁸ *ibid.* Article 87(2).

⁴⁵⁹ *ibid.* Article 87(3).

⁴⁶⁰ *ibid.* Article 87(3).

⁴⁶¹ *ibid.* Article 87(7).

⁴⁶² Asylum procedure leaflets CNRR, available [here](#).

⁴⁶³ Information provided by CNRR, April 2026.

⁴⁶⁴ *ibid.*, 16 January 2024.

- ❖ Bucharest Henri Coandă Airport / Otopeni: There are three rooms in the basement; two are communal and the third one is separated. Women are accommodated in separate rooms. There is no possibility to go outside.

Concerning the structure of the centres mentioned above, the Border Police⁴⁶⁵ stated that there are sufficient accommodation spaces until IGI-DAI grants access to territory for the asylum applicants subject to the border procedure. No further details were provided.

According to the director of the Regional Centre of Timișoara, there was one asylum application made in 2022 at the border-crossing Moravita and it was rejected. There was no available data for 2023. No updated information on asylum applications lodged at border crossing points in the Timișoara region was available for 2025.

In 2023, according to the Border Police,⁴⁶⁶ 772 asylum applications were made at border crossing points, but no details were provided on how many applications were accepted and how many rejected. In 2024, according to IGI-DAI, there were 45 applications under the border procedure. The main countries of origin of the applicants were Palestinian Authority in Palestine (31), Uzbekistan (3), Ukraine (2), Syria (2) and the Russian Federation (2).⁴⁶⁷ According to IGI-DAI, in 2025 there were 24 cases of border procedure.

Border Procedure Data					
No.	Country of origin	Rejection on the merits in the border procedure	Rejection as inadmissible in the border procedure	Rejection as inadmissible in the border procedure	Admission to the territory / usual procedure in the border procedure
1.	Afghanistan				1
2.	Stateless				1
3.	Azerbaijan				3
4.	Russian Federation	1			11
5.	Morocco	1			2
6.	Nigeria			1	
7.	Syria	1			1
8.	Ukraine				1
	Total	3	N/A	1	20

Average duration of the border procedure in the administrative procedure is within one day.⁴⁶⁸

UNHCR also follows up on individual alerts, conducts documentation and intervenes in specific cases, raising concerns about access to the territory or access to the border asylum procedure. In total, seven

⁴⁶⁵ Information provided by Border Police, 16 January 2024.

⁴⁶⁶ *ibid.*

⁴⁶⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

⁴⁶⁸ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

such observations were recorded. A limited number of individual cases were brought to UNHCR's attention concerning potential difficulties in accessing the asylum procedure at the border. UNHCR followed up on these cases and sought clarifications from the Border Police. However, the possibility for effective documentation was sometimes hindered by the fact that not all individuals consented to UNHCR's follow-up. Based on UNHCR's observations, the main limitations in accessing the asylum procedure at the border appear to relate to language barriers and interpretation challenges. In several cases, local intervention by CNRR and/or UNHCR helped resolve the situation.⁴⁶⁹

4.2 Personal interview

Indicators: Border Procedure: Personal Interview

☐ Same as regular procedure

1. Is a personal interview of the asylum applicant in most cases conducted in practice in the border procedure? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - ❖ If so, are questions limited to nationality, identity, travel route? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 - ❖ If so, are interpreters available in practice, for interviews? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Are interviews conducted through video conferencing? ☐ Frequently ☐ Rarely ☒ Never

As a general rule, a decision is taken by the case officer of IGI-DAI after an interview and assessment of the reasons invoked by the asylum applicant against the country of origin information.⁴⁷⁰ However, the law also establishes the possibility to deliver a decision without conducting an interview, if it is possible to issue a decision to grant access to the regular procedure on the basis of the personal file.⁴⁷¹ In case of subsequent applications, there is no interview. The decision is issued on the basis of a written application.

The interview is conducted at the border by a case officer of the territorially competent branch of IGI-DAI, under the same rules as the personal interview in the regular procedure. The only difference relates to the place where the interview is conducted and to the swiftness of the procedure. According to the Director of the Regional Centre of Timișoara, the personal interview in case of border procedure is the same as the personal interview in the regular procedure. The asylum applicant is asked about their reasons for fleeing. The case officers decide whether to go into details on the merits of the case.

According to Law 122/2006, IGI officers travel to border crossing points to conduct an interview with the asylum applicant. Following the interview, a decision is made to either grant a form of protection and access to the territory, or grant access to the territory and the ordinary procedure, or reject the asylum application and not grant access to the territory.⁴⁷²

Access to legal representation by a lawyer or UNHCR during the interview in the border procedure is difficult, given the 3-day time limit for issuing a decision. NGOs are only aware of the cases subjected to the border procedure if IGI-DAI informs them directly or through UNHCR.⁴⁷³

⁴⁶⁹ Information provided by UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

⁴⁷⁰ Article 83(1) Asylum Act.

⁴⁷¹ *ibid.* Article 83(4).

⁴⁷² Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Articles 82–83 of Law No. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania regulate the border procedure. *When an asylum application is lodged at a border crossing point, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI-DAI) must assess the claim within 3 days. Following the interview, the case officer may decide to:*

(a) grant international protection and access to the territory;

(b) allow access to the territory and to the regular asylum procedure if the application is not manifestly unfounded; or

(c) reject the application as manifestly unfounded and deny access to the territory.

⁴⁷³ Information provided by UNHCR, March 2025.

According to CNRR, in most cases, asylum applicants subject to a border procedure were interviewed. However, there were cases where asylum applicants subjected to a border procedure were first given access to the territory without an interview, and the interview was instead conducted later by the GII, prior to taking a decision on their asylum application.⁴⁷⁴

4.3 Appeal

Indicators: Border Procedure: Appeal

☐ Same as regular procedure

1. Does the law provide for an appeal against the decision in the border procedure?

☒ Yes

☐ No

❖ If yes, is it

☒ Judicial

☐ Administrative

❖ If yes, is it automatically suspensive

☒ Yes

☐ Some grounds ☐ No

The asylum applicant has the possibility to challenge the decision issued by IGI-DAI within 7 days from the day the decision was communicated.⁴⁷⁵ The competent court to decide on the appeal is the territorially competent Regional Court.⁴⁷⁶ The provisions on submission of the appeal in the regular procedure apply accordingly.⁴⁷⁷

The court shall take a decision on the appeal within 5 days.⁴⁷⁸ The decision has to be motivated and it is irrevocable. The court may decide: (a) to grant access to the territory and the regular procedure; or (b) to uphold the decision of IGI-DAI.⁴⁷⁹

If the court rejects the appeal, the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Border Police (IGPF) will take the necessary measures to remove the foreigner from the territory,⁴⁸⁰ as the foreigner subject to the border procedure must leave Romania as soon as the asylum procedure has finished.⁴⁸¹ The border procedure is considered completed on the date when the decision of the court is delivered.

According to CNRR, in some specific cases in 2024, language barriers and the short time limits represented obstacles to lodging an appeal at the border.⁴⁸² From the practice recorded by CNRR in 2025, some asylum applicants complained they did not benefit from an interpreter when lodging an appeal at the border.⁴⁸³

4.4 Legal assistance

Indicators: Border Procedure: Legal Assistance

☐ Same as regular procedure

1. Do asylum applicants have access to free legal assistance at first instance in practice?

☐ Yes

☒ With difficulty

☐ No

❖ Does free legal assistance cover: ☒ Representation in interview

⁴⁷⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

⁴⁷⁵ Article 85(1) Asylum Act.

⁴⁷⁶ *ibid.* Article 85(2).

⁴⁷⁷ *ibid.*

⁴⁷⁸ *ibid.* Article 86(1).

⁴⁷⁹ *ibid.*

⁴⁸⁰ *ibid.* Article 86(3).

⁴⁸¹ *ibid.* Article 17(1)(a).

⁴⁸² Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

⁴⁸³ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

☒ Legal advice

2. Do asylum applicants have access to free legal assistance on appeal against a negative decision in practice? ☐ Yes ☒ With difficulty ☐ No

❖ Does free legal assistance cover ☐ Representation in courts
☒ Legal advice

According to the law, asylum applicants subject to border procedure have the same rights to free legal assistance as the asylum applicants subject to the [Regular Procedure: Legal Assistance](#).

What is particularly problematic for asylum applicants in the border procedure is the swiftness of the procedure and lack of access to legal counselling. As the deadline for delivering a decision is only 3 days, it is hard to get access to legal assistance; it depends on the willingness of IGI-DAI and the Border Police to inform the NGOs about these cases. In addition, the examination of applications cannot be effectively conducted within such a short time limit.

CNRR stated that all asylum applicants shall benefit from legal assistance. CNRR can provide free legal assistance at border crossing points, when an asylum application is lodged.⁴⁸⁴ Effective access to free legal assistance is, in principle, ensured in law and in practice for asylum applicants. However, access is not uniform and can be weaker in border areas. The very short time limits applicable in border procedures may, in some cases, restrict the effective exercise of this right. In practice, access depends on: the asylum applicant's awareness of the right to legal assistance and ability to request it, the Border Police's willingness and capacity of the to provide information and make referrals, and the availability of legal service providers in the specific location.⁴⁸⁵

5. Accelerated procedure

European Commission pilot project

The European Commission, given Romania's relatively low number of asylum applications in 2022 and the fact that many of those received could be handled under an accelerated procedure, considered Romania a good country to test "innovate practices", as a direct follow-up to the EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans. Thus, the following measures/actions were proposed as part of a 6 month a pilot project launched in March 2023 as innovative practices related to accelerated procedure:⁴⁸⁶

- ❖ fast processing of applications where the grounds foreseen for the accelerated procedure by national legislation – applicants coming from safe countries of origin, applicants posing a threat to the public security and applications likely to be unfounded since many of the applicants come from countries with low protection approval rates – are applicable by testing the use of the accelerated procedure "in an enhanced manner".
- ❖ The pilot should also serve to identify "best practices to promote an effective use of the accelerated procedure", while respecting all applicable guarantees, including for vulnerable applicants. This objective particularly focuses on good practices re. the initial screening and verifications made upon apprehension to identify cases that can be processed in an accelerated procedure.
- ❖ The pilot makes an explicit link with the EUAA support operation in Romania, and particularly highlights "targeted assistance to enhance processing capacity at the reception centre in Timisoara, where applicants undergoing the accelerated procedure following irregular crossing of the border from Serbia will be transferred to for the duration of the asylum procedure". The pilot

⁴⁸⁴ *ibid.*, February 2025.

⁴⁸⁵ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

⁴⁸⁶ European Commission, *Joint Pilot Project in Romania annex, Ref. Ares(2023)2001138-20/03/2023*, March 2023, available [here](#).

also mentions exploring possibilities for cooperation and support from the EUAA regarding transportation from the border to the reception centre.

The pilot also included measures to streamline return, including with the enhancement of voluntary returns, and border management measures (see [Access to the territory – The European Commission pilot with Romania and cooperation with Frontex](#)).

In October 2023, at the end of the 6-month pilot, the European Commission reported⁴⁸⁷ “solid results” and “best practices identified”. Firstly, it considered that Romania testing the “enhanced” accelerated procedure allowed for “swift processing of claims”, and “led to good practices for fast identification of eligible cases for the use of the accelerated procedure” and their rapid transfer to other regional centres on the territory for swift processing, all of which prevented overburdening of regional centres both for processing and reception, a fair and efficient balance of workload amongst regional centres, and swift in-merits processing.

Out of 5,985 applications during the pilot, 2,493 were rejected under the accelerated procedure. 139 vulnerable applicants were identified (unaccompanied minors, single parent families) out of all rejected asylum applications, whether under the normal or accelerated procedure. The Commission particularly highlighted as good practices the extensive use of Eurodac machines, vulnerability screening based on standard operating procedures, the exemption of vulnerable applicants from the accelerated procedure when adequate support could not be provided in that framework, immediate referral and guardians for unaccompanied minors, constant medical assistance present and the involvement of NGOs to provide free legal assistance, integration and psychological support through every phase of the administrative procedure thanks to AMIF funding.

In 2024, the Romanian Ombudsman visited border transit facilities - specifically the triage centres operated by the Territorial Border Police in Constanța and Tulcea - to assess conditions and compliance with asylum-related procedures.⁴⁸⁸

The Commission also highlighted the strengthened cooperation with the EUAA as the May 2023 legislation changes also allowed EUAA experts to directly participate in registration and assessment of applications; additional support was given through registration and case experts, and interpreters. The experts were immediately involved in facilitating registrations and have been involved in preliminary asylum interviews since July 2023.

5.1 General (scope, grounds for accelerated procedures, time limits)

In 2024, according to IGI-DAI, 566 asylum applications were processed in the accelerated procedure. IGI-DAI stated that they do not have statistical data based on the legal grounds underlying the decisions on asylum applications in the accelerated procedure.⁴⁸⁹

In 2025, there were 162 asylum applications under the accelerated procedure. The average duration of the accelerated procedure in the administrative procedure is approximately 6 days.⁴⁹⁰

Under Article 75(1) of the Asylum Act, the grounds for assessing an asylum claim into an accelerated procedure are:

- ❖ Manifestly unfounded applications;

⁴⁸⁷ European Commission, *Reporting on progress made the Pilot Project for fast asylum and return procedures with Romania*, October 2023, available [here](#).

⁴⁸⁸ Ombudsman, *Centres for migration 2024 reports*, available [here](#).

⁴⁸⁹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

⁴⁹⁰ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

- ❖ Asylum applications of persons who, through their activity or membership of a particular group, pose a threat to national security or public order of Romania;
- ❖ Asylum applications of persons coming from a [Safe Country of Origin](#).

An asylum application is considered manifestly unfounded if the applicant:⁴⁹¹

- ❖ Has no well-founded fear of being persecuted or exposure to serious risk in the country of origin as they:
 - Have not claimed any fear of persecution or risk of serious harm;
 - Have not provided data or information to support a fear of persecution or serious risk, or their statements do not contain circumstantial or personal details;
 - Clearly lack credibility, meaning that their statements are incoherent, contradictory or flagrantly inconsistent with the situation in their country of origin;
- ❖ Has misled the authorities or has submitted the application in bad faith by:
 - Filing an asylum application with a false identity or presenting false or falsified documents as authentic;
 - Deliberately submitting false information after the asylum application has been lodged;
 - Destroying, damaging or disposing of travel documents or a relevant document for their application, either to establish a false identity for the purpose of seeking and granting refugee status, or to obstruct the assessment of their claim;
 - Deliberately concealing previous asylum applications in one or more countries, especially when they used a false identity;
 - Making an asylum application for the obvious aim of preventing the enforcement of return, extradition or removal proceedings, after having been given the opportunity to make an asylum application;
 - Entering the territory of Romania unlawfully or prolonging their stay unlawfully and, without good reason, not presenting themselves to the authorities, or not lodging the application as soon as possible given the circumstances of their entry.

According to stakeholders in **Galați, Rădăuți, Șomcuta Mare** and **Giurgiu**, most of the cases examined in the accelerated procedure are manifestly unfounded asylum applications. In practice, manifestly unfounded asylum applications are predominantly applications made by economic migrants (Șomcuta Mare, Galați, Rădăuți), or applicants who lack credibility (Giurgiu).⁴⁹² IGI DAI clarified that in 2024 not all decisions issued under the accelerated procedure concern manifestly unfounded asylum applications.⁴⁹³ No updated information on the nature of cases examined under the accelerated procedure was available for 2025.

The responsible authority for taking decisions at first instance on asylum applications in the accelerated procedure is IGI-DAI.

The accelerated procedure may be triggered during the regular procedure at the date when the case officer determines the existence of one of the grounds for applying an accelerated procedure.⁴⁹⁴ Article 79 of the Asylum Act provides that after the interview and the assessment of the reasons invoked in support of the asylum application, a decision should be issued within 3 days from the start of the accelerated procedure. Therefore, the trigger for the accelerated procedure may not coincide with the date of the personal interview. However, cases where the accelerated procedure is triggered after the interview are very rare.

⁴⁹¹ Article 76 Asylum Act.

⁴⁹² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁴⁹³ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

⁴⁹⁴ Article 78 Asylum Act.

In 2025, there were 162 asylum applications assessed under the accelerated procedure. The main countries of origin: Bangladesh (26), Iraq (22), Nepal (16), Sri Lanka (15), Pakistan (12). Of the total number of applications for international protection processed under an accelerated procedure, there was one application submitted by unaccompanied minor.⁴⁹⁵

IGI-DAI reported that 566 applications were assessed under the accelerated procedure in 2024, which represented a decrease compared with previous years. Although the number of asylum applications registered in 2024 declined, their overall share for the year remained unchanged. The main countries of origin were Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Sri-Lanka. IGI-DAI stated that Romania does not have a list of safe countries of origin, safe third countries, or safe third countries. However, EU member states are considered safe countries of origin (Article 77, paragraph 1 of Law No. 122/2006). Asylum applications submitted by citizens from a safe country of origin are subject to the accelerated procedure, as one of the reasons. As previously mentioned, they do not have statistical data based on the legal grounds underlying the decisions on asylum applications in the accelerated procedure.⁴⁹⁶

In 2023, according with IGI-DAI,⁴⁹⁷ a total of 3,988 asylum applications were analysed in an accelerated procedure. IGI-DAI reported that 2,306 applications were assessed under the accelerated procedure in 2022, up from 1,968 in 2021 and more than double compared to 2020 when 885 were reported.⁴⁹⁸ The main countries of origin were India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Morocco and Nepal.

Asylum applicants who sought CNRR assistance after being notified of a rejection decision in the accelerated procedure had primarily cited economic reasons during their asylum interviews. In most cases courts upheld the IGI decisions, with only a few exceptions where complaints were accepted, and the cases were transferred to the ordinary procedure for further review. Minors were not subjected to the accelerated procedure.⁴⁹⁹

According to CNRR, From the practice encountered in 2025, the main reason way a case was channelled in an accelerated procedure was that the application was considered unfounded ("the applicant does not provide data or information to the effect that he would be exposed to a fear of persecution or a serious risk or his declarations do not contain circumstantial or personal details", "the applicant entered the territory of Romania illegally or illegally extended his stay and, without a valid reason, either did not present himself to the authorities or did not submit his application for international protection as soon as possible, given his circumstances on the territory"). Art. 75, paragraph (2) of Law 122/2006: "Asylum applications of applicants who need special procedural or reception guarantees may be resolved in an accelerated procedure only in the situation in paragraph (1) letter b).-> asylum applications of persons who, through their activity or membership in a certain group, pose a danger to national security or public order in Romania." Asylum applications submitted by minors are channelled in an accelerated procedure.⁵⁰⁰

5.2 Personal interview

Indicators: Accelerated Procedure: Personal Interview

☒ Same as regular procedure

1. Is a personal interview of the asylum applicant in most cases conducted in practice in the accelerated procedure? ☒ Yes ☐ No

❖ If so, are questions limited to nationality, identity, travel route? ☐ Yes ☒ No

⁴⁹⁵ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁴⁹⁶ *ibid.*, 23 January 2025.

⁴⁹⁷ *ibid.*, 18 January 2024.

⁴⁹⁸ *ibid.*, 14 February 2018, 5 March 2019, 20 February 2020, 16 February 2021, 11 March 2022 and February 2023.

⁴⁹⁹ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

⁵⁰⁰ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

❖ If so, are interpreters available in practice, for interviews?

☒ Yes ☐ No

2. Are interviews conducted through video conferencing? ☐ Frequently ☒ Rarely ☐ Never

The Asylum Act requires a personal interview of asylum applicants in the accelerated procedure. Article 79 of the Asylum Act clearly states that a decision is made after an interview and after examination of the reasons invoked by the applicant. In practice, the personal interview is always conducted by IGI-DAI. The same rules as in the [Regular Procedure: Personal Interview](#) apply.

5.3 Appeal

Indicators: Accelerated Procedure: Appeal

☐ Same as regular procedure

1. Does the law provide for an appeal against the decision in the accelerated procedure?

☒ Yes ☐ No

❖ If yes, is it

☒ Judicial ☐ Administrative

❖ If yes, is it suspensive

☒ Yes ☐ Some grounds ☐ No

The law provides for the appeal against a negative decision in the accelerated procedure, which must be submitted within 7 days from the notification of the decision. If the appeal is filed within the deadline, it has automatic suspensive effect.⁵⁰¹

There were no problems reported in relation to lodging an appeal in the accelerated procedure, as the deadline for submitting an appeal against a negative decision in the accelerated procedure was increased from 2 days to 7 days with the 2015 reform of the Asylum Act.

According to CNRR, in the past year, asylum applicants who received a rejection decision in the accelerated procedure received prompt assistance, including support in drafting their complaints. As a result, no obstacles were encountered in submitting appeals within the required seven-day deadline. In some instances, asylum applicants approached CNRR's office just before the deadline expired, yet they were still able to file their complaints on time. The language barrier did not pose a challenge, as CNRR collaborates with a network of interpreters.⁵⁰² Also in 2025, the asylum applicants assisted by CNRR filed the complaint within the deadline. The language barrier was not an obstacle either, as the CNRR counsellors provide assistance through interpreters from their own network.⁵⁰³

5.4 Legal assistance

Indicators: Accelerated Procedure: Legal Assistance

☒ Same as regular procedure

1. Do asylum applicants have access to free legal assistance at first instance in practice?

☒ Yes ☐ With difficulty ☐ No

❖ Does free legal assistance cover:

☒ Representation in interview

☒ Legal advice

2. Do asylum applicants have access to free legal assistance on appeal against a decision in practice?

☒ Yes ☐ With difficulty ☐ No

❖ Does free legal assistance cover

☐ Representation in courts

☒ Legal advice

The law provides for access to free legal assistance for asylum applicants during the accelerated procedure in the same conditions as the asylum applicants subject to the [Regular Procedure: Legal Assistance](#). However, if asylum applicants are in detention in one of the two detention centres (Arad and Otopeni), there is no permanent access to legal counselling.

⁵⁰¹ Article 80(1) Asylum Act.

⁵⁰² Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

⁵⁰³ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

According to the information provided by the CNRR⁵⁰⁴ for the year 2023, legal advice is ensured, in the detention centres, upon request for asylum applicants. The CNRR counsellor goes to the centre when notified that there are asylum applicants who request legal advice, there is no person present daily for the asylum applicants. Information is communicated in English or the asylum applicant's mother tongue with the help of available interpreters. In the case of migrants who are in public custody but have not applied for asylum, the CNRR counsellor is present daily for 6 hours/day to ensure legal advice. In 2025, legal counselling in detention centres continued to be provided by CNRR. According to information provided by the organisation, the modalities of provision remained the same as in previous years, with no changes reported compared to 2023.⁵⁰⁵

Whereas prior to 2015 the Aliens Ordinance required the release of foreigners from detention as soon as a first application for international protection was lodged, the Aliens Act now prescribes that an asylum applicant is only released when they are granted access to the regular procedure (see [Detention of Asylum applicants](#) and [Legal assistance for review of detention](#)).

6. National protection statuses and return procedure

6.1. National forms of protection

Romania does not have national forms of protection. However, there is a special status, called toleration for staying on the territory of Romania, which is an alternative to detention. The tolerated stay refers to a temporary (exceptional) legal status granted to a foreign national (non-EU) who, for objective reasons, cannot be removed/returned from Romanian territory, although they do not have a legal right of stay.⁵⁰⁶ This status is not equivalent to a residence right.

The objective reasons include:⁵⁰⁷

- Exit from Romania is not allowed under Art. 15(1) and no other legal stay applies;
- The foreigner's public custody ended, but removal was not possible;
- The foreigner's temporary presence is required for significant public interest;
- Return is forbidden under Art. 82(1) (non-refoulement), yet residence conditions are unmet;
- Return is suspended under Art. 96(1);
- Escort removal is not feasible within 24 hours, and detention is not necessary;
- Other unforeseeable, independent, and unavoidable circumstances prevent departure.

If there are serious grounds to believe that a foreigner is a victim of human trafficking or if the presence is necessary for a criminal investigation or trial, tolerated stay must be granted by a prosecutor (by ordinance) or court (by ruling).⁵⁰⁸

Tolerated stay in Romania is granted for an initial period of up to six months and may be renewed for successive six-month intervals for as long as the underlying objective reasons for toleration persist.⁵⁰⁹ In cases involving victims of human trafficking, the duration of tolerated stay is extended by the competent prosecutor (through an ordinance) or by the court (through a judicial ruling), and remains in effect until the conclusion of the relevant criminal proceedings.⁵¹⁰

⁵⁰⁴ *ibid.* 16 January 2024.

⁵⁰⁵ Information provided by CNRR, April 2026.

⁵⁰⁶ Art. 106[^]1 Aliens Ordinance.

⁵⁰⁷ Article 106[^]1 (2) Aliens Ordinance.

⁵⁰⁸ *ibid.* Article 106[^]1 (4).

⁵⁰⁹ *ibid.* Article 106[^]2 (1).

⁵¹⁰ *ibid.* Article 106[^]1 (4).

Foreign nationals granted tolerated stay in Romania, are permitted to access the labour market under the same legal conditions applicable to Romanian citizens.⁵¹¹ This right is contingent upon the validity of the tolerated stay and ceases automatically upon the termination of such status.⁵¹² During the period of toleration, the individual is subject to specific obligations and territorial limitations, these include the duty to report in person to the territorial office of IGI at two-month intervals or whenever summoned, to notify any change of residence, and to remain within the jurisdictional area of the IGI unit that issued the toleration certificate.⁵¹³ Any travel outside this area is permissible only with prior approval from the competent immigration authority.⁵¹⁴

Tolerated stay in Romania ceases in any of the following situations: the granting or extension of a right of residence under national immigration legislation; the granting of permission to remain on Romanian territory; or the voluntary return of the foreign national from Romanian territory.⁵¹⁵ Furthermore, IGI may withdraw tolerated stay through a justified decision if it finds that the individual has, by their own fault, breached the legal obligations associated with this status, including failing to report as required or violating the territorial limitations imposed.⁵¹⁶ Importantly, the granting of tolerated stay does not extinguish the foreigner's obligation to leave the country. Upon the cessation of the circumstances that justified toleration, the period for voluntary departure or, where applicable, the enforcement of removal under escort resumes from the date on which the immigration authority, prosecutor, or court confirms the termination of such grounds and duly notifies the individual.

A refusal by IGI to grant tolerated stay may be appealed before the territorial Court of Appeal within five days of receiving the notification. The court is required to issue a decision within thirty days, and this judgment is final and binding.⁵¹⁷

According to JRS Romania, approximately 120 individuals were granted tolerated status in 2024. In 2025, a total of 252 persons were subject to an alternative to detention. Out of this number, 233 were applicants for international protection. Among these applicants, the alternatives to detention applied, in accordance with Article 8(4) of Directive 2013/33/EU, included the obligation to report to the premises of the General Inspectorate for Immigration (188 persons) and the requirement to reside in a regional centre (45 persons).⁵¹⁸

6.2 Return procedure

Since May 2023, Romania has implemented a legislative amendment establishing that a return decision is issued at the same time as a negative decision in the asylum procedure. If an asylum applicant wishes to challenge the rejection decision, they must also request the suspension of the return decision.⁵¹⁹

This amendment was mainly introduced to align national legislation with European priorities regarding return procedures. As part of the EU Action Plan on the Western Balkans, Romania was identified as a suitable country to test new practices, including issuing return decisions alongside negative asylum decisions. The European Commission assessed that this approach has contributed to a more efficient return process and has helped limit absconding and secondary movement.⁵²⁰ Between 18 May 2023 and

⁵¹¹ *ibid.* Article 106² (3).

⁵¹² *ibid.* Article 106² (4).

⁵¹³ *ibid.* Article 106² (5) -(6).

⁵¹⁴ *ibid.* Article 106² (6).

⁵¹⁵ *ibid.* Article 106² (9).

⁵¹⁶ *ibid.* Article 106² (10).

⁵¹⁷ *ibid.* Article 106¹ (3).

⁵¹⁸ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁵¹⁹ OUG 35/2023, available [here](#).

⁵²⁰ European Commission, *Joint Pilot Project in Romania annex, Ref. Ares(2023)2001138-20/03/2023*, March 2023, available [here](#).

30 September 2023, 1,162 joint decisions were issued, while the common current standard is to issue both decisions in case of rejected asylum-seekers in the administrative procedure.

At the moment of adoption, the authorities mentioned that the decision was taken following the assessments carried out at the level of the General Inspectorate for Immigration under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as it was deemed necessary to amend the legislation in order to issue the return decision from the moment the asylum application is rejected in the administrative phase, for compliance with the Schengen acquis⁵²¹. In this sense, issuing the return decision, at the time of rejection of the asylum application in the administrative phase, correlated with the application of Regulation (EU) 2018/1860, will lead to achieving the European objective of effectively ensuring the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice from the perspective of combating illegal migration on European territory. The reasoning also mentioned the CJEU decision C181/16.⁵²²

However, civil society organizations, including CNRR, have raised concerns about the impact of these changes on fundamental rights. The simultaneous issuance of asylum rejection and return decisions has led to procedural complexities, particularly due to the fact that this leads to different court jurisdictions and separate judicial proceedings being conducted in parallel.⁵²³ The European Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/682 of 16 March 2023 suggested that appeals against return decisions and asylum rejections should be lodged before the same court or, at a minimum, within the same timeframe.⁵²⁴ Since May 2023, the Romania's system was aligned to the recommendation, and the procedure of issuing both decision, rejection of the asylum application and return at the same time is in place.⁵²⁵

Under the current legal framework, asylum applicants whose international protection requests are rejected at the first-instance administrative level receive a return decision. The deadline to appeal any type of return decision, whether for voluntary departure or removal under escort, is 10 days.⁵²⁶ While the return decision's effects are suspended pending a final ruling on the asylum claim, the obligation to separately contest the return decision remains. Jurisdiction over return decisions lies with the Court of Appeal, whereas appeals against asylum rejections are handled by the Courts of First Instance, each operating under distinct procedural rules.⁵²⁷

In practice, this dual-track system requires rejected asylum applicants to manage two concurrent legal processes before different courts, often located in separate jurisdictions, with identical appeal deadlines but differing schedules and procedures. This situation creates significant difficulties, especially for individuals lacking legal expertise or representation. Additional barriers, such as language difficulties, cultural differences, and the absence of legal assistance, further complicate their access to justice. CNRR

⁵²¹ Explanatory note to Government Emergency Ordinance No. 35/2023 amending and supplementing certain normative acts regarding the field of foreigners and asylum in Romania, available [here](#).

⁵²² CJEU decision C181/16 available [here](#).

⁵²³ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#). Information provided by CNRR February 2025.

⁵²⁴ EC Recommendation 2023/682 of 16 March 2023, available [here](#).

⁵²⁵ Since May 2023, when a rejection decision is issued by the GII, a return decision is also issued. If the person wants to file a complaint against the rejection decision, they must also request the suspension of the return decision. In this sense, an appeal is filed against the return decision, the jurisdiction being the Court of Appeals within the territorial scope of the Regional Reception Centre that issued the decision.

⁵²⁶ Article 85 Aliens Ordinance Appealing the return decision

(1) The return decision provided for in art. 83 paragraph (1) may be appealed within 10 days from the date of notification to the court of appeal within whose territorial jurisdiction the structure of the General Inspectorate for Immigration that issued the return decision is located. The court shall resolve the appeal within 30 days from the date of receipt thereof. The court's decision shall be final.

(2) The return decision provided for in art. 83 paragraph (2) may be appealed within 10 days from the date of notification to the court provided for in par. (1), if the alien is not taken into public custody, or to the court of appeal within whose territorial jurisdiction the accommodation center is located, if the alien is taken into public custody. The court shall resolve the appeal within 5 days from the date of receipt thereof. The court's decision shall be final.

⁵²⁷ *ibid.* and Article 67 Asylum Act

has highlighted that these procedural burdens undermine the effectiveness of legal remedies available to asylum applicants. A fundamental aspect of an effective remedy is accessibility, ensuring that individuals can exercise their rights without undue hardship.⁵²⁸

Moreover, the new procedure has resulted in inconsistencies in judicial practice, and led to overburdening the Courts of Appeal, the competent court to rule on the complaints against the return decision. In practice, so far, CNRR has observed that some courts prefer to suspend the proceedings on the complaints against return decisions until the end of the judicial phase of the asylum procedure (pursuant to article 413 of the Code of Civil Procedure),⁵²⁹ which leads instead to a longer return procedure than before the amendments. At the same time, there are national Courts that reject the complaints against the return decision before the final decision on the asylum request. In these cases, if the asylum request was to be admitted by the court, a paradoxical situation in which the person will have a form of protection but also a final return decision would generate.

Given these challenges, CNRR has observed that ensuring asylum applicants fully understand their legal options is key. Many individuals do not initially realize they must manage two separate legal cases, each requiring appeals to different courts. Therefore, timely and clear legal counselling is essential to help asylum applicants navigate the complex procedural requirements and comply with deadlines. Ultimately, while the legislative amendment was intended to enhance the efficiency of Romania's return system, it has introduced new legal and procedural difficulties. The divergence between Romania's approach and EU recommendations underscores the need for further legislative adjustments to ensure fair and accessible legal remedies for asylum applicants.⁵³⁰

For those who failed in obtaining a legal status in Romania in 2024, IGI issued 2,894 voluntary return decisions, 1,599 escorted return decisions, and carried out the escorted removal of 1,095 people in an irregular situation in the country.⁵³¹ In 2025, there were 770 people returned, out of which 630 after a forced return decision and 150 under an assisted voluntary return.⁵³²

From the practice encountered in 2024 and 2025, JRS Romania observed that asylum applicants do not understand from the beginning that they will have two separate files for both decisions and two different Courts who will decide over their complaints. The return decision is issued jointly with the asylum rejection but does not impact the opportunity to file a complaint in the asylum procedure.⁵³³

According to JRS Romania in 2025, as in 2024, the counsellors must assure that the asylum applicants understood exactly where they have to submit the appeal against the return decision and the complaint against the IGI decision, in order to respect the deadlines. Counselling offered immediately after the communication of decisions is very important, to emphasize the fact that the effects of the return decision will only occur upon completion of the asylum procedure and to explain to them all the steps they have to take in both procedures.⁵³⁴

CNRR observed that, in practice, asylum applicants generally do not understand from the beginning that they will have two separate files, namely one for each decision and that there will be two different Courts,

⁵²⁸ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

⁵²⁹ Article 413 Code of Civil Procedure: (1) *The court can suspend the trial: 1. when the solution of the case depends, in whole or in part, on the existence or non-existence of a right that is the object of another judicial proceeding; [...] (2) The suspension will last until the decision adopted in the case that caused the suspension becomes definitive.*

⁵³⁰ Information provided by CNRR February 2025.

⁵³¹ General Inspectorate for Immigration, "2.800 de decizii de returnare voluntară și aproximativ 1.600 de decizii de returnare sub escortă emise în anul 2024", 20 march 2025, available [here](#).

⁵³² Eurostat, Third-country nationals returned following an order to leave, by type of return, citizenship, country of destination, age and sex - quarterly data, available [here](#).

⁵³³ Information from JRS Romania in March 2025.

⁵³⁴ *ibid.*

with different jurisdiction which will decide over their complaints. The counsellors must ensure that the asylum applicants understood exactly where they have to submit the complaint against the return decision and the appeal against the IGI decision on the asylum claim, in order to respect the deadlines. Counselling offered immediately after the communication of decisions is very important, to emphasize the fact that the effects of the return decision will only occur upon completion of the asylum procedure and to explain them all the steps they have to take in both procedures.⁵³⁵

In 2025, a significant case concerning the application of the “undesirable” measure on national security grounds was examined by the Bucharest Court of Appeal. The individual declaration as being “undesirable” is a measure ordered against a third-country national who has carried out, is carrying out or there are well-founded indications that he intend to carry out activities that may jeopardize national security or public order.⁵³⁶ Following a proposal by the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI), the Prosecutor’s Office requested that a Palestinian national, residing in Romania for over 40 years and holding long-term residence status, be declared undesirable for a period of 10 years, on the basis of alleged links to radical ideology and risks of (self-)radicalisation and support for a terrorist organisation.⁵³⁷ By Decision no. 1312/2025 of 1 September 2025, the Court rejected the request as unfounded, finding a “total absence of evidence” supporting the allegations.⁵³⁸ While the authorities relied in part on classified information and invoked risks related to national security, the Court held that these remained abstract and insufficiently substantiated, in the absence of concrete actions attributable to the individual. It further noted that the materials presented did not demonstrate actual links, interactions, or support for terrorist activities, nor identifiable means through which such support could be carried out.⁵³⁹ The Court emphasised that declaring a person ‘undesirable’ constitutes a serious interference with the right to residence and private life, particularly in the case of a long-term resident with established ties in Romania, and requires the existence of a real, current and sufficiently serious threat. It also observed inconsistencies in the authorities’ approach, noting that the individual’s right of residence had been extended by IGI during the proceedings. The decision is not final, the case being pending before the High Court of Cassation and Justice.⁵⁴⁰

In contrast, in another case in 2025, the Bucharest Court of Appeal ordered the application of the “undesirable” measure on national security grounds. By Decision no. 212/2025 of 21 February 2025, the Court admitted the request submitted by the Prosecutor’s Office and declared an Iraqi national undesirable for a period of 10 years.⁵⁴¹ The individual had previously been granted refugee status and had been residing in Romania since 2017 following relocation from Greece.⁵⁴² According to information provided by the Romanian Intelligence Service, the person came to the attention of the authorities in 2024 due to activities considered to pose risks to national security under the legal framework on counter-terrorism.⁵⁴³ The decision was declared enforceable and communicated to IGI for execution. The Court of Appeal’s ruling was subsequently upheld on appeal by the High Court of Cassation and Justice.⁵⁴⁴

In another case in 2025, the Bucharest Court of Appeal rejected a request related to the declaration of a foreign national as undesirable on procedural grounds. By decision of 25 March 2025, the Court admitted the exception of lack of interest and dismissed the application accordingly.⁵⁴⁵ According to a press release issued by the Romanian Intelligence Service, the individual concerned, a German national who had

⁵³⁵ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

⁵³⁶ Art. 85 Aliens Ordinance.

⁵³⁷ Libertatea, “Palestinian stabilit în România de peste 40 de ani, suspectat de SRI...”, available [here](#). Mediafax, “SRI cere expulzarea...”, available [here](#).

⁵³⁸ Bucharest Court of Appeal, Decision no. 1312/2025, 1 September 2025, available [here](#).

⁵³⁹ Libertatea, “Palestinian stabilit în România de peste 40 de ani, suspectat de SRI...”, available [here](#). Mediafax, “SRI cere expulzarea...”, available [here](#).

⁵⁴⁰ *ibid.*

⁵⁴¹ Bucharest Court of Appeal, Decision no. 212/2025, 21 February 2025, available [here](#).

⁵⁴² Romanian Intelligence Service, Press release, 21 February 2025, available [here](#).

⁵⁴³ *ibid.*

⁵⁴⁴ High Court of Cassation and Justice, jurisprudence available [here](#).

⁵⁴⁵ Bucharest Court of Appeal, Case no. 1611/2/2025, decision of 25 March 2025, available [here](#).

arrived in Romania in 2024 for university studies, had been the subject of a separate procedure resulting in his declaration as undesirable for a period of 10 years on national security grounds.⁵⁴⁶ The authorities indicated that the person had engaged in activities related to the promotion of terrorist ideology and dissemination of propaganda materials, as well as behaviour associated with processes of radicalisation.

D. Guarantees for vulnerable groups

1. Identification

Indicators: Special Procedural Guarantees

1. Is there a specific identification mechanism in place to systematically identify vulnerable asylum applicants? ☒ Yes ☐ For certain categories ☐ No
 ❖ If for certain categories, specify which:
2. Does the law provide for an identification mechanism for unaccompanied children? ☒ Yes ☐ No

The law defines an applicant in need of special procedural guarantees as an applicant whose ability to benefit from the rights and fulfil their obligations is limited as a result of individual circumstances that may be due, *inter alia*, to age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, serious illness, mental illness or disorder, or torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence etc.⁵⁴⁷ This clause may be interpreted as a non-exhaustive list of persons who may be considered in need of special procedural guarantees.

Article 5¹(2) of the Asylum Act lists the following categories of vulnerable persons: minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, persons suffering from serious illnesses, people with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, or persons in other special circumstances.

1.1 Screening of vulnerability

Romanian law provides that the assessment of who belongs to a category of vulnerable people is done after an asylum application has been lodged, as soon as possible, by IGI specialists, based on an individual assessment. In order to carry out the individual assessment and take appropriate measures to ensure the rights and guarantees provided by this law, the competent authorities shall provide special support at the request of IGI.⁵⁴⁸

The Asylum Decree completes this provision by stating that the specialised personnel of IGI cooperates with UNHCR and relevant NGOs to identify asylum applicants who may be included in the category of vulnerable persons referred to in Article 5¹(2) of the Act.⁵⁴⁹ In order to assess the vulnerability of asylum applicants, specialists within IGI, in cooperation, where appropriate, with experts from other institutions and authorities competent in the field, make an assessment of the special needs of foreigners.⁵⁵⁰

⁵⁴⁶ Romanian Intelligence Service, Press release, "Cetățean străin declarat indezirabil", 21 March 2025, available [here](#).

⁵⁴⁷ Article 2(1) (b¹) Asylum Act.

⁵⁴⁸ *ibid.* Article 5¹(3).

⁵⁴⁹ Article 5(1) Asylum Decree.

⁵⁵⁰ *ibid.* Article 5(2).

Depending on the specific needs of each asylum applicant identified as a vulnerable person, IGI-DAI notifies and cooperates with authorities and specialised agencies to provide necessary assistance.⁵⁵¹ IGI-DAI may collaborate with NGOs to assist asylum applicants identified as vulnerable.⁵⁵²

There are no further explanations in the law on how the individual assessment is carried out in practice or who are the specialists conducting the assessments. The law also does not include guidelines on how the cooperation between the IGI-DAI and UNHCR, on the one hand, and IGI-DAI and NGOs on the other hand, should work in practice in order to adequately identify such persons.

In practice, there is a special form that is filled in from the moment an application is lodged, while the preliminary interview and personal interview also have questions related to vulnerabilities. IGI-DAI has internal guidelines on early identification, but these guidelines are only for internal use and are not publicly available. According to the Director of Regional Centre of Timișoara, the identification mechanism has been developed together with UNHCR Romania. UNHCR Romania confirmed that in 2013 it worked together with IGI-DAI in developing a pilot mechanism to identify, refer and assist vulnerable asylum applicants, defined as such by the recast Reception Conditions and Asylum Procedures Directives. At that time, all staff of IGI-DAI dealing with reception and procedures were trained by UNHCR and other agencies. According to UNHCR, IGI is using a format to identify vulnerabilities. EUAA organized trainings in 2024 which aimed at 1) strengthening capacity to identify victims of trafficking and 2) identification of and support to vulnerable children, directed to immigration officials as well as border police (for the first one).⁵⁵³

Article 12¹ of the Asylum Act prescribes that staff training programs shall include, *inter alia*, methodology on the assessment of asylum applications made by vulnerable persons and identification mechanisms and assistance for vulnerable persons.

In 2024, IGI-DAI reported 544 vulnerable persons: 348 minors, separately 157 unaccompanied minors, 10 elderly persons, 10 pregnant women, 18 single parent families, 1 persons subjected to a form of violence (the type of violence was not specified). IGI-DAI mentioned that in 2024, in the case of vulnerable persons, more precisely unaccompanied minors, there were no situations of asylum applications examined under the accelerated procedure.⁵⁵⁴

In 2025, IGI-DAI reported having identified 420 vulnerable persons, as follows: 299 minors, 45 unaccompanied minors, 1 pregnant woman, 44 single parents with minor children, 3 people with disabilities, 9 people with mental health conditions or serious illnesses, 9 elderlies, 7 people who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of violence, 3 Potential victims of human trafficking.⁵⁵⁵

CNRR highlighted that IGI has a mechanism for the early identification of vulnerable individuals. They also pointed out that each applicant's file includes an observation sheet, which records information provided by the applicant regarding factors such as age, gender, family situation (e.g., single-parent family, potential risk of gender-based violence, elderly person living alone, etc.), pregnancy, physical or mental health issues/diagnosed conditions, disabilities, substance abuse, experiences of torture (if the applicant has indicated any such experiences), or human trafficking (based on the applicant's statements or indications). Additionally, the sheet includes other concerns, such as difficulty concentrating, emotional distress, agitation, crying, etc. This information is gathered at various stages of the procedure, including at the time of the asylum application submission, during accommodation at the Reception Centre, through the preliminary questionnaire, the interview, or the court phase. The caseworker will evaluate whether it

⁵⁵¹ *ibid.* Article 5(3).

⁵⁵² *ibid.* Article 5(4).

⁵⁵³ Information provided by UNHCR in March 2025.

⁵⁵⁴ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

⁵⁵⁵ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

is necessary to inform the integration officer about the case to implement any special assistance measures.⁵⁵⁶ In the case of asylum applicants assisted by CNRR in 2025, there were no delays in identifying a person as vulnerable.⁵⁵⁷

1.2 Age assessment of unaccompanied children

The Asylum Act foresees that an age assessment can be carried out in case there are doubts as to the alleged age of the applicant or if the unaccompanied minor cannot prove their age.⁵⁵⁸ In these cases, before a decision is delivered at first instance, IGI-DAI requests forensic expertise to assess the applicant's age, with the prior written consent of the minor and their legal representative.⁵⁵⁹

If the asylum applicant and/or the legal representative refuse to carry out the age assessment examination and no conclusive evidence regarding age is provided, the applicant shall be considered an adult.⁵⁶⁰ The person shall be deemed to have reached the age of 18 at the time of lodging the asylum application.⁵⁶¹ However, if a psychologist of IGI-DAI determines, after an evaluation, that the grounds for refusal to carry out the age assessments examination are well-founded, the asylum applicant will not be considered an adult.⁵⁶²

The law provides that the interpretation of the examination results shall be carried out taking into account the principle of the best interests of the child.⁵⁶³

The asylum application cannot be refused on the sole ground that the person did not consent to the age assessment and cannot prevent IGI-DAI from granting international protection to the respective asylum applicant.⁵⁶⁴

According to the law, IGI-DAI informs the legal representative and the asylum applicant unaccompanied minor in writing, in a language that the latter understands or is reasonably supposed to understand, about the possibility of carrying out an age assessment. This information should also include details of the medical examination methods, the possible consequences of the outcome of the examination and the effects of any refusal to undergo medical examination.⁵⁶⁵ The law also prescribes that the medical examination shall be carried out in full respect of the minor's dignity, using the least invasive methods to obtain, as far as possible, a reliable result.⁵⁶⁶

The Asylum Act does not, however, prescribe for a method on how the age assessment should be carried out. When an age assessment is ordered by IGI-DAI, this is carried out by the National Network of Legal Medicine, which comprises of the National Institute of Legal Medicine “Mina Minovici” in Bucharest (NIML), 5 Institutes of Legal Medicine (IML) in Iași, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Târgu Mureș and Timișoara, 36 County Legal Medicine Services and 11 Forensic Offices.⁵⁶⁷

According to the Procedural Rules on expert assessments and findings and other forensic work for establishing the age of a person, the forensic findings and forensic expertise related to living persons, at the request of the judicial bodies, consist of clinical and complementary radiological, haematological,

⁵⁵⁶ Information provided by CNRR, 3 February 2025. Confirmed in 2026.

⁵⁵⁷ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

⁵⁵⁸ Article 41(2) Asylum Act.

⁵⁵⁹ *ibid.*

⁵⁶⁰ *ibid.* Article 41(3).

⁵⁶¹ *ibid.* Article 41(4).

⁵⁶² *ibid.* Article 41(5).

⁵⁶³ *ibid.* Article 41(6).

⁵⁶⁴ *ibid.* Article 41(7).

⁵⁶⁵ *ibid.* Article 16(4)(c) in conjunction with Article 22 Asylum Decree.

⁵⁶⁶ *ibid.* Article 16(4^1).

⁵⁶⁷ National Network of Legal Medicine, *Tipuri de expertize medico-legale*, available in Romanian [here](#).

serological, bacteriological, anthropological, dermatological, genetic exams and other.⁵⁶⁸ The Procedural Rules also prescribe that minors are examined in the presence of one of the parents, or their legal representative or, in their absence, in the presence of an adult family member of the same sex.⁵⁶⁹

According to the stakeholders interviewed by the author, the method used by IML to assess age in all cases is bone measurement.

The law does not prescribe the possibility to challenge the age assessment decision. However, it is possible to request a new expert opinion, which will be also conducted by IML and the cost should be covered by the person requesting it. There has been no such case in practice.

As of 2025, the National Institute of Legal Medicine (INML) in Romania continues to primarily utilize bone measurements for age assessments. This approach involves radiographic analysis of skeletal development to estimate an individual's age. However, recent studies have explored alternative methods, such as analysing Hounsfield Units (HU) from pelvic CT scans, which may offer non-invasive and potentially reliable means for age estimation in the Romanian population.⁵⁷⁰ Despite these advancements, the current legal framework in Romania does not mandate a multidisciplinary approach to age assessment. The law does not prescribe the possibility to challenge the age assessment decision. In summary, while bone measurement remains the standard procedure for age assessment in Romania as of 2025, there is a growing recognition of the need for a more holistic, multidisciplinary approach to align with international standards and improve the accuracy of such assessments.⁵⁷¹

In 2023, IGI-DAI reported that 5 age assessments were made at IML Galati county hospital.⁵⁷² No further details and explanations were provided on why such a low number of age assessments were performed in 2023. In 2024 and 2025, IGI-DAI did not provide information regarding the number or outcome of age assessment examinations.

2. Special procedural guarantees

Indicators: Special Procedural Guarantees

1. Are there special procedural arrangements/guarantees for vulnerable people?

☒ Yes ☐ For certain categories ☐ No

2.1 Adequate support during the interview

Pursuant to Article 5^1(4) of the Asylum Act, in cases where vulnerable persons with special needs are identified, specialised staff of IGI-DAI carry out assessments to identify specific needs and decide on appropriate steps to ensure the rights and guarantees provided by the law during the asylum procedure.

Romanian law provides an important safeguard in respect of procedural guarantees for vulnerable persons: in the administrative phase of the asylum procedure, documents drafted before the identification of special needs will be amended and/or supplemented only where it is necessary to adequately examine the asylum application.⁵⁷³

⁵⁶⁸ Article 26(a) Procedural Rules of 25 May 2000 on expert assessments and findings and other forensic work.
⁵⁶⁹ *ibid.* Article 14(2).
⁵⁷⁰ Stan E, Enache A, Muresan CO, Ciocan V, Ungureanu S, Motofelea AC, Voicu A, Costachescu D. Age Estimation through Hounsfield Unit Analysis of Pelvic Bone in the Romanian Population. *Diagnostics (Basel)*. 2024 Sep 23;14(18):2103, available [here](#).
⁵⁷¹ Information provided by JRS representative in February 2025.
⁵⁷² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.
⁵⁷³ Article 5^1(5) Asylum Act.

The law also foresees a specific monitoring obligation throughout the entire asylum procedure in line with Article 22(1) of the recast Reception Conditions Directive.⁵⁷⁴

The interview of vulnerable asylum applicants shall be carried out by case officers specialised in this respect, taking into account the special situation of these persons.⁵⁷⁵

In 2023, according to data provided by IGI-DAI,⁵⁷⁶ in the case of asylum-seeking vulnerable persons, reports issued by psychologists working for non-governmental organisations (e.g. ICAR Foundation) are accepted. In 2024 there was a gap in AMIF funding, so ICAR interventions were limited.⁵⁷⁷ In 2025, ICAR's activity resumed.

CNRR stated that, based on their experience in 2024, most asylum applicants did not report concerns about the proper consideration of special procedural guarantees. However, there were instances where some asylum applicants claimed they were not identified as vulnerable persons (such as LGBTQ+ individuals or victims of torture) in a timely manner.⁵⁷⁸ From the practice encountered in 2025, the majority of the asylum applicants assisted by CNRR reported that their special procedural guarantees needs had been addressed. However, there were some cases in which the asylum applicants stated that they were not asked if they want to be assisted during the interview (by a lawyer, a legal counsellor or a UNHCR representative) or that they were not timely identified as vulnerable persons (LGBTQ+, victims of torture).⁵⁷⁹

2.2 Exemption from special procedures

According to Article 75(2) of the Asylum Act, applicants in need of special procedural guarantees or with [Special Reception Needs](#) maybe subjected to the [Accelerated Procedure](#) or the [Border Procedure](#) only if they represent a threat to national security or public order, due to their activity or membership to a certain group.⁵⁸⁰ In practice, according to IGI-DAI, unaccompanied children or persons in need of special procedural guarantees are not channelled in the accelerated or border procedure.⁵⁸¹

In 2022, in Rădăuți a woman who was HIV positive was assessed in an accelerated procedure, she appealed the decision and was also rejected by the court. No such cases were reported since 2023.

3. Use of medical reports

Indicators: Use of medical reports

1. Does the law provide for the possibility of a medical report in support of the applicant's statements regarding past persecution or serious harm?
☒ Yes ☐ In some cases ☐ No
2. Are medical reports taken into account when assessing the credibility of the applicant's statements?
☒ Yes ☐ No

Romanian legislation explicitly refers to the use of medical reports in asylum procedures. Article 49¹ of the Asylum Act provides that, when IGI-DAI deems it relevant for the assessment of an asylum application, the asylum applicant will be subject with his consent to medical examination concerning signs that might

⁵⁷⁴ *ibid.* Article 5¹(6). IGI-DAI monitors the situation of applicants with special needs upon reception and, together with the competent authorities, will ensure that assistance is given throughout the entire asylum procedure.

⁵⁷⁵ *ibid.* Article 46.

⁵⁷⁶ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁵⁷⁷ Information provided by JRS Romania June 2025.

⁵⁷⁸ Information provided by CNRR February 2025.

⁵⁷⁹ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

⁵⁸⁰ Articles 75(2) and 84 Asylum Act.

⁵⁸¹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 14 February 2018.

indicate past persecution or serious harm.⁵⁸² The applicant's refusal to undergo the medical examination shall not prevent IGI-DAI from taking a decision on the application for international protection.⁵⁸³

Medical examinations shall be carried out by the legal medicine institutions and the result shall be transmitted immediately to IGI-DAI. The coverage of the expenses is ensured by the Ministry of Internal Affairs through the budget allocated to IGI in this respect.⁵⁸⁴ If the medical examination is requested by IGI-DAI, it is therefore paid by IGI-DAI.

When no medical examination is carried out, IGI-DAI informs applicants that they may, on their own initiative and at their own cost, arrange for a medical examination concerning signs that might indicate past persecution or serious harm.⁵⁸⁵ The results of the medical examination are assessed by IGI-DAI in corroboration with other elements of the application for international protection.⁵⁸⁶

Moreover, as a general rule, an applicant is not expected to provide written evidence but they are obliged to hand over to the authorities all the documents at their disposal which are relevant to their personal situation.⁵⁸⁷ The Asylum Decree provides that the examination of the asylum application must be carried out individually and taking into account, *inter alia*, the relevant documents submitted by the applicant, including information on whether they have been subjected to persecution or the possibility of being persecuted or of being exposed to a risk of serious harm.⁵⁸⁸ This means that the asylum applicant may submit relevant documents with regard to past persecution but also with a view to the possible future persecution and serious harm.

In addition, the Asylum Act foresees that when there are serious doubts regarding the adult's asylum applicant legal capacity, specialised staff at IGI-DAI request a medical examination.⁵⁸⁹ If the medical examination reveals lack of legal capacity of the asylum applicant, the case officer in charge of the case, requests the appointment of a counsellor, under the same conditions as for Romanian citizens.⁵⁹⁰ The asylum procedure is suspended until the appointment with the counsellor. During this period of suspension, the applicant benefits from the rights set out in the law.⁵⁹¹ The asylum application of an asylum applicant who has no capacity is filed by the counsellor after their appointment.⁵⁹² When conducting the personal interview, the counsellor will inform the asylum applicant of the purpose and possible consequences of this interview and will take the necessary steps to prepare the applicant for the interview.⁵⁹³ The interview of an asylum applicant without legal capacity shall be carried out in the presence of the counsellor.⁵⁹⁴

According to the directors of the centres, in Galați, Rădăuți, Șomcuta Mare and Timișoara there were no cases in which a medical examination under Article 49^1 was requested by IGI-DAI in 2022. In Bucharest instead, the IGI-DAI requested a medical examination (psychiatric expert opinion) regarding the establishment of the degree of disability of a person. There are no updates on the case.

IGI-DAI accepts medico-legal expert opinions issued by officially recognised experts enrolled on the lists drawn up by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice, with the approval of the Board of

⁵⁸² Article 49^1(1) Asylum Act.

⁵⁸³ *ibid.* Article 49^1(2).

⁵⁸⁴ *ibid.* Article 49^1(3).

⁵⁸⁵ *ibid.* Article 49^1(4).

⁵⁸⁶ *ibid.*

⁵⁸⁷ *ibid.* Article 19(c).

⁵⁸⁸ Article 16(1)(b) Asylum Decree.

⁵⁸⁹ Article 42(1) Asylum Act.

⁵⁹⁰ *ibid.* Article 42(2).

⁵⁹¹ *ibid.* Article 42(3).

⁵⁹² *ibid.* Article 42(4).

⁵⁹³ *ibid.* Article 42(5).

⁵⁹⁴ *ibid.* Article 42(6).

Forensics.⁵⁹⁵ After a one-year gap in the provision of medical assistance for asylum applicants, the ICAR Foundation launched in December 2024 the project SERISSA – Integrated Health Services for Asylum applicants (AMIF). Continuing its commitment to support individuals in the asylum procedure, the ICAR Foundation is implementing a 24-month program through multidisciplinary specialist teams, offering a comprehensive package of services including information sessions, individual and group social counselling, psychological support, as well as medical examinations and treatments. Project activities are carried out in six cities - Bucharest, Galați, Giurgiu, Rădăuți, Șomcuta Mare, and Timișoara - within the Regional Integration Centres and the Regional Centre for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants.⁵⁹⁶ In 2025, asylum applicants benefitted from integrated health services provided under the Integrated Health Services for Asylum applicants (SERISSA) project, including medical screenings, consultations, investigations, treatment, transportation to medical facilities, as well as specialised psychological counselling and support.⁵⁹⁷

In general, asylum applicants submit medical reports from the country of origin either to IGI-DAI or the court.

In 2023, at IGI-DAI in Bucharest, there were 2 cases in which the asylum applicants submitted medical reports issued by authorities from their countries of origin; further details were not provided.⁵⁹⁸

In 2024, CNRR stated that if medical reports exist, and the case officer/judge considers that the documents are relevant for the procedure, they will be analysed and taken into account when assessing the credibility of the applicant's statements. However, they do not have information if all the reports are based on the methodology laid down in the Istanbul Protocol.⁵⁹⁹

From the practice encountered in 2025, if medical reports exist, and the case officer/judge considers that the documents are relevant for the procedure, they will be analysed and taken into account when assessing the credibility of the applicant's statements.⁶⁰⁰

4. Legal representation of unaccompanied children

Indicators: Unaccompanied Children

1. Does the law provide for the appointment of a representative to all unaccompanied children?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Regulatory changes

Based on the amendments to the child protection law⁶⁰¹ brought by the Law 191/2022 (specifically including unaccompanied children asylum-seekers under its scope, as well as extending protection during the return proceedings), thus regulating practical gaps, in August 2023 the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities adopted a Joint Order⁶⁰² regulating and clarifying the appointment, the attributions and the requirements of professional experience and training for persons

⁵⁹⁵ According to Article 34 Regulation implementing Government Ordinance 1/2000 approved by Government Decree 774/2000 as last amended by Government Decree 1204/2002, a medico-legal expert: (a) is a Romanian citizen and is fluent in Romanian; (b) has full legal capacity; (c) is a graduate of a medical university; (d) has a postgraduate specialisation courses in forensics; (e) practices this specialisation; (f) has not been convicted of an offence committed in circumstances related to their profession; and (g) is certified as an medico-legal expert at the Board of Forensics, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁵⁹⁶ ICAR Foundation, Comunicat lansare proiect, 11 December 2024, available [here](#).

⁵⁹⁷ Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2026, January 2026, available [here](#).

⁵⁹⁸ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁵⁹⁹ Information provided by CNRR, 3 February 2025.

⁶⁰⁰ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

⁶⁰¹ Law no. 272/2004 on protection and promotion of the rights of the child, republished in Official Gazette no. 159 of 05.03.2014, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁶⁰² Order no. 119/20.643/2023, published in Official Gazette no. 749 of 17.08.2023, available in Romanian [here](#).

designated as legal representatives for migrant unaccompanied or separated children, as well as their cooperation with the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI). The new regulation introduces the notion of “representative” instead of legal guardian.

Notably, a representative for unaccompanied foreign children may only be responsible for a maximum of 100 children.

Moreover, according to the Joint Order, specialists from NGOs or private social service providers have the opportunity to qualify and be appointed as representatives for unaccompanied foreign children. Special agreements will be concluded to facilitate this process.

The obligation to train people appointed as representatives is entrusted to the national authority ANPDCA through the development of a framework curriculum, which will include training on the child protection system in Romania, as well as the asylum procedure and international protection in its various forms. The Joint Order introduces the representative’s obligation to conduct monitoring visits to the unaccompanied and separated children who are left in the care of third parties. The representative must respect the monitoring visits schedule mentioned in the Joint Order regardless of the child’s whereabouts, including for children housed in their community and who are in the care of the adults with whom they left their country or to escape the conflict in Ukraine.

In 2023 according to CNRR,⁶⁰³ the joint order represents good progress but there are also some concerns. The most problematic provisions are those concerning unaccompanied and separated children who are placed in the care of third parties with whom they left their country of origin. This possibility is poorly defined and lacks sufficient safeguards, potentially exposing children to a wide range of risks, including neglect, human trafficking, and exploitation. According to CNRR these concerns persisted in 2025, as no legislative or practical developments were reported to address them.⁶⁰⁴

General framework

The law provides for the appointment of a legal representative to an unaccompanied child.⁶⁰⁵ IGI-DAI shall take the necessary steps, as soon as possible, to appoint a legal representative to assist the unaccompanied minor applying for asylum during the procedure, including during the admissibility and Dublin procedure as the case may be.⁶⁰⁶

The law prescribes it is not necessary to appoint a legal representative for the unaccompanied minor asylum applicant if they are to reach the age of the majority within 15 days of the filing of the asylum application.⁶⁰⁷

The law also foresees that IGI shall:

- ❖ Ensure that the legal representative is given the opportunity to inform the unaccompanied child about the significance and possible consequences of the personal interview and, as the case may be, about the preparation for the personal interview;
- ❖ Provide procedural legal information, including information on the withdrawing of international protection, both to the child and to their legal representative;
- ❖ Inform the legal representative and the unaccompanied child, in a language that the latter understands or is reasonably supposed to understand, about the possibility of carrying out an age assessment. This information should also include details of the medical examination methods,

⁶⁰³ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

⁶⁰⁴ Information provided by CNRR, April 2026.

⁶⁰⁵ Articles 16 and 40 Asylum Act.

⁶⁰⁶ *ibid.* Article 16(2).

⁶⁰⁷ *ibid.* Article 16(3).

the possible consequences of its outcome and the consequences of any refusal to undergo this examination.⁶⁰⁸

Timing of appointments

According to the modified Article 1(4)(4), the General Inspectorate for Immigration informs the legal representative and the unaccompanied minor asylum applicant, in a language that they know, regarding the possibility of performing a medical examination to determine age. This information must also include information on the methods of medical examination, the possible consequences of the result of this examination and the effects of any refusal to undergo medical examination.

Neither the Asylum Act nor the Child Protection Act prescribes an exact time limit for the appointment of the legal representative. However, the Asylum Act prescribes that after registering the asylum claim of the unaccompanied child, IGI-DAI shall immediately notify the competent authority, the Directorate General for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) territorially competent for the area in which the Regional Centres located, in order to start the appointment procedure of a legal representative. The Asylum Decree complements these provisions, stating that the officer in charge of the registration of the asylum claim of the unaccompanied child shall immediately notify the relevant DGASPC branch office in order to initiate the procedure of appointment of a legal representative.⁶⁰⁹ Once established, the legal representation of the unaccompanied asylum-seeking child continues to operate for as long as the child benefits from international protection in Romania.⁶¹⁰

In the case of an unaccompanied child who has expressed the intention to apply for asylum, in writing or orally, they shall be registered as an asylum applicant and the asylum application will be lodged at the moment of appointment of the legal representative.⁶¹¹ The asylum procedure is suspended until the appointment of a legal representative. During the period of suspension of the asylum procedure, the child benefits from the rights provided by law.⁶¹²

According to the information provided by IGI-DAI, after registering the unaccompanied minor as an asylum applicant, this institution will immediately notify the competent authority (General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection) in whose territorial area the accommodation centre where the asylum application is to be lodged is located, in order to initiate the procedure for appointing a legal representative. The legal representation of the unaccompanied minor, once established, continues to operate for as long as they benefit from international protection in Romania. In the case of an unaccompanied minor asylum applicant, the asylum procedure is suspended until the appointment of a legal representative. The time from the moment of sending the request for appointment of a representative until the actual appointment is according to them around 3-6 days.⁶¹³

In 2025, representatives of the Romanian Ombudsman carried out monitoring visits to several facilities accommodating asylum applicants and migrants, including the Regional Centre for Procedures and Accommodation for Asylum applicants in Galați, the Regional Centre for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants in Bucharest, and the Public Custody Centre in Arad. The reports of these visits, as well as the responses provided by the General Inspectorate for Immigration, are publicly available on the [institution's website](#). In 2025, the Romanian Ombudsman identified several issues during monitoring visits to reception and detention facilities:

- At the Public Custody Centre in Arad, deficiencies were found regarding infrastructure, including infiltration and malfunctioning lighting in sanitary facilities, as well as the need to repair the

⁶⁰⁸ *ibid.* Article 16(4).

⁶⁰⁹ Article 21(3) Asylum Decree.

⁶¹⁰ Article 40(1) Asylum Act.

⁶¹¹ *ibid.* Article 39(3).

⁶¹² *ibid.* Article 40(2).

⁶¹³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

complaint box and ensure its placement in a secure location. The Ombudsman also noted that the psychologist's office was not equipped with licensed working instruments.

- In the Regional Centre in Bucharest, it was found that existing information provided to applicants was not sufficiently detailed, and that improvements were needed in relation to informational materials. The report also indicated shortcomings related to psychological services, including the lack of certain instruments and organisational aspects of psychological assistance.
- In Galați, the Ombudsman identified staff shortages, with several vacant positions affecting the activity of the centre. The report also noted the need to continue hygiene measures in accommodation areas and to improve pest control activities.⁶¹⁴

In 2024, representatives from the Ombudsman's office had carried out visits in 4 of the Regional Centers for Procedures and Reception for Asylum applicants (Rădăuți, Maramureș - Șomcuta Mare, Giurgiu and Timișoara), at the Territorial Service of the Border Police Constanta and Tulcea, and at the Otopeni Public Custody Center.⁶¹⁵

Qualifications and duties of the legal representative

According to the Child Protection Act the legal representative is either the parent or person designated, according to the law, to exercise the rights and to fulfil the parental obligations towards the child.⁶¹⁶ This means that the legal representative substitutes the absent parents.

According to the Asylum Act, the interests of a child are defended by their legal representative.⁶¹⁷ The unaccompanied child is immediately informed of the appointment of the legal representative. The legal representative performs their duties in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and has the necessary expertise for this purpose.⁶¹⁸

The Child Protection Act provides that, in order to adequately support the interests of the child, DGASPC designates a person with legal or social assistance background from its staff or an authorised private body, to support the rights of the child and to participate, together with the child to the entire refugee status determination procedure.⁶¹⁹

The legal representative has to be present at the interview with the unaccompanied child,⁶²⁰ and may intervene at the end of the interview.⁶²¹ The legal representative informs the unaccompanied child asylum applicant of the purpose and possible consequences of the personal interview and takes the necessary steps to prepare the child for it.⁶²² In the case of a child, the appeal is filed by their legal representative. A child who has reached the age of 16 may file the complaint in their own name.⁶²³

The legal representative also has to submit the request of enrolment of the unaccompanied child to preparatory courses.⁶²⁴

⁶¹⁴ Romanian Ombudsman, Reports on Migrant Centers – 2025, available [here](#).

⁶¹⁵ *ibid.* - 2024, available [here](#).

⁶¹⁶ Article 4(g) Child Protection Act.

⁶¹⁷ Article 39(1) Asylum Act.

⁶¹⁸ *ibid.* Article 16(2^1).

⁶¹⁹ Article 77(3) Child Protection Act.

⁶²⁰ Article 47(1) Asylum Act.

⁶²¹ Article 23(1) Asylum Decree.

⁶²² Article 47(2) Asylum Act.

⁶²³ Articles 56(2) and 66(2) Asylum Act.

⁶²⁴ Article 6(4) Asylum Decree.

Legal representatives consider their mandate limited to assisting the child in administrative and judicial procedures related to the asylum claim, i.e. to attend interviews and court hearings. As a consequence, this mandate ends when the asylum procedure is completed. Legal representatives consider that is not their mandate to ensure the well-being of the unaccompanied child.

CNRR⁶²⁵ flagged the following issues concerning unaccompanied minors in 2023: At Regional Centre Timișoara, there were situations where the asylum applications of unaccompanied minors were not analysed swiftly. In the case of unaccompanied minor asylum applicants, communication between them and the legal representatives appointed by the DGASPC is not constant and tends to be limited to the measures and activities necessary for the asylum procedure. According to the information available to CNRR, the unaccompanied minors accommodated in the regional centres in Timișoara, Giurgiu, Șomcuta Mare and Rădăuți either have no contact with the legal representative or there is a very limited contact, and the only counselling they receive is from NGOs. The times when minors have contact with the legal representative appointed by the DGSPC are when the IGI conducts interviews in the administrative phase of the asylum procedure, or at court, when the legal representatives are required by law to be present. At the centre in Galați, a slightly more favourable situation could be observed in terms of communication between the legal representative and the unaccompanied minors, who showed a greater interest in the situation of minors, both legally and socially/culturally. According to CNRR, these shortcomings largely persisted in 2024 and 2025, although some minor improvements in practice were observed.⁶²⁶

According to UNHCR,⁶²⁷ it results that the usual practice shows that the DGASPC is duly assuming its responsibilities for guardianship of asylum-seeking unaccompanied children. Nonetheless, there have been occasions where areas of improvement have been identified with regard to the DGASPCs' ability to promptly intervene upon the arrival of asylum-seeking unaccompanied minors to the reception centres. More specifically, there have been instances where unaccompanied children arrive at Reception Centres, triggering notifications to the DGASPCs, and where these children end up leaving the centre after a short period of time and before the DGASPC has had an opportunity to assess the children and relocate them to the dedicated centres for unaccompanied minors. Moreover, other instances show that children have left the DGASPC centres, even when a legal representative was appointed. While the reasons for departure are unknown, this shows some limitations in fully engaging the child in the process and keeping active and close communication with them. The designated legal representative appointed by DGASPC, most often the Director, of the centre of placement is expected to maintain consistent communication with the child. While DGASPC generally adheres to procedural norms, there seems to be a need for improved engagement with the children, for instance due to lack of interpreters in certain locations or for specific languages, impeding effective communication with asylum-seeking children and adolescents. Even if in 2024 there were only 50 unaccompanied minors, it has also been noted that high numbers of unaccompanied minors might be assigned to individual legal representatives and that until recently there was a lack of clearly defined roles and responsibilities for the legal representatives. Moreover, challenges persist in ensuring an adequate best interest procedure, particularly regarding children who arrive in Romania being accompanied by an adult who is not their parent nor their appointed legal guardian. Addressing this matter requires a thorough review of existing protocols and coordination mechanisms to ensure a seamless and effective process for the protection and care of unaccompanied children and adolescent asylum applicants. It is to note that progress was made in 2023 through the issuance of the Order No 119/20.643/2023 on the conditions of appointment, role, tasks and requirements of education, training and professional experience for persons appointed as representatives for unaccompanied foreign minors who apply for or are granted a form of international protection.⁶²⁸ The Order outlines fundamental principles, which should be taken into consideration by the DGAPSCs, particularly with regard to the time

⁶²⁵ Information provided by CNRR, 16 January 2024.

⁶²⁶ *ibid.*, April 2026.

⁶²⁷ Information provided by UNHCR, 23 January 2024.

⁶²⁸ Order No 119/20.643/2023 on the conditions of appointment, role, tasks and requirements of education, training and professional experience for persons appointed as representatives for unaccompanied foreign minors who apply for or are granted a form of international protection, available in Romanian [here](#).

taken to respond to situations of unaccompanied children arriving at reception centres and maintaining regular contact between the appointed legal representatives and the child regardless of where they reside.

Regarding 2025, IGI-DAI indicated that only 34 unaccompanied minors applied for international protection throughout the year.⁶²⁹

Information provided by child protection authorities shows a heterogeneous distribution across counties. For example, DGASPC Timiș reported that 12 unaccompanied minors were taken into care during 2025, a decrease compared to 39 in 2024, and that 2 minors were still accommodated there at the end of the year.⁶³⁰

By contrast, DGASPC Galați and DGASPC Giurgiu reported that no unaccompanied minors were taken into care or accommodated in 2025, indicating uneven geographical presence and possible secondary movements.⁶³¹

According to Save the Children Romania in 2023⁶³², the legal representation of minors has raised many issues in the past years. Although legal representatives are appointed shortly after the arrival of unaccompanied minors, most minors are not aware who their legal representatives are; they cannot contact them directly and they are not assisted in accessing the various social benefits and rights. The activities of legal representatives are limited to assisting the children at interviews and signing documents related to the procedure. There are also communication impairments between legal representatives and unaccompanied children caused not only by the language barriers but also by the lack of involvement of legal representatives. Given that there are no clear provisions regarding the role and duties of legal representatives, there have been cases in which legal representatives are managing the cases differently.

According to UNHCR Romania, starting with August 2023, the lack of active involvement of legal representatives in the asylum procedure is due to the lack of clarity of the current legislation regarding the duties of the legal representative. There is no coherence between the 2 legal acts (Asylum Act and Child Protection Act) and there are poor methodologies regarding the role of the legal representative in the asylum procedure. This was confirmed by Save the Children.

Save the Children noted that previously there have been trainings and conferences on legal representation of unaccompanied minors organised by NGOs or UNHCR, but there is no coherent or mandatory training program. In 2024, CNRR published a designated information material for the legal representatives.⁶³³

In 2025, DGASPC Galați designated one legal representative for unaccompanied foreign minors, with an average caseload of five cases. The institution reported that internal procedures are in place regarding maintaining regular contact with the minor, assessing the best interests of the child, and cooperation with IGI and courts. No training sessions for legal representatives in the field of asylum or international protection were organised in 2025.⁶³⁴

DGASPC Timiș reported that in 2025 responsible staff informed unaccompanied minors throughout the duration of their mandate, maintained regular contact including through periodic visits, cooperated with specialists involved in the asylum procedure, monitored the situation of minors, supported their access to rights and social benefits, and ensured that minors were aware of mechanisms for reporting violence.⁶³⁵

⁶²⁹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 February 2026.

⁶³⁰ Information provided by DGASPC Timis, 24 February 2026.

⁶³¹ Information provided by DGASPC Galați and DGASPC Giurgiu, February 2026.

⁶³² Information provided by Save the Children in 2024.

⁶³³ CNRR, Information material for designated representatives, available [here](#).

⁶³⁴ Information provided by DGASPC Galați, 23 February 2026.

⁶³⁵ Information provided by DGASPC Timis, 24 February 2026.

E. Subsequent applications

Indicators: Subsequent Applications

1. Does the law provide for a specific procedure for subsequent applications? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Is a removal order suspended during the examination of a first subsequent application?
 - ❖ At first instance ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - ❖ At the appeal stage ☐ Yes ☒ No
3. Is a removal order suspended during the examination of a second, third, subsequent application?
 - ❖ At first instance ☐ Yes ☒ No
 - ❖ At the appeal stage ☐ Yes ☒ No

A subsequent application is considered as an application following a final termination or rejection decision on the former application, subsequent application or in case of a decision on cessation or withdrawal of the international protection granted.⁶³⁶ New elements or circumstances have to be submitted in order for a subsequent application to be admissible.⁶³⁷

Therefore, the Asylum Act prescribes that access to a new asylum procedure shall be granted if one of the following conditions is met:⁶³⁸

- ❖ The applicant relies on new elements which could not be presented for reasons beyond his or her control and which occurred during or after the completion of the previous procedure. The applicant is obliged to prove the existence of new elements invoked and impossibility of their submission until the date of application for access to a new asylum procedure. The new elements invoked cannot be the result of actions brought by the applicant in order to obtain a form of international protection from the Romanian State;
- ❖ From the date of completion of the previous asylum procedure, there have been political, social, military or legislative changes in the country of origin, likely to have serious consequences for the applicant.

For persons whose applications are considered to have been tacitly withdrawn, i.e. persons who have left Romania and moved on to another EU Member State, and the asylum procedure has been terminated, the asylum procedure may be continued if the person makes an asylum claim within 9 months of the decision to close the file, issued in case of implicit withdrawal.⁶³⁹ If the time limit has expired, the asylum claim is considered a subsequent application.

If the persons have left the territory of the EU or have been removed to a third country or the country of origin, as set out in Articles 19(2) and (3) of the Dublin Regulation, and their asylum procedure has been terminated by a decision closing the file, a new claim lodged in Romania is not deemed a subsequent application.⁶⁴⁰

Therefore, persons who expressly withdraw their asylum applications and have not left the territory of the EU or have not been removed to a third country or to the country of origin cannot continue their asylum procedure in case they return to Romania. As a consequence, they will have to submit new elements or circumstances.

⁶³⁶ Article 88(1) b) Asylum Act.

⁶³⁷ *ibid.* Article 88(2)(a)-(b).

⁶³⁸ *ibid.*

⁶³⁹ *ibid.* Article 94¹(1)(b).

⁶⁴⁰ *ibid.* Article 94¹(1)(a).

The subsequent application should be submitted personally, except for cases where the applicant is detained, is in pre-trial detention or serving a sentence.⁶⁴¹

When a subsequent application is registered, IGI-DAI shall inform the IGI-Migration Directorate regarding the granting to the applicant of the permission to remain on Romanian territory.⁶⁴² The law foresees that if the subsequent application is personally submitted by the foreigner and the previous asylum application is finalised, the foreigner is allowed to remain on the territory of Romania for a period of 5 days from the date of the registration of the application for granting access to a new asylum procedure.⁶⁴³ The law does not impose a time limit on submitting a subsequent application or explicit limitation on the number of asylum applications that may be lodged. However, the right to remain does not apply in the case of a second subsequent claim, thus the applicant is not granted access to territory.⁶⁴⁴ The same applies where the documents from the file show that the application is made abusively in order to prevent the removal of the foreigner from the territory of Romania.⁶⁴⁵

The law provides for a safeguard against *refoulement*, stating that these cases shall apply only if the enforcement of the return decision is considered to be without prejudice to the principle of *non-refoulement*.

In these cases, a decision is issued as soon as possible justifying the non-granting of the permission to remain on Romanian territory. This decision shall be communicated directly to the applicant, who is previously informed of the date on which they must present themselves at IGI-DAI or by post.⁶⁴⁶ This decision may be appealed within 2 days from the day it is communicated.⁶⁴⁷ The competent court is the Regional Court territorially competent for the area in which IGI-DAI issued the decision.⁶⁴⁸

The assessment of the subsequent application is done solely on the basis of a written submission. The law does not provide for a preliminary interview. IGI-DAI delivers a decision within 5 days from the date when the application was registered, on the basis of the reasoned application, the documentation submitted by the foreigner and the elements existing in their personal file.⁶⁴⁹ The case officer may issue a decision by which: (a) grants access to a new asylum procedure; or (b) dismisses the application as inadmissible.

The decision is communicated to the foreigner immediately, in writing, by a direct communication of the IGI-DAI's representatives or by post, to the last declared residence thereof. The decision communicated shall be accompanied by written information in Romanian language and in a language that the applicant understands or is reasonably supposed to understand, of the admission or rejection solution of their application and the conditions under which the decision can be challenged.⁶⁵⁰ The decision may also be communicated to the lawyer or representative of the NGO who legally represents the applicant, to the extent that the applicant has expressly stated this.⁶⁵¹

Rejected subsequent applications may be appealed before the territorially competent Regional Court within 10 days of communication.⁶⁵² Judicial review of rejected subsequent applications has no automatic

⁶⁴¹ *ibid.* Article 88(1)(a) and (3).

⁶⁴² Article 40(1) Asylum Decree.

⁶⁴³ Article 89(1) Asylum Act.

⁶⁴⁴ *ibid.* Article 89(2)(b). A foreigner submits a subsequent application after a previous application of this type has been rejected as inadmissible or if, after granting access to a new asylum procedure, their application has been rejected as manifestly unfounded.

⁶⁴⁵ *ibid.* Article 89(2)(a).

⁶⁴⁶ *ibid.* Article 89(3).

⁶⁴⁷ *ibid.* Article 89(4).

⁶⁴⁸ *ibid.* Article 89(5).

⁶⁴⁹ *ibid.* Article 91(1).

⁶⁵⁰ *ibid.* Article 91(3).

⁶⁵¹ *ibid.* Article 91(4).

⁶⁵² *ibid.* Article 93(1) and (2).

suspensive effect.⁶⁵³ The foreigner may ask for permission to stay on the territory of Romania. The application for permission to remain on the territory of Romania is solved as a matter of urgency by the competent court, which shall pronounce a final decision, in the council chamber, with the parties being summoned.⁶⁵⁴ In this case, the foreigner has the right to remain on the territory of Romania until the court has ruled on this request.⁶⁵⁵ The permission to remain on the territory of Romania shall be granted until the moment of the court's pronouncement on the appeal.⁶⁵⁶

Under Article 94(1) of the Asylum Act the court assesses the appeal without hearing the foreigner, within 30 days, and delivers a reasoned decision, by which it either (a) rejects the complaint, or (b) admits the complaint, granting access to a new asylum procedure and ordering IGI-DAI to examine the application in the regular procedure. The decision of the court is irrevocable.⁶⁵⁷

Even though third-country nationals who make a subsequent application have the right to be counselled and assisted at any stage of the procedure by an NGO representative, Romanian or foreign, the projects funded by the national AMIF program do not cover counselling and assistance for these applicants, as they are not considered as asylum applicants. CNRR representatives provide counselling and assistance on a voluntary basis. According to CNRR, access to a new asylum procedure is granted if either the applicant presents new elements relevant to their case or if significant political, social, military, or legislative changes have occurred in their country of origin. In many instances, the absence of new elements or the inability to justify why such elements were not presented during the initial procedure poses a challenge to submitting a subsequent application. Regarding legal assistance, asylum applicants who sought support from CNRR did not face any obstacles.⁶⁵⁸

From the practice encountered in 2025, the main obstacle asylum applicants face in lodging a subsequent application was related to the strict interpretation of the “new elements” requirement. In many cases, the asylum applicants were unable to provide relevant documents or information to support the new changes in their personal situation. In terms of legal counselling, the AMIF project carried out in 2025 did not include assistance in lodging a subsequent application. However, CNRR assisted a number of asylum applicants who reached our organisation in this matter, by providing them relevant information regarding the legal conditions in lodging a subsequent application.⁶⁵⁹

In 2025, 107 subsequent applications were made.⁶⁶⁰

No.	Country of origin	Total number of subsequent applications in 2025 ⁶⁶¹
1	Syria	31
2.	Iran	11
3.	Iraq	10
4.	Nigeria	8
5.	Türkiye	6

⁶⁵³ *ibid.* Article 93(3).

⁶⁵⁴ *ibid.* Article 93(4).

⁶⁵⁵ *ibid.* Article 93(5).

⁶⁵⁶ *ibid.* Article 93(6).

⁶⁵⁷ *ibid.* Article 94(2).

⁶⁵⁸ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

⁶⁵⁹ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

⁶⁶⁰ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁶⁶¹ *ibid.*

F. The safe country concepts

Indicators: Safe Country Concepts

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Does national legislation allow for the use of “safe country of origin” concept? | ☒ Yes ☐ No |
| ❖ Is there a national list of safe countries of origin? | ☐ Yes ☒ No |
| ❖ Is the safe country of origin concept used in practice? | ☒ Yes ☒ No |
| 2. Does national legislation allow for the use of “safe third country” concept? | ☒ Yes ☐ No |
| ❖ Is the safe third country concept used in practice? | ☐ Yes ☒ No |
| 3. Does national legislation allow for the use of “first country of asylum” concept? | ☒ Yes ☐ No |

1. Safe country of origin

Article 77(1) of the Asylum Act defines the concept of “safe countries of origin” as the EU Member States, as well as other States established by order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, on the basis of a list proposed by IGI, taking into account a number of criteria, *inter alia*:

- ❖ The observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as provided for and guaranteed by the ECHR, as subsequently amended, hereinafter referred to as the European Convention and/or the ICCPR, and/or the Convention against Torture, in particular the rights from which no derogation is permitted, in accordance with Article 15(2) ECHR;
- ❖ The functioning of democratic principles, political pluralism and free elections, as well as the existence of functional democratic institutions ensuring the guarantee and respect of fundamental human rights;
- ❖ Effective mechanisms for reporting violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- ❖ Compliance with the principle of *non-refoulement*, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention;
- ❖ Existence of stability factors.

When designating safe countries of origin, the government has to consider information sources from other Member States, EUAA, UNHCR, the Council of Europe and other international organisations.⁶⁶² IGI shall periodically review the situation in third countries designated as safe countries of origin and, on the basis of the resulting information, update the list.⁶⁶³ The asylum application of a person who comes from a safe country of origin is rejected as manifestly unfounded, unless the factual situation or the evidence presented by the applicant shows the existence of a well-founded fear of persecution or a risk of serious harm. In this case, the applicant shall be given access to the regular procedure.⁶⁶⁴

According to IGI-DAI, Romania has no national list of safe countries of origin nor safe third countries.⁶⁶⁵

In 2023, there were 2 cases in which the rejection was made on the basis of safe country of origin (Croatia, France); no further details were provided by IGI-DAI.⁶⁶⁶ According to IGI-DAI, Romania does not have a list of safe countries of origin, safe European third countries and safe third countries, but the Member States of the European Union are considered safe countries of origin (art.77 paragraph 1 of L122/2006).

⁶⁶² Article 77(2) Asylum Act.

⁶⁶³ *ibid.* Article 77(3).

⁶⁶⁴ *ibid.* Article 77(4).

⁶⁶⁵ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 20 February 2020.

⁶⁶⁶ *ibid.* 18 January 2024.

Asylum applications submitted by citizens coming from a safe country of origin are subject to the accelerated procedure. There is no statistical data according to the legal basis that was the basis for resolving asylum applications in the accelerated procedure.⁶⁶⁷

According to the *Committee on the Rights of the Child, concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Romania* from 2025, Law No. 105/2022 introducing automatic birth registration for both Romanian and foreign children was noted as a positive development. The Committee also took note of the proposed amendments to Law No. 21/1991 on Citizenship, aimed at preventing statelessness—specifically by prohibiting the withdrawal of Romanian citizenship in cases where such action would result in the loss of nationality for the individual's spouse and children. The Committee recommended that the Romanian authorities ensure that all children have access to birth registration and birth certificates without delay, paying particular attention to Roma children, Ukrainian children born in Romania since February 2022, and children born to refugee mothers. Additionally, it urged the establishment of a dedicated statelessness determination procedure and the systematic collection of disaggregated data on stateless children.⁶⁶⁸

2. Safe third country

Article 96 of the Asylum Act states that a European safe third country is a European country which is not a Member State of the European Union and:

- ❖ Has ratified and respected the provisions of the Refugee Convention without any geographical limitation;
- ❖ Has an asylum procedure provided for by domestic legislation;
- ❖ Has ratified the ECHR and complies with its provisions, including standards on effective remedies.

The concept of European safe third country may be applied only if the applicant has attempted to enter or has irregularly entered Romania from the referring country and this country agreed to their readmission.⁶⁶⁹

Under Article 97(1) of the Asylum Act, a safe third country is considered to be a country in respect of which there are sufficient guarantees that the rights of an applicant for international protection are respected on its territory in accordance with the following principles:

- ❖ Life and freedom are not threatened for reasons of race, religion, citizenship, membership of a particular social group or political opinion;
- ❖ There is no serious risk for the purposes of this law;
- ❖ The principle of *non-refoulement* in accordance with the Refugee Convention is respected;
- ❖ The prohibition of expulsion to a State where the person may be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment is respected;
- ❖ There is a possibility to request refugee status and, if this status is granted, to benefit from protection in accordance with the Refugee Convention.

Pursuant to Article 97(2), IGI-DAI rejects an asylum application as inadmissible when these criteria are applicable, the third country has agreed to readmit the applicant and there is a link between the applicant and the third country, on the basis of which it may reasonably be expected that the country is safe in their personal situation.

Although the law prescribes that a list of safe third countries shall be published in the Official Gazette,⁶⁷⁰ there is no such list available therein according with the information provided by IGI-DAI.⁶⁷¹ NGO

⁶⁶⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁶⁶⁸ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Romania*, CRC/C/ROU/CO/6-7, 5 June 2025, available [here](#).

⁶⁶⁹ Article 96(2) Asylum Act.

⁶⁷⁰ *ibid.* Article 97^2.

⁶⁷¹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

practitioners are also unaware of the existence of such a list. The Director of the Regional Centre of Timișoara thought that a list is published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. UNHCR stated that there is no list of safe third countries and the concept has not been applied in practice according to information available to them.

According to the law, ratification and respect for the provisions of the Refugee Convention without any geographical limitation is one of the criteria, which has to be fulfilled by the country in order to be considered a European safe third country. This criterion does not figure in the conditions for a “safe third country”.

When claims are rejected as inadmissible on the ground of European safe third country, safe third country or first country of asylum, IGI-DAI must inform the authorities in the respective country in the language of the safe third country, stating that the claim of the applicant was not examined on the merits.⁶⁷²

No data is available for 2024, but no application was dismissed on these basis since 2018. For 2025, no cases resolved under Art. 96 and Art. 97 were recorded because Romania has not adopted a national list of safe European third countries and safe third countries.⁶⁷³

3. First country of asylum

Article 95 of the Asylum Act provides that if the applicant has previously crossed a third country which has granted them protection, this country is considered a first country of asylum on the basis of the following criteria:

- ❖ Life and freedom are not threatened for reasons of race, religion, citizenship, membership of a particular social group or political opinion;
- ❖ There is no serious risk of harm;
- ❖ The principle of *non-refoulement* in accordance with the Refugee Convention is respected;
- ❖ The prohibition of expulsion to a State where the applicant is at risk of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment is respected;
- ❖ The protection granted subsists.

The law only refers to “protection”, without specifying whether the applicant must be granted refugee status or enjoy sufficient protection as per Article 35 of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive.

The criteria listed under Article 38(1) of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive with regard to “safe third country” also apply to the concept of first country of asylum”.

In 2022, no applications were dismissed on the basis of the first country of asylum concept.⁶⁷⁴ The situation was the same also in 2023.⁶⁷⁵ The situation was the same also in 2024⁶⁷⁶ and 2025.⁶⁷⁷

G. Information for asylum applicants and access to NGOs and UNHCR

1. Provision of information on the procedure

Indicators: Information on the Procedure

⁶⁷² Article 97^1(4) Asylum Act.

⁶⁷³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁶⁷⁴ *ibid.*, 22 February 2023.

⁶⁷⁵ *ibid.* 18 January 2024.

⁶⁷⁶ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

⁶⁷⁷ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

1. Is sufficient information provided to asylum applicants on the procedures, their rights and obligations in practice? ☒ Yes ☐ With difficulty ☐ No
- ❖ Is tailored information provided to unaccompanied children? ☐ Yes ☒ No

1.1 General information on rights, obligations and the procedure

The Asylum Act provides that the asylum applicant has the right to be informed, at the time of submission of the asylum application or later, within 15 days from the filing of the application, in a language which they understand or are reasonably supposed to understand, regarding the procedure, their rights and obligations during the asylum procedure, the consequences of non-compliance with these obligations and the lack of cooperation with the competent authorities, as well as the consequences of an explicit or implicit withdrawal of the asylum application.⁶⁷⁸

Competent officials are also obliged to inform asylum applicants about how they can contact non-governmental organisations and UNHCR, and how to obtain legal assistance and representation.⁶⁷⁹

In practice, respondents reported that there is no specifically tailored information provided to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. They are informed in the same way as adults, while they are also informed that they will have a legal representative. In general, unaccompanied children do not understand what this means. UNHCR also stated that there is a lack of accessible and adequate information materials for asylum-seeking children, child-friendly materials being an option.

The information has to be provided in writing by the official responsible for receiving the asylum application, according to a template established by order of the Director-General of IGI.⁶⁸⁰ Where necessary for the proper understanding of the information, this may also be communicated orally at the preliminary interview.⁶⁸¹

Since 2022, information materials were made available in all reception centres about rights and obligations that are provided immediately to the asylum applicants, verbally and in writing, when they are accommodated in the centre, with the support of available interpreters and by distributing leaflets/informative materials into the mother tongue. Information on the rights and obligations is also displayed in the interior of each centre in several languages (IGI-DAI⁶⁸² did not provide further details). According to CNRR the information is provided both verbally and by distributing leaflets available in languages such as English, French, Turkish, Ukrainian, Arab, Urdu, Pashto.⁶⁸³ The IGI-DAI staff make an overall presentation of the information, further details are provided by the NGO staff present in each centre.⁶⁸⁴

In practice, respondents reported that there is no specifically tailored information provided to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. They are informed in the same way as adults, while they are also informed that they will have a legal representative. In general, unaccompanied children do not understand what this means. UNHCR also stated that there is a lack of accessible and adequate information materials for asylum-seeking children. UNHCR has sought to address this challenge by developing child-friendly materials and making them available in reception centres.⁶⁸⁵

⁶⁷⁸ Article 17(1)(f) Asylum Act.

⁶⁷⁹ Article 2(2) Asylum Decree.

⁶⁸⁰ Article 2(1) Asylum Decree.

⁶⁸¹ *ibid.*

⁶⁸² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁶⁸³ CNRR, 'Useful materials', webpage, available [here](#).

⁶⁸⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 16 January 2024.

⁶⁸⁵ Information provided by UNHCR in March 2025.

In 2024 according to CNRR, asylum applicants received a list of rights and obligations from IGI immediately upon applying for asylum. In addition to the information provided by IGI officers, CNRR counsellors distributed leaflets on the asylum procedure in multiple relevant languages. Informational videos about the asylum process were also shown in the Regional Centres. In practice, the main challenge in providing information to asylum applicants is still the language barrier. However, when it comes to legal assistance, CNRR ensures that counselling is always conducted with the help of an interpreter.⁶⁸⁶ According to a JRS representative in Galați, in 2024 information was conveyed both orally and through leaflets by staff from NGOs involved in asylum applicant support projects, such as CNRR and the ICAR Foundation. Additionally, IGI officers provided both individual and group information sessions for the benefit of asylum applicants.⁶⁸⁷

From the practice encountered in 2025, asylum applicants received a list of rights and obligations from IGI as soon as they submitted the asylum application. In addition to the information received from IGI officials, CNRR has developed leaflets on the asylum procedure in various languages of interest which legal counsellors distribute to asylum applicants. CNRR also developed videos about the asylum procedure in various languages of interest that are displayed in the Regional Centres. In practice, the main difficulties and/or flaws with regard to information to asylum applicants, remains the language barrier, a difficulty encountered especially in the judicial phase of the asylum procedure: there have been situations where courts have not had interpreters available for certain languages - especially rare languages. In terms of the legal assistance CNRR is providing, we always assure that the counselling it is made through an interpreter, so that the information provided is fully understood by asylum applicants.⁶⁸⁸

⁶⁸⁶ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

⁶⁸⁷ Information provided by JRS representative in Galați, February 2025.

⁶⁸⁸ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

1.2 Information on the Dublin procedure

IGI-DAI has the obligation to inform the asylum applicant of the content of the common leaflet drawn up by the European Commission.⁶⁸⁹ The competent officer of IGI-DAI communicates the information contained in the common leaflet, drawn up according to Article 4(3) of the Dublin Regulation.⁶⁹⁰ If the applicant is an unaccompanied minor, the designated officer shall provide them, in a manner appropriate to their level of understanding, with the information contained in the special information leaflet drawn up by the European Commission, complemented through additional specific information for Romania.

IGI-DAI⁶⁹¹ stated in 2023 that the asylum applicants receive information about the Dublin procedure and that there is available a brochure in 15 languages (no further details were provided).

According to CNRR, in 2024 a Common Information Brochure developed by the European Commission, in accordance with Article 4(3) of the Dublin Regulation, was provided to asylum applicants when they submit their application. This brochure, which includes additional details specific to Romania, is signed on the first page, with a copy retained in the applicant's file. Additionally, a second brochure was available with information specifically adapted for unaccompanied minors, in which case the first page of this brochure is signed by a DGASPC representative, and the content must be explained to the minor in a way that aligns with their level of understanding by the official at the authority where the application was registered, as required by Article 118. A third brochure was issued when an individual is subject to the Dublin procedure. Alongside CNRR's leaflets on the asylum process, information on the Dublin procedure was also provided in multiple relevant languages.⁶⁹²

From the practice encountered in 2025, asylum applicants were systematically informed about the application of the Dublin Regulation and all the legal implications of this procedure. However, not all applicants fully understood the information received, so CNRR legal counsellors provided asylum applicants additional information regarding the Dublin procedure in a manner adapted to their level of understanding. The common leaflet as well as the specific leaflet for unaccompanied children are provided and are a useful tool for asylum applicants, including unaccompanied minors. CNRR also provides leaflets relating to the Dublin procedure, which are also written in several languages of interest. Information on asylum is available at the BCPs via UNHCR-placed visibility materials. However, given the chosen location of the materials, it is not always accessible to those who may be in need of protection and do not receive access to territory. The information is complemented with CNRR-designed flyers on the asylum procedure, available in 6 languages. Governmental materials on asylum are not available at the BCPs, nor a language-sensitive information. However, when a person requests asylum, interpretation is in most cases provided and the procedure is explained verbally by representatives of the Border Police.⁶⁹³

According to JRS Romania's representatives in Galați, asylum applicants were repeatedly informed about Dublin Regulation provisions and the consequences of traveling to other EU member states. They were made aware that if they move to another EU country, they will be returned to Romania, where they initially filed their asylum application. This information was conveyed both by IGI authorities and by NGOs involved in asylum applicant support projects.⁶⁹⁴

⁶⁸⁹ Article 118 Asylum Act.

⁶⁹⁰ *ibid.* Article 118(1).

⁶⁹¹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁶⁹² Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

⁶⁹³ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

⁶⁹⁴ Information provided in February 2025 and confirmed in April 2026. Available [here](#) on CNRR website.

2. Access to NGOs and UNHCR

Indicators: Access to NGOs and UNHCR

1. Do asylum applicants located at the border have effective access to NGOs and UNHCR if they wish so in practice? ☐ Yes ☒ With difficulty ☐ No
2. Do asylum applicants in detention centres have effective access to NGOs and UNHCR if they wish so in practice? ☐ Yes ☒ With difficulty ☐ No
3. Do asylum applicants accommodated in remote locations on the territory (excluding borders) have effective access to NGOs and UNHCR if they wish so in practice? ☐ Yes ☒ With difficulty ☐ No

According to the Asylum Act, asylum applicants located at the border or in detention centres have the right to be counselled and assisted by a representative from non-governmental Romanian or foreign organisations and to contact and receive assistance from an official of UNHCR at any stage of the asylum procedure.

In practice, asylum applicants located at the border have difficulties in accessing NGO services and assistance. Access depends on whether the Border Police or IGI-DAI inform the NGOs of the presence of asylum applicants at the border-crossing check points. In relation to asylum applicants detained in detention centres, access to such services is not systematically ensured as NGOs, namely CNRR, do not have regular office hours in these centres.

In practice, asylum applicants residing outside reception centres often face difficulties accessing NGOs. Their access largely depends on word-of-mouth information shared within the community, as well as the availability of contact details exchanged at the time of their asylum claim or during the integration programme. NGOs typically maintain a stronger presence within the reception centres, which makes access more limited for those living independently. While immigration authorities may refer individuals to NGOs when they apply for asylum or enter the integration programme, this referral does not systematically reach all those living in the community.

In 2024, UNHCR Romania was contacted by the asylum applicants accommodated in one of the Regional Centres through their implementing partner CNRR or directly via email, phone or walk-in interviews at its office.

Access of NGOs to border facilities is generally limited due to security considerations. Such access is not broadly regulated by law but is instead governed primarily by practice and specific cooperation arrangements. CNRR is granted access to border facilities on the basis of a signed Memorandum of Understanding and within the framework of its partnership with UNHCR for the purpose of border monitoring. However, starting in January 2025 and as of May 2025, CNRR's funding for in-person participation in border monitoring activities ceased. Funding previously allocated to monitoring missions was also discontinued. As a result, the organisation's effective and regular presence at border facilities has been significantly reduced, affecting the continuity and practical effectiveness of monitoring activities. In practice, NGOs face several obstacles in accessing border facilities. Due to the security-sensitive nature of these locations, access may require prior authorisation and is not necessarily permanent or regular. Asylum applicants may also encounter difficulties in contacting NGOs. In some instances, CNRR has received information from individuals who identify themselves as acquaintances of persons potentially in need of international protection. These intermediaries report that the asylum applicant's phone has been confiscated and that the person has limited ability to contact external organisations. Conversely, border authorities maintain that mobile phones are not confiscated except where there is a specific security risk.⁶⁹⁵

⁶⁹⁵ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

H. Differential treatment of specific nationalities in the procedure

Indicators: Treatment of Specific Nationalities

1. Are applications from specific nationalities considered manifestly well-founded? ☐ Yes ☒ No
❖ If yes, specify which:
2. Are applications from specific nationalities considered manifestly unfounded?⁶⁹⁶ ☐ Yes ☒ No

In the period December 2024 – September 2025, CNRR reported an administrative suspension of the analysis of asylum applications submitted by Syrian citizens.⁶⁹⁷ Asylum requests based on economic grounds - primarily from applicants from Nepal, India, and Bangladesh - as well as those involving individuals deemed a potential risk to national security, were prioritized and rejected through the accelerated procedure.⁶⁹⁸

According to CNRR, there was no uniform practice in the territory, after the resumption of the procedure for Syrian nationals - e.g. in the Galati Center, the majority of the asylum applicants were granted subsidiary protection, and in the Bucharest Center, most decisions were to reject the asylum applications. Asylum applications based on economic reasons and those in which the asylum applicants would pose a risk to national security were challenged in the accelerated procedure. From the practice encountered in the assistance provided, the most common form of protection granted in 2025 was subsidiary protection. The main beneficiaries of subsidiary protection were Sudanese citizens, followed by Syrians, and Palestinians. Refugee status was recognized in fewer cases, for countries such as Palestine, Afghanistan and Syria. In the cases listed above, forms of protection were granted both in the administrative and judicial phases.⁶⁹⁹

⁶⁹⁶ Whether under the “safe country of origin” concept or otherwise.

⁶⁹⁷ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

⁶⁹⁸ *ibid.*, February 2024.

⁶⁹⁹ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

Reception Conditions

Short overview of the reception system

Asylum applicants who do not have means of subsistence are entitled to reception conditions from the moment they have expressed their intention to apply for asylum until the completion of the asylum procedure and the expiry of their right to stay in Romania. Most asylum applicants are accommodated in Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants, managed by IGI-DAI. The management of reception is decentralised to the level of counties. Asylum applicants may also request to stay in private accommodation, but at their own expenses.

In 2024, the EUAA initiated the deployment to the Romanian national reception authorities of 71 containers for asylum and reception use, other than accommodation.⁷⁰⁰

In the area of reception, the EUAA identified a need in relation to enhancing information provision through the development and / or adaptation of relevant information provision materials and tools. Additionally, a need has emerged to strengthen existing mechanisms on the identification and assessment of vulnerable applicants. As part of the efforts directed at enhancing capacity in reception services, the need to establish well-defined national workflows, tools, and procedures has also been recognized, with particular emphasis on improving the identification of applicants with special reception needs for more effective vulnerability management. In addition, training and capacity-building efforts have been acknowledged as essential to equip Romanian authorities and relevant entities to manage reception processes more effectively. In response to identified gaps in quality assurance of reception, the EUAA will build on previous support provided through the ARC Tool to further enhance reception procedures, workflows, and related tools. Building on the material support provided by the EUAA in 2024 to enhance Romania's reception capacity, including the delivery of reception units, the EUAA will continue offering material support in 2025, as requested by the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII).⁷⁰¹

A. Access and forms of reception conditions

1. Criteria and restrictions to access reception conditions

Indicators: Criteria and Restrictions to Reception Conditions

1. Does the law allow access to material reception conditions to asylum applicants in the following stages of the asylum procedure?

❖ Regular procedure	☒ Yes	☐ Reduced material conditions	☐ No
❖ Dublin procedure	☒ Yes	☐ Reduced material conditions	☐ No
❖ Admissibility procedure	☒ Yes	☐ Reduced material conditions	☐ No
❖ Border procedure	☒ Yes	☐ Reduced material conditions	☐ No
❖ Accelerated procedure	☒ Yes	☐ Reduced material conditions	☐ No
❖ First appeal	☒ Yes	☐ Reduced material conditions	☐ No
❖ Onward appeal	☒ Yes	☐ Reduced material conditions	☐ No
❖ Subsequent application	☐ Yes	☐ Reduced material conditions	☒ No

2. Is there a requirement in the law that only asylum applicants who lack resources are entitled to material reception conditions? ☒ Yes ☐ No

⁷⁰⁰ Information provided by the EUAA, 14 March 2025.

⁷⁰¹ EUAA, *Evaluation Report – Operational Support to Romania 2023–2024*, June 2025, available [here](#).

Asylum applicants who do not have means of subsistence are entitled to reception conditions from the moment they have expressed their intention to apply for asylum until the completion of the asylum procedure and the expiry of their right to stay in Romania.⁷⁰² In 2023, legislative amendments were made to Law No. 122/2006, Article 17, paragraph (1), letter b, which provides for the right to remain in Romania until the asylum procedure is completed. Accelerated and border procedures are concluded from the date of delivery of the court's decision if an appeal has been lodged, or from the expiration of the deadline for filing the appeal.⁷⁰³ In the Dublin procedure the right to remain on the territory of Romania ceases on the date of the transfer.⁷⁰⁴

Subsequent applicants do not have the right to access material reception conditions.⁷⁰⁵

At the time of submission of an application for material reception conditions and whenever necessary, IGI-DAI shall analyse the provision of material reception conditions on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the material and financial means possessed by the applicant.⁷⁰⁶ If IGI-DAI finds that the applicant has the means to ensure an adequate standard of living and can contribute to the costs of material reception conditions and health care, it may suspend the granting of material reception conditions and may require reimbursement and impose future contribution to those costs.⁷⁰⁷

According to the law, applicants are entitled to reception conditions from the moment they express the intention to seek asylum. In the past, there have been reports of cases in which access to accommodation was only granted at the moment of registration of the asylum claim.

In 2022-2023, a mono-parental family was hosted in Somaschi Foundation. From February 2023, JRS helped them with the rent costs through the AMIF project, financed by IGI.⁷⁰⁸ No new cases were reported in 2024.

Since 9 March 2022, when the Romanian government lifted all COVID-19 restrictions, there have been no restrictions or measures imposed in the regional centres, according to the directors of the centres.

By 16 February 2023, at the ITPF Timișoara there were four shipping containers where asylum applicants were accommodated, and two mobile toilets placed in the inner courtyard of the institution. One of these containers was presented to the author. It had eight bunk beds, without mattresses and a broken fan heater. The representatives of ITPF stated that the mattresses were taken out for cleaning. They also declared that these containers had not been used since December 2022; they are only used when there is a group of 10-20 people waiting for their interview and registration process. In the first trimester of 2022, ITPF Timișoara had to process groups of 10-12 persons. In 2024, the containers were used as offices by Frontex and EUAA in Timisoara Reception Centre and the main pavilion building is used for accommodating asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.⁷⁰⁹ According to information published by IGI, in December 2024, plans were initiated to expand the reception capacity of the Timișoara Regional Centre through the construction of containers. However, the available information refers to procurement and technical documentation and does not confirm whether the construction works were completed or the facilities were operational in 2025.⁷¹⁰ No updated information was available for 2025 on whether the containers continued to be used in practice.

⁷⁰² Article 56(6) Asylum Decree.

⁷⁰³ Article 17(7) Asylum Act.

⁷⁰⁴ *ibid.* Article 17(1)(a).

⁷⁰⁵ *ibid.* Article 88^1.

⁷⁰⁶ Article 55(8) Asylum Decree.

⁷⁰⁷ *ibid.*

⁷⁰⁸ Experience of JRS Romania, April 2024.

⁷⁰⁹ Information provided by JRS Romania, July 2025.

⁷¹⁰ Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări (IGI), Extinderea capacității de cazare și asistență a solicitanților de azil la CRCPSA Timișoara prin construcții pe structură metalică, available here.

Asylum applicants transferred from Timișoara received the financial allowance prior to transfer only if they had stayed in the centre for a longer period. Those who were transferred within a matter of days were scheduled to receive the financial support at the destination reception centre. Those who were transferred soon after their arrival, they were only fingerprinted in Timisoara reception centre. The financial allowance is provided twice per month on the first and 15th of the month. Therefore, asylum applicants present in the centre at these dates received the financial allowance.⁷¹¹

According to JRS, in 2024 and 2025 asylum applicants were usually sanctioned through warnings or financially for violating the regulations within the CRPCSA Galati, by reducing the amount received as material aid from IGI (e.g. They were not paid for the days when they refused to contribute to the cleaning of the centre). If the applicant's behaviour was particularly serious or a repetition of the violation of the rules was found, temporary or permanent eviction from the centre may have been applied as sanction. For unexcused absence from the centre, eviction was applied as well.⁷¹²

According to IGI-DAI, in 2025, measures were applied to limit/withdraw material reception conditions for 65 people accommodated in regional centres.⁷¹³

2. Forms and levels of material reception conditions

Indicators: Forms and Levels of Material Reception Conditions

1. Amount of the monthly financial allowance/vouchers granted to asylum applicants as of 1 June 2024(in original currency and in €): 960 RON / € 195⁷¹⁴

According to IGI, in 2023, 6,638 asylum applicants benefitted from financial allowances.⁷¹⁵ For 2024, in the Regional Centres for Procedures and Accommodation of Asylum applicants, financial aid was granted to financial aid was granted to 2,463 asylum applicants (894 - Bucharest, 1014 - Timisoara, 191 - Galati, 148- Radauti, 66 -Maramures, 150-Giurgiu). Financial aid is provided through government funds.⁷¹⁶

Reception conditions consist of accommodation in one of the reception centres; financial allowance for food and clothing; and pocket money.

According to CNRR,⁷¹⁷ in practice, there are a series of challenges that asylum applicants face in accessing their socio-economic rights. The most important is the language barrier. Moreover, the procedures for accessing national public health programs, health insurance, applying for social benefits (unemployment or child allowance), school enrolment, are characterised by heavy bureaucratic procedures that are very difficult to navigate without any guidance or assistance. Public institutions services are also not adapted to the specific needs of asylum applicants, the public servants are not aware of the legislation in this field and therefore their access to these rights is oftentimes denied requiring direct interventions from NGOs.

According to information provided by the General Directorate of Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest (DGASMB), in 2025 a total of 95 asylum applicants received support from the institution. The assistance provided included material support, financial assistance, social counselling, support in

⁷¹¹ Information provided by JRS Romania, July 2025.

⁷¹² Information provided in February 2025.

⁷¹³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁷¹⁴ Government of Romania, Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 1251/2006 pentru aprobarea Normelor metodologice de aplicare a Legii nr. 122/2006 privind azilul în România, Article 55(1), as amended by Government Decision No. 277/2022, available [here](#).

⁷¹⁵ Ministry of Interior Affairs, *PROGRAMUL NAȚIONAL 2021-2027 AZIL MIGRAȚIE ȘI INTEGRARE - GHIDUL SPECIFIC aferent apelului de proiecte*, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁷¹⁶ Inspectorate General for Immigration (IGI), Reply on the 2024 AIDA country report on Romania, 14 August 2025.

⁷¹⁷ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

accessing medical services, assistance with access to education, and residential accommodation services. Material assistance included clothing, footwear, bedding, non-perishable food and hygiene products. DGASMB also facilitated access to healthcare services, including medical appointments, hospital care and registration with family doctors. Support for access to education was provided for children, including assistance with enrolment in pre-university education institutions. Vulnerable persons among beneficiaries included children, persons with disabilities, persons with medical or psychosocial conditions and victims of violence or trauma.⁷¹⁸

Allowance for food / clothing and pocket money

Asylum applicants are entitled to receive, upon request, the following allowances, which were doubled as of 27 February 2022:⁷¹⁹

- ❖ Food daily allowance of 20 RON / € 4.08 from 10 RON / € 2.08 per person;
- ❖ Clothing one-off allowance of 135 RON/ € 27.55 from 67 RON / €13.95 per person during summer and 200 RON/ € 40.81 from 100 RON / € 20.83 per person during winter;
- ❖ Pocket money of 12 RON/ € 2.45 from 6 RON / € 1.25 per day per person for other expenses such as local transport expenses, cultural services, press, repair and maintenance services and personal hygiene products expenses.

There were no available reports of lack of or difficulty in accessing public funds (local, national or EU funds) hampering or limiting the provision of reception conditions in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Monthly amounts of financial allowances for different categories of applicants are as follows:⁷²⁰

Monthly amount of financial allowances for asylum applicants	
Category	Amount of allowances
Single adults	960 RON / €195
Pregnant women in months 1-4 Ill persons upon admission to infirmary	1,140 RON / €232
Pregnant women in months 5-9 Women giving birth who do not breastfeed	1,200 RON / €244
Women giving birth who breast feed Children aged 0-5 months	1,260 RON / €256
Children aged 6-12 months	1,380 RON / €280

In general, the financial allowance is sufficient to ensure a decent living. In cases of families, all the members are entitled to receive the financial allowance.

In comparison, Romanian nationals with low-income benefit from social assistance,⁷²¹ heating assistance⁷²² and a family allowance.⁷²³ Romanian nationals – families and single persons – are entitled to a minimum guaranteed income as a form of social assistance.⁷²⁴ The monthly minimum guaranteed income is determined based on the social reference indicator (*indicator social de referinta*, ISR) set by law at 500 RON / €100. Starting March 2024, ISR was increased to 660 RON/ ~132 EUR⁷²⁵

⁷¹⁸ Information provided by DGASMB, 16 February 2026.

⁷¹⁹ Article 55(1) Asylum Decree, modified by Decision 277 of 27 February 2022.

⁷²⁰ *ibid.* Article 55(2) a-g.

⁷²¹ Act 416/2001 on Minimum Guaranteed Income, available at [here](#).

⁷²² Emergency Government Ordinance 70/2011 on social protection measures during the cold season, available [here](#).

⁷²³ Act 277/2010 on Family Allowance, available [here](#).

⁷²⁴ Article 1(1) -(2) Act 416/2001 on Minimum Guaranteed Income.

⁷²⁵ Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity (Romania), ‘*Alocațiile de stat pentru copii, majorate din luna ianuarie*’ [press release], 4 January 2024, available [here](#). ANOFM, *Valoarea indicatorului social de referinta ramane la nivelul anului 2024 – 660 lei*, available [here](#).

Monthly amount of minimum guaranteed income		
Category	Percentage ISR	Amount
Single adults	28.3%	187 RON / € 37.5
Family of two	51%	337 RON / € 67.7
Family of three	71.4%	471 RON / € 94.6
Family of four	88.4%	584 RON / € 117.3
Family of five	105.4%	696 RON / € 139.8

In addition, the State affords an allowance for all children, including nationals and non-nationals, up to the age of 18.⁷²⁶ This type of financial allowance is complementary to other forms of material support afforded by the State. The level of the state child allowance is determined by the ISR and amounts to:⁷²⁷
719 RON / €159 for children up to the age of 2, or 3 in case of a disabled child;
292 RON / € 64.5 for children between the age 2 and 18;⁷²⁸

Even though a comparison between financial assistance granted to nationals and asylum applicants is difficult to make due to the diversity of available allowances and the applicable calculation modes, asylum applicants are not treated less favourably than nationals as far as material support is concerned. They also benefit from other financial allowances than the ones provided by the Asylum Act, such as the allowance for children and they are also entitled to receive social assistance under the conditions provided by Act292/2011 on Social Assistance, as amended.⁷²⁹

According to IGI-DAI, in 2024, measures to limit or withdraw material reception conditions were applied to 130 persons accommodated in the regional centres. IGI-DAI mentioned that they do not have statistics for this category.⁷³⁰ In 2025, no information is available regarding the number of measures applied by IGI-DAI.

Accommodation allowance where reception capacity is exceeded.

A new form of reception conditions was included by the 2015 reform. When the capacity in the reception centres for asylum applicants is exceeded, IGI-DAI may grant asylum applicants an accommodation allowance for the purpose of renting a house or contracting specialised services for the reception and accommodation of asylum applicants in individual or collective locations, within the limits of the available funds.⁷³¹ This form of reception conditions has never been applied to date.

In these situations, IGI-DAI may provide, upon request, material assistance amounting to the following monthly sums per person: rental assistance of 808 RON / €165; and maintenance assistance of 145 RON / €29.59 during the summer season and 185 RON / €37.75 during the winter season. In the case of a two-member household, the monthly amount paid to a person for rental decreases by 30%. In the case of households consisting of three or more members, the amount granted monthly to a person for rental decreases by 40%.⁷³²

⁷²⁶ Article 1 Act 61/1993 on the State Child Allowance.

⁷²⁷ *ibid.* Article 3.

⁷²⁸ Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity (Romania), 'Alocațiile de stat pentru copii, majorate din luna ianuarie' [press release], 4 January 2024, available [here](#).

⁷²⁹ Article 17(1) (n^o1) Asylum Act.

⁷³⁰ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

⁷³¹ Article 17(8) Asylum Act.

⁷³² Article 55(4) Asylum Decree, modified by Decision 91 of 19 January 2022.

This material assistance shall be granted in the first month after the filing of the application, without the need for the submission of supporting documents for the rental. However, for the second month the submission of these documents is mandatory. If the requested documents are not submitted by the second month, the grant is suspended.

Reimbursement of expenses related to travel

Asylum applicants also have the right to reimbursement, upon request, of transport costs associated with their court proceedings, if the judicial process takes place in a different area than the one where they are residing, and if transport is carried out by road, rail or ferry.⁷³³

The reimbursement of transport expenses is made on the basis of a request filed by the asylum applicant, together with travel tickets, filed within 5 working days from the date of the court hearing at the Regional Centre where the asylum applicant is accommodated. The reimbursement is made after checks have been carried out in order to certify the presence of the asylum applicant in court.⁷³⁴

The Asylum Decree refers particularly to asylum applicants accommodated in Șomcuta Mare and Rădăuți, since the competent courts for onward appeals (see [Regular Procedure: Appeal](#)) are located in a different city than the one where the Regional Centres are located; respectively Baia-Mare and Suceava. The policy of reimbursement is applied in practice.

IGI-DAI may also involve asylum applicants in activities related to the maintenance or redevelopment of the interior and exterior spaces of Regional Centres, or support to the centre staff in information and counselling activities.⁷³⁵ Asylum applicants who perform this kind of activity benefit from an additional allowance for food of 10 RON / €2 per day.⁷³⁶

In 2022 according to the director of Timișoara centre, the majority of asylum applicants were transferred before they received financial aid, especially in the last part of 2022, when asylum applicants were transferred in a maximum of three days after their arrival. This was also confirmed by the directors from the other centres. Based on the financial assessment made in Timișoara; asylum applicants received the financial aid in the destination centre, according to the director of Timișoara. It was reported by the CNRR representative in Giurgiu, that asylum applicants receive the financial aid a week after their arrival at the centre, as the assessment of their financial situation has to be approved in Bucharest, as Giurgiu centre is not a financial controller. In Galati asylum applicants are granted the aid within 3 days. In practice, the reimbursement policy could not be applied in the case of Șomcuta Mare due to the fact that there is no public transportation to Baia Mare. Applicants have to hitch hike to go to the court.⁷³⁷ Available information for 2025 does not provide further details on the timing of financial assistance, nor confirm whether these differences in practice persisted.

Material and financial assistance from NGOs

In 2022 and 2023 (until October), in addition to the material reception conditions afforded by IGI-DAI, asylum applicants also benefit from material assistance provided by NGOs, mainly under AMIF;⁷³⁸ Supplementary material assistance provided to asylum seekers was resumed as of 15 April 2025, through

⁷³³ Article 17(1)(q) Asylum Act.

⁷³⁴ Article 56(2[^]1) Asylum Decree.

⁷³⁵ *ibid.* Article 55(9).

⁷³⁶ *ibid.* Article 55(10).

⁷³⁷ Experience based observation by JRS Romania, April 2024.

⁷³⁸ Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări, Proiecte FAMI, available [here](#) see also Ministry of Internal Affairs – AMIF Managing Authority, calls for proposals and project implementation timelines (2024–2026), available [here](#).

the “BRIDGE – Strengthening Resilience and Inclusion for Asylum Seekers in Romania” project, implemented by the IOM – Romania Office and funded by the AMIF.⁷³⁹

LOGS reported that in 2025 it provided assistance to asylum applicants, migrants and beneficiaries of international protection primarily through community-based activities in Timișoara. Support was delivered mainly at the organisation’s community centre “Casa LOGS”, as well as in community spaces and partner locations. Additional activities were organised at “Casa LOGS de la țară”, located in Lăpușnic (Timiș county), where educational activities and camps for migrants and refugees were organised.⁷⁴⁰

3. Reduction or withdrawal of reception conditions

Indicators: Reduction or Withdrawal of Reception Conditions

1. Does the law provide for the possibility to reduce material reception conditions?

☒ Yes ☐ No

2. Does the law provide for the possibility to withdraw material reception conditions?

☒ Yes ☐ No

IGI-DAI may limit or withdraw the material reception conditions granted to asylum applicants by a reasoned decision communicated to the applicant. The Asylum Act provides that the grounds for which material reception conditions may be limited or withdrawn are to be determined by a Government decision.⁷⁴¹ Accordingly, these are laid down in the Asylum Decree.

IGI-DAI may limit or withdraw the material reception conditions where the applicant:⁷⁴²

- ❖ Leaves the place of residence established for 72 hours without having previously informed the Regional Centre;
- ❖ Does not comply with the obligation to present themselves at the request of IGI-DAI in order to provide information or does not attend interviews notified to them;
- ❖ Repeatedly violates the house rules of the Regional Centres.

The law does not foresee any limitation on reception conditions due to large numbers of arrival. Where reception capacity is exhausted, IGI-DAI grants a specific allowance to asylum applicants to secure accommodation (see [Forms and Levels of Material Reception Conditions](#)).

More particularly as regards violations of house rules, Article 47 of the Regulation of Internal Order (ROI) prescribes the applicable sanctions in cases of disciplinary deviations, with the exception of applicants held in the specially designed closed spaces. The Director of the centre or their legal substitute shall apply individually, gradually and proportionally with the seriousness of the act, one of the following sanctions:

- ❖ Oral warning;
- ❖ Written warning;
- ❖ Suspension of the daily amount of 12RON for local transport expenses, cultural services, press, repair and maintenance services and expenses for personal hygiene products, for a period of 1-3 months;
- ❖ Temporary suspension from the centre for 24 hours;
- ❖ Temporary suspension from the centre for 7 days;
- ❖ Eviction from the centre.

Decisions on reducing or withdrawing material reception conditions must be reasoned and taken on an individual basis, impartially and objectively.⁷⁴³ The decision is signed by the Director of the Regional

⁷³⁹ IGI reply provided on 27 May 2026.

⁷⁴⁰ Information provided by LOGS, 16 February 2026.

⁷⁴¹ Article 19^1(1) Asylum Act.

⁷⁴² Article 55^1 Asylum Decree.

⁷⁴³ *ibid.* Article 55^1(3).

Centre. However, potential risks of destitution following the withdrawal of reception conditions are not assessed.

That these measures remain in place has been confirmed for the year 2023 by IGI-DAI, who stated that they can be ordered according to the provisions of Article 47 of the Regulation of Internal Order (ROI) as indicated above.⁷⁴⁴ However, IGI-DAI did not provide information as to practice in 2023 and 2024. For 2025, no data on eviction notices were made available by IGI-DAI. However, the authority reported that 65 decisions on the limitation or withdrawal of material reception conditions were issued during the year.⁷⁴⁵

According to IGI-DAI, 9,462 eviction notices were taken in 2022,⁷⁴⁶ compared to 1099 in 2021⁷⁴⁷, 803 in 2020⁷⁴⁸ and 639 in 2019.⁷⁴⁹ IGI-DAI stated that these eviction notices were issued for asylum applicants who left the centre without a formal request for more than 72 hours. Of the total number of decisions 3,350 were issued for Ukrainians who were accommodated in the centres. There was no available data for 2024.

The decisions to withdraw reception conditions were taken either because the asylum applicants left the reception centre without prior notification or they failed to observe the ROI.⁷⁵⁰

The sanction imposed was suspension of the daily amount of 12 RON for local transport expenses, cultural services, press, repair and maintenance services and expenses for personal hygiene products, for a period of 1-3 months.⁷⁵¹

The decision on reduction or withdrawal of reception conditions may be challenged, subject to the rules applicable in the Accelerated Procedure: Appeal.⁷⁵² In 2019, the first and only appeal was drafted, but the applicant did not lodge it. In 2022, no decision to withdraw or reduce the reception conditions was challenged, while there is no information for 2023 and 2024. For 2025, no information was provided by IGI-DAI on whether decisions on the reduction or withdrawal of reception conditions were challenged.⁷⁵³

According to CNRR, unlike in 2023, no applicants in 2024 have reported the suspension of the 12 RON/day allowance or any other reduction or withdrawal of reception conditions. In the previous year, for instance, this financial support - intended for transportation, cultural services, and other expenses - was no longer granted to asylum applicants who had been rehoused after eviction (such as in cases where they left the centre without approval for three or more consecutive days).⁷⁵⁴ In 2025, CNRR confirmed that no asylum applicants reported the suspension of the 12 RON/day allowance or any other form of reduction or withdrawal of reception conditions. CNRR further indicated that, as in the previous year, the allowance was not granted in cases where applicants had previously been evicted after leaving the centre without approval for three consecutive days or more. CNRR also noted that, where financial assistance had been granted in advance and it was subsequently established that the applicant had sufficient financial resources, the amount received may be subject to reimbursement, following an assessment carried out by the competent integration department.⁷⁵⁵

According to CNRR, drawing from observed practices, the most common are verbal and written warnings. In the previous year, from the information available, no pecuniary sanctions were applied. CNRR only

⁷⁴⁴ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁷⁴⁵ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

⁷⁴⁶ *ibid.* 22 February 2023.

⁷⁴⁷ *ibid.* 10 March 2022.

⁷⁴⁸ *ibid.* 16 February 2022.

⁷⁴⁹ *ibid.* 20 February 2020.

⁷⁵⁰ *ibid.* 10 March 2022.

⁷⁵¹ *ibid.*

⁷⁵² Article 19¹(1) Asylum Act.

⁷⁵³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 February 2026.

⁷⁵⁴ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

⁷⁵⁵ *ibid.*, April 2025.

noted the eviction from the Regional Center in the case of applicants who leave the center without approval. Accommodation in the Regional Center is presumed to be provided for those asylum applicants who do not have the financial means to support themselves. In this regard, at the time of the body and baggage check, the amount of money in the asylum applicant's possession (regardless of currency) will also be determined. The amount thus identified will lead to the postponement of the payment of the financial aid granted bimonthly by the IGI to asylum applicants. In 2025, no asylum applicant reported the suspension of the amount of 12 lei/day or any other type of reduction or withdrawal of reception conditions. In the previous year, for example, the amount of 12 lei/day (transportation expenses, cultural services, etc.) was no longer granted upon rehousing an asylum applicant who had previously been evicted (if he left the Center without approval for a period of 3 consecutive days or more). If an applicant was granted financial aid in advance and it later turns out that he had sufficient financial resources, he will be asked to return the amount received. The integration department is in charge of analysing the financial situation.⁷⁵⁶

Based on observed practices, the most common disciplinary measures are verbal and written warnings. Regional Centres regularly organize information sessions for accommodated individuals, attended by integration officers, NGO representatives, medical staff, logistics department officers and contract employees, PCA officers, psychologists, and EUAA interpreters. These sessions cover topics such as hygiene and sanitary regulations, financial aid provided by the IGI, and room re-compartmentalization.⁷⁵⁷

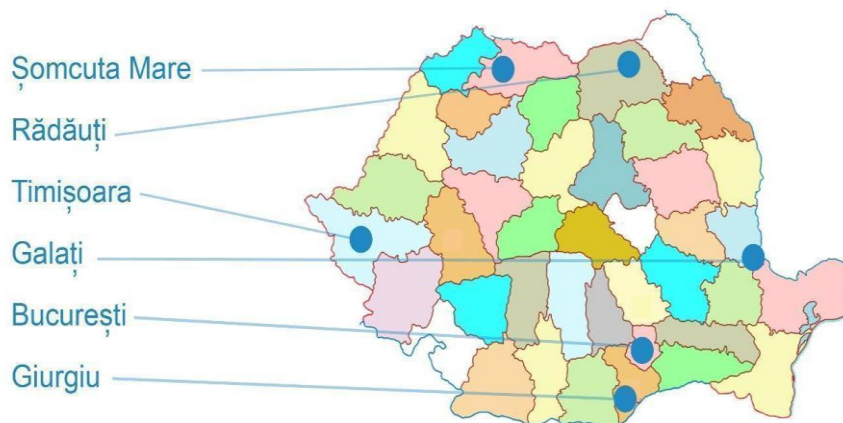
Additionally, if an applicant has received financial aid in advance but is later found to have sufficient financial resources (exceeding the threshold of 32 RON/day), they are required to return the amount received. Notably, no applicants have reported any reduction in the hygiene products distributed to them monthly.⁷⁵⁸

4. Freedom of movement

Indicators: Freedom of Movement

1. Is there a mechanism for the dispersal of applicants across the territory of the country? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the law provide for restrictions on freedom of movement? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Asylum applicants are allocated to a specific reception facility through a dispersal scheme operated by IGI-DAI. The Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants are located in the following areas:



⁷⁵⁶ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

⁷⁵⁷ *ibid.*

⁷⁵⁸ *ibid.*

Source: AIDRom, Support for asylum applicants in Romania available [here](#).

According to the Asylum Act, asylum applicants are not allowed to leave their place of residence without authorisation from IGI-DAI.⁷⁵⁹ The request to leave the residence has to include the address, the full name of the person with whom the applicant will be staying and the period of time and reasons for their request to leave.⁷⁶⁰ Authorisation is issued following an individual, objective and impartial assessment. In case IGI-DAI refuses to grant authorisation, its decision shall be motivated.⁷⁶¹

The provision of material conditions is subject to the applicant's actual residence in the assigned centre. This is monitored by IGI-DAI through its database. If an applicant leaves the Regional Centre without permission and does not return in 72 hours, IGI-DAI may apply [Reduction or Withdrawal of Reception Conditions](#).

According to CNRR,⁷⁶² persons in the centres have freedom of movement, but they need the approval of the management staff in case of long absence (more than 1 day). All the asylum applicants have to notify IGI regarding any residency change.

Transfers between centres

In 2024, according to JRS Romania, transfers between regional centres were carried out, including from Timișoara to Bucharest, Rădăuți, Giurgiu, and Șomcuta Mare. Additionally, vulnerable cases were relocated from Bucharest to Galați due to renovation works at the Bucharest centre. However, no precise figures are available regarding the total number of transfers conducted during the year.⁷⁶³

In 2024 social assistance was affected by the gaps of AMIF funds. In 2025, funding under AMIF was resumed, enabling NGOs to continue providing assistance.⁷⁶⁴

Restrictive measures

In 2023, according to IGI-DAI data, there were situations when restrictive measures were imposed on asylum applicants.⁷⁶⁵

- ❖ There were no such measures ordered with regard to the Galați centre;
- ❖ 9 measures mandating that the person present themselves at the centre, in the context of the Dublin procedure, and 25 measures establishing residence in the centre, were ordered at the Timișoara centre;
- ❖ 32 measures mandating that the person present themselves at the IGI-DAI Giurgiu, in the context of the Dublin procedures, and 431 orders establishing residence in the centre, were ordered at the Giurgiu centre;
- ❖ 19 orders establishing residence in the centre, were ordered at the Bucharest centre;
- ❖ Residence was established at the Șomcuta Mare centre in 367 cases.
- ❖ Residence was established at the Rădăuți centre in 367 cases.

According to IGI-DAI, in 2024, 128 decisions assigning a specific residence, reception centres, for the asylum applicants, were taken, in line with article 19(4) of the Asylum Act, a reduced number compared to previous years.⁷⁶⁶ No updated information was provided by IGI-DAI for 2025 regarding the number of such decisions or their application in practice.

⁷⁵⁹ Article 19(g) Asylum Act.

⁷⁶⁰ Article 7 Asylum Decree.

⁷⁶¹ Article 19(g) Asylum Act.

⁷⁶² CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

⁷⁶³ Information provided by JRS Romania, July 2025.

⁷⁶⁴ *ibid.*, March 2026.

⁷⁶⁵ *ibid.* 18 January 2024.

⁷⁶⁶ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

B. Housing

1. Types of accommodation

Indicators: Types of Accommodation

1. Number of reception centres: 6
2. Total number of places in the reception system: 1,100
3. Total number of places in private accommodation: Not available
4. Type of accommodation most frequently used in a regular procedure:
☒ Reception centre ☐ Hotel or hostel ☐ Emergency shelter ☐ Private housing ☐ Other
5. Type of accommodation most frequently used in an accelerated procedure:
☒ Reception centre ☐ Hotel or hostel ☐ Emergency shelter ☐ Private housing ☐ Other

Most asylum applicants are accommodated in Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants, managed by IGI-DAI. The management of reception is decentralised to the level of counties.

IGI-DAI confirmed that no new accommodation centres for applicants seeking international protection were established in 2025. Currently, IGI operates six Regional Centres for Asylum Procedures and Accommodation, located in Timișoara, Șomcuta Mare (Maramureș County), Rădăuți (Suceava County), Galați, Giurgiu, and Bucharest. These facilities provide accommodation, upon request, to persons who have applied for a form of international protection in Romania and who lack the material means to support themselves, until their right to remain on the territory of Romania ceases.⁷⁶⁷

The centres have a total accommodation capacity of 1,100 places, with the possibility of extending capacity by an additional 262 places. In addition, 166 places are available in specially arranged closed spaces. Placement in these closed spaces is carried out only in the situations and within the limits explicitly provided by law (Article 19 of the Asylum Act No. 122/2006).⁷⁶⁸

The capacity of the different Regional Centres operating across the country (see [Freedom of Movement](#)) is as follows:

Capacity and occupancy of the reception system: 2025			
Centre	Capacity	Closed spaces	Extended capacity by
Timișoara	250	15	10
Șomcuta Mare	100	15	100
Rădăuți	130	10	20
Galați	200	30	10
Bucharest	320	96	52
Giurgiu	100		70
Total	1,100	166	262

Source: IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

For information about regular transfers of asylum applicants between centres, see [Freedom of movement](#).

⁷⁶⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁷⁶⁸ *ibid.*

There has not been a situation to date whereby asylum applicants were left without accommodation due to a shortage of places in the reception centres.

Initially, under the AMIF program, IGI also aimed to expand the accommodation capacity by 500 places across three centres: Timișoara and Rădăuți with 100 places each, and Galați with 300 places. However, the planned construction works in Timișoara and Rădăuți were suspended due to a lawsuit filed by the contractor, who contested the contractual value of the construction works. This legal dispute delayed the implementation of the project in those two locations.

As a result of the increase of asylum applications made in Romania, IGI, in accordance with the Emergency Ordinance no. 38 of 10 May 2018, took over a public building, administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in order to convert it into an accommodation centre for asylum applicants. The building is located in Crevedia, Dâmbovița County and is intended to have a capacity of 500 places. However, no update regarding the status or progress of the centre was made publicly available in 2025, and it remains unclear whether the facility has become operational. Following a reassessment of the IGI's accommodation capacity for asylum seekers, it was deemed necessary to expand accommodation capacity by reevaluating the locations where the 500 new accommodation places will be developed as follows: 350 – CRPCSA Timișoara; 150 – CRPCSA Rădăuți, funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), a fund managed by the Ministry of Investments and European Projects (MIPE).⁷⁶⁹

Asylum applicants may also request to stay in private accommodation at their own cost. In this case, they have to present to IGI-DAI a lease agreement registered with the tax authorities or a commodity contract concluded in authentic form. IGI-DAI stated that for 2025 they do not have statistics on the distribution of the total number of residents by gender or on the total number of applicants for international protection living in private housing at the end of the year. Additionally, IGI does not provide private housing for applicants for international protection.⁷⁷⁰

Unaccompanied minors are generally accommodated in centres managed by the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC). However, unaccompanied minors aged over 16 may remain in the reception centres operated by IGI. Within the IGI-managed centres, unaccompanied minors are accommodated in rooms separated from adults and organised by gender. As of 31 December 2025, two unaccompanied minors were accommodated in the Regional Centres operated by IGI. The centres also provide facilities suitable for accommodating vulnerable persons.⁷⁷¹

According to CNRR,⁷⁷² in 2023, reception conditions and capacity remained stable. However, IGI reported that in 2024, accommodation capacity was expanded through several infrastructure improvements. In October 2023, the IGI regional centre for procedures and accommodation for asylum applicants in Bucharest was reopened after almost 2 years of rehabilitation. It has a capacity of 320 places. According to JRS Romania staff in 2024, the Bucharest reception centre on Vasile Stolnicu Street was fully operational and functioned normally.⁷⁷³ During these works, asylum applicants were temporarily accommodated to the General Inspectorate for Immigration premises where the asylum related procedures are carried out (interviews, applications registration etc.). In 2025, reception centres had the same capacity as in 2024.⁷⁷⁴

⁷⁶⁹ IGI reply provided on 27 May 2026.

⁷⁷⁰ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

⁷⁷¹ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

⁷⁷² CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024, 2023*, available [here](#).

⁷⁷³ Information provided by JRS Romania, January 2025.

⁷⁷⁴ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

Occupancy of the reception centres 2025 ⁷⁷⁵		
Centre	Asylum applicants	Beneficiaries of International Protection
Timișoara	830	20
Șomcuta Mare	48	12
Rădăuți	71	21
Galați	113	80
Bucharest	223	124
Giurgiu	78	9
Total	1363	266

Occupancy of the reception centres by 31 December 2025 ⁷⁷⁶		
Centre	Asylum applicants	Beneficiaries of International Protection
Timișoara	6	3
Șomcuta Mare	2	1
Rădăuți	22	6
Galați	33	43
Bucharest	29	75
Giurgiu	13	3
Total	105	131

In 2025, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) also provided support in several Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants (Rădăuți, Galați, Timișoara, Giurgiu, Bucharest and Șomcuta Mare). IOM delivered a range of services including social assistance, information and orientation activities, material support and integration counselling. The organisation also provided information sessions on voluntary return and reintegration. According to IOM's observations, the occupancy rate of the centres where it operated remained below capacity throughout 2025, and no situations of overcrowding or significant pressure on reception capacity were reported.⁷⁷⁷

According to LOGS observations, reception centres monitored during 2025 were operating below their accommodation capacity. In addition, LOGS reported that it did not provide assistance to persons in detention during the reporting period. The organisation indicated that requests submitted in previous years for access to the Regional Centre for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants in Timișoara were refused by IGI, including in January 2022, when the authorities stated that assistance provided by NGOs funded by IGI was considered sufficient.⁷⁷⁸

During the Romanian Ombudsman visits in the reception centres in 2022, the common problems identified were: some toilets and the kitchen (area to prepare the food) were in a poor state of cleanliness and hygiene, not enough specialised medical staff (e.g. medication for people with mental was distributed for several days without medical supervision). Asylum applicants are accommodated according to gender criteria, i.e. women and men, and unaccompanied minors are accommodated separately from adults.⁷⁷⁹ Some problems were improved throughout the years and in 2024, following visits by the Romanian Ombudsperson to the Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants (CRPCSA) in Timișoara and Șomcuta Mare, overall hygiene and accommodation conditions were found

⁷⁷⁵ *ibid.*

⁷⁷⁶ *ibid.*

⁷⁷⁷ Information provided by IOM, 25 February 2026.

⁷⁷⁸ Information provided by LOGS, 16 February 2026.

⁷⁷⁹ Romanian Ombudsman, Reports on Migrant Centres 2022, available [here](#).

to be satisfactory, with gender and age-based separation properly ensured. However, a common concern identified in 2024 was the insufficient availability of specialized medical personnel, particularly for vulnerable individuals, alongside the need to improve interpretation support in psychological and medical services.⁷⁸⁰ In 2025, following additional visits carried out by the Romanian Ombudsman to the Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants in Bucharest and Galați, it was noted that hygienic conditions in accommodation rooms and most common spaces were appropriate, with cleaning carried out regularly, including with the involvement of beneficiaries in the Galați centre. At the same time, the Ombudsman indicated the need to continue efforts to improve hygienic conditions in certain administrative and shared spaces. In Bucharest, the centre was found to provide access to medical and psychological services, as well as to basic facilities, including sanitary spaces, food preparation areas and recreational spaces. According to the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), in 2025 several disinfection actions were carried out at the Bucharest centre, and steps were taken to revise informational materials provided to asylum applicants in order to ensure that information is accessible and clearly understood.⁷⁸¹

2. Conditions in reception facilities

Indicators: Conditions in Reception Facilities

1. Are there instances of asylum applicants not having access to reception accommodation because of a shortage of places?
☐ Yes ☒ No
2. What is the average length of stay of asylum applicants in the reception centres? Not available
3. Are unaccompanied children ever accommodated with adults in practice? ☒ Yes⁷⁸² ☐ No
4. Are single women and men accommodated separately? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Conditions in Regional Centres are monitored, *inter alia*, by the Ombudsman, who visits the centres on a regular basis.

According to the data provided by the Ombudsman, its representatives did not carry out monitoring visits to the IGI-DAI centres in 2023, but a visit was made to the Border Police Territorial Unit Calarasi on 6 January 2023 and certain problems were noted with regard to the screening/triage room (at the time of the visit, no person was kept in custody in this place). It is a room where migrants are taken after they are caught for trying to cross the border illegally. The following problems were identified concerning this room: there was no window allowing natural lighting, no heating source in the room and in the sanitary group, the nearest heating source was a radiator in the surveillance room used by the border police located next to that room. The Ombudsperson made recommendations for the rehabilitation of the triage room, the appropriate provision of furniture and sanitary facilities, the conclusion of a protocol of cooperation with a medical unit in order to comply with the procedure for the organisation and operation of the triage room in terms of medical assistance that need to be provided to persons kept in such a place.⁷⁸³

In 2024, the Ombudsman conducted monitoring visits in Rădăuți, Șomcuta Mare and Giurgiu. According to the Ombudsman's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), its teams paid four unannounced monitoring visits to IGI-DAI reception centres in 2024 – Giurgiu (30 January), Șomcuta Mare (30 May), Timișoara (3 July) and Rădăuți (19 July) – in order to check whether living conditions complied with OPCAT (Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) safeguards. In Giurgiu, inspectors welcomed cleaner dormitories and new bedding but again

⁷⁸⁰ Romanian Ombudsman, Reports on Migrant Centres 2024, available [here](#).

⁷⁸¹ Romanian Ombudsman, Reports on Migrant Centres 2025, available [here](#).

⁷⁸² *Only unaccompanied children above the age of 16, who are accommodated in different rooms.

⁷⁸³ Information provided by the Ombudsman, 9 January 2024.

found heavy cockroach infestation, stressing that repeated disinfection campaigns had failed. They also deplored the lack of ramps, lifts and adapted bathrooms, urging the centre to create at least one fully accessible room and sanitary block for people with reduced mobility.⁷⁸⁴

At Şomcuta Mare, the Ombudsman praised a refurbished kitchen but noted that crockery was still stored directly on the floor and ordered the installation of closed cupboards to improve hygiene. All shower cabins in that centre lacked privacy screens, and the NPM asked for curtains as well as at least one fully adapted room and bathroom for persons with disabilities.⁷⁸⁵

During the July 2024 mission to Timișoara, monitors again found cockroaches in several dormitories and a kitchen despite eight pests-control sessions, calling for stronger chemicals and closer hygiene oversight. They also recorded dirty walls and refrigerators in some rooms, concluding that daily cleaning routines were inconsistent and needed tighter supervision.⁷⁸⁶

During the visit in Rădăuți in 2024, the conditions had improved after renovations were conducted in 2023: bathrooms afforded privacy, and the communal kitchen was newly equipped, yet the Ombudsman urged IGI to fill the remaining staff vacancies to ensure smooth running of services.⁷⁸⁷

Overall, the 2024 inspections show incremental progress – fresher facilities, some renovations and more staff – but persistent pest problems, sporadic hygiene lapses and limited accessibility continue to hold reception conditions below the safeguards the NPM expects for asylum-seekers.⁷⁸⁸

According to a 2025 report of the national Ombudsperson, the Regional Centre for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants in Bucharest has a capacity of 320 places in rooms with four beds, with additional accommodation spaces available in a separate location.

The centre includes medical and psychological offices, common areas, kitchen facilities, sanitary spaces, as well as outdoor areas for recreational and sports activities. Renovation and energy efficiency works were carried out in recent years, and further investments were planned to improve infrastructure conditions.⁷⁸⁹

The report indicates that asylum applicants benefit from accommodation, food, hygiene products and financial allowances in accordance with national legislation. Where food is not provided in kind, beneficiaries receive a daily allowance. Additional support is provided through EU-funded projects and NGOs, including distribution of material assistance, clothing and hygiene items, as well as support for vulnerable persons.⁷⁹⁰

2.1 State of the facilities

UNHCR mentioned that in 2023, they provided support to the IGI-DAI Reception and Accommodation Centres for Asylum applicants, including through the donation of non-food items to the Reception Centres that requested it (e.g. water, hygiene kits, towels, blankets, clothing) as well as financing integration counsellors, employed with UNHCR's partner CNRR, at the reception centres. Additionally, through UNHCR's implementing partners AIDRom and CNRR, UNHCR supported the IGI-DAI by covering a gap in services which are usually covered through AMIF funding, relating to material assistance (welcome/installation packages for asylum-seekers arriving at IGI-DAI Reception Centres), legal assistance, information provision on social assistance and their rights in Romania, social counselling,

⁷⁸⁴ Ombudsman, Visiting reports 2024, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁷⁸⁵ *ibid.*

⁷⁸⁶ *ibid.*

⁷⁸⁷ *ibid.*

⁷⁸⁸ *ibid.*

⁷⁸⁹ Visit Report in Reception Centre in Bucharest – 2025, available [here](#).

⁷⁹⁰ *ibid.*

organising socio-cultural, educational and recreational activities, such as Romanian language courses, for the asylum-seekers and refugees from the IGI-DAL's Reception Centres.⁷⁹¹

Regarding the reception conditions, the Romanian Ombudsman has made a series of monitoring visits to the IGI procedures and accommodation centres for asylum applicants, the most recent ones were conducted 2025, in Galați and Bucharest. In 2025, during the visit to the Regional Centre for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants in Galați, the Romanian Ombudsman reported that the centre had a capacity of 500 places and accommodated 46 persons at the time of the visit, including asylum applicants and beneficiaries of protection. Staff shortages were identified, with 11 vacant positions affecting the activity of the centre. The report indicates that hygiene and disinfection activities were carried out, including pest control measures, while additional disinfection actions were undertaken during 2025. Infrastructural improvements were noted, including renovations of sanitary facilities, kitchens and accommodation spaces, as well as the creation of recreational areas. Medical services were provided through a doctor present 16 hours per week, with access to specialised care ensured through referrals to external medical units.⁷⁹² According to a monitoring visit conducted by the Ombudsperson to the Regional Centre Bucharest in June 2025, the centre generally provided access to accommodation, medical and psychological assistance, interpretation, integration-related support and recreational facilities for asylum seekers, including vulnerable persons. However, the report identified several shortcomings, notably insufficient implementation of disinfection and pest-control measures, staffing shortages, gaps in multilingual information provision, and deficiencies in the documentation of psychological services. The Ombudsperson issued recommendations aimed at improving sanitary conditions, access to information, psychological support and child-friendly spaces within the centre.⁷⁹³

In 2024, the Ombudsman resumed unannounced monitoring visits - Giurgiu (30 January), Șomcuta Mare (30 May), Timișoara (3 July) and Rădăuți (19 July) - finding some visible progress, notably the renovations of kitchens, sanitary blocks and equipment at Șomcuta Mare conducted in 2023. However, the visit confirmed that chronic weaknesses persist: cockroach infestations and long times (up to 24-hour) for asylum applicants to receive their first meal after their arrival at the centre in Giurgiu; problems with pest-ridden, unclean kitchens in Timișoara; continuing vacancies in medical and technical posts at Timișoara and Rădăuți that hamper service delivery. Based on these observations, most of the Ombudsman's 2022 recommendations remain outstanding.⁷⁹⁴ No monitoring visits were carried out by the Romanian Ombudsman in 2025 to the centres in Giurgiu, Șomcuta Mare, Timișoara or Rădăuți. In 2025, the only visits conducted targeted the Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants in Bucharest and Galați.

On reception conditions, UNHCR reported⁷⁹⁵ that when asked about accommodation, 93% of respondents reported that they currently reside within a Reception Centre for Asylum applicants, with only six per cent of the respondents reporting living in private accommodation. 0.3% respondents reported living in other forms of accommodation. This reflects the asylum procedural stage in which the respondents were at the time of the interview. Regarding the safety of the accommodation, 71% of the respondents reported feeling very safe; 21% of moderately safe, and six per cent feeling neither safe nor unsafe. Only a small percentage of respondents, one per cent each, reported feeling moderately unsafe or very unsafe.

The Regional Centre Timișoara

The Regional Centre was located in the same premises as the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) operated by UNHCR, where refugees evacuated from other countries stay before they are resettled to another

⁷⁹¹ Information provided by UNHCR, 23 January 2024.

⁷⁹² Romanian Ombudsman, Visiting report, 2025, available [here](#).

⁷⁹³ *ibid.*

⁷⁹⁴ Ombudsman, Visiting reports 2024, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁷⁹⁵ UNHCR, *Regional Protection Monitoring Report Romania*, 28 March 2024, available [here](#).

country, until 1 December 2020.⁷⁹⁶ ETC moved to another facility as of 1st December 2020. The facility is located 20 minutes by bus from the city centre. The facility was repainted and the doors and windows were repaired in December 2017.

The entire facility is split into four buildings, of which two are designed for accommodation. Each of these two buildings contains 12 rooms with 12 beds per room. One building ("Building B") is separated into two parts through a built-in wall: six rooms are dedicated to asylum applicants and another six to ETC refugees. Until December 2020 ETC had a total capacity of 200 places, the Regional Centre has a capacity of 50 places. Each building where persons are accommodated has a kitchen. However, "Building B" dedicated to families only has 2 refrigerators. "Building B" has two bathrooms, each equipped with two squat toilets, two urinals, three sinks and three showers.

In the second half of 2021 renovation work commenced in the regional centre of Timișoara.⁷⁹⁷ The renovation work commenced with building C and was finalised in January 2022. Renovation of building B started in March 2022. Metal bars were installed on all windows. The construction work for the additional accommodation places and offices was suspended. In 2022, two shipping containers were installed in the courtyard, where IGI-DAI registered beneficiaries of temporary protection.

According to IGI-DAI,⁷⁹⁸ in 2023, the situation was as follows: the centre consists of 6 buildings, with in total 24 rooms (20 rooms with 10 beds each, 2 rooms with 12 beds each, 2 rooms with 13 beds each). On each floor there is a common bathroom and a common kitchen with a stove and a refrigerator. In 2022, all accommodation spaces were improved through a project to modernise them; no other rehabilitation works were carried out in 2023. Single women are accommodated separately from men. Unaccompanied minors under the age of 16 are taken in by the DGASPC and those over 16 can be accommodated in the centre in separate rooms. There is a mobile ramp that ensures the access/movement of people with disabilities. Families are provided with a room to themselves.

According to IGI-DAI, the capacity of CRPCSA Timișoara has 250 places, with 15 in closed spaces and an additional 10 places available for expansion.⁷⁹⁹

The Regional Centre Șomcuta Mare

The Regional Centre is located close to the city centre and 25 km away from Baia Mare. The centre consists of a three-storey building. Rooms are located on the second and third floor, each floor containing 22 rooms with 2, 4, 6, 8 persons sleeping in a room. There are two bathrooms on each floor, separated by gender. On the hallway of the first floor, there are 6 refrigerators, while the ground floor has two isolation rooms for medical purposes. The basement has a kitchen with ten stoves, a dining room and a laundry room with four washing machines but only two are functional. The basement also contains a specially designed closed space (see [Place of Detention](#)).⁸⁰⁰ The centre has a capacity of 100 places. In August 2021 it was extended to 200 places and as of March 2022 the capacity was increased with 50 more places, by transforming the gym room into an accommodation room.⁸⁰¹

In 2021 small renovations were carried out, taps were changed and rooms and hallways were painted.

⁷⁹⁶ UNHCR, *ETC Timișoara*, 14 December 2016, available [here](#); *Operations in Romania*, 16 December 2016, available [here](#).

⁷⁹⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 10 March 2022.

⁷⁹⁸ *ibid.* 18 January 2024.

⁷⁹⁹ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

⁸⁰⁰ Ombudsman, *Report of the visit to the Regional Centre for Procedures and Reception for Asylum Seekers Șomcuta Mare*, 36/2017, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁸⁰¹ Ombudsman, *Visiting reports 2022*, available in Romanian [here](#).

According to IGI-DAI,⁸⁰² in 2023 the situation in this centre was the following: the centre consists of a single building, with 44 rooms that can accommodate a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 8 people. On each floor there are 2 shared bathrooms, a shared kitchen with stove and fridge. In order to improve the accommodation conditions, rehabilitation works have been carried out in 4 bathrooms, as well as sanitation works in all accommodation spaces, hallways, kitchen, laundry. Unaccompanied minors up to the age of 16 are taken care of by the DGASPC, and those older than 16 can be accommodated in a separated room in the centre. Individual accommodation spaces are allocated to families.

According to IGI-DAI, in 2024 the capacity of CRPCSA Maramureş provides 100 places, including 15 in closed spaces, with the highest expansion potential of 100 additional places.⁸⁰³

The Regional Centre Rădăuți

The Regional Centre is located not far from the city centre. There are rooms with eight and ten beds. There are two bathrooms, one for women and one for men, each with three toilets and showers. There is a common kitchen. The gym and prayer room were converted into accommodation in 2020 in order to increase reception capacity.⁸⁰⁴ Each room has a refrigerator, which serves 10 persons. Construction of new accommodation places started in October/November 2021. The construction work was also suspended, as the constructor is the same in both centres Rădăuți and Timișoara. There is still limited space for counselling for NGOs. According to CNRR, this situation remained unchanged in 2025, as the lack of adequate space for counselling activities for NGOs persisted.⁸⁰⁵

In 2023, the situation in the centre was as follows:⁸⁰⁶ the centre consists of 2 buildings (building A and building B), with in total 5 rooms for 12 persons, 5 rooms for 10 persons, 1 room for 8 persons, 2 rooms for 6 persons. Building A has rooms with shared bathrooms and Building B has rooms with private bathrooms. On each floor there is a shared kitchen (1 gas stove and 1 fridge in each kitchen). Unaccompanied minors over the age of 16 years old can be accommodated in the centre in separate rooms (minors under 16 years old are taken care of by the DGASPC). The positions of psychologist and doctor are vacant. Women and men are accommodated in separate rooms. There are ramps to facilitate access in the building for people with disabilities. Families are provided with individual spaces.

According to IGI-DAI, the capacity of Reception centre in Rădăuți has 130 places, with 10 in closed spaces and a 20-place expansion possibility.⁸⁰⁷

The Regional Centre Galați

The Regional Centre is located in the city, with easy access to public transport. The centre has three buildings: two for administrative purposes and one two-storey building for accommodation. On each floor of the accommodation building, there is one bathroom for men and one for women: each comprising of three showers and seven sinks. There is only one normal toilet for women per floor; the rest are 'squat toilets'.

The rooms have a maximum capacity of four and 12 beds. Generally, if there are available places asylum applicants are accommodated depending on nationality. Families are accommodated in the same room, separately from single men. There are two kitchens on each floor with three stoves and three sinks each, as well as one refrigerator in each room. In 2022, the clubs and the gym were functional and transformed into accommodation rooms only when necessary. Specially designed closed spaces were used as

⁸⁰² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁸⁰³ *ibid.*, 23 January 2025 and 02 March 2026.

⁸⁰⁴ *ibid.*

⁸⁰⁵ Information provided by CNRRR, April 2026.

⁸⁰⁶ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁸⁰⁷ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

accommodation rooms only in January for the Afghan refugees. There is a prayer room. In February-March 2022 four shipping containers were installed for the registration of beneficiaries of temporary protection.⁸⁰⁸

In 2023, according to data provided by IGI-DAI⁸⁰⁹ the situation was the following: the centre consists of 3 buildings (only one housing asylum applicants), with a total of 34 rooms (rooms with 6 places, 8 places, 10 places or 12 places), 1 shared bathroom on each floor, 2 kitchens per floor (3 stoves and refrigerators in each kitchen). Sanitation works were carried out in 2022, replacement of radiators, roof repairs, provision of material goods (e.g. stoves, fridges, beds, mattresses, washing machines, dryers, pots, pans, cutlery, towels, blankets) funded from the AMIF program. Unaccompanied minors up to the age of 16 are taken in by the DGASPC, and those over 16 can be accommodated in the centre in separate rooms. There is a psychologist employed by IGI-DAI in the centre, and a doctor has a collaboration contract with IGI-DAI. There are access ramps for people with disabilities. Women are accommodated in separate rooms; families are accommodated in individual rooms.

According to IGI-DAI, the CRPCSA Galați has a current capacity of 200 places, including 30 places in closed spaces, with a possible expansion of 10 additional places.⁸¹⁰ In 2025, according to the Romanian Ombudsman, the centre had a capacity of 500 places, consisting of 200 places in a two-store accommodation pavilion and 300 places in three additional buildings with a capacity of 100 places each. The Ombudsman further noted that the European Union Agency for Asylum was involved in activities aimed at increasing the capacity of the centre.⁸¹¹ According to IGI, as part of an AMIF-funded project aimed at expanding the IGI's capacity to accommodate asylum seekers and modernizing the existing fencing, 300 beds were set up at the CRPCSA Galați in administrative-style containers/modular structures with metal frames. Please note that the new spaces are not yet operational; in this context, the reference to a center's accommodation capacity refers to the capacity at which the center in question is currently operating.⁸¹²

The Regional Centre Bucharest

The Regional Centre is located 20 minutes by bus from the city centre. The building accommodating asylum applicants has four floors. It contains a total of 80 rooms, each with four beds, a toilet and a shower. On each floor there are two kitchens, each with two refrigerators, two stoves and two sinks. When assigning asylum applicants to different rooms, IGI-DAI takes into consideration their religion, nationality and gender. Families are accommodated together.

The renovation of the Vasile Stolnicu centre started in July 2021 and was finalised in March 2023.⁸¹³ All the asylum applicants were moved to the Tudor Gociu centre.

The building of Tudor Gociu has four floors. Asylum applicants are accommodated on the third and fourth floors. There are 24 rooms for accommodation, one kitchen on each floor, four bathrooms and two washing rooms. All windows have metal bars. The director of the Vasile Stolnicu centre describe the rooms as a little bit too crowded. Bathrooms and toilets are separated according to gender. The JRS representative reported that privacy is lacking in the bathroom as the doors cannot be locked. There are no leisure/common rooms. There is no courtyard, so children and adults spend their time on the hallways or in their rooms.

⁸⁰⁸ Ombudsman, Visiting reports 2022, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁸⁰⁹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁸¹⁰ *ibid.*, 23 January 2025 and 02 March 2026.

⁸¹¹ Romanian Ombudsman, *Raport privind vizita desfășurată la Centrul Regional de Proceduri și Cazare a Solicitanților de Azil Galați*, 2025, available [here](#).

⁸¹² IGI reply provided on 27 May 2026.

⁸¹³ Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate of non-reimbursable external funds, 'Îmbunătățirea condițiilor de cazare și asistență a solicitanților de azil – proiect RO#FAMI', last edited 15 March 2024, available in Romanian [here](#).

According to data provided by IGI-DAI,⁸¹⁴ for the year 2023 the situation was the following:

The Bucharest Centre consists of a building located at street Tudor Gogiu 24A (a closed centre, 96 places distributed in 24 rooms, each room can accommodate 4 people) and a building located at street Vasile Stolnicu 15 (an open centre, 320 places distributed in 80 rooms, each room can accommodate 4 people). The closed centre has 2 bathrooms per floor, and in the open centre each room has its own bathroom. In both centres there is a kitchen on each floor with 2 gas stoves and 2 refrigerators.

At the open regime centre located in Vasile Stolnicu Street, thermal rehabilitation and interior sanitation works were carried out, in the period March 2021-September 2023. In September 2023, the centre was opened at full capacity.

According to IGI-DAI, the centre has 320 spaces, 96 closed places, with a possible expansion of 52 additional places.⁸¹⁵

In the open regime centre unaccompanied minors over 16 years old can be accommodated, they are accommodated separately from adults, taking into account the best interests of the child (unaccompanied minors under 16 years old are taken over by the DGASPC). In this centre there are 1 doctor and 2 nurses, and the position of psychologist is vacant. This centre is divided into 2 sections (one section for single men, one section for women and families with children). Both centres have mobile access ramps in the building for people with disabilities.

According to a monitoring visit conducted by the Ombudsperson in 2025, the CRCPSA Bucharest provided accommodation and access to medical, psychological, social and integration-related support to asylum seekers, including vulnerable persons such as unaccompanied children, persons with disabilities, single-parent families and pregnant women. The report noted that access to interpretation, Romanian language courses, educational support for children, recreational facilities, and complementary assistance was provided through NGOs and AMIF-funded projects. Healthcare services included medical screening upon admission, treatment and referrals to specialist care, while psychological support was available through counselling and assessments. However, the Ombudsperson identified several shortcomings, including insufficient implementation of disinfection and pest-control measures, staffing shortages across multiple sectors, gaps in multilingual information provision, and deficiencies in the documentation of psychological services. The report further highlighted the need to strengthen access to information for residents and recommended improvements in sanitary conditions, psychological support, staff capacity and child-friendly facilities within the centre.⁸¹⁶

The Regional Centre Giurgiu

The Regional Centre is a former barracks located in the outskirts of the city and repurposed in 2011, without any refurbishment beyond repaint. As a result, technical problems often occur. The capacity of the centre is 100 places arranged in eight rooms. At the time of the author's visit in January 2023, there were 8 accommodation rooms with different capacities from 4, 8, 15, 16, 17, 24 to 26 beds. The capacity of the centre could be increased by 70 places⁸¹⁷. Each room is equipped with refrigerators; the number of refrigerators depends on the number of beds. There are two kitchens with four stoves and three sinks. Only one kitchen was used by the asylum applicants, the other one was locked. There are two bathrooms, one for men and one for women, with five 'squat toilets' and five showers. The women's bathroom was also locked. The gym is used as a deposit room for old refrigerators and washing machines and single use bed sheets. There is also a club where Romanian language classes were held by AIDRom with seven desks and chairs and a small collection of books in Romanian.⁸¹⁸ The isolation room had its own bathroom

⁸¹⁴ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁸¹⁵ *ibid.* 23 January 2025 and 02 March 2026.

⁸¹⁶ Romanian Ombudsman, Visiting report, 2025, available [here](#).

⁸¹⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025 and 02 March 2026.

⁸¹⁸ Visit to the Giurgiu Regional Centre for Asylum Seekers during ECRE fact-finding visit, 18 March 2025.

and half of the room was serving as a deposit of beds. A prayer space was set up next to the kitchen. The centre has a small courtyard, but it is not accessible as it is surrounded by a fence. In the backyard old furniture, beds, sinks are deposited.

According to data provided by IGI-DAI⁸¹⁹, for the year 2023 the situation was the following: the centre consists of one building. There is a shared bathroom and a shared kitchen on each floor. No improvements have been made to the premises (e.g. painting, replacement of furniture, etc.), however the centre is about to be renovated this year.⁸²⁰ Minors over 16 years of age can be accommodated in separate rooms (minors under 16 years old are taken by DGASPC). There is a psychologist and a medical assistant, and the position of doctor is vacant. The centre is mainly for single men, and if single women or families are accommodated in the centre they will be accommodated separately until they will be transferred to another centre.⁸²¹ The centre has a mobile elevator for people with disabilities.

2.2 Food and hygiene

The Asylum law prescribes the necessary daily amount of nutritional value based on which the daily allowance for food is calculated depending on the individual situation.⁸²² Asylum applicants may cook for themselves, using the kitchens available in every centre.

In all regional centres, asylum applicants are obliged to clean their rooms, kitchen and bathrooms on a rotation basis. The number of toilets and showers are sufficient in all facilities during regular occupancy.

In March 2024, UNHCR published its Regional Protection Monitoring Report Romania based on 1,955 interviews conducted with asylum-seekers and, to a lesser extent, with refugees and, to a lesser extent, with other individuals who reached Romania as part of mixed flows. 93% of respondents reported to be living in a reception centre for asylum applicants. On reception conditions, UNHCR reported⁸²³ that concerning the access to meals, four per cent of the respondents reported receiving one meal a day, 39% of the respondents reported having access to two meals, and 57% of the respondents reported benefiting from three meals daily. These findings raise protection concerns which relate to situations where asylum-seekers' freedom of movement is restricted upon their first arrival to the reception centre and until they may be transferred to another centre. For one reception centre, for example, it has been reported that, during the time when the protection monitoring was conducted, authorities relied on donations by NGOs to ensure the provision of food to residents in the Reception Centre. If these supplies are not available or do not arrive timely, food is not available.

Galati: The Ombudsman described the hygienic conditions in the majority of rooms as appropriate. However, there were also rooms with inadequate hygienic conditions: walls were dirty and scratched.⁸²⁴ Bathrooms were clean, but there were also bathrooms with worn down sanitary installations. The kitchens were also described as clean and appropriate; the stoves were new. The Ombudsman observed that out of 28 rooms only two were equipped with air conditioning and recommended its installation in all rooms. The director of the centre reported that the living conditions had improved in 2022, as they painted the entire building, the linoleum was replaced, mattresses and furniture were changed. The water pipes in bathrooms were repaired. The centre is still confronting bed bugs infestation, even though disinfection is carried out twice a month. The Ombudsman did not conduct any visit to the Galati reception centre in 2024.

⁸¹⁹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁸²⁰ Visit to the Giurgiu Regional Centre for Asylum Seekers during ECRE fact-finding visit, 18 March 2025.

⁸²¹ *ibid.*

⁸²² Article 55(1) Asylum Decree.

⁸²³ UNHCR, *Regional Protection Monitoring Report Romania*, 28 March 2024, available [here](#).

⁸²⁴ Ombudsman, *Report of the visit to the Regional Centre for Procedures and Reception for Asylum Seekers Galati*, 7 July 2022, available in Romanian [here](#).

Șomcuta Mare: The Ombudsman reported inadequate hygienic conditions in kitchens: mould and food scraps were observed next to the pipes, there was no furniture where asylum applicants could eat. In 2021, the JRS representative reported that the roof of the building was damaged, and it was raining inside and because of the damp, the wall and ceiling plaster was falling. They repaired the ceiling but there is still water coming in because they did not repair the roof. At the time of the Ombudsman's visit at the end of March 2022 this was still an issue, mould and infiltration were observed. Bathrooms were in a precarious state of hygiene: walls with damp, damaged sanitary items, no head showers, rusty toilets.⁸²⁵ The director reported that sink faucets, light switches and electrical outlets were changed during the year, and the roof had been repaired. The rooms affected by damp were not used. In 2024 the Ombudsman, during an unannounced visit to the Șomcuta Mare reception centre, praised the newly refurbished kitchen with its ten spotless cooking stations but found utensils piled on the floor, showers without privacy curtains and damp patches in the mother-and-child room. The Ombudsman urged the centre to install closed cupboards, fit curtains and finish repairs, despite overall cleaner facilities after 2023 renovations, full hygiene standards were not yet met⁸²⁶.

In **Bucharest:** according to the Ombudsman the hygienic conditions in Tudor Gociu centre have deteriorated. The furniture, mattresses, linoleum were worn down. On the 4th floor dampness and mould was observed by the visiting team. The bathrooms were in a poor state of cleanliness and hygiene: mouldy walls, damp, doors were dirty, broken tiles, rusty toilets, showers without a hose or shower head and the lighting was not working. The kitchens were also dirty.⁸²⁷ In 2024 no visit was conducted by the Ombudsman in the Bucharest reception centre. According to a monitoring visit conducted by the Ombudsperson in 2025, asylum seekers accommodated in the Regional Centre Bucharest had access to kitchen facilities for food preparation, laundry facilities and rooms equipped with private sanitary facilities. While the report did not identify shortcomings related to food provision, it noted deficiencies regarding hygiene conditions, particularly the insufficient implementation of disinfection, fumigation and pest control measures despite the existence of service contracts. Consequently, the Ombudsperson recommended measures to improve sanitary conditions within the centre.⁸²⁸

In **Giurgiu**, the author observed during their visit, and it was also confirmed by interviewed NGO representatives, that the hygiene conditions had improved. Hallways were freshly painted, rooms were clean and painted, only in one room were there doodles on the walls. The conditions had also improved from the Ombudsman's visit on 15 April 2022, when it was noted that hallways were dirty and not painted as well as the accommodation rooms, refrigerators were dirty and stale, and bugs were spotted. With regards to the bathrooms the situation was the same as reported by the Ombudsman, water on the floor, damp, the walls separating the showers were rusty, there was a leaking pipe and it smelt. The toilets had old tiles and the smell was unbearable. The director of the centre stated that the centre will be renovated, without knowing when works would start. In 2024 the Ombudsman's team found the Giurgiu reception centre largely clean and freshly refurbished - dormitories, bathrooms and even the fridges in each room were "sanitised and tidy" - yet a stubborn cockroach infestation lingered despite repeated pest-control rounds. The inspectors also learned that eight newly-arrived residents had gone almost 24 hours without food, so they urged management to keep a petty-cash reserve for cold meals to ensure no newcomer is left hungry again.⁸²⁹

In **Rădăuți**, the Ombudsman reported that the bathrooms, even though they were renovated in 2021, were worn down and the hygienic conditions were inadequate. The kitchens were also dirty, the tiles were broken and dirty bugs were spotted on the dirty floor. The same situation was observed in the building intended for the accommodation of vulnerable asylum applicants: the floors and walls were dirty.⁸³⁰ It was

⁸²⁵ Ombudsman, *Report of the visit to the Regional Centre for Procedures and Reception for Asylum Seekers Șomcuta Mare*, 29 March 2022, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁸²⁶ Ombudsman, Visiting reports 2022, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁸²⁷ *ibid.*

⁸²⁸ Romanian Ombudsman, Visiting report, 2025, available [here](#).

⁸²⁹ Ombudsman, Visiting reports 2024, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁸³⁰ Ombudsman, Visiting reports 2022, available in Romanian [here](#).

also reported by the NGO representative that hot water and heating was not available 24h/7 in the accommodation rooms or the NGO offices. Asylum applicants complained that during cold days the heating was not on all day. Also, bed bugs remain an issue. The director of the centre reported that during 2022 rooms, kitchen, bathrooms and hallways had been refurbished. In 2024 the Ombudsman's team found the Rădăuți reception centre's main kitchen freshly refurbished—new stoves, sinks and spotless tiling—but pointed out that residents had moved all fridges and table-ware into bedrooms, leaving no proper food-storage sector; the monitors therefore told management to keep fridges and utensils in the kitchen and continue periodic deep-cleaning. By contrast, the newly renovated pavilion reserved for vulnerable persons looked unkempt—walls, floors and several rooms were dirty—and the Ombudsman urged the centre to step up cleaning, repair worn fittings and involve residents in routine hygiene tasks⁸³¹.

In **Timișoara**, NGO representatives reported that residents did not complain about bed bugs, fleas, bugs, the poor condition of mattresses and plumbing in the showers and toilets. After the renovation the centre is clean; asylum applicants clean their rooms. At the time of the author's visit there were only three asylum applicants accommodated in the centre in building C, of whom one asylum applicant had been living in the centre for a longer period of time. The rooms, kitchen and bathrooms were tidily kept. Asylum applicants who were to be transferred were accommodated in the same two rooms. The mattresses in these rooms were not so well kept. All the kitchen equipment and refrigerators were replaced. The bathrooms were also clean. In 2024 the Ombudsman's team found hygiene at the Timișoara reception centre uneven: one of the communal kitchens in Corp C was dirty, with greasy walls, a clogged sink and utensils left unwashed, while cockroaches were seen there and in several dormitories despite eight pest-control rounds. Some rooms were tidy, but others had grimy walls and fridges, the bathrooms needed repairs and cleaning, and no adapted toilet existed for residents with reduced mobility, prompting calls for deeper cleaning, stronger de-insectisation and an accessible sanitary block. Although residents confirmed they receive the statutory cash allowance for food, several complained that insects persist in living and cooking areas, underscoring the Ombudsman's recommendation to restore full hygiene standards before the next inspection.⁸³²

2.3 Activities in the centres

In 2024, the Ombudsman visited the Regional Centres for Procedures and Accommodation of Asylum applicants in Rădăuți, Șomcuta Mare, Timișoara, and Giurgiu. At Rădăuți, the team noted the presence of a club, a sports room, a prayer space, and a play or counselling room for children, as well as professional training activities supported by EUAA. In Șomcuta Mare, the Ombudsman observed the absence of rooms for recreational or educational activities and no NGO involvement in delivering structured support. At Timișoara, the monitoring team found a club equipped with games, TV, and sports items, but no regular socio-educational activities organised by civil society actors. At Giurgiu, no dedicated activity spaces were identified; the Ombudsman observed that children spent most of their time inside the accommodation rooms, and there were no visible efforts to engage them in age-appropriate activities. Across all centres, the institution recommended the development of structured, inclusive programs—especially for vulnerable persons and minors—to improve living conditions and integration perspectives.⁸³³

UNHCR mentioned that in 2023, they provided support to the IGI-DAI Reception and Accommodation Centres for Asylum applicants, including through the donation of non-food items to the Reception Centres that requested it (e.g. water, hygiene kits, towels, blankets, clothing) as well as financing integration counsellors, employed with UNHCR's partner CNRR, at the reception centres. Additionally, through UNHCR's implementing partners AIDRom and CNRR, UNHCR supported the IGI-DAI by covering a gap in services which are usually covered through AMIF funding, relating to material assistance

⁸³¹ Ombudsman, Visiting reports 2024, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁸³² *ibid.*

⁸³³ Ombudsman, Visiting reports 2024, available in Romanian [here](#).

(welcome/installation packages for asylum-seekers arriving at IGI-DAI Reception Centres), legal assistance, information provision on social assistance and their rights in Romania, social counselling, organising socio-cultural, educational and recreational activities, such as Romanian language courses, for the asylum-seekers and refugees from the IGI-DAI's Reception Centres.⁸³⁴

Asylum applicants are allowed to go outside whenever they want, until 22:00. All Regional Centres except **Timișoara** have a prayer room where residents can practice their religion.⁸³⁵

Social and community workers in the centres organise different activities for both adults and children

Save the Children Romania offers as part of a project funded from the organisation's own resources program, educational social services and material assistance addressing the specific needs of asylum-seeking children and refugees, including unaccompanied minors. The activities are running in 5 Regional Centres, with the exception of Giurgiu.

The project foresees the following activities:

- ❖ Daily educational-recreational program for children in accommodation centres. In Timișoara these are not organised as there are no children
- ❖ Facilitating access to education and cultural accommodation
- ❖ Services to ensure their basic needs
- ❖ Facilitating access to social and medical services, when necessary
- ❖ Social counselling for children and adults
- ❖ Material assistance.

During the years, when there is funding, material assistance consists of hygienic products, food, clothes, shoes. All asylum applicants received food, irrespective of their age or vulnerability, according to the Save the Children representative. Donations were also made by private persons and companies.

In 2023, AIDRom implemented several activities in the centres:⁸³⁶ between June and December 2023, AIDRom, implemented the project "Information, counselling and complex assistance for asylum applicants from the regional centres of the General Inspectorate for Immigration, Output 3", financed by UNHCR. The aim of the project was to ensure the promotion of a manifold assistance system from a social point of view with the provision of specialised services to increase the standard of living of asylum applicants in Romania, by approaching the issue with a new strategy of relationship between the host community and asylum applicants. The project took place in all 6 regional centres (Bucharest, Giurgiu, Galați, Rădăuți, Maramureș- Șomcuta Mare, Timisoara).

In 2025, according to the Romanian Ombudsman, AIDRom implemented assistance activities in reception centres within projects financed under AMIF, including information and counselling, Romanian language courses, cultural accommodation activities and material support.⁸³⁷ In the Regional Centre in Galați, AIDRom implemented the project "Counselling for resilience and inclusion for asylum applicants in Romania – BRIDGE", which included information and counselling activities, Romanian language courses, cultural orientation and accommodation activities, and material assistance such as installation and transfer packages.⁸³⁸ In the Regional Centre in Bucharest, AIDRom provided assistance through the ASIST project, including food packages for asylum applicants transferred between centres, installation packages, Romanian language courses and cultural accommodation activities, as well as support related to access to services.⁸³⁹

⁸³⁴ Information provided by UNHCR, 23 January 2024

⁸³⁵ Although the Ombudsman states that there is a confession room in Timișoara where Romanian classes are held, this is a hallway leading to the NGO offices rather than an actual room.

⁸³⁶ *ibid.* 15 January 2024.

⁸³⁷ Romanian Ombudsman, *Centre pentru migranți – 2025*, available [here](#).

⁸³⁸ Romanian Ombudsman, *Raport privind vizita desfășurată la Centrul Regional de Proceduri și Cazare a Solicitanților de Azil Galați*, 2025, available [here](#).

⁸³⁹ Romanian Ombudsman, *Raport privind vizita desfășurată la Centrul Regional de Cazare și Proceduri pentru Solicitanții de Azil București*, 2025, available [here](#).

C. Employment and education

1. Access to the labour market

Indicators: Access to the Labour Market

1. Does the law allow for access to the labour market for asylum applicants? ☒ Yes
☐ No
❖ If yes, when do asylum applicants have access to the labour market? After 3 months
2. Does the law allow access to employment only following a labour market test? ☐ Yes ☒ No
3. Does the law only allow asylum applicants to work in specific sectors? ☐ Yes ☒ No
❖ If yes, specify which sectors:
4. Does the law limit asylum applicants' employment to a maximum working time? ☐ Yes ☒ No
❖ If yes, specify the number of days per year
5. Are there restrictions to accessing employment in practice? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Asylum applicants have access to the labour market following 3 months from the lodging of the application, if no decision has been taken by IGI-DAI due to no fault of the applicant, or during the appeal stage.⁸⁴⁰ This means that if a decision was made in the administrative phase of the procedure, the asylum applicant is allowed access to labour market even sooner than 3 months. Persons who, at the time of filing an application for asylum, have a right of residence on the territory of Romania and are working legally, may continue to work.⁸⁴¹

Access to the labour market is granted under the same conditions set out in law for Romanian citizens.⁸⁴² Accordingly, there is no labour market test, sectoral limitation or other restriction laid down in the law.

The Asylum Law prescribes that asylum applicants may benefit, upon request, from mediation services, professional information and counselling services provided to persons seeking employment by the County Employment Agencies (AJOFM).⁸⁴³

In order to be registered as a job seeker by the AJOFM and to benefit from the aforementioned services, asylum applicants must present the documents requested by law, except for the civil status documents issued by the country of origin, together with their temporary identity document issued by IGI-DAI and a certificate which confirms their right to work. The same conditions apply for asylum applicants' participation in a vocational training program or the evaluation of professional competences acquired through non-formal means.

Diplomas or certificates of education or graduation, as well as certificates of professional competence, qualification or other relevant documents, are accepted only if they are recognised on the territory of Romania according to the applicable legal provisions.

According to the law, asylum applicants who have access to the labour market have the right to benefit from measures promoting employment, as well as protection within the unemployment insurance system, under the conditions provided by the law for the Romanian citizens.⁸⁴⁴ Moreover, the provisions of the

⁸⁴⁰ Article 17(1)(o) Asylum Act.

⁸⁴¹ *ibid.*

⁸⁴² *ibid.*

⁸⁴³ Article 6[^]1(1) -(5) Asylum Decree.

⁸⁴⁴ Article 17(1) (o[^]1) Asylum Act.

Asylum Law on access to employment for asylum applicants also refer to the possibility to participate in vocational training programs.⁸⁴⁵

According to CNRR, in 2023, 2024, and 2025, asylum applicants in Romania were granted the right to work after three months from the date of submitting their asylum application, provided no decision had been issued in the administrative phase.⁸⁴⁶ This right could also be obtained earlier if the applicant entered the judicial phase of the asylum procedure. However, CNRR noted inconsistencies in the interpretation of this legal provision at the regional level, with variations observed in different reception centres, such as in Giurgiu.⁸⁴⁷

In previous years, the number of asylum applicants securing formal employment remained relatively low. Data from IGI-DAI indicate the following:⁸⁴⁸

- 2019: 26 asylum applicants were formally employed.
- 2021: 18 asylum applicants held employment contracts.
- 2020: 970 asylum applicants had the right to work, but only 276 were reported to be employed.
- 2023: The National Employment Agency did not maintain records on the number of asylum applicants working under formal employment contracts.
- 2024: 64 asylum applicants with the right to work were employed under contract.
- 2025: 36 people were hired with an employment contract.

Despite having the right to work, asylum applicants continue to face significant barriers to employment. According to CNRR, the most frequently reported challenges include:⁸⁴⁹

- **Language barrier** – primary obstacle is the lack of proficiency in Romanian. Those who speak English have an easier time finding employment.
- **Lack of recognition of qualifications** – many asylum applicants face difficulties due to missing or unrecognized diplomas, certificates, and work experience. This forces them to accept unskilled labour positions.
- **Administrative and legal barriers** – the temporary nature of their identity documents and the uncertainty regarding the duration of the asylum procedure deter employers from hiring asylum applicants.
- **Limited access to employment services** – although asylum applicants are theoretically eligible to receive assistance from the National Employment Agency, they rarely use these services due to language barriers and insufficient guidance.
- **Risk of exploitation**: Given these challenges, many asylum applicants are vulnerable to informal or illegal work arrangements, exposing them to labour exploitation.

From documented cases, asylum applicants who do find work are often employed in construction, car service and car wash facilities, fast food and delivery services.⁸⁵⁰

According to CNRR, in the past years, representatives from the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) have visited the Regional Centre for Asylum applicants in Galați to provide asylum applicants with key information on labour legislation and protection against exploitation. In 2024, ANITP expanded its outreach by distributing informational leaflets in Romanian, English, Arabic, and Nepali on

⁸⁴⁵ Article 6¹(4) Asylum Decree.

⁸⁴⁶ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#). Information provided by CNRR in February 2025 and confirmed in April 2026.

⁸⁴⁷ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

⁸⁴⁸ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 20 February 2020, 16 February 2021, 10 March 2022, National Employment Agency, 10 January 2024, IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁸⁴⁹ Information provided in February 2025 and confirmed also by JRS Romania representatives in Galați. CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#). Re-confirmed in February 2026

⁸⁵⁰ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

various employment-related topics.⁸⁵¹ In 2025, according to CNRR, no additional information was available regarding the distribution of informational materials by the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP).⁸⁵²

In 2025, according to the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM), asylum applicants may access employment-related services after 3 months from lodging the asylum application, provided that no decision has been issued and the delay is not attributable to them, or if they are in the judicial phase of the asylum procedure. According to ANOFM, both asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection who register with employment agencies may benefit from employment services, including information, counselling and job mediation.⁸⁵³

CNRR stated that there are currently no known projects specifically focused on the labour market integration of asylum applicants or their vocational training and qualification.⁸⁵⁴

According to information provided by IOM, the number of asylum applicants requesting support to access employment during the asylum procedure remained low in 2025. In some regions, asylum procedures were completed relatively quickly (approximately one month), which limited the period during which applicants could seek employment while their application was pending. For those who remained in the procedure for more than three months, the main obstacle to accessing employment was the language barrier. IOM observations also indicate differences in mobility patterns among beneficiaries of international protection. Families with children tend to remain in cities located in regions hosting reception centres, whereas single individuals often relocate to Bucharest after obtaining protection in order to increase their chances of accessing employment opportunities.⁸⁵⁵

LOGS offered support to approximately 20–30 asylum applicants in 2025 in accessing the labour market in Timișoara. Assistance provided by the organisation included information on the right to work and employment procedures in Romania, support in drafting CVs, mediation with potential employers and assistance in interactions with employment agencies such as AJOFM/ANOFM. LOGS reported several obstacles affecting asylum applicants’ access to employment, including limited information among employers regarding the legal framework for hiring asylum applicants, language barriers, difficulties in the recognition and equivalence of diplomas, lack of documentation, and cases of discrimination. The organisation also noted that some employers may be reluctant to hire asylum applicants due to uncertainty regarding the outcome of the asylum procedure.⁸⁵⁶

In 2025, according to the Labour Inspectorate Maramureș, no data is available on asylum applicants who have entered the labour market. In 2025, according to the Labour Inspectorate Maramureș, information on asylum applicants is held by the Regional Centre for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants, which is responsible for monitoring their situation.⁸⁵⁷ According to the Labour Inspectorate Suceava, no data is available regarding the status of employees registered in the Reges-Online system, including whether they are asylum applicants or beneficiaries of international protection.⁸⁵⁸

2. Access to education

Indicators: Access to Education

1. Does the law provide for access to education for asylum-seeking children?

☒ Yes
 ☐ No

851

Information provided in February 2025.

852

Information provided by CNRR in April 2026.

853

Information provided by ANOFM in 03 March 2026.

854

ibid. Confirmed in February 2026.

855

Information provided by IOM, 25 February 2026.

856

Information provided by LOGS, 16 February 2026.

857

Information provided by ITM Maramures on 25 February 2026

858

Information provided by ITM Suceava on 04 March 2026

2. Are children able to access education in practice?

☒ Yes ☐ No

The Asylum Act prescribes for the right of minor asylum applicants to have access to before pre-school (0-3 years), pre-school (3-6 years) and compulsory education (6-18 years) under the same conditions as minor Romanian citizens, as long as no measure is taken to remove them or their parents from Romania.⁸⁵⁹ Access to education is therefore free and unconditional.⁸⁶⁰

Compulsory general education consists of 10 grades and includes primary and lower secondary education. Compulsory education ends at the age of 18.⁸⁶¹

While asylum-seeking children theoretically have access to education on the same terms as Romanian children, practical barriers hinder their integration and learning experience. According to CNRR, these challenges include lack of funding, delayed school enrolment, and lack of trained teachers.⁸⁶²

In 2022, the adoption of new methodologies for diploma recognition, school enrolment, and Romanian language classes for refugees represented a step forward in improving access to education for asylum applicants. However, CNRR reports that the implementation of these measures has been inconsistent due to varied interpretations at the local level and insufficient communication from the Ministry of Education to the schools.⁸⁶³

Despite efforts to integrate minor asylum applicants into the education system, several challenges persist:⁸⁶⁴

- Language barrier – a major obstacle that affects both participation and understanding in class.
- Educational gaps – some minors arrive with significant educational gaps. For example, there are cases of illiterate 16-year-olds or minors who have only completed 2-3 grades. Due to their age, they cannot be placed in primary school but also lack the necessary knowledge for high school.
- Limited school and kindergarten places – public schools and kindergartens have limited availability, making it difficult to secure spots for asylum-seeking children.
- Legal requirements – the law stipulates that minor asylum applicants must enrol in a preparatory language course within three months of submitting their asylum application. However, practical implementation can be challenging due to institutional constraints and the availability of resources.

Save the Children has played an active role in assisting minor asylum applicants, providing school supplies, clothing, after-school activities for children accommodated in Regional Centres.⁸⁶⁵

For adult asylum applicants seeking to enrol in qualification courses, the most common obstacles include:⁸⁶⁶

- Language barriers – limited knowledge of Romanian restricts access to training programs.
- Educational prerequisites – many courses require a minimum education level (e.g., at least eight grades for some courses and a high school diploma for others).
- Lack of free vocational training: According to statements from asylum applicants, there are currently no free vocational training programs available to them.

⁸⁵⁹ Article 17(1)(p) Asylum Act.

⁸⁶⁰ Article 6(1) Asylum Decree.

⁸⁶¹ Article 16(1) and (2) Public Education Act.

⁸⁶² CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

⁸⁶³ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

⁸⁶⁴ Information provided by CNRR and JRS Romania (Galati) In February 2025.

⁸⁶⁵ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Confirmed for 2026.

⁸⁶⁶ Information provided by CNRR and JRS Romania (Galati) In February 2025.

In addition to challenges related to education, asylum applicants face significant barriers in accessing other socio-economic rights. CNRR highlights that procedures for accessing public health programs, health insurance, and social benefits (such as unemployment or child allowances) are characterized by complex bureaucratic procedures, making them difficult to navigate without assistance. Furthermore, public institutions are often not adapted to the specific needs of asylum applicants, and public servants may lack knowledge of relevant legislation, which can result in denial of rights and necessitate intervention by NGOs to ensure access to these entitlements.⁸⁶⁷

Preparatory classes

Following the 2015 reform, the Asylum Act foresees a free intensive preparatory course for asylum-seeking children in view of easing their access to education before the enrolment at the national education system.⁸⁶⁸ The training course is organised by the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, in collaboration with IGI-DAI. Children should be enrolled at the preparatory course within 3 months from the date their asylum application was made. At the same time, the child may be enrolled as an observer in the relevant year of study.

At the end of the preparatory course, an Evaluation Commission, whose composition and functioning are established by order of the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research assesses the level of knowledge of the Romanian language and establishes the registration of asylum applicants in the corresponding year of study.

In 2023, NGOs such as AIDRom⁸⁶⁹ and Save the Children⁸⁷⁰ have provided, within the regional centres, various education opportunities: Romanian language courses, support in access to the education system, but also access to extra-curricular activities. The NGOs also provided support to IGI-DAI in the procedure of enrolling minor asylum applicants in the preparatory course, and enrolling in the national education system. Save the Children highlighted that the Romanian authorities do not offer educational programs specially designed to meet the needs of this category of children. NGOs facilitate as much as possible the relationship with the schools/teaching staff/parents, offer additional support to the minor for school accommodation and language learning, subject recovery, etc. Within the project "Information, counselling and complex assistance for asylum applicants from the regional centres of the General Inspectorate for Immigration - OUTPUT 3, financed by UNHCR, there was also the activity of granting at least 48 educational packages for minors enrolled in preschool and school education. Unfortunately, the number of minors enrolled in the school for the 1-year intensive Romanian language course was very small. AIDRom managed to award only 7 packages (5 in the regional centre from Bucharest and 2 in the regional centre from Maramureş- Şomcuta Mare).

In 2024, Save the Children continued to provide support in the regional reception centres in Bucharest, Galaţi, Suceava, Maramureş, and Timișoara, focusing on accommodation and education assistance. By the end of 2024, the organisation had assisted 94 residents in these centres (Timișoara – 10; Bucharest – 16; Maramureş – 32; Suceava – 36), including asylum applicants, beneficiaries of protection, and persons whose asylum applications had been rejected. Additionally, Save the Children supported 153 asylum applicants living in private accommodation across the four counties. Regarding education, the NGO assisted 7 asylum-seeking children in accessing education: 4 children in Bucharest (2 girls, 2 boys, all enrolled in primary education) and 3 in Suceava (2 girls in lower secondary education and 1 boy in high school). No asylum-seeking children were assisted in accessing education in Maramureş or Timișoara during 2024.⁸⁷¹ According to information submitted by Save the Children Romania for the EUAA

⁸⁶⁷ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#).

⁸⁶⁸ Article 18(1)-(4) Asylum Act.

⁸⁶⁹ Information provided by AIDRom, 15 January 2024.

⁸⁷⁰ Information provided by Save the Children, 15 January 2024.

⁸⁷¹ *ibid.* March 2025.

Asylum Report 2025, the organisation continued to provide counselling, material assistance, educational support and social services to asylum applicants and refugees, including children and their families.⁸⁷²

In 2024, minor asylum applicants were enrolled in schools and high schools near the Regional Centres, facilitating their integration into the education system. Initially, they attend classes as audience, meaning they participate in lessons without receiving grades. This process, supported by NGOs such as the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), Save the Children, and the ICAR Foundation, along with IGI staff, helps minors familiarize themselves with the Romanian language and the subjects taught in school. An identified problem is the limited places in public kindergartens and schools. The law stipulates that minor asylum applicants must enrol in the preparatory course within 3 months of the date of

submission of the asylum application. Save the Children organization was systematically involved, they provided supplies, clothes, proposed after-school activities with the children accommodated in the Center.⁸⁷³ In 2025, minor asylum applicants continued to be enrolled in schools and high schools located near the Regional Centres, facilitating their integration into the education system. According to CNRR, one of the main challenges remains the limited availability of places in public kindergartens and schools, as well as language barriers. The legal requirement for enrolment in preparatory courses within 3 months from the lodging of the asylum application remained applicable. CNRR also stated that Save the Children was systematically involved in 2025, providing school supplies, clothing and proposing after-school activities for children accommodated in the Regional Centres.⁸⁷⁴

At the end of the academic year, these children undergo an assessment to evaluate their knowledge. Based on the results, their appropriate education level is determined, and they are placed in a corresponding class for the following school year.⁸⁷⁵

According to the Ombudsperson, asylum applicants accommodated in the Bucharest Regional Centre benefit from access to educational activities, including Romanian language courses and support for children's enrolment in the national education system. Language courses are organised both within the centre and in cooperation with external actors, aiming to facilitate integration and access to education. Children are supported in enrolling in schools and kindergartens, including through material assistance and counselling provided by NGOs. In addition, various organisations implement educational and socio-cultural activities, including informal education, recreational activities and awareness sessions, contributing to the integration of both children and adults. These services are often delivered through projects funded through AMIF and implemented in cooperation with civil society organisations.⁸⁷⁶

Access to education for asylum applicants in 2025 continued to be ensured within the pre-university system, although practices varied across counties. According to information provided by the Galați County School Inspectorate, 155 asylum applicants were enrolled, of whom 120 attended as auditors and 35 were enrolled with full rights following evaluation. Enrolment of children without school documents was carried out in accordance with Article 125 of the Regulation on the organisation and functioning of pre-university education units (ROFUIP), as amended by Order no. 5763/2024. The Inspectorate noted that delays may occur where applicants have not completed the required Romanian language courses necessary for evaluation, in which case the process is continued in the following school year. Attendance was monitored, and withdrawals from language courses due to absences were recorded, but were not considered school dropout due to the auditor status of the pupils. No preparatory classes were organised for asylum applicants, as these are reserved for Romanian students returning from abroad.⁸⁷⁷

⁸⁷² Save the Children Romania, *Input to the EUAA Asylum Report 2025*, 10 January 2025, available [here](#).

⁸⁷³ Information provided by CNRR and JRS Romania (Galati) In February 2025.

⁸⁷⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

⁸⁷⁵ *ibid.*

⁸⁷⁶ Visit Report in Reception Centre in Bucharest available [here](#).

⁸⁷⁷ Information provided by ISJ Galati, 16 March 2026.

According to the Giurgiu County School Inspectorate, in 2025, asylum applicants were accommodated in the Regional Centre for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants in Giurgiu. In 2025, minor asylum applicants had access to Romanian language courses organised at the “Tudor Vianu” Theoretical High School in Giurgiu. Romanian language courses for adults were organised by NGOs.⁸⁷⁸

In Maramureş, Romanian language courses for foreign nationals were organised at the “Ioan Buteanu” Theoretical High School in Şomcuta Mare, accredited by the Ministry of Education and delivered by trained teachers. These were attended by both children and adults, including persons from Syria, Yemen and Tanzania. The main difficulties identified concerned language barriers and the limited availability of applicants to attend courses, due to factors such as location, transport and scheduling.⁸⁷⁹

According to the Timiş County School Inspectorate, no statistical data is collected on the number of asylum applicants enrolled in the pre-university education system. The enrolment of asylum applicants without school documents is carried out in accordance with Article 125 of the Regulation on the organisation and functioning of pre-university education units (ROFUIP), approved by Order no. 5726/2024. Enrolment may be delayed in practice where applicants do not hold residence documents issued by the immigration authorities. Asylum applicants attend Romanian language initiation courses organised throughout the school year, in accordance with applicable legislation, with a total of 74 participants enrolled in 2024–2025. The Inspectorate reported that sufficient teaching staff is available and that no difficulties were identified regarding the organisation or financing of these courses. School attendance is monitored by educational institutions in accordance with the legislation in force, while school dropout occurs mainly due to asylum applicants leaving the territory of Romania. According to the Inspectorate, the main difficulties in access to education are related to the pace of issuance of residence documents.⁸⁸⁰

D. Health care

Indicators: Health Care

1. Is access to emergency healthcare for asylum applicants guaranteed in national legislation?

☒ Yes
☐ No

2. Do asylum applicants have adequate access to health care in practice?

☒ Yes
☐ Limited
☐ No

3. Is specialised treatment for victims of torture or traumatised asylum applicants available in practice?

☒ Yes
☐ Limited
☐ No

4. If material conditions are reduced or withdrawn, are asylum applicants still given access to health care?

☒ Yes
☐ Limited
☐ No

Access to health care for asylum applicants covers the right to receive free primary care and appropriate treatment, emergency hospital care and free health care and treatment in cases of acute or chronic illnesses considered imminently life threatening, through the national emergency health care system and qualified first aid. These services shall be provided, as the case may be, through the medical service of the Regional Centres and/or other health care facilities accredited and authorised by law.⁸⁸¹

878

Information provided by ISJ Giurgiu, 03 March 2026.

879

Information provided by ISJ Maramures, 03 March 2026.

880

Information provided by ISJ Timis 26 February 2026.

881

Article 17(1)(m) Asylum Act.

In addition, asylum applicants have the right to be included in national public health programs aimed at preventing, monitoring and controlling contagious diseases in epidemiological risk situations.⁸⁸²

Asylum applicants are assigned a personal identification number which figures on their temporary identity documents in order for them to enjoy all the rights provided by the law.⁸⁸³ After receiving the personal identification number, asylum applicants may register in the public health insurance system and, if they pay healthcare contributions and register at a general practitioner's office, they have the status of an insured person with the same rights and benefits as nationals.

Asylum applicants benefit from free medical care through the medical network of the MoI - IGI and the costs are covered by the same structure and, for these services, do not have the obligation to pay the contribution for the public health insurance. In specific cases, medical insurance could be covered through projects financed through AMIF. However, medical services are mainly related to health checks upon accommodation in a Regional Centre and emergencies. Certain medical services are not included by the National Medical Insurance System (e.g. rehabilitation services, certain medicines and medical materials).

In 2023, according to IGI-DAI⁸⁸⁴, the situation in each centre was as follows:

- ❖ Bucharest: 1 doctor and 3 nurses were employed; the position of psychologist is vacant.
- ❖ Giurgiu: 1 psychologist and 1 medical assistant were employed; the position of doctor is vacant.
- ❖ Rădăuți: the positions of psychologist and doctor are vacant.
- ❖ Șomcuta Mare: there are a psychologist and a doctor employed. Timisoara: there are a psychologist and a doctor employed. Galati: there is a psychologist employed, and an external doctor has a collaboration contract with IGI-DAI.

Regarding vulnerable persons (e.g. pregnant women, persons with disabilities, victims of human trafficking, etc.), IGI-DAI specifies that, in accordance with internal procedures, medical assistance is given with priority, periodic monitoring is carried out, information is provided concerning the administration of the medicines, people are accompanied to the hospital. Also, through projects implemented with funding from European funds, vulnerable people benefit from complementary medical and psychological assistance (e.g. from NGOs). No other details were provided, including from other actors than IGI-DAI.

According to CNRR, in 2024, asylum applicants in Romania had access to healthcare services provided by the medical staff of the Regional Centres. In general, applicants did not face significant obstacles in accessing medical assistance. Medical services within the Centres were provided by family doctors who collaborated with the Reception Centres, and when necessary, asylum applicants were referred for specialized medical checks, such as in psychiatry, funded through IGI resources. This ensured that their healthcare needs were not limited to the medical office within the Centre.⁸⁸⁵ During 2025, asylum applicants benefited from integrated health services thanks to the Integrated Health Services for Asylum applicants project (financed through AMIF). For medical emergencies, asylum applicants went to a hospital, and were also hospitalized when the situation required it. The language barrier represented an obstacle in situations where asylum applicants had to go to a hospital. In cases where the asylum applicants benefited from medical assistance from the Regional Centers, an interpreter was called upon to translate. In some cases, an identified obstacle was the gender difference between the asylum applicant and the medical staff/interpreter. Depending on availability, every effort was made to not restrict access to medical assistance.⁸⁸⁶

Additionally, with the start of the AMIF project in December 2024, asylum applicants began benefiting from Integrated Health Services for Asylum applicants. This project aimed to provide more comprehensive

⁸⁸² *ibid.* Article 17(1) (m¹).

⁸⁸³ *ibid.* Article 17(1¹).

⁸⁸⁴ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁸⁸⁵ Information provided by CNRR, February 2025. Confirmed in 2026.

⁸⁸⁶ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

health services to asylum applicants throughout their stay.⁸⁸⁷ According to CNRR, in 2025 asylum applicants benefited from integrated health services under this project, including medical screening upon arrival, consultations, investigations, treatment, transportation to medical facilities, and specialised psychological support.⁸⁸⁸

For medical emergencies, asylum applicants were referred to local hospitals and could be hospitalized if required. In such cases, language barriers were a significant challenge, especially when seeking emergency care at hospitals. However, interpreters were called to assist asylum applicants and ensure they received the necessary medical attention.⁸⁸⁹

In some instances, gender differences between asylum applicants and medical staff or interpreters were reported as obstacles. However, efforts were made to minimize these issues, ensuring that asylum applicants had access to medical assistance, regardless of gender.⁸⁹⁰

The language barrier was a major obstacle in accessing healthcare services, particularly in interactions with medical professionals outside of the Regional Centres. Many asylum applicants faced difficulties when trying to communicate with healthcare providers, which could impact the quality and timeliness of the medical care they received.⁸⁹¹

Moreover, bureaucratic obstacles posed challenges in navigating public health services. According to the CNRR, procedures for accessing national public health programs, health insurance, and social benefits (such as unemployment or child allowances) were often complex and difficult to navigate without assistance. Additionally, public institutions' services were not always adapted to the specific needs of asylum applicants. Many public servants lacked awareness of the relevant legislation, which sometimes led to the denial of rights, requiring direct intervention from NGOs to ensure asylum applicants could access the care and services they were entitled to.⁸⁹²

Save the Children played an essential role in assisting asylum applicants by covering the costs of medications during the transitional period in the AMIF projects for vulnerable individuals, ensuring they were not left without necessary treatments.⁸⁹³

In Galati, asylum applicants could also access health insurance under the same conditions as Romanian citizens. Minors were insured free of charge, while adults could obtain insurance if they had a job or were included in national health programs. However, finding a family doctor who would accept asylum applicants was often difficult due to the language barrier and the uncertain nature of their status in Romania (e.g., uncertainty about whether they would remain in the country or keep their job).⁸⁹⁴

According to the Ombudsperson's report regarding the visit in Bucharest Reception Centre, Medical assistance is ensured through an on-site medical office, with initial medical screening carried out upon arrival. Asylum applicants have access to consultations, treatment and referral to specialised services when necessary. Complementary medical services are also provided through projects such as "SERISSRA", including access to medication, specialist consultations and investigations. Complementary medical services for asylum applicants are provided through the project "SERISSRA" (Integrated Health Services for Asylum applicants), implemented by the ICAR Foundation and funded through EU AMIF funds. The project aims to facilitate access to healthcare by offering services such as medical

⁸⁸⁷ *ibid.*, February 2025.

⁸⁸⁸ CNRR, *Input to the EUAA Asylum Report 2026 (developments in 2025)*, 2026 available [here](#).

⁸⁸⁹ Information provided by CNRR and JRS Romania representatives in Galati in February 2025.

⁸⁹⁰ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

⁸⁹¹ CNRR, *Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024*, 2023, available [here](#). Information provided by CNRR also in February 2025.

⁸⁹² *ibid.*

⁸⁹³ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Also ICAR Foundation in Galati provided medical services, according to JRS Romania representatives in Galati.

⁸⁹⁴ Information provided by JRS Romania (Galati) in February 2025.

consultations, specialist referrals, diagnostic investigations and the provision of medication, particularly for persons with specific or complex medical needs. As reported by the Ombudsperson following monitoring visits to reception centres, these services complement the assistance provided by the public healthcare system and contribute to ensuring continuity of care for asylum applicants, including vulnerable individuals.⁸⁹⁵

The centre provides psychological and social assistance, including counselling, support for vulnerable persons and activities aimed at social integration. The social worker plays an active role in coordinating integration support and facilitating access to services.⁸⁹⁶

Specialised treatment

The Asylum Act provides for the right of asylum applicants with special needs to receive adequate health care.⁸⁹⁷ In practice, the ICAR Foundation is the only organisation with the necessary experience in providing psychological assistance to torture survivors and traumatised asylum applicants in all the reception centres.

According to CNRR, each applicant's file contained an observation sheet indicating the information declared by the applicant regarding age, gender, family situation (single-parent family, could risk gender violence, elderly person alone, etc.), pregnancy, physical or mental health problems/already diagnosed diseases, disabilities, substance abuse, whether the applicant was a victim of torture (there are indications/statements of the applicant in this regard) or human trafficking (there are indications/statements in this regard) as well as other concerns (if the applicant has difficulty concentrating, is emotional, agitated, cries, etc.). This information is collected at the different stages of the procedure (at the time of submitting the asylum application, during accommodation in the Centre, during the preliminary questionnaire, during the interview or during the court phase). The caseworker assesses whether it is necessary to inform the integration officer about the case in order to take special assistance measures. If a vulnerability arises later in the asylum procedure, the Reception Centre takes all measures to ensure adequate conditions for asylum applicants in need (of course, taking into account the reception conditions in each Centre). Medical staff in each centre conduct regular check-ups of people identified as having a special need.⁸⁹⁸

In Timișoara, as of 2022 ICAR personnel conduct the medical screening. IGI-DAI is notified if there are asylum applicants suffering from mental health issues and they are referred to specialised hospitals, if necessary. The ICAR Foundation doctor is present in the centre once a week. According to the JRS representative, AIDRom representatives carry out a more detailed screening. According to information provided by the ICAR Foundation, in 2025 medical and psychological assistance continued to be provided without interruption under its AMIF-funded project, and an ICAR doctor remained present in the centre. The organisation also indicated that particular attention is given to the early identification of vulnerable persons, especially victims of torture and gender-based violence.⁸⁹⁹ In 2025, according to CNRR, asylum applicants continued to benefit from medical screening, consultations and psychological support provided mainly through NGO-implemented projects, including the ICAR Foundation's SERISSA project.⁹⁰⁰

⁸⁹⁵ Visit Report in Reception Centre in Bucharest available – 2025, available [here](#).

⁸⁹⁶ *ibid.*

⁸⁹⁷ Article 17(1)(n) Asylum Act.

⁸⁹⁸ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025 and April 2026.

⁸⁹⁹ Information provided by ICAR in April 2025

⁹⁰⁰ CNRR, *Input to the EUAA Asylum Report 2026 (developments in 2025)*, 2026 available [here](#).

In November 2025, GRETA recommended⁹⁰¹ the Romanian authorities to strengthen their efforts to prevent asylum seekers and refugees from becoming victims of trafficking in human beings, in particular by:

- systematically providing information to foreign nationals irregularly crossing the border, in a language they can understand, about the possibility of applying for asylum, the rights of asylum seekers and available support measures;
- providing training on trafficking in human beings to border and local police officers, as well as other relevant officials, with a focus on vulnerabilities that lead to THB and on early detection of cases of THB among asylum seekers;
- improving the social and economic integration of asylum seekers and refugees and facilitating their access to employment and vocation training;
- conducting regular and comprehensive assessments of exploitation and THB risks among asylum seekers and refugees;
- continuing to raise awareness of asylum seekers and refugees of their rights and the risks of human trafficking, including recruitment and abuse through Internet/social networks.

E. Special reception needs of vulnerable groups

Indicators: Special Reception Needs

1. Is there an assessment of special reception needs of vulnerable persons in practice?

☒ Yes

☐ No

An applicant with special reception needs is a vulnerable person according to Article 5¹ of the Asylum Act, who needs special guarantees to enjoy their rights and fulfil their obligations under the law.⁹⁰² Article 5¹(2) lists the following categories of vulnerable persons: minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, persons suffering from serious illnesses, people with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, or persons in other special circumstances.

The law does not prescribe actual mechanisms or methods for the identification of vulnerable persons. The Asylum law only states that specialised personnel of IGI-DAI cooperate with UNHCR and relevant NGOs to identify asylum applicants who may fall within the category of vulnerable persons referred for the identification of vulnerable cases, IGI has a SOP applied by all reception centres and staff interacting with asylum applicants from the moment of their arrival and during the whole asylum procedure. In order to assess the vulnerability of asylum applicants, specialists within IGI-DAI, where appropriate together with experts from other institutions and authorities competent in the field, to make an assessment of the special needs of foreigners. Depending on the specific need of each asylum applicant identified as vulnerable person, IGI-DAI notifies and cooperates with authorities and specialised agencies in order to provide necessary assistance. IGI-DAI may collaborate with NGOs to assist asylum applicants identified as vulnerable.⁹⁰³

Psychosocial specialists of the ICAR Foundation who carry out activities in the Regional Centres first seek to identify asylum applicants, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups (families in difficulty, elderly people, people with chronic illness, unaccompanied children, victims of physical and mental violence) and

⁹⁰¹ Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), Evaluation Report Romania, Fourth Evaluation Round, Measures to prevent and detect vulnerabilities, to human trafficking, published on 12 November 2025, available [here](#).

⁹⁰² Article 2(1)(b²) Asylum Act.

⁹⁰³ Article 5(1)-(4) Asylum Decree.

their needs. Subsequent tests are conducted to assess the general health status of newly arrived asylum applicants, while general practitioners provide weekly medical consultations (see [Health Care](#)).⁹⁰⁴

According to the Asylum Act, asylum applicants with special needs have the right to benefit from adapted accommodation and assistance conditions in the Regional Centres.⁹⁰⁵ During a visit in the regional centre of Timișoara in 2021, the Ombudsman noticed that an asylum applicant who had walking difficulties due to an accident, struggled to use the toilet and recommended that the management build a toilet for persons with special needs.⁹⁰⁶ IGI-DAI stated that all regional centres are ramps for persons with disabilities.⁹⁰⁷ More recent monitoring visits carried out by the Romanian Ombudsman in 2025 did not identify specific shortcomings regarding access to reception centres or accommodation conditions for asylum applicants with reduced mobility. While the presence of persons with locomotor disabilities was noted, for example in Galați, the reports indicate that adapted accommodation and access infrastructure, including ramps and sanitary facilities, were available. No specific challenges comparable to those identified in previous years were reported.⁹⁰⁸

The house rules of the Regional Centres stipulate that, in order to deal with situations of sexual or gender-based violence, the Director of the Centre shall:⁹⁰⁹

- ❖ Inform the persons accommodated in the centre about sexual or gender-based violence and the consequences of such acts;
- ❖ In case of such situations occurring during the period of accommodation in the centre, notify the competent public authorities and institutions and, depending on the seriousness of the deed, gradually apply one of the sanctions provided in Article 47 ROI (see [Reduction or Withdrawal of Reception Conditions](#));
- ❖ Cooperate with national and international NGOs, as well as with public authorities and institutions competent in this field to assist victims while they are accommodated in the Regional Centre.

As far as known by the authors of the report, there were no reports of cases of sexual or gender-based violence in the reception centres in 2023 or 2024. IGI-DAI states that if such cases would exist, the centre would immediately notify the police and the competent judicial authorities to investigate.⁹¹⁰ There were no public reports of cases of sexual or gender-based violence in reception centres for 2025.

In 2024, IGI-DAI stated that the Regional Centres managed by IGI have spaces suitable for accommodating vulnerable persons. This was confirmed for 2025, as IGI-DAI indicated that the Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants continue to have spaces suitable for accommodating vulnerable persons.⁹¹¹

In 2024 according to CNRR, each applicant's file, contains an observation sheet documenting key personal details—such as age, gender, family status (e.g., single parenthood, risk of gender-based violence, old age), pregnancy, health conditions, disabilities, substance use, or past experiences of torture or trafficking. Emotional or behavioural concerns like agitation or frequent crying are also recorded. This information is gathered throughout the asylum process: at application, during accommodation, the preliminary questionnaire, interview, or court proceedings. Medical staff at each centre conduct regular check-ups for individuals identified as having special needs to ensure their health and well-being are properly managed.⁹¹² This remained true for 2025. According to CNRR, each applicant's file includes an observation sheet indicating information declared by the applicant regarding age, gender, family situation

⁹⁰⁴ AIDRom, *Adapted and accessible health services for asylum seekers in Romania*, available [here](#).

⁹⁰⁵ Article 17(1)(l) Asylum Act.

⁹⁰⁶ Ombudsman, Report, 2021, p.7, available in Romanian [here](#).

⁹⁰⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁹⁰⁸ Romanian Ombudsman, Reports on Migrant Centers 2025, available [here](#).

⁹⁰⁹ Article 60 ROI.

⁹¹⁰ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁹¹¹ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

⁹¹² Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

(e.g. single-parent family, risk of gender-based violence, elderly persons alone), pregnancy, physical or mental health problems, disabilities, substance abuse, as well as indications of being a victim of torture or trafficking and other concerns (e.g. difficulty concentrating, emotional distress, agitation). The information is collected at different stages of the asylum procedure, including at the time of submission of the asylum application, during accommodation, the preliminary questionnaire, the personal interview or the court phase. In addition, medical staff in each Regional Centre conduct regular check-ups of persons identified as having special needs.⁹¹³

In 2025, IOM provided assistance to several categories of vulnerable persons accommodated in reception centres, including families with children, single-parent families, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons suffering from serious medical conditions and unaccompanied minors. Support included information and counselling services, material assistance, medical support, Romanian language courses and socio-recreational activities. According to IOM's observations, several structural challenges affecting vulnerable persons remain within the reception system. These include the lack of adequate infrastructure for persons with reduced mobility (such as the absence of lifts in some centres), occasional interruptions in the provision of hot water, limited interpretation and translation services provided by authorities, and insufficiently clear information provided to beneficiaries regarding the National Integration Plan and their rights and obligations. In some centres, such as Maramureş, although interpreters are present, beneficiaries do not always fully understand the information provided, which often requires additional clarification by IOM counsellors. IOM also reported operational challenges affecting reception conditions, including high utility costs in some centres and occasional interruptions in the supply of hot water. According to the organisation, beneficiaries often experience difficulties understanding the measures included in the National Integration Plan as well as their rights and obligations after obtaining international protection. In several cases, IOM counsellors intervened to clarify information provided by reception centre staff, particularly regarding integration measures, family reunification procedures and access to employment.⁹¹⁴

In 2025, LOGS also provided in Timisoara support to several categories of persons with special reception needs, including families with children, victims of trafficking, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons. The assistance provided included social counselling and information regarding available rights and services, support in obtaining documents and accessing social benefits, mediation with public institutions and service providers, assistance in accessing medical and psychological services, as well as emergency material support such as food, hygiene products and clothing. In addition, LOGS organised integration and community activities, including intercultural events, art therapy activities, educational camps and volunteer programmes.⁹¹⁵

1. Reception of unaccompanied children

1.1 Unaccompanied children below the age of 16

Unaccompanied children below the age of 16 are accommodated in a centre managed by DGASPC or an authorised private body.⁹¹⁶ If they have relatives residing in a Regional Centre, DGASPC decides where they will be accommodated, taking into consideration their best interests. In case of unaccompanied children who have siblings under or above the age of 16, when taking a decision regarding their accommodation, IGI-DAI shall consult their legal representative, observe the principle of family unity and take into account the age and maturity of the older sibling.⁹¹⁷ The opinion of the unaccompanied child regarding the place where they will be accommodated is considered and given due importance, taking into account their age and degree of maturity.⁹¹⁸

⁹¹³ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026

⁹¹⁴ Information provided by IOM, 25 February 2026.

⁹¹⁵ Information provided by LOGS, 16 February 2026.

⁹¹⁶ Article 58(3) Asylum Decree, in conjunction with Article 78(1) Child Protection Act.

⁹¹⁷ Article 58(3^1) Asylum Decree.

⁹¹⁸ *ibid.* Article 58(4).

As regards the conditions in DGASPC facilities, Save the Children stated that the facilities are decent but there are no interpreters; thus, interaction with these children is limited until they learn Romanian. In most cases the staff is not trained to work with foreign children, the services provided are not adapted to their needs.

IGI-DAI mentioned that in 2024, unaccompanied minors were generally accommodated in centres managed by the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection. IGI-DAI mentioned that, when accommodated in the Regional Centres managed by IGI, the accommodation of unaccompanied minors is arranged by gender, in rooms separate from adults. As of 31 December 2024, two unaccompanied minors were accommodated in the Regional Centres managed by IGI.⁹¹⁹ This situation remained unchanged in 2025. According to IGI-DAI, unaccompanied minors continued to be accommodated, as a rule, in centres managed by DGASPC, while those over the age of 16 could remain in the Regional Centres managed by IGI, where they were accommodated separately from adults, by gender. As of 31 December 2025, two unaccompanied minors were accommodated in the Regional Centres managed by IGI.⁹²⁰

In 2024, Child Protection Bucharest (DGASMB) stated that there were no reception centres, accommodation places, or unaccompanied minors housed in reception centres at the end of the year.⁹²¹

Additionally, they reported four specialized reception centres in Bucharest:⁹²²

- For victims of domestic violence (2 centres):
 - Emergency Reception Centre for Victims of Severe Domestic Violence “Theodor Pallady”
 - Emergency Reception Centre for Female Victims of Domestic Violence
- For homeless adults (2 centres) in Bucharest:
 - Integrated Social Services Complex for Adults – St. Ioan
 - Filaret Community Assistance Centre.

In 2025, the situation of unaccompanied foreign minors varied across counties, with differences in both the number of cases and the availability of services. According to DGASPC Timiș, a total of 12 unaccompanied foreign children were taken over and placed under special protection measures (emergency placement), representing a decrease compared to 39 cases in 2024. Furthermore, DGASPC Timiș reported that one dedicated centre for unaccompanied minors was operational, with a capacity of 8 places, of which 2 were occupied at the end of 2025.⁹²³ In practice, unaccompanied minors in Timiș benefited from a range of services provided within the Emergency Social Services Complex in Timișoara, including accommodation (day and night shelter), medical services (initial assessment, treatment, dental care, and periodic evaluations), educational support (including Romanian language courses and access to the education system), and psychological counselling.⁹²⁴

By contrast, other counties reported no cases of unaccompanied foreign children during 2025. According to DGASPC Galați, no unaccompanied foreign children (asylum applicants or beneficiaries of international protection) were taken under their responsibility, accommodated, or placed in residential services during the year. DGASPC Galați further indicated that, in the absence of such cases, no interpretation services or specialised support (such as psychological counselling, medical assistance, or educational services) were provided, and no specialised staff for working with foreign minors was available. DGASPC Galați

⁹¹⁹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

⁹²⁰ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

⁹²¹ Information provided by DGASMB, 17 January 2025 available [here](#).

⁹²² *ibid.*

⁹²³ Information provided by DGASPC Timis, 25 February 2026.

⁹²⁴ *ibid.*

also reported that the average time between notification by the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) and the takeover of minors was 0 days, although one case was recorded in which a minor left the IGI reception centre before being taken over by the child protection authorities. No cases were reported of minors leaving DGASPC centres after the appointment of a legal representative (DGASPC Galați).⁹²⁵

Similarly, according to the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection Giurgiu (DGASPC Giurgiu), no unaccompanied foreign minors were taken over or accommodated in 2025. DGASPC Giurgiu noted that, although a family-type residential house (“Albastră”) with a capacity of 7 places exists and had 4 occupied places at the end of the year, none of these were unaccompanied foreign minors, and no such minors were accommodated in any structure under its authority during 2025.⁹²⁶

1.2 Unaccompanied children aged 16 or more

Unaccompanied children, who have reached the age of 16 and do not have the necessary material resources to ensure their subsistence, are accommodated in the Regional Centres. IGI-DAI⁹²⁷ states that unaccompanied minors can be accommodated in separated rooms in the centres and that the principle of the best interest of the child is taken into account.

In 2024, IGI-DAI mentioned that unaccompanied minors over the age of 16 were allowed to remain in the Regional Centres managed by IGI. At the national level, IGI administers six reception centres.⁹²⁸

Children may remain in the reception centre if they are accompanied by an adult or if they are unaccompanied and over the age of 16. In cases where unaccompanied children are under the age of 16, the Child Protection Authority is promptly contacted. However, the duration of their stay is typically short, either due to family reunification processes or, in some cases, irregular onward movement, after which the children may no longer be traceable.⁹²⁹

1.3 Reception of families

Efforts are made to ensure that nuclear families can stay together during the asylum procedure. Families are accommodated in separate rooms. In 2023, according with IGI-DAI, families are accommodated separately in all centres.⁹³⁰ This practice was observed also in 2024 and 2025.⁹³¹

Beyond the Regional Centres managed by IGI-DAI, AIDRom used to run two Accommodation Centres: one Accommodation Centre in Timișoara, which has operated without interruption since August 2012 with a capacity of 15 places; and one Accommodation Centre in Bucharest, which has operated since 2015 with 18 places.

These centres accommodate vulnerable persons, especially single parents with children (mothers with children). The AIDRom centres are located within these cities, funded partially by AMIF and partially by external donors. Asylum applicants housed in these centres have access to social assistance, cultural activities and cultural orientation.

In 2025, according to the Romanian Ombudsman, vulnerable persons were present in the Regional Centers for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum applicants in Bucharest and Galați, including

⁹²⁵ Information provided by DGASPC Galați, 23 February 2026.

⁹²⁶ Information provided by DGASPC Giurgiu, 27 February 2026.

⁹²⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁹²⁸ *ibid.*, 23 January 2025.

⁹²⁹ Information provided by IGI during ECRE fact-finding visit at the Timisoara Reception Centre, 20 March 2025.

⁹³⁰ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁹³¹ Observed by JRS Romania. Information provided April 2026.

families with children, single-parent families, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and victims of trafficking. In the Bucharest center, the Ombudsman identified a significant number of vulnerable cases, including minors, elderly persons, persons with disabilities and victims of trafficking, as well as families and single-parent households. In the Galați center, vulnerable persons included minors, single-parent families, persons with disabilities and beneficiaries of international protection, with the authorities ensuring their inclusion in the relevant protection mechanisms.⁹³²

During the monitoring visits, non-governmental organizations were involved in providing support to vulnerable persons. In the Bucharest center, Save the Children provided assistance aimed at covering basic needs, educational support and access to services for families with children, while AIDRom provided support including material assistance, Romanian language courses and activities facilitating access to services. In the Galați center, AIDRom implemented activities including counselling, Romanian language courses and material assistance, including for vulnerable persons accommodated in the center.⁹³³

In 2024, Save the Children focuses on supporting children with families, unaccompanied minors, and single women present in the Timisoara reception centre. Typically, families with children do not remain in the reception centre for long periods. AIDRom provides social assistance, including services such as family reunification and the distribution of school supplies, also extending their support to beneficiaries of international protection.⁹³⁴

In 2024, according to CNRR from the practice encountered, the most common are verbal and written explanations and warnings regarding internal regulation. In the Regional Centers, information sessions are organized for those accommodated, sessions attended not only by integration officers and NGO representatives but also by medical assistants, officers and contract employees from the Logistics department, PCA officers, the psychologist, EUAA interpreters, in which topics such as: hygiene and sanitary rules, financial aid received from the GII, room re-compartmentation, etc. are addressed.⁹³⁵

As of 31 December 2025, DGASPC Galați provided residential child protection services through 8 apartments (48 places), 7 family-type houses (84 places), 1 emergency reception centre (8 places), and 1 maternal centre (capacity for 5 mother–child pairs). No places were specifically designated for unaccompanied foreign minors; such cases would be accommodated in available places within existing child protection facilities in accordance with legal provisions.⁹³⁶

DGASPC Galați reported the existence of facilities for other vulnerable groups, including a protected dwelling for victims of domestic violence (capacity 6 places), several centres for adults with disabilities (capacities ranging from 4 to 50 places), and protected housing for elderly persons (capacity 18 places). However, no foreign persons were accommodated in these centres in 2025.⁹³⁷

DGASPC Giurgiu reported the existence of a protected dwelling for victims of domestic violence and a maternal centre; however, in 2025 no foreign individuals were accommodated in these residential structures.⁹³⁸

DGASPC Giurgiu also operates residential structures for adults with disabilities. In 2025, only two admissions were recorded in these centres, consisting of transfers from residential structures for children

⁹³² Romanian Ombudsman, Reports on Migrant Centers 2025, available [here](#).

⁹³³ *ibid.*

⁹³⁴ Information provided by IGI during ECRE fact-finding visit at the Timisoara Reception Centre, 20 March 2025.

⁹³⁵ Information provided by CNRR, February 2025.

⁹³⁶ Information provided by DGASPC Galați, 23 February 2026.

⁹³⁷ *ibid.*

⁹³⁸ Information provided by DGASPC Giurgiu, 27 February 2026.

to adult services, in line with Law No. 7/2023 on the acceleration of the deinstitutionalisation process and prevention of institutionalisation.⁹³⁹

According to DGASPC Timiș, accommodation for persons with special needs is ensured either within the same centre or in other centres within the institution, depending on the specific needs and type of services required.⁹⁴⁰

F. Information for asylum applicants and access to reception centres

1. Provision of information on reception

Asylum applicants are informed of their rights and obligations pursuant to Article 17(1)(f) of the Asylum Act. IGI-DAI shall provide written information to asylum applicants in a language they understand or are reasonably supposed to understand, within a maximum of 15 days from the submission of the asylum application.⁹⁴¹ The information shall be provided by the official responsible for receiving the asylum application, according to a template established by order of the General Director of IGI.⁹⁴² Where necessary to ensure an adequate understanding of the information by the applicant, it may also be presented orally during the preliminary interview.⁹⁴³ Competent officers are also required to inform asylum applicants on how to contact NGOs and UNHCR and how to obtain legal assistance and representation.⁹⁴⁴ The General Director of IGI appoints the official responsible for ensuring the conditions to carry out the above activities.⁹⁴⁵

The house rules of the reception centres prescribe that, when accommodated in reception centres, asylum applicants also receive information on the rights, obligations, prohibitions and disciplinary sanctions applicable during their stay in the centre. In this regard, information is handed to asylum applicants in the form of an information sheet in a language that they understand or are reasonably supposed to understand and in which they can clearly communicate. Where appropriate, for an adequate understanding of the applicant, information may also be provided orally using the services of an interpreter apt to ensure appropriate communication.⁹⁴⁶ The applicant has to sign an acknowledgment of receipt of the information leaflets.

In practice, asylum applicants are complementary informed by NGOs in the Regional Centres about reception conditions, house rules and their rights and obligations.

According to the ROI, information on the rights, obligations, prohibitions and disciplinary sanctions applicable during the stay in the Regional Centre shall be displayed in each accommodation room in an international language.⁹⁴⁷ However, according to national civil society actors, this is not always respected in practice. In particular, further improvements would be necessary regarding the provision of information on the centre's rules.

In 2025, according to CNRR, the information provided to asylum applicants regarding reception conditions is generally deemed sufficient. In the Reception Centres, asylum applicants receive information from both centre staff and NGO representatives about internal regulations, the asylum procedure, and the accommodation conditions. This includes practical details such as the washing machine schedule (which

⁹³⁹ Information provided by DGASPC Giurgiu, 27 February 2026

⁹⁴⁰ Information provided by DGASPC Timis, 24 February 2026

⁹⁴¹ Article 17(1)(f) Asylum Act; Article 2(1) Asylum Decree.

⁹⁴² Article 2(1) Asylum Decree.

⁹⁴³ *ibid.* Article 2(1^1).

⁹⁴⁴ *ibid.* Article 2(2).

⁹⁴⁵ *ibid.* Article 2(3).

⁹⁴⁶ Article 5(1) and (2) ROI.

⁹⁴⁷ Article 5(3) ROI.

is also displayed in foreign languages), hygiene standards required in the kitchens, the person responsible for distributing monthly hygiene products, the availability of a prayer room (for Muslims), a small gym, and the schedule for periodic disinfestation, disinfection, and pest control, among other things. Medical information is also shared, including the location of the medical office, operating hours, and the identities of the nurses.⁹⁴⁸

In 2025, according to a representative from JRS in Galati, asylum applicants were informed about their accommodation options in the Centre and the rules they must follow, with information provided by both IGI staff and NGOs working in this area.⁹⁴⁹

2. Access to reception centres by third parties

Indicators: Access to Reception Centres

1. Do family members, legal advisers, UNHCR and/or NGOs have access to reception centres?

☒ Yes ☐ With limitations ☐ No

Pursuant to Article 17(1)(r) of the Asylum Act, asylum applicants have the right to be visited by family members, representatives of national and international NGOs and bodies with duties in the field of asylum or human rights, authorised and accredited under the law.

The house rules prescribe that visitors shall have access to the centre premises, including closed spaces, only through the access control post, based on identity documents such as identity card, passport, diplomatic identity card or residence permit. Visitors' access to the centre premises, including closed spaces, shall be allowed only after they have been authorised by the service staff at the access control post and after registering the entry in the Visitor Record Register. Authorities cannot retain the documents at the access control post.

NGOs implementing projects funded by the AMIF national program have access to reception centres for the duration of their projects, based on contracts/protocols with IGI-DAI.

G. Differential treatment of specific nationalities in reception

There is no difference in treatment based on nationality with respect to reception was reported. All Regional Centres accommodate different nationalities.

⁹⁴⁸ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.
⁹⁴⁹ Information provided in February 2025.

Detention of Asylum Seekers

A. General

Indicators: General Information on Detention

1. Total number of asylum applicants detained in 2025:	Not available
2. Number of asylum applicants in detention at the end of 2025:	Not available
3. Number of detention centres:	7 ⁹⁵⁰
4. Total capacity of detention centres:	510 ⁹⁵¹

Special Accommodation Closed Areas

Before the recast Reception Conditions Directive, Romania only detained third country nationals subject to removal. An asylum detention regime was established following the transposition of the Directive, taking the form of a specially designed closed place i.e. locked rooms in each Regional Centre, except Giurgiu. Detention in a specially designed closed space is ordered in writing, for a period of 30 days, by an order motivated in fact and in law by the designated prosecutor within the Prosecutor's Office attached to the Court of Appeal territorially competent for the area where the Regional Centre is located, upon a motivated request by IGI.⁹⁵²

Based on the information provided by IGI-DAI, a distinction must be made taking in consideration the following aspects:

- The Regional Centres for Procedures and Accommodation of Asylum applicants have an open regime; however, they may have certain places (e.g. rooms) where an asylum applicant could be held due to specific situations (e.g., national security reason). The following information was provided by IGI-DAI for the year 2023 in terms of closed spaces and is still valid for 2025:⁹⁵³ there are such spaces in the centres in Bucharest, Rădăuți, Maramureș, Timișoara, Galați. There appears to be no such rooms in the centre in Giurgiu. IGI-DAI stated that in 2023 no asylum applicants were held in these closed rooms/places within accommodation centres, which normally have an open regime. In 2024, IGI-DAI did not provide any response regarding whether asylum applicants were held in the closed spaces within reception centres, which normally operate under an open regime.
- The Public Custody Centres in Otopeni and Arad have a closed regime.

According to the information provided by IGI-DAI, the regional centres have a total capacity of 166 places in specially arranged closed spaces (see [Places of detention](#)), with the specification that the placement of persons in closed spaces is done only for the situations and within the limits expressly provided by law (e.g. national security reasons). In 2023, there were no cases of asylum applicants being held in closed regime in the regional centres.⁹⁵⁴

According to IGI-DAI, in 2025, there were 2 people held in special accommodation closed areas.⁹⁵⁵

Public custody centres

The 2015 reform also amended the provisions of the Aliens Ordinance regarding the situation of foreigners who lodge an asylum application from detention. Whereas prior to 2015 the Aliens Ordinance required the release of foreigners from detention as soon as a first application for international protection was

⁹⁵⁰ 5 specially arranged closed spaces in 2023, and 2 public custody centers.

⁹⁵¹ 166 in specially arranged closed spaces and 274 in public custody centers.

⁹⁵² Article 19⁷(1) Asylum Act.

⁹⁵³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁹⁵⁴ *ibid.*

⁹⁵⁵ *ibid.*, 02 March 2026.

lodged, the Aliens Ordinance now prescribes that an asylum applicant is only released when they are granted access to the regular procedure in Romania.

The law defines the measure of taking a person into “public custody” as a temporary restriction of the freedom of movement on the territory of Romania, ordered against foreigners in order to accomplish all the necessary steps for removal or transfer under the Dublin Regulation under escort.⁹⁵⁶ In practice, however, it constitutes a measure of deprivation of liberty.

There are 2 detention centres, known as Centres for Accommodation of Foreigners Taken into Public Custody (*Centrul de Cazare a Străinilor luați în Custodie Publică*), located in **Otopeni**, near Bucharest, and **Arad**, near Timișoara. The centres are managed by IGI and are specially designed for the temporary accommodation of foreigners taken into public custody.⁹⁵⁷

Detention (“public custody”) is ordered in writing by an order, justified in law and in fact by the designated prosecutor within the Prosecutor’s Office attached to the Court of Appeal of Bucharest, upon a motivated request by IGI.⁹⁵⁸

In most cases, asylum applicants are not detained. The main categories of asylum applicants detained are those who have applied for asylum from detention and whose application has been assessed in the accelerated procedure.

In 2023, a total of 1,316 foreign nationals were detained in the public custody centres (Arad and Otopeni), according with the information provided by IGI-DAI⁹⁵⁹ and the Public Custody Centre of Arad.⁹⁶⁰ 993 third-country nationals were detained in the Arad centre. Out of them, there were 37 women and 1 person with disabilities.

In 2024, a total of 1,043 foreign nationals were detained in the public custody centres (Arad and Otopeni⁹⁶¹), according to the information provided by IGI-DAI and the Public Custody Centre of Arad. In 2024 regarding the Accommodation Centre for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody in Arad, the available data covers only the first 11 months of 2024.⁹⁶²

In 2025, there were 397 people detained in public custody centers, out of which 42 were asylum applicants. There were 29 people placed in detention at the end of 2025 (9 persons in Otopeni and 20 people in Arad). There was one minor placed in detention in 2025. 2 persons with special reception needs (e.g. victims of human trafficking, victims of torture) in detention during the year.⁹⁶³

Arad: Arad Centre has a capacity of 240 places for foreigners held in public custody.⁹⁶⁴ According to the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), in 2024, *approximately 600 foreign nationals were placed in the Arad Accommodation Center for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody by immigration police, pending the completion of escort removal procedures. Between 1 January and 30 November 2024, a total of 584 foreigners were taken into public custody and accommodated in the Arad centre. Among the individuals for whom the public custody measure was ordered, 118 were from Bangladesh, 115 from Nepal, 100 from*

⁹⁵⁶ Article 101(1) Aliens Ordinance.

⁹⁵⁷ *ibid.* Article 103(3).

⁹⁵⁸ Article 19^14(1) Asylum Act; Article 101(2) Aliens Ordinance.

⁹⁵⁹ *ibid.* 18 January 2024.

⁹⁶⁰ Information provided by the Public Custody Centre of Arad, 10 January 2024.

⁹⁶¹ Bucharest FM, “IGI: Over 440 Foreign Nationals Taken into Public Custody at Otopeni Center in 2024,” March 6, 2025, available [here](#).

⁹⁶² General Inspectorate for Immigration, “Achievements and Results Obtained by the Police Officers of the Accommodation Center for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody Arad in the First 11 Months of This Year,” December 18, 2024, available [here](#).

⁹⁶³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

⁹⁶⁴ *ibid.*

Sri Lanka, and 73 from Pakistan, while the rest came from other countries such as Ethiopia, India, Egypt, Vietnam, Morocco, Syria, etc.⁹⁶⁵

Otopeni: The Otopeni Centre has a capacity of 114 places for foreigners held in public custody. In 2024, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) placed 443 foreign nationals in public custody at the Otopeni Accommodation Center,⁹⁶⁶ but did not provide statistics on those who submitted asylum applications. In 2024, immigration police officers brought 443 foreigners into the Otopeni Public Custody Accommodation Centre, pending the completion of their removal procedures under escort. Most of them came from Nepal – 102, Syria – 50, Pakistan – 44, Bangladesh – 28, Sri Lanka – 32 and Ethiopia – 25, but also from other countries such as Turkey, Congo, Guinea, Cameroon, Algeria or Burkina Faso.⁹⁶⁷

The law prescribes a deadline of 3 days for IGI-DAI to assess the asylum application of an applicant who is in detention and to issue a motivated decision.⁹⁶⁸ Therefore, in these cases the procedure is rapidly conducted. Asylum applicants cannot prepare for the personal interview, as they have no time to contact an attorney or a legal counsellor in order to be counselled or assisted at the interview.

According to the JRS representative, many of the asylum applicants in Arad detention centre were relying on information received from the other detainees, saying that the legal counsellor from Timișoara is not providing legal counselling anymore to asylum applicants in Arad. This was also confirmed by the detainees interviewed by the author. Conversely, the director stated that legal counselling is provided by the legal counsellor from Timișoara, however, he never saw her in the detention centre in 2021, but he stated that he saw her at an interview conducted through videoconference.

UNHCR conducted monitoring visits to public custody centres paying particular attention to cases concerning nationals of countries for which UNHCR has a position of no-return to that country.⁹⁶⁹

B. Legal framework of detention

1. Grounds for detention

Indicators: Grounds for Detention

1. In practice, are most asylum applicants detained

❖ on the territory:	☒ Yes	☐ No
❖ at the border:	☐ Yes	☒ No
2. Are asylum applicants detained during a regular procedure in practice?

☐ Frequently	☐ Rarely	☒ Never
-------------------------------------	---------------------------------	---
3. Are asylum applicants detained during a Dublin procedure in practice?

☐ Frequently	☒ Rarely	☐ Never
-------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------

⁹⁶⁵ General Inspectorate for Immigration, "Achievements and Results Obtained by the Police Officers of the Accommodation Center for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody Arad in the First 11 Months of This Year," December 18, 2024, available [here](#).

⁹⁶⁶ Bucharest FM, IGI: Over 440 Foreign Nationals Taken into Public Custody at Otopeni Center in 2024, 6 March 2025, available [here](#).

⁹⁶⁷ IGI: "Over 440 Foreign Nationals Taken into Public Custody at Otopeni Center in 2024. Over 190 Escort-Led Removal Missions Carried Out," General Inspectorate for Immigration, accessed 24 March 2025, available [here](#).

⁹⁶⁸ Article 19^15(1) Asylum Act.

⁹⁶⁹ Information provided by UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

1.1 Detention of asylum applicants in specially designed closed spaces

Under Article 19⁵(1) of the Asylum Act, when [Alternatives to Detention](#) cannot be applied, IGI may place asylum applicants in specially designed closed places to carry out the necessary procedural steps and to limit abuse to the procedure, for the following reasons:

- (a) To verify the applicant's identity;
- (b) To establish the elements on which the application is based, which could not be obtained in the absence of this measure, in particular where there is a risk of absconding by the applicant;
- (c) At the request of one of the institutions with responsibilities in the field of national security, from which it follows that the applicant presents a danger for national security.

The law provides that the “risk of absconding” within the meaning of Article 19⁵(1)(b) of the Asylum Act is to be understood as the factual situation which justifies the assumption that the applicant absconds from performing the activity of determining the elements of the asylum application made with the occasion of the personal interview.⁹⁷⁰ The Asylum Act sets out the criteria for determining the existence of a “risk of absconding”.⁹⁷¹

- (a) The applicant crossed or was caught trying to illegally cross the state border of Romania after filing the asylum application;
- (b) The applicant was caught trying to illegally cross the state border of Romania, and the asylum application was filed after the person was apprehended;
- (c) There are reasons to believe that the applicant intends to leave Romania after filing the application.

The measure of placement in specially designed closed spaces cannot be ordered in relation to asylum applicants subject to the Dublin procedure or to a measure of removal or expulsion from Romanian territory.⁹⁷²

In 2024 according to CNRR, in practice, most asylum applicants were not detained, both on the territory and at the border. Asylum applicants were detained during an admissibility, Dublin or accelerated procedure, only in cases where the authorities identify well-founded reasons for a risk of absconding. During 2024, CNRR did not report issues of concern regarding the grounds for detention, or any violations of Article 8(3)(b) of the recast Reception Conditions Directive) and the Dublin procedure (Article 28 of the Dublin III Regulation).⁹⁷³ In 2025, there were few cases of asylum applicants detained on the territory and at the border. Asylum applicants are detained during an admissibility, Dublin or accelerated procedure, only in cases where the authorities identify well-founded reasons for a risk of absconding. CNRR did not report issues of concern regarding the grounds for detention, or any violations of Article 8(3)(b) of the recast Reception Conditions Directive) and the Dublin procedure (Article 28 of the Dublin III Regulation).⁹⁷⁴

1.2 Detention of asylum applicants in public custody centres

Under Article 19¹³ of the Asylum Act an asylum applicant may be placed or maintained in detention (“public custody”) in the cases foreseen by the Aliens Ordinance,⁹⁷⁵ as well as in the following cases:

- (a) In order to carry out the transfer to the responsible Member State under the Dublin Regulation, where there is a significant risk of absconding;⁹⁷⁶

⁹⁷⁰ Article 19⁶(3) and (2) Asylum Act.

⁹⁷¹ *ibid.* Article 19⁶(4).

⁹⁷² *ibid.* Article 19²(3).

⁹⁷³ Information provided by CNRR, February 2025.

⁹⁷⁴ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

⁹⁷⁵ Article 101(2) Aliens Ordinance. The measure of public custody is ordered against a foreigner who cannot be removed under escort within 24 hours and who: (a) risks absconding from removal; (b) avoids or hampers the preparation of the return or removal under escort process; or (c) is subject to expulsion.

⁹⁷⁶ Article 19¹³ Asylum Act, in conjunction with Article 19¹⁴(1) Asylum Act.

- (b) Where the applicant was detained with a view to removal or expulsion from Romania and filed an application in order to delay or prevent enforcement of the removal or expulsion measure, having had the possibility to lodge an application before.

The Asylum Act sets out a different set of criteria for the determination of a “significant risk of absconding” in the Dublin procedure, referring to cases where the applicant:⁹⁷⁷

1. Has irregularly crossed the border and their fingerprints match with a Eurodac ‘hit’;
2. Has irregularly crossed the external border of the EU Member States or Schengen countries, or was caught trying to irregularly cross the Romanian border and applied for asylum after being apprehended;
3. Has irregularly crossed or attempted to cross the Romanian border after applying for asylum in Romania;
4. Has applied for asylum in Romania after having been transferred to the responsible Member State;
5. Has not complied with alternatives to detention;⁹⁷⁸
6. Opposes the transfer to the responsible Member State.

In practice, in most cases asylum applicants are detained on the territory. Most stakeholders reported that detention in public custody is generally not ordered. These asylum applicants are usually detained if they cross or attempt to cross into Hungary. According to the Director of the Regional Centre Stolnicu, applicants subject to the Dublin procedure were never placed in detention. However, in 2023, IGI-DAI mentioned that detention was ordered in the case of 3 Syrian nationals subject to a Dublin procedure, but no further details were provided.⁹⁷⁹

Whereas prior to 2015 the Aliens Ordinance required the release of the foreigner from detention as soon as a first application for international protection was lodged, the law now prescribes that an asylum applicant is only released when they are granted access to the regular procedure. Therefore, if they are assessed in an [Accelerated Procedure](#), they will stay in detention until the asylum procedure is concluded. If the application is rejected and the asylum applicant lodges an appeal, they shall remain in detention while the appeal is examined. When the applicant makes a subsequent application, detention ceases on the date they are granted access to the new procedure.⁹⁸⁰ If the application is rejected and the asylum applicant lodges an appeal, they shall remain in detention while the appeal is examined.

According to CNRR, most asylum applicants did not spend the whole status determination procedure in detention. In practice, those under accelerated procedures were most likely to be detained until a final answer regarding the asylum procedure.⁹⁸¹

In 2025, according to available data, 42 applicants for international protection were detained during the year, including persons who lodged an asylum application while in detention. Among them, 2 persons were placed in specially designated closed spaces.⁹⁸²

⁹⁷⁷ *ibid.* Article 19¹⁴(2).

⁹⁷⁸ *ibid.* Article 19¹⁴(2)(e) citing Article 19²(1)(a)-(b).

⁹⁷⁹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

⁹⁸⁰ Article 101(8) Aliens Ordinance.

⁹⁸¹ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025 and April 2026.

⁹⁸² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

2. Alternatives to detention

Indicators: Alternatives to Detention

1. Which alternatives to detention have been laid down in the law? ☒ Reporting duties
☐ Surrendering documents
☐ Financial guarantee
☒ Residence restrictions
☐ Other
2. Are alternatives to detention used in practice? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Specifically designed closed spaces

The Asylum Act provides for the possibility to impose alternatives to asylum detention, defined as “restrictive measures”, in order to fulfil the necessary formalities, to limit abuse of the asylum procedure, and in case the asylum applicant poses a threat to national security, on the basis of an individual assessment.⁹⁸³ These consist of:⁹⁸⁴

- ❖ Reporting duties;
- ❖ Designated place of stay in one of the Regional Centres.

Detention in specially designed closed spaces may be ordered if reporting duties and designated place of stay measures cannot effectively be applied to carry out the necessary procedural formalities and to limit abuse of the asylum procedure.⁹⁸⁵ In 2024, IGI-DAI did not provide any information regarding whether asylum applicants were held in the closed spaces within accommodation centres, which normally operate under an open regime.⁹⁸⁶ In 2025, according to IGI-DAI, 2 persons were placed in specially designed closed spaces within the Regional Centres during the year. However, no further details were provided regarding the circumstances of such placements or whether these concerned asylum applicants.⁹⁸⁷

No restrictive measures may be imposed against an asylum applicant for the sole reason that they have lodged an application for international protection in Romania.⁹⁸⁸

In 2024, IGI-DAI mentioned that 1,155 measures were imposed regarding asylum applicants, noting that multiple restrictive measures can be applied to the same person. These included 128 restrictive measures establishing residence in a regional centre and 1,027 measures requiring individuals to report to the IGI office.⁹⁸⁹ No similar data was made available for 2025.

Detention (“public custody”) centres

The placement of an asylum applicant in detention centres (“public custody”) may be ordered if the prior assessment regarding the possibility to impose alternatives to detention demonstrates that these measures are not possible and sufficient to meet the procedure and the purpose sought,⁹⁹⁰ namely removal from Romania or transfer under the Dublin Regulation.

⁹⁸³ Article 19[^]2(1) Asylum Act.

⁹⁸⁴ *ibid.*

⁹⁸⁵ *ibid.* Article 19[^]5(1).

⁹⁸⁶ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

⁹⁸⁷ *ibid.*, 23 February 2026.

⁹⁸⁸ Article 19[^]2(2) Asylum Act.

⁹⁸⁹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

⁹⁹⁰ Article 19[^]13(2) Asylum Act.

3. Detention of vulnerable applicants

Indicators: Detention of Vulnerable Applicants

1. Are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children detained in practice?

☐ Frequently

☒ Rarely

☐ Never

❖ If frequently or rarely, are they only detained in border/transit zones? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Special Accommodation Closed Areas

Asylum detention, i.e. placement in specifically designed closed spaces, cannot be ordered against unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, except for cases where the unaccompanied child cannot prove their age and, due to serious doubts thereon, IGI-DAI requests an age assessment.⁹⁹¹

Detention (“public custody”) centres

The law defines the measure of taking a person into “public custody” as a temporary restriction of the freedom of movement on the territory of Romania, ordered against foreigners in order to accomplish all the necessary steps for removal or transfer under the Dublin Regulation under escort.⁹⁹² In practice, however, it constitutes a measure of deprivation of liberty.

There are 2 detention centres, known as Centres for Accommodation of Foreigners Taken into Public Custody (*Centrul de Cazare a Străinilor luați în Custodie Publică*), located in **Otopeni**, near Bucharest, and **Arad**, near Timișoara. The centres are managed by IGI and are specially designed for the temporary accommodation of foreigners taken into public custody.⁹⁹³

Detention (“public custody”) is ordered in writing by an order, justified in law and in fact by the designated prosecutor within the Prosecutor’s Office attached to the Court of Appeal of Bucharest, upon a motivated request by IGI.⁹⁹⁴

In most cases, asylum applicants are not detained. The main categories of asylum applicants detained are those who have applied for asylum from detention and whose application has been assessed in the accelerated procedure.

The Public Custody Centres Regulation explicitly provides that children cannot be detained in these centres, unless they are accompanied by at least one of the parents or their legal representative, who are taken into public custody.⁹⁹⁵

According to the amended Aliens Act, in case the foreigner declares that they are a minor and cannot prove their age, if there are serious doubts about his minority, they will be considered an adult.⁹⁹⁶ In this situation, IGI requests an age assessment, with their prior consent.⁹⁹⁷ As a consequence the child will be treated as an adult and placed in detention pending the age assessment, until their age is confirmed.

In 2024, approximately 1,043 foreign nationals were detained in the public custody centres (Arad and Otopeni), according to the information provided by IGI-DAI and the Public Custody Centre of Arad. In 2024, regarding the Accommodation Centre for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody in Arad, the available data covers only the first 11 months of 2024. During this period, approximately 600 foreign nationals were placed in the Arad centre. Among them, 118 were from Bangladesh, 115 from Nepal, 100

⁹⁹¹ Article 19^5 Asylum Act, in conjunction with Article 42(2) Asylum Act.

⁹⁹² Article 101(1) Aliens Ordinance.

⁹⁹³ *ibid.* Article 103(3).

⁹⁹⁴ Article 19^14(1) Asylum Act; Article 101(2) Aliens Ordinance.

⁹⁹⁵ Article 29 Public Custody Centres Regulation.

⁹⁹⁶ Article 131^1(1) Aliens Act, as amended by Act 247/2018 of 6 November 2018.

⁹⁹⁷ *ibid.* Article 131^1(2) Aliens Act.

from Sri Lanka, and 73 from Pakistan, while the rest came from countries such as Ethiopia, India, Egypt, Vietnam, Morocco, and Syria. As of 18 December 2024, 43 foreign nationals were accommodated in the Arad centre, representing an occupancy rate of 27%.⁹⁹⁸ In 2024, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) took 443 foreign nationals into public custody at the Otopeni Accommodation Centre for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody (detention centre). The majority of these individuals came from Nepal (102), Syria (50), Pakistan (44), Bangladesh (28), Sri Lanka (32), and Ethiopia (25), with others originating from countries such as Turkey, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Cameroon, Algeria, and Burkina Faso.⁹⁹⁹

In 2025, a total of 397 persons were placed in detention, including 2 persons accommodated in specially designated closed spaces. Of the total number detained during the year, 42 were applicants for international protection, including persons who lodged an asylum application while in detention. At the end of 2025, 29 persons remained in detention. The authorities reported that one minor was detained during the year, while no unaccompanied minors were detained. In addition, two persons with special reception needs were recorded among those detained. The average duration of detention was 35 days, while the average duration of detention for minors was 29 days. Statistical data regarding the grounds for detention of asylum applicants, the number of asylum applicants in detention at the end of the year, and the average duration of detention for asylum applicants or unaccompanied minors were not available.¹⁰⁰⁰

According to the observations by the Ombudsman following a visit to the centre on 27 June 2024, at the Otopeni Detention Center: *"There were no minors or families in custody (no such cases have been recorded since 2017).*¹⁰⁰¹

In 2024 and 2025, according to CNRR did not encounter vulnerable asylum applicants, including unaccompanied or separated children detained.¹⁰⁰² However, according to IGI, one minor was detained for 29 days in 2025, indicating that detention of minors, although in exceptional cases, could occur in practice.¹⁰⁰³

4. Duration of detention

Indicators: Duration of Detention

1. What is the maximum detention period set in the law (incl. extensions):

❖ Asylum detention

2 months

❖ Pre-removal detention

18 months

2. In practice, how long on average are persons detained? 1-11 months (ee below for more details)

Special Accommodation Closed Areas

According to Article 19^7(1) of the Asylum Act, detention in specially designed closed spaces is ordered for a period of 30 days. IGI may request the territorially competent Court of Appeal to prolong detention for an additional 30-day period.¹⁰⁰⁴ Accordingly, the total period of detention in those spaces may never exceed 60 days.¹⁰⁰⁵

998

General Inspectorate for Immigration, "Achievements and Results Obtained by the Police Officers of the Accommodation Center for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody Arad in the First 11 Months of This Year," December 18, 2024, available [here](#).

999

Bucharest FM, "IGI: Over 440 Foreign Nationals Taken into Public Custody at Otopeni Center in 2024," 6 March 2025, available [here](#).

1000

Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

1001

Information provided by Ombudsman visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

1002

Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

1003

Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

1004

Article 19^7(3) Asylum Act.

1005

ibid. Article 19^7(5).

IGI-DAI has to carry out the examination of the applicant's identity and establishment of the elements of the asylum claim expeditiously in order to maintain the measure of detention as short as possible. Delays due to the administrative procedures that cannot be imputed to the applicant cannot justify a continuation of detention, except for situations where it is necessary to continue to apply the measure for reasons of national security, without exceeding the 60-day limit.¹⁰⁰⁶

Detention (“public custody”) centres

Detention in public custody centres is also ordered for an initial period of 30 days¹⁰⁰⁷ and it may not exceed 6 months.¹⁰⁰⁸ However, this period may be extended exceptionally for an additional period no longer than 12 months, in cases where IGI-DAI is unable to transfer the asylum applicant to the responsible Member State due to delays in obtaining the necessary documentation for the transfer to the respective Member State.¹⁰⁰⁹ Therefore, detention in public custody can last up to 18 months.

Specifically, as regards detention in the Dublin procedure, the Asylum Act recalls that detention ceases if the time limit of six weeks set out in Article 28(3) of the Dublin Regulation is reached.¹⁰¹⁰

When asylum applicants lodge an application in detention centres and are assessed under the accelerated procedure, they spend the whole asylum procedure in detention.

According to the observations following the Ombudsman's visit to the centre carried out on 27 June 2024, at the Otopeni Detention Center: *“The duration of accommodation for these individuals ranged between one month and 11 months. The maximum period for which foreigners could be detained was 18 months, after which automatic toleration intervened, meaning that the person could reside and work in Romania until the causes that prevented their removal from the country were resolved.”*¹⁰¹¹

According to the report on the Ombudsman's visit carried out on 27 June 2024, at the Otopeni Detention Center, the duration of accommodation for detainees ranged between one month and 11 months.¹⁰¹²

According to IGI-DAI, the average length of detention in 2025 was 35 days for adults, and 29 days for minors.¹⁰¹³ According to CNRR, most of the asylum applicants do not spend the whole status determination procedure in detention. In practice, those under accelerated procedures are most likely to be detained until a final answer regarding de asylum procedure.¹⁰¹⁴

Detention in border and transit zones

Detention upon apprehension cannot exceed 24 hours under the Romanian Constitution and the Criminal Procedure Code.¹⁰¹⁵ According to the ITPF Timișoara persons apprehended were not held for more than 24 hours in Border Police custody. No updated information or reports were available for 2024 and 2025.

¹⁰⁰⁶ *ibid.* Article 19[^]7(6).

¹⁰⁰⁷ *ibid.* Article 19[^]14(1).

¹⁰⁰⁸ *ibid.* Article 19[^]14(6).

¹⁰⁰⁹ *ibid.* Article 19[^]14(7).

¹⁰¹⁰ *ibid.* Article 19[^]14(10).

¹⁰¹¹ Ombudsman visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰¹² *ibid.*

¹⁰¹³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

¹⁰¹⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹⁰¹⁵ Article 23 Romanian Constitution; Article 209 Criminal Procedure Code.

C. Detention conditions

1. Place of detention

Indicators: Place of Detention

1. Does the law allow for asylum applicants to be detained in prisons for the purpose of the asylum procedure (i.e. not as a result of criminal charges)? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. If so, are asylum applicants ever detained in practice in prisons for the purpose of the asylum procedure? ☐ Yes ☒ No

According to the law, asylum applicants may be detained in specially designed closed spaces within the Regional Centres, as well as in public custody centres. Asylum applicants are only detained in prisons if they are convicted of a criminal act or if they are sentenced to imprisonment.

In practice, not most asylum applicants are detained on the territory or at the border. Asylum applicants are detained during an admissibility, Dublin or accelerated procedure, only in cases where the authorities identify well-founded reasons for a risk of absconding. CNRR stated they did not report issues of concern regarding the grounds for detention, or any violations of Article 8(3)(b) of the recast Reception Conditions Directive) and the Dublin procedure (Article 28 of the Dublin III Regulation).¹⁰¹⁶

1.2 Specifically designed closed spaces in Regional Centres

All Regional Centres except Giurgiu contain specially designed closed spaces. According to IGI-DAI, the total number of available detention places is as follows:

Capacity of specially designed closed spaces: 2025	
Centre	Capacity
Timișoara	15
Șomcuta Mare	15
Rădăuți	10
Galați	30
Bucharest	96
Giurgiu	0
Total	156

Source: IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

In 2023, no asylum applicants were kept in these places. In 2024, no information is available regarding asylum applicants kept in these places. In 2025, according to IGI-DAI, 2 people were placed in specially designed spaces within the Regional Centres.¹⁰¹⁷

1.3 Detention (“public custody”) centres

There are two Accommodation Centres for Aliens Taken into Public Custody (*Centrul de Cazare a Străinilor Luați În Custodie Publică*) in Romania with the following capacity:

¹⁰¹⁶ Information provided by CNRR, February 2025 and March 2026.

¹⁰¹⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

Capacity of detention centres: 2025		
Detention centre	Capacity	Possibility of extension the capacity
Otopeni	114	Up to 132
Arad	240	Up to 400 ¹⁰¹⁸
Total	354	532

Source: IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

Asylum applicants placed in public custody centres shall be detained, as far as possible, separately from other categories of third-country nationals.¹⁰¹⁹ In practice, this is not the case according to the directors of the Arad and Otopeni centres.

Persons who are convicted of crimes are also to be accommodated in separate rooms from other categories of foreigner nationals. Foreigner nationals considered 'undesirable'¹⁰²⁰ are accommodated separately from the others, according to the Directors of Otopeni and Arad. Those who are convicted of crimes are only accommodated separately in Otopeni.

1.4 Transit zones

Romania has an airport transit zone in Otopeni Airport in Bucharest, with a capacity of 22 places. In 2023, according to the Border Police 18 persons were detained in the airport transit zone; no one requested asylum.¹⁰²¹ 11 people left the airport in less than 24 hours, and 7 had to stay longer than 24 hours (for flight delay reasons). In 2023 there were 16 airport transit zones, with a total capacity of 108 places.¹⁰²² There was no available information or data provided for 2024. The only information given was that there are 18 places in Otopeni Airport.¹⁰²³

According to information provided by the Romanian Border Police, 30 transit zones were available at the end of 2025, with a total capacity of 183 places. Among these, 104 places were located in airport transit zones. The Romanian Border Police reported that no persons were placed in transit zones in 2025. According to the authorities, the 237 asylum applications submitted during the year were lodged by persons who had already been granted access to the Romanian territory.¹⁰²⁴

2. Conditions in detention facilities

Indicators: Conditions in Detention Facilities

- Do detainees have access to health care in practice? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 - ❖ If yes, is it limited to emergency health care? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Given that detention of asylum applicants in the specifically designed closed spaces of Regional Centres is not used in practice, the following section focuses on conditions in detention ("public custody") centres.

¹⁰¹⁸ General Inspectorate for Immigration, "Achievements and Results Obtained by the Police Officers of the Accommodation Center for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody Arad in the First 11 Months of This Year", 18 December 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰¹⁹ Article 19^16(1) Asylum Act.

¹⁰²⁰ Article 86(1) Aliens Act defines undesirable foreigner as a foreigner who has carried out, carries out or there are solid indications that he/she intends to carry out activities likely to endanger national security or public order.

¹⁰²¹ Information provided by IGI DAI, 16 January 2024.

¹⁰²² Information provided by the Border Police, 3 March 2021.

¹⁰²³ Information provided by IGI DAI, 23 January 2025.

¹⁰²⁴ Information provided by IGPF, 09 March 2026.

Public custody centres are managed by the IGI Migration Directorate. According to the Aliens Ordinance, the centres are established, organised, sanitary authorised and equipped to provide adequate accommodation, food, medical care and personal hygiene.¹⁰²⁵

As of 2022, the situation was the following: The representative of **Arad** centre emphasised the lack of administrative staff, police officers and of nurses as an issue. At the time of the author's visit there were three nurses hired, of whom one was on medical leave for more than 90 days. During 2022 there were two medical nurses and as of 14 May 2022 there were three. The nurses had been working 12 hours per day until June 2022 and as of June 24 hours with 72 hours rest. The working schedule was also adapted to the actual needs. The centre has a medical doctor contracted through a service provider contract. The doctor is present in the centre 3 hours per day on weekdays. Some of the interviewed detainees declared that some of the police officers have no English language skills. The author noticed during the interviews that most of the foreign nationals detained in Arad had a basic grasp of the English language. Communication with some of them was very hard; it was hard for the foreigner nationals to understand basic questions. The representatives of both centres stated that they received a translation device, which allows them to discuss issues with the migrants. The device is similar to Google translate. The representative of Arad centre said it is used for written communication, while the director of Otopeni stated that it is used for oral communication.

In 2025, following a visit to the Public Custody Centre in Arad, the Romanian Ombudsman identified several deficiencies related to detention conditions. The report noted infiltration and malfunctioning lighting systems in sanitary facilities in certain accommodation rooms, as well as the need to repair the complaint box and relocate it to ensure the security and integrity of submissions. The report also presented the staffing structure of the center, indicating that out of 64 positions, 54 were occupied, including positions within the medical unit. Medical assistance was provided in the center by a contracted doctor and medical staff, with initial medical screening carried out within 24–72 hours from arrival, and with the possibility of referral to external medical units. Psychological assistance was available; however, the Ombudsman noted that the psychologist's office was not equipped with licensed assessment instruments. According to the response provided by the General Inspectorate for Immigration, certain measures were taken following the visit, including the equipping of the psychologist's office with various assessment tools; however, their use may be limited due to linguistic barriers and lack of universal validation across different cultural contexts.¹⁰²⁶

The director of **Otopeni** stated that they manage to communicate with foreign nationals in English or by using this new device. Nevertheless, they need interpreters to communicate with detainees.

One of the foreigners detained in **Arad** interviewed by the author reported that, while he was on hunger strike, the police officers tried to beat him in order to convince him to eat. He stated that he was beaten three times. He was pushed and kicked. Another foreign national interviewed by the author stated that the police officers are violent towards some of the detainees. A foreign national interviewed by the author in Otopeni also declared that a police officer in Arad hit him in the back without a reason. The director of Arad stated that there were many issues linked to this: the majority of detainees in Arad are from Algeria and Morocco, they stay for longer periods in Arad, than in Bucharest and in Bucharest the food is of better quality. He also mentioned that he had discussed the allegations with the police officers who managed the shifts and they said that it had not happened on their shifts.

Foreigners interviewed by the author in Otopeni, who were also detained in Arad stated that the police officers in **Otopeni** treated them better than the officers in Arad.

¹⁰²⁵ Article 103(3) Aliens Ordinance.

¹⁰²⁶ Romanian Ombudsman, *Raport privind vizita desfășurată la Centrul pentru Cazarea Străinilor Luați în Custodie Publică Arad*, 2025, available here.

When transferred from the facility to court for hearings, detained foreigners are handcuffed and escorted. According to the director of Arad, the foreigners are not always handcuffed, only if there is a risk of absconding or the number of foreigners is higher than the number of police officers accompanying them.

According to the directors of **Otopeni**, foreigners are handcuffed and escorted to the court. The handcuffs are taken off once they enter the court. According to the foreigners interviewed by the author during the visit in Otopeni the handcuffs are taken off when they enter the courtroom, where the court hearing is held. Women are not handcuffed when they are taken to court hearings, according to the representative of Otopeni.

Regarding detainees' right to information on their rights and obligations in detention, in **Arad** all detainees receive written information about their rights and obligations in English or French upon arrival. Both centres have leaflets also in Arabic, Pashto, Kurdish and Chinese. The author noticed posters in different languages that were displayed in the dining space and the hallways.

In **Otopeni** information on ROI and rights and obligations is provided by IGI. The detainees receive A4 leaflets with their rights and obligations in English.

According to the director of **Otopeni**, detainees are informed about their rights and obligations and the reasons for their detention upon arrival in the centre in writing in English and Romanian. Posters with the rights and obligations and ROI are displayed in the hallways of the centre in several languages. During the visit in Otopeni the author saw the posters with ROI and rights and obligations in different languages displayed on the hallways. Some of the foreigners interviewed by the author during the visit in Otopeni mentioned that they received the decision in Romanian and short information in English.

In June 2024, the Ombudsman carried out a visit to the Otopeni Detention Center, observing the following: *"The staffing structure included 70+1 positions, out of these, there was one position in the psychological department, five positions in the medical department (one doctor and four medical assistants), and one position in the technical-administrative department (a person responsible for the heating system and pipes, plumber, waiter, caretaker, and storekeeper). The security personnel were organized into four shifts: one shift with 12 employees, two shifts with 11 employees each, and one shift with 10 employees. At the time of the visit, the following positions were vacant: one psychologist, one officer, one caretaker, one boilerman, and one plumber. According to the information provided, these positions were to be opened for recruitment. Additionally, an increase in the security staff structure was deemed necessary, as the existing personnel was insufficient to carry out the centre's specific activities (...) Although activities were carried out in accordance with the Regulation of Accommodation Centres for Foreigners Taken into Custody, approved by Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs No. 121/2014, there were situations where, due to the number of operational missions, the security personnel was occasionally understaffed at certain times of the day. Allowing all foreigners to leave their rooms simultaneously posed both a security risk for the staff and a risk of illegal departure from the centre. It is necessary to fill all vacant positions and revise the organizational chart by increasing staffing levels to address these shortcomings and eliminate operational dysfunctions. (...) At the time of the visit, the position of psychologist was not filled, as it had been put out to competition. In the past, there was a full-time psychologist, but he retired on 2 May 2023."*¹⁰²⁷

According to the Ombudsperson, in 2024 a total of 592 persons were accommodated in the Arad centre, while 699 persons left the facility, including 440 through voluntary return procedures, with reintegration support ranging between EUR 200 and EUR 650.¹⁰²⁸

¹⁰²⁷ Information provided by Ombudsman visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰²⁸ Visit Report in Arad Detention Centre available [here](#).

2.1 Overall conditions

Otopeni centre operates in Otopeni, Ilfov County, near the largest airport in Romania, Henri Coanda Airport, which facilitates the operative return of foreigners to their countries of origin. The centre was established in 1999 and renovated in 2004-2005 with PHARE funds of €1,500,000, including Romania's own contribution.¹⁰²⁹ Otopeni centre has two buildings. The centre has a capacity of 114, with the possibility of extension to 132 places. The majority of the rooms have 4 beds each, but there are also rooms with 6 and 8 beds and one room with 12 beds.

Arad is located in Horia, a village in Arad County. It had a capacity of 160 places. There were two buildings: one (building B) hosting the administrative offices and 52 places of accommodation and another building (building C) designated for accommodation with 108 places, administration purposes and other activities, inaugurated in 2015.¹⁰³⁰ Each room is designed to accommodate 4 people and has 4.5 to 6m² per person.¹⁰³¹ In May 2021, the authorities started the construction of another facility, with a capacity of 240 places of accommodation, a sports field and leisure spaces. The construction of the facility was funded by AMIF. The construction works were finalized in 2024, and according to the statement of the General Inspectorate for Immigration from December 2024, the accommodation capacity increased by 240 places, which is expected to become operational in the immediate future. With this increase, the total capacity will reach 400 places.¹⁰³²

During the visit carried out to Otopeni on 21 March 2023, the detention conditions in the building which was not under renovation were good. The hallways and other shared spaces were clean. In the renovated building, the walls were already dirty and the old tiles had been kept. The dining room which is in the other building was also clean. The outside space had not been improved, the representatives of the centre said refurbishments were foreseen in 2025. According to available information, there were no renovations conducted in Otopeni in 2025.

According to the report of the **Ombudsman visit** to the Otopeni Detention Center of 27 June 2024: *"The centre was organized into two sections (A and B), with rooms in both sections equipped with four beds, except for one room with 12 beds in Section A and rooms with six or eight beds in Section B. Each room had its own sanitary facilities, and every detainee was provided with an individual bed and bedding. Section A, divided into multiple levels, included office spaces (for both staff and NGO personnel), accommodation rooms, two isolation rooms, a visitors' room, a recreation activity room, a medical office, and a treatment room. The accommodation rooms were furnished with beds, a metal wardrobe, a table, and a television, with sanitary facilities nearby. The rooms were fitted with security systems, with doors locked from the outside, and windows secured with bars. Surveillance systems were installed in the hallways to ensure safety conditions for both detainees and centre staff. For social and sports activities, a terrace was available on the floor where the accommodation rooms were located, as well as a sports field. In Section B, the upper level was designated for public custody, while the lower level was used as transit asylum facilities. At the time of the visit, foreign nationals were only accommodated in Section B. Several detainees complained about the poor quality of the mattresses, stating that many had exposed metal springs. Upon inspection, some mattresses with protruding springs were identified. The centre's management explained that these mattresses had been purchased a few months prior through a project with minimal funding, with an expected lifespan of five years. However, due to the prolonged use (over eight hours daily) and their low quality, their condition had deteriorated faster than expected. The visiting team found that better organization of cleaning and maintenance was necessary, particularly regarding sanitary facilities, which required repainting. Additionally, anti-slip mats were needed in the bathrooms to*

¹⁰²⁹ Ombudsman, *Report of the visit to the Accommodation Centre for Aliens Taken in Public Custody Otopeni*, 70/2016, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹⁰³⁰ Ombudsman, *Report of the visit to the Accommodation Centre for Aliens Taken in Public Custody Arad*, 30/2016, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹⁰³¹ *Ibid*, 10.

¹⁰³² General Inspectorate for Immigration, *"Achievements and Results Obtained by the Police Officers of the Accommodation Center for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody Arad in the First 11 Months of This Year,"* December 18, 2024, available [here](#).

prevent accidents. Detainees expressed their desire for more frequent contact with their families, as phone communication time was limited at the time of the visit. According to the Regulation for Accommodation Centres for Foreigners Taken into Custody, approved by OMAI No. 121/2014, detainees were provided a €5 phone card per month. Foreign nationals could also use their personal mobile phones upon request, under direct visual supervision, while ensuring privacy. Furthermore, the centre had provided two mobile phones for detainees to use at their own expense, but at the time of the visit, one of the phones was non-functional. (...) According to the special events register, by the time of the visit in 2024, one disciplinary isolation sanction had been applied, while in 2023, there had been four such sanctions. These measures were taken in cases where detainees violated the provisions of Article 40 (b) and (f) of the Internal Regulations governing regional asylum applicant accommodation centres, as established by Ministerial Order No. 121/2014. The regulations explicitly prohibit detainees from engaging in acts of violence against staff, mission personnel, visitors, other detainees, or any other individuals within the centre (Article 40(b)). Additionally, detainees are forbidden from using obscene language, gestures, or actions in public (Article 40(f)). Isolation sanctions were also applied in cases where detainees failed to comply with their obligations under Article 39 (d) and (h), which require them to treat centre personnel and external individuals, such as judicial representatives, diplomats, healthcare professionals, and NGO staff, with respect (Article 39(d)) and to properly maintain and care for the material goods provided by the centre throughout their stay (Article 39(h)). In some situations, authorities enforced Article 47(1)(a) of the same regulations, which allows temporary restraint of detainees by centre staff or personnel from other units within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This measure was taken to prevent real and immediate dangers, such as self-harm or property destruction. The centre had two disciplinary isolation rooms, with isolation measures typically lasting 24 hours. However, in one case, the measure was extended for an additional 24 hours. Upon reviewing the special events register, it was noted that not all records included the exact time and date when the isolation measure was imposed, though the time and date of release were consistently recorded. To minimize conflicts, detainees were assigned to rooms based on nationality, gender, religion, and spoken languages.¹⁰³³

Each detainee has their own bed and there is generally sufficient space, except at times when the number of detainees was high and they had to place mattresses on the floor. Detainees are required to clean their own rooms and the common spaces in both centres. They receive cleaning products from IGI and CNRR, according to the directors of the centres.

Detainees are accommodated in separate rooms on the basis of gender, religion or nationality. Family members are accommodated in the same room, separately from other people, ensuring an appropriate level of privacy.

CNRR provides material assistance through the project "Counselling and Material Assistance in Public Custody Centres", funded by the AMIF national program. The main objective of the project is to provide information and counselling to migrants about return operations and rules that must be respected during these operations; the rights, obligations and rules of the Public Custody Centres Arad and Otopeni; and to provide services and specific assistance (including material assistance) complementary to that granted by the Romanian government during their detention in the Public Custody Centres and during their return under escort to the country of origin or other country of destination.¹⁰³⁴

The Public Custody Centres Regulation prescribes that food is provided three times a day, in the form of a hot or cold meal, depending on the situation of the detainees during accommodation or transport. For sick people, pregnant women and other categories of persons, food provision follows the number of meals and the diet prescribed by the doctor at the centre. At the request of detainees, their religious diet is respected.¹⁰³⁵

¹⁰³³ Information provided by Ombudsman visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰³⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 9 December 2019.

¹⁰³⁵ Article 30(1) -(4) Public Custody Centres Regulation.

Overall, the living conditions in the **Arad** Reception Centre have improved considerably since December 2024, when a new building was finalised.¹⁰³⁶ All administrative offices and accommodation facilities were relocated to this modern, well-equipped, and clean facility, enhancing both the quality of services provided and the standard of living for the residents. The centre has been organised to reduce tensions among detainees, with accommodation rooms typically hosting only two to three persons, despite having a larger capacity, in order to avoid conflicts. Separate rooms are allocated for men and women. Rooms are equipped with air conditioners.¹⁰³⁷

According to JRS Romania, the Arad Detention centre includes a new medical office, an improved dining area and kitchen—both reported as being clean and well-organised—and isolation rooms, which are identical in conditions to the regular rooms but used for individual accommodation when necessary.¹⁰³⁸

According to JRS Romania the meals in Arad Detention centre are provided by the Romanian Gendarmerie, which also supplies food for prisons and other detention facilities. Detainees noted that while the food is adequate, with daily servings of fruit and vegetables, they would prefer meals more suited to their traditional preferences (spicy food, curry, or ingredients specific to Muslim diets). However, this is not possible due to the uniform catering system applied across the Gendarmerie network. Some detainees even mentioned that the food portions were too large at times.¹⁰³⁹

In the **Arad** Detention centre, detainees benefit from additional support provided by NGOs and religious communities. Donations of clothes, hygiene products, and other materials have been regularly offered by organisations such as CNRR, JRS Romania, and various faith-based groups, with the management being open to such initiatives.¹⁰⁴⁰

According to JRS Romania, communication with the outside world from the centre is facilitated through two phones available in the centre, and detainees receive a monthly phone card of €5. They are also allowed to use their own phones weekly, usually under supervision. Moreover, visits from relatives and friends are permitted during designated visiting hours.¹⁰⁴¹

In **Arad** Detention centre NGOs maintain regular access to the centre: CNRR provides legal counselling and information sessions, while JRS Romania, in cooperation with IOM Romania, implements the RVAR voluntary return program. Detainees are also informed about the possibility of voluntary return facilitated by Frontex, which offers financial support packages of €600 upon departure and €1,400 in reintegration assistance in the country of origin, in addition to covering travel and document-related costs. Frontex returns, however, are not available to certain nationalities, such as Sudanese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Afghan, and Ugandan nationals, for whom the RVAR program may remain an option. Both programs are complementary and coordinated in the centre.¹⁰⁴²

As for 2025, CNRR stated that food was delivered daily to the Public Custody Centres in order to be served to the persons taken into public custody. Food was provided in the Centre pursuant to instructions approved by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (and published in the Official Monitor of Romania), which establish a number of calories to be assured daily for each person taken into public custody. The norms in cause take into account the particular situation of each person (adults, pregnant or breastfeeding women, minors accompanying adults in public custody, religious restrictions, dietary restrictions as advised by a doctor etc.). The migrants received three meals a day, as well as additional food periodically

¹⁰³⁶ General Inspectorate for Immigration, *"Achievements and Results Obtained by the Police Officers of the Accommodation Center for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody Arad in the First 11 Months of This Year"*, 18 December 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰³⁷ Information provided by JRS Romania Timisoara and Arad, March 2025.

¹⁰³⁸ *ibid.*

¹⁰³⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁴⁰ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁴¹ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁴² *ibid.*

distributed by CNRR. Foods that might go against religious dietary restrictions (such as pork) were not served.¹⁰⁴³ During important religious holidays (e.g. Ramadan), at the request of the migrants, food was provided at a time that allowed them to respect their traditions. During Ramadan, CNRR distributed food every evening to every migrant, in addition to the food provided by the authorities, regardless of religion. In detention centres normally if the migrants have financial resources, they can request weekly that various products (alimentary and non-alimentary) be purchased for them.¹⁰⁴⁴

According to the report on the Ombudsman's visit of 27 June 2024 to the Otopeni Detention Center: *"Food for foreign nationals taken into public custody and accommodated in the centre was provided by the Gendarmerie's catering service, ensuring a double record-keeping system and the preservation of food samples. The medical service was involved in activities related to dietary regimes and conducted water potability tests from the centre's own supply every two months throughout the year. The Romanian National Council for Refugees, which implemented the project "Counselling and Material Assistance Provided in Public Custody Centres", occasionally ensured the provision of fresh fruits and vegetables to foreigners in the centre"*.¹⁰⁴⁵

According to a 2025 report of the Ombudsperson (Avocatul Poporului), following a monitoring visit to the Arad public custody centre, the facility had a capacity of 160 places and accommodated 23 persons at the time of the visit, including 22 men and 1 woman. The centre is organised in a pavilion system, comprising several buildings (C1, C2 and C3) with accommodation rooms, medical facilities, kitchen, storage spaces and areas for socio-cultural and recreational activities.¹⁰⁴⁶

The report noted that while the overall infrastructure allows for the accommodation and daily activities of detainees, certain deficiencies were identified. In particular, issues related to lighting and water infiltration were observed in sanitary areas of some accommodation rooms, for which repairs were recommended.¹⁰⁴⁷

The Ombudsperson reported that food was provided through the Arad Penitentiary, with meals prepared in accordance with established norms, including religious dietary requirements. Detainees had access to three meals per day, and no complaints were recorded regarding the quality or quantity of food. Detainees also had access to outdoor spaces and recreational activities, including sports areas and common rooms equipped with televisions and other facilities. Access to communication tools such as telephones was available under certain conditions.¹⁰⁴⁸

2.2 Activities

The Public Custody Centres Regulation provides that every foreigner is entitled to an hour of recreational outdoor activities per day, depending on the weather conditions and the possibilities of supervision. Recreational outdoor activities usually take place between 13:30 and 17:00. The director of the centre or their legal substitute may increase the duration of outdoor recreational activities.¹⁰⁴⁹

The Aliens Ordinance provides for the right to access to education for children detained in public custody centres accompanied by at least one parent or by their legal representative; children have free access to the compulsory education system.¹⁰⁵⁰ Nevertheless, according to the directors of both **Arad** and **Otopeni**, none of the children detained in public custody centres were enrolled or attended school.

¹⁰⁴³ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Confirmed in 2026.

¹⁰⁴⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁴⁵ Information provided by Ombudsman visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁴⁶ Visit Report in Arad Detention Centre available [here](#).

¹⁰⁴⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁴⁸ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁴⁹ Article 26(1) -(2) Public Custody Centres Regulation.

¹⁰⁵⁰ Article 104(6) Aliens Ordinance.

According to the report on the Ombudsman's visit of 27 June 2024 to the Otopeni Detention Center: *"Detainees did not have access to activities that could help them pass the time in the centre. The facility's management specified that there was no activity schedule for the accommodated individuals, as it was deemed unnecessary. During discussions with detainees, they expressed that they had no activities to occupy their time, highlighting the need for an activity schedule for those in custody (...) there was a need to organize cultural-educational and/or recreational programs, as such programs did not exist at the time of the MNP team's visit. These activities should involve or allow the participation of foreign nationals in designated indoor and outdoor spaces within the centre. The development and implementation of such programs could be achieved by identifying and using resources through EU-funded projects and/or engaging external collaborators and specialists. This was necessary to maintain the detainees' well-being and prevent anxiety and depression, considering the high costs associated with managing these conditions, which could persist for years, with relapses, long-term complications, and potential hospitalization, further increasing expenses. Additionally, such programs would help foster a secure and trusting social environment. (...) Legal and material assistance for detainees was provided through projects implemented by non-governmental organizations that had formal collaborations with IGI and the centre. These projects were funded either by the organizations themselves or through European Union programs. Among these organizations, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), and JRS – Jesuit Refugee Service Romania played a key role in supporting detainees. CNRR managed two major projects: one funded by the European Union under the National Program – Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF), which provided counselling and material assistance to migrants in public custody, and another project dedicated to legal assistance for foreigners. As a partner NGO, JRS was actively involved in cases of tolerated stay, offering accommodation to foreigners who could not be removed from the country. Meanwhile, IOM provided assistance in voluntary return cases, ensuring that those who wished to return to their home countries could do so under safe and organized conditions."¹⁰⁵¹ Based on these findings, the Ombudsman recommended the following: The management of the Accommodation Centre for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody Otopeni is advised to take the necessary legal measures to: *"Develop and implement an educational-recreational program, prepare a calendar of activities and display it in a visible manner so that it can be easily accessed by foreigners, as well as carry out cultural, educational and recreational activities necessary for the leisure time of the persons in custody. Fill vacant positions and hire the necessary personnel, so that the persons in custody have the opportunity to spend free time outside, in the open air, engaging in sports and recreational activities; Take the necessary steps to carry out cleaning and maintenance works in the living spaces, especially in sanitary groups, which require repainting and maintenance; equip the sanitary groups with anti-slip mats to prevent slipping; replace the degraded mattresses; Ensure that the centre provides the necessary clothing items for the persons in custody; Ensure the functionality of the mobile phones made available to foreigners for making calls; Provide advanced training courses for the staff in order to be able to handle crisis situations and de-escalate conflicts, including the qualification of trainers in the field"*.¹⁰⁵²*

In January 2025, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) responded to the Ombudsman's report from its visit on 27 June 2024 at the Otopeni Detention Centre, affirming the implementation of measures to create an educational-recreational program in the centre. The IGI acknowledged that staff shortages and the lack of interest from detainees had hindered the implementation of these programs. However, efforts were made, including the organisation of competitions and leisure activities with the support of the CNRR (Romanian National Council for Refugees).¹⁰⁵³

According to JRS Romania, the new building of the **Arad** Detention Centre is equipped with a fully functional gym, and detainees also have access to two outdoor recreational areas where they can play

¹⁰⁵¹ Information provided by Ombudsman visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁵² *ibid.*

¹⁰⁵³ Information provided by the IGI in January 2025 as response to the visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

football and basketball. The centre respects detainees' religious rights; during Ramadan, a dedicated prayer room was made available to allow detainees to observe their religious practices. Additionally, all detainees have access to televisions in their rooms, with channels available in multiple languages, including from their countries of origin.¹⁰⁵⁴ According to the 2025 report of the Romanian Ombudsman following the visit to the Arad Public Custody Centre, the facility includes spaces designated for socio-cultural, educational and recreational activities, as well as outdoor areas for sports activities. However, no specific information is provided in the 2025 report or in the response of the General Inspectorate for Immigration regarding the existence of a gym, access to televisions in rooms, or dedicated facilities for religious practices.¹⁰⁵⁵

According to CNRR, the Management of Otopeni Public Custody Centre provided recreational facilities, including a sports field and an indoor gym. According to the Centre's internal regulations, individuals in public custody were entitled to one hour of outdoor recreational activities per day. This period may have been extended with the director's approval if weather conditions and supervision capacities permitted. Minors accompanying adults in public custody were granted extended outdoor recreation time. Unaccompanied minors are not taken into public custody. The centers only accommodate minors who accompany adults taken into public custody. However, these cases are rare, because usually alternatives to public custody are applied. For minors who accompany adults taken into public custody, there is a special room for children, equipped with age-appropriate toys in each detention facilities. When necessary, CNRR assures recreational activities for them, including educational activities when required.¹⁰⁵⁶

Otopeni Public Custody Centre also featured a library with books in various foreign languages, including English, French, and Arabic. Persons taken into public custody do not have access to computers; however, they have access to their personal mobile phones twice a week. All rooms are equipped with a television set and a cable connection allowing the persons accommodated there to watch various TV satellite programs including ones in languages they understand. In addition, CNRR teams present in both centres have delivered board games and playing cards and organize within the framework of the EU funded projects implemented periodic championships/ tournaments for the migrants accommodated in the public custody centre who express their interest in joining such recreational activities. Furthermore, starting with 2025 the psychological counsellor of the Otopeni public custody centre organizes weekly leisure activity sessions targeting different age groups and countries of origin. The migrants accommodated in the Otopeni centre were offered the possibility to participate in voluntary Romanian language lessons organized by the same counsellor.¹⁰⁵⁷

2.3 Health care and special needs in detention

Foreigners detained in public custody centres have the right to legal, medical and social assistance and the right to have their own opinion, religious, philosophical and cultural matters respected.¹⁰⁵⁸

The Asylum Act provides that vulnerable asylum applicants detained in specially designed closed spaces within the Regional Centres are regularly monitored and benefit from adequate support, according to their individual situation, including their health situation.¹⁰⁵⁹ The Aliens Ordinance also provides for appropriate medical care and treatment for vulnerable persons in detention centres.¹⁰⁶⁰

In 2024 according to UNHCR Romania, public custody centres lack an established identification mechanism of vulnerable persons, which is instead present in reception centres, including specially

¹⁰⁵⁴ Information provided by JRS Romania Timisoara and Arad, March 2025 and April 2026.

¹⁰⁵⁵ Romanian Ombudsman, Reports on Migrant Centers – 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁵⁶ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Confirmed in 2026.

¹⁰⁵⁷ *ibid.* Information provided also in 2026.

¹⁰⁵⁸ Article 104(2) Aliens Ordinance.

¹⁰⁵⁹ Article 19¹¹(3) Asylum Act.

¹⁰⁶⁰ Article 104(7) Aliens Ordinance.

arranged closed areas. According to the director of the Otopeni centre, there is no identification mechanism for vulnerable persons.

According to the law, the psychologist of the centre makes the psychological evaluation of persons detained in the centre, drafts psychological observation sheets and provides specialist assistance throughout their stay.

For foreigners with psychological or psychiatric problems, the psychologist of the centre informs the Director of the centre immediately or their legal substitute and, where appropriate, makes proposals for specialist consultations to hospital departments.¹⁰⁶¹

The psychological assistance is provided without an interpreter. It was mentioned that many of them speak English or Romanian and if they do not speak these languages, the psychologist solicits the assistance of another detainee, who may interpret for them but only if the foreigner agrees to it.

The authorities try to ensure assistance for this category of persons, but if the needs in question cannot be satisfied, the person is released. In rare cases, groups such as families with children have been released from detention.

According to the observations provided in the report on the Ombudsman visit, of 27 June 2024 to the Otopeni Detention Center: *"Since the beginning of the year until the date of the visit by the NPM team, the main activities of the medical service include: conducting 105 tests for respiratory conditions (flu, COVID); 1,051 consultations through the center's medical office; 141 medical records prepared upon the admission of beneficiaries into the centre; 18 escort missions to clinics outside the centre, including for paternity testing; and 85 prophylactic activities for the food block. Migrants were examined by medical staff upon admission to the centre, where they declared in writing, under their own responsibility, any known medical conditions. However, an informed consent form for necessary treatments also needed to be attached to the consultation file. A notable best practice was observed during the COVID-19 pandemic, as Romania became the first country in Europe to implement a vaccination policy for detainees in the centre, as highlighted in discussions with medical staff. The centre had specific digitalized procedures, including protocols for admission, food refusal (no cases recorded from the beginning of the year until the visit), self-harm (four cases in 2023 and three in 2024), drug users, transfer/transport cases, pregnant detainees (one case in December 2023), and first aid administration. The medical office and two treatment rooms were adequately equipped according to minimum standards, thanks to EU-funded projects aimed at ensuring rapid identification and isolation of infectious diseases. Two designated isolation rooms were available, one in each section of the centre. Rapid test kits for detecting pathogens such as hepatitis B and C, HIV, influenza, and COVID-19 had been purchased. For cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the centre was equipped with a defibrillator, two large emergency kits, and a small first-aid kit, all placed in visible locations. Additionally, a vacuum immobilization system was available for orthopaedic cases. The medical assistance areas were sterilized using UV lamps. From a staffing perspective, the medical team was adequately structured to meet the monitoring needs of detainees. This included one doctor working seven hours per day and four medical assistants, who also participated in 24/72-hour on-call rotations. An annual training plan was in place for the medical service, covering first aid and epidemic control measures, including isolation and quarantine protocols. Medical information was initially confidential, but in cases requiring dietary adjustments (e.g., for diabetic detainees), staff were informed to ensure appropriate meals. Specialized care for women was included in the medical protocols, ensuring access to specialized treatment and appropriate dietary plans while respecting previous medical diagnoses upon confirmation. The standard medication included nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), gastric protectors, and antispasmodics. Active medication was administered by medical assistants, based on prescriptions or recommendations. No supply chain shortages were recorded, as the medical stock was managed by a designated medical assistant. All consultations and treatments were recorded daily in medical files and consultation registers, which were securely stored. The medication for chronic patients was properly*

¹⁰⁶¹ Article 38 Public Custody Centers Regulation.

ensured and distributed as needed, with continuous monitoring of expiration dates. Maintaining a stock of only essential emergency medicines was a priority, as certain substances had biochemical instability and required careful management, with an average shelf life of three months, impacting costs. Efforts were ongoing to provide dental care services, including permanent fillings, given that some detainees could remain in custody for up to 18 months. No deaths were recorded. Detainees aged 65 and older were identified in the centre, with medical staff trained to address their specific needs. Additionally, three individuals with mental health conditions were under monitoring at the time of the visit. (...) Following the assessment of the psychological assistance provided to detainees—through the review of case files, interviews with staff and detainees—it was found that, as of the date of the visit, there were no identified psychological services available to beneficiaries. Specifically, there were no records of psychological evaluations, no register of psychological consultations, and no weekly or annual activity schedule for beneficiaries. Although the institution had applicable procedures for training staff to handle crisis situations and defuse conflicts—especially in the absence of a permanent clinical psychologist at the centre—there was a need for more in-depth training courses and for qualified trainers in the field. At the time of the visit, the psychologist position was vacant, although it had been opened for recruitment. In the past, a full-time psychologist was employed at the centre but retired on May 2, 2023. According to information provided by the centre’s management, when needed, a psychologist from the General Inspectorate for Immigration would visit the centre.¹⁰⁶² The Ombudsman presented the following recommendations based on the visit’s findings: “The management of the Accommodation Centre for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody Otopeni is advised to take the necessary legal measures to: Attach to the medical consultation file the informed consent form regarding access to necessary treatments for ensuring the conditions for maintaining vital functions and, implicitly, the maintenance of an adequate state of health in the given situations; Ensure the constant verification of expiration dates and keep in the emergency medical cabinet only specific medications, as a priority and responsibility of the medical personnel; Continue efforts to ensure dental assistance so that foreign nationals benefit from dental interventions, including the application of permanent fillings, considering the maximum length of stay of up to 18 months in the Otopeni Accommodation Centre; Provide psychological services for individual and group intervention, specific to migrants; fill the vacant position of psychologist.”¹⁰⁶³

In January 2025, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) also acknowledged in its response to the Ombudsman’s report from 27 June 2024 that the post of psychologist at the Otopeni Detention Centre had remained vacant since May 2023. The IGI stated that the centre relied on interventions from the psychologist of the IGI headquarters as needed and expressed its commitment to fill the vacancy and to expand staff capacity to ensure access to psychological support for detainees.¹⁰⁶⁴

According to JRS Romania, in 2024, the situation regarding medical and psychological support in the Arad detention centre remained largely unchanged, with a doctor and a nurse regularly available to provide medical assistance. However, a significant improvement was that the presence of a psychologist on a daily basis was guaranteed. All newly arrived persons are now subject to an initial psychological evaluation upon entry, and additional psychological counselling is offered upon request—either initiated by the beneficiaries themselves or recommended by the centre’s director or medical staff. Additionally, all new arrivals continue to undergo a medical assessment upon admission, to rule out any contagious conditions that might pose a risk to other residents. The quality of medical and psychological facilities has also improved following the relocation to a new building; in particular, medical cabinets and the psychological counselling room are currently better equipped and more suitable for consultations.¹⁰⁶⁵

CNRR stated that medical and psychological assistance were provided at the Centre by specialized staff. Upon arrival, individuals were placed in medical isolation for five days, during which they underwent

¹⁰⁶² Information provided by Ombudsman visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁶³ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁶⁴ Information provided by the IGI in January 2025 as response to the visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁶⁵ Information provided by JRS Romania Timisoara and Arad, March 2025.

medical evaluations. This was a standard procedure for new arrivals to prevent the spread of illnesses. If specialized or multidisciplinary medical care was required (such as for acute illnesses, infectious diseases, conditions needing immediate or ongoing medical attention, decompensated psychiatric conditions, general medical emergencies, etc.), the person was transferred to a hospital. Migrants who required psychological support or counselling could request these services, and they were informed of this option when they entered the accommodation centre for individuals under public custody.¹⁰⁶⁶

According to the Ombudsperson visit report, in 2025, medical assistance in the Arad detention centre was ensured by healthcare staff, including a general practitioner, with access to a medical office equipped for consultations and emergency interventions. Medical screening was carried out within 24 to 72 hours after admission, including clinical examination and the establishment of necessary treatment. Detainees had access to specialist consultations and hospital services when necessary, including through referral to Arad County Emergency Hospital. Medication was provided free of charge based on medical prescription, and no outbreaks of communicable diseases were reported during the monitored period.¹⁰⁶⁷

The report indicated that psychological assistance was available in the centre, including primary psychological support and counselling upon request. However, at the time of the visit, the psychologist was not present, and certain shortcomings were identified regarding the lack of licensed instruments necessary for conducting psychological evaluations. The Ombudsperson recommended improving the equipment available for psychological services in order to ensure adequate professional standards.¹⁰⁶⁸

3. Access to detention facilities

Indicators: Access to Detention Facilities

1. Is access to detention centres allowed to

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| ❖ Lawyers: | ☒ Yes ☐ Limited ☐ No |
| ❖ NGOs: | ☒ Yes ☐ Limited ☐ No |
| ❖ UNHCR: | ☒ Yes ☐ Limited ☐ No |
| ❖ Family members: | ☒ Yes ☐ Limited ☐ No |

The Aliens Ordinance provides that national, international and non-governmental organisations and other bodies competent in the area of migration, authorised and accredited under the law, shall be provided with the possibility to visit detention centres on the basis of the Protocols concluded with IGI or prior authorisation. In exceptional and duly motivated situations, it is possible to visit the centres within 48 hours.¹⁰⁶⁹

Article 13 of the Public Custody Centres Regulation details visiting hours in detention centres for the following groups:¹⁰⁷⁰

- (a) Representatives of diplomatic missions or foreign consular offices representing the detainees' interests: 09:00 – 20:00 every day;
- (b) Representatives of national, international or non-governmental organisations competent in the area of migration, authorised and accredited under the law: 09:00 – 20:00 every day;
- (c) Family members or other persons who need to state the reasons for visiting: 10:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 17:00 for a maximum of 30 minutes, three times a week, usually on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday;
- (d) Legal representatives: 09:00 – 20:00 every day.

¹⁰⁶⁶ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Confirmed in March 2026.

¹⁰⁶⁷ Romanian Ombudsman, Visit Report in Arad Detention Centre 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁶⁸ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁶⁹ Article 103(4) Aliens Ordinance.

¹⁰⁷⁰ Article 13(1) -(3) Public Custody Centers Regulation.

Lawyers have to hold a power of attorney from the foreigner held in detention. In some cases, lawyers have not been allowed access to detention centres on the ground that they had not had their lawyer's card validated by the Bar Association.

Visits are authorised by the Head of the Centre or their legal representative. In the absence of cooperation Protocols, visits by NGO representatives are authorised by the Director of the IGI Migration Directorate.

Media and politicians have access to detention centres if their request is approved.

The Public Custody Centres Regulation prescribes the conditions under which detainees may use the phone in order to contact people outside the centre.¹⁰⁷¹ Detainees may use the public telephone at their own expense from 09:00 to 22:00 every day. Every person is entitled to a card of 5 euro per month. The representatives of Otopeni reported that in some cases they allocated 2 cards. All interviewed persons stated that this is not sufficient, because international calls are very expensive.

In 2022 in **Arad** there was one functional phone in building B. The phone was available for a day for foreigners accommodated on one floor and the next day for the ones accommodated on the other floor, according to the detainees interviewed. Phone wires were installed in each common room in building C and a phone was connected for two hours in each common room. Each foreigner has around 20 minutes' access to the phone. The Ombudsman also confirmed that the number of phones (four) is not enough, even more so when the centre is at full capacity.¹⁰⁷² According to a 2025 monitoring report of the Romanian Ombudsman, persons detained in public custody centres are provided with access to communication by means of telephone cards, generally granted once per month and allowing for a limited duration of calls (approximately 20 minutes), with the possibility of additional access in justified cases. Telephone infrastructure is available within the centre, including designated telephone posts for detainees.¹⁰⁷³

In 2022 **Otopeni**, according to the people interviewed, there was a phone available in each building. According to the representatives of Otopeni centre there are 2 phones. Detainees may use their personal mobile phone upon request, provided that it is not equipped with a camera. They are forbidden from using their personal mobile phone as long as they are under escort. Up to 2025, the situation remained similar, and besides the two available phones, people in detention can use their personal phones too, under supervision, twice a week.

According to the report on the Ombudsman visit of the Otopeni Detention Center carried out on 27 June 2024: *"There were two disciplinary isolation rooms. The disciplinary isolation measure was applied for a duration of 24 hours, and in one case it was extended by an additional 24 hours. Upon reviewing the register for recording special events, it was noted that in some cases the date and time of the beginning of the isolation measure were not recorded—only the date and time of release from isolation were mentioned."*¹⁰⁷⁴ Based on this finding, the Ombudsman recommended the following: The management of the Accommodation Center for Foreigners Taken into Public Custody Otopeni is advised to take the necessary legal measures to: *"Record the date and time of initiation of the isolation measure in the register for the documentation of special events. Take the necessary steps to carry out cleaning and maintenance works in the living spaces, especially in sanitary groups, which require repainting and maintenance; equip the sanitary groups with anti-slip mats to prevent slipping; replace the degraded mattresses."*¹⁰⁷⁵

¹⁰⁷¹ *ibid.* Article 12(1) -(4).

¹⁰⁷² Ombudsman, Visit Report, 6 October 2022, p.5, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹⁰⁷³ Romanian Ombudsman, Visit Report in Arad Detention Centre 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁷⁴ Information provided by Ombudsman visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁷⁵ *ibid.*

In January 2025, in its response to the Ombudsman’s report from the 27 June 2024 visit at the Otopeni Detention Centre, IGI confirmed plans to address hygienic and maintenance shortcomings, including the provision of proper bedding, clothing, and access to outdoor activities. These commitments come in response to repeated concerns about overcrowding, poor hygiene, and inadequate facilities highlighted by the Ombudsman.¹⁰⁷⁶

CNRR mentioned that lawyers were allowed to visit their clients in public custody throughout 2024. NGO representatives were allowed to access the Public Custody Centres on the basis of a collaboration protocol, either to implement projects or for punctual activities. Access to the Centres is nominal and can be granted by the General Inspectorate for Immigration in the following cases:

- For the duration of a year
- At the date of signature of the collaboration protocol
- At the date of signature of the contracts for non-reimbursable funding, for the entire implementation period of the projects
- Occasionally, in specific circumstances ¹⁰⁷⁷

CNRR stated that legal counselling was also consistently provided regarding return procedures, available legal remedies against return decisions under escort, and measures involving public custody. When necessary, specialized counsellors offered guidance on the asylum procedure within the centres. As a national NGO with public utility foundation status, CNRR had regular and unrestricted access to these centres upon an initial general request for access, ensuring daily legal and material assistance throughout the implementation of AMIF-funded projects. Its counsellors offered free legal support on migration law matters, including return decisions and public custody. On a case-by-case basis, members of the CNRR team specialized in asylum law matters are granted access to be present in the public custody centres to provide free legal counselling and assistance to migrants who apply for asylum; there is a constant communication mechanism in place between CNRR and GII so that CNRR is informed regularly about such cases ensuring a swift response from the asylum specialized team.¹⁰⁷⁸

According to CNRR, UNHCR representatives are granted access to the centres upon request, either independently or in response to an individual potentially in need of international protection. If an alternative to public custody was granted, the migrant received tolerated stay status in Romania, which provided him with the legal right to work for the duration of their stay, along with all other rights stipulated by Romanian law for this category of migrants.¹⁰⁷⁹

In 2025, IOM Romania also carried out activities in public custody centres, where it assisted 117 persons. The organisation mainly provided information and counselling regarding voluntary return and reintegration programmes. According to IOM, no cases involving the detention of vulnerable persons were identified during these activities, and the organisation did not report any limitations or difficulties in accessing detention facilities.¹⁰⁸⁰

D. Procedural safeguards

1. Judicial review of the detention order

Indicators: Judicial Review of Detention

1. Is there an automatic judicial review of the lawfulness of detention?

☐ Yes
☒ No

❖ If yes, at what interval is the detention order reviewed?

1076

ibid.

1077

Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

1078

ibid., February 2025 and 2026.

1079

ibid.

1080

Information provided by IOM, 25 February 2026.

The Aliens Ordinance provides that foreigners detained in public custody centres have the right to be informed immediately after their arrival in these places, in their language or in a language they understand, of the main reasons for their detention and of the rights and obligations they have during their stay in these centres. These are communicated in writing by the persons designated to manage these centres.¹⁰⁸¹

In practice, however, foreigners receive the detention order, in all cases written in Romanian. According to the director of Arad they receive a form with their rights and obligations, where it is also mentioned that they have the right to appeal against the detention order in English. Communication is done only in writing when they arrive in detention and there is no interpreter provided at this stage. According to a lawyer, detainees are not receiving their return decision. The lawyer has to request the decision from the IGI Migration Directorate.

In **Otopeni**, detainees are informed in writing, in Romanian and English about the reasons for detention, according to the representatives of the centre. They also said that if detainees have questions, whoever is on duty explains more to them upon arrival.

CNRR¹⁰⁸² stated they distribute leaflets in English, French, Albanian, Hindu, Urdu and Vietnamese language to foreigners in public custody. The informative material about the public custody procedure was distributed both in the Otopeni and Arad centres. CNRR representatives made monthly monitoring visits at these centres. Foreign nationals in public custody were informed of the reasons why this measure has been taken against them, the legal remedies available to them and their rights. The information was provided by means of leaflets, posters and also through the legal counsellor of CNRR who comes to the centre daily during the week (6h/day). If necessary, the legal information was provided to foreigners with the support of available interpreters. No situations reported from which to result that foreigners were not able to lodge complaints to court against the measure of public custody. The Public Custody Centre in Arad indicated that informative material is available also in Arad, Turkish and Chinese. In 2024 and 2025, both asylum applicants and foreign nationals in public custody were informed of the reasons why this measure had been taken against them, the legal remedies available to them and their rights. The information was provided by means of leaflets, posters and also through the legal counsellors of CNRR who come to the Otopeni public custody centre daily during the week.¹⁰⁸³ If necessary, the legal information was provided to foreigners with the support of available interpreters. No situations reported from which to result that asylum applicants or foreigners were not able to lodge complaints to court against the measure of public custody.¹⁰⁸⁴

Under Romanian law, only a Prosecutor is competent to order detention. The maximum duration of the initial detention order is 30 days both for public custody and for specially designed closed spaces in Regional Centres.

Foreigners subject to detention can appeal before the territorially competent Court of Appeal within 5 days.¹⁰⁸⁵ The appeal formulated against detention is subject to lighter formalities, as it is exempt from the judicial stamp duty.¹⁰⁸⁶ If the applicant is detained during the Dublin procedure, it does not have a suspensive effect on the detention order or on the determination of the responsible Member State.¹⁰⁸⁷ The Court of Appeal has to examine the appeal within 3 days from the date of receipt, and its decision is final.

¹⁰⁸¹ Article 104(3) Aliens Ordinance.

¹⁰⁸² Information provided by CNRR, 16 January 2024.

¹⁰⁸³ *ibid.* Confirmed in february 2025.

¹⁰⁸⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁸⁵ Articles 19⁷(7) and 19¹⁴(8) Asylum Act.

¹⁰⁸⁶ *ibid.* Article 19¹⁶(3).

¹⁰⁸⁷ *ibid.* Article 19¹⁴(8).

In 2023, the Court of Appeal of Bucharest registered 10 appeals against detention orders; the court delivered 4 decisions to admit the appeals and 6 decisions to reject them. The hearings were held in person in 9 cases and in 1 case online.¹⁰⁸⁸ The Court of Appeal of Timisoara did not provide information for 2023.

In 2024, CNRR reported that they provided legal assistance in submitting 309 appeals against administrative decisions issued by the General Inspectorate for Immigration, as well as 100 second appeals (appeals against the first court decision). There is no systematic follow-up available for all cases; however, it is known that the majority of these appeals were rejected.¹⁰⁸⁹ No additional information on these cases was provided by IGI. In 2025, according to CNRR, legal representation before courts was not provided in all cases, due to limited resources, and was prioritised for vulnerable applicants or cases presenting particular sensitivities. In this context, a total of 77 legal fee payments for court representation were recorded, while the number of appeals lodged was higher.¹⁰⁹⁰

Concerning the reason for ordering the detention, it was noted by a lawyer that IGI invokes the risk of absconding without even assessing the individual circumstances of each case. The simple fact that the person did not leave Romanian territory voluntarily means there is a risk of absconding. A rejected asylum-seeking unaccompanied minor, who lived for almost one year at DGASPC centre in Bucharest, went to school and even had a job, was placed in detention the day after his 18th birthday, due to the risk of absconding. The same reason was invoked also in the case of a woman accommodated at JRS Bucharest with medical problems. According to the lawyer who filed the appeals, the detention orders were challenged and the decision of the court was positive.

The prolongation of detention is ordered by the territorially competent Court of Appeal, upon a motivated request by IGI, filed at least 5 days before the expiry of the time limit of initial detention. The court must rule before the expiry of the period of prior detention, and its decision is final.¹⁰⁹¹

In general, the IGI Migration Directorate requests the extension of detention for an additional period of 5 months to enforce return decisions under escort and the court may grant an extension of detention for this period.

Questions are raised with regard to the effectiveness of judicial review against detention measures, particularly in light of recent case law from the Court of Appeal of Bucharest. In a case concerning a family from Cuba including a child enrolled at kindergarten and a grandmother suffering from thalassemia and hypertension, whose asylum application had been rejected, detained on the basis of a risk of absconding from the voluntary return procedure, the Court briefly concluded on the legality of detention. It dismissed the appellants' argument on alternatives to detention, stating that these only apply to asylum applicants. The Court also failed to consider the best interests of the child.¹⁰⁹²

In the assessment of the IGI Migration Directorate's request for a two-month extension of detention, however, the Court of Appeal noted that even though detention was not ordered against the minor child, since the centre could not provide adequate conditions for raising and educating a child, it would be contrary to the best interests of the child to maintain the family in detention.¹⁰⁹³

In addition to judicial review upon request and judicial review in case of an extension of the duration of detention, the Aliens Ordinance requires IGI to examine the opportunity to maintain the measure of public

¹⁰⁸⁸ Information provided by the Court of Appeal of Bucharest, 10 January 2024.

¹⁰⁸⁹ Information provided by CNRR, March 2025.

¹⁰⁹⁰ *ibid.*, April 2026.

¹⁰⁹¹ Article 19^14(4) Asylum Act.

¹⁰⁹² Court of Appeal of Bucharest, Decision 2472/2018, 29 May 2018.

¹⁰⁹³ Court of Appeal of Bucharest, Decision 2767/2018, 13 June 2018.

custody at intervals of up to 3 months. In the case of families with children, the analysis must be carried out at intervals of up to one month.¹⁰⁹⁴ However, there is no information about this procedure in practice.

An important case that underscores the intersection between detention measures, extradition proceedings, and the right to seek asylum is the case of the extradition of one Ukrainian to Russia was ruled on in 2022. Romanian national authorities detained Chechen asylum applicant Amina Gerikhanova in March 2022 on grounds that she posed an alleged threat to national security. She had fled her home in Ukraine in the aftermath of Russia's invasion in February 2022. The Romanian border guards separated her from her young son and detained her pending extradition based on a Russian Interpol red notice.¹⁰⁹⁵ On 18 April 2022, the court of Appeal of Suceava authorised her extradition to Russia,¹⁰⁹⁶ whereas the judicial authorities of the Russian Federation have presented in writing, in documents submitted to the Ministry of Justice, a series of guarantees¹⁰⁹⁷, while her appeal was finally rejected on 4 May by the High Court of Cassation and Justice in Romania. The last Court noted that likewise, the Russian-Ukrainian military conflict cannot constitute a reason for refusing extradition, the admission of the extradition request being based on the documents in the file and not on the circumstantial situations that do not directly involve the violation of the fundamental rights of the requested person, as there is no evidentiary element in the file that would lead to this conclusion. In addition, the arrest warrant and the INTERPOL alert were issued a long time ago, respectively since 2018, and the search for the extraditable person carried out by this prosecutor's office until 15.12.2017, when she was placed on the international wanted list. The same High Court also concluded that simply submitting an asylum application is not enough to be considered exempt from extradition.¹⁰⁹⁸ On 9 May 2022, Amina Gerikhanova was granted interim measures by the European Court of Human Rights under the Rule 39 procedure. The Court informed the Romanian Government that it should not extradite Amina Gerikhanova her pending its assessment of her situation.¹⁰⁹⁹ Her extradition to Russia was only stopped following a massive public outcry and the imposition of interim measures by the European Court of Human Rights. Romania eventually granted her asylum.¹¹⁰⁰

It should be mentioned that in a similar case of extradition ruled by the High Court of Cassation and Justice (against another ruling of the Court of Appeal of Suceava of 10 May 2022¹¹⁰¹) the same month of 2022, judges stated that on 15 March 2022, the Russian Federation initiated the procedure for withdrawal from the Council of Europe. In this context, it is noteworthy that the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights, the judicial body of the Council of Europe that provides protection in the event of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Convention, is being denied, which calls for increased caution in assessing the consequences that extradition to the Russian Federation could have.

The existence of information supporting the uncertainty of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the requesting state was also highlighted by the European Parliament Resolution of 07.04.2022 on the intensification of repression in Russia (2022/2622 (RSP), which was based, among other things, on the statement of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights of 24 March 2022 expressing his appreciation for the courageous work of journalists and human rights defenders, including those from the Russian Federation and Belarus, the statement of the Representative for Freedom of the Media of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of 03.03.2022 on the

¹⁰⁹⁴ Article 101(13) Aliens Ordinance.

¹⁰⁹⁵ Amnesty International, Europe: Halt returns of people from the North Caucasus to Russia where they are at risk of torture and abuse, 17 January 2024, available [here](#).

¹⁰⁹⁶ Amnesty International, Romania: Ukrainian refugee faces extradition to Russia: Amina Gerikhanova, 29 April 2022, [link](#).

¹⁰⁹⁷ High Court of Cassation and Justice, Penal Section, Decision no. 282 of 04 May 2022, available only in Romanian [here](#).

¹⁰⁹⁸ *ibid*.

¹⁰⁹⁹ Amnesty International News, 2022, available [here](#).

¹¹⁰⁰ Amnesty International, Europe: Halt returns of people from the North Caucasus to Russia where they are at risk of torture and abuse, 17 January 2024, available [here](#).

¹¹⁰¹ Decision no. 47 of 10 May 2022, Court of Appeal of Suceava

serious violation of the right to freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Russia in the context of the country's military attack against Ukraine; the statement of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the latest developments in Russia and Ukraine.¹¹⁰²

2. Legal assistance for review of detention

Indicators: Legal Assistance for Review of Detention

1. Does the law provide for access to free legal assistance for the review of detention?
☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Do asylum applicants have effective access to free legal assistance in practice?
☒ Yes ☐ No

During detention in public custody centres, asylum applicants have all the rights set out in the Asylum Act, except for those concerning the right to access employment, right to accommodation in the Regional Centres and reimbursement for travel costs.¹¹⁰³ Consequently, detained asylum applicants have the same rights to legal assistance as those in liberty.

Legal assistance for asylum applicants in detention is provided by CNRR through the project “Specialised legal assistance for asylum applicants in Romania”, funded by the AMIF national program. According to CNRR, if the detained asylum applicants express their wish to be counselled before the interview, a CNRR legal advisor will provide the necessary assistance. In this case, the interested asylum applicant refers to the management of the centre and the latter informs CNRR and the legal counsellor will go to the detention centre.¹¹⁰⁴ CNRR also confirmed that legal counselling is provided upon request at every stage of the procedure.¹¹⁰⁵ The implementation of this project continued also in 2025.¹¹⁰⁶ As part of this project CNRR ensured legal counselling in all 6 regional centres for asylum applicants (1 counsellor/centre). In the public custody centres in Otopeni and Arad the counselling of asylum applicants was provided by 2 CNRR counsellors.¹¹⁰⁷

In **Arad**, legal counselling is provided by the CNRR legal counsellor from Timișoara according to CNRR. However, According to data reported by CNRR for the year 2024, counselling was provided to four individuals in detention who had applied for asylum: three in the Otopeni Detention Centre and one in the Arad Detention Centre.¹¹⁰⁸ It is possible that the actual number of cases was higher; however, no additional data was made available by the IGI. In practice asylum applicants were relying on the information received from other detainees. This was also confirmed by the interviewed detainees who reported that they were not counselled by any NGO on asylum applications or subsequent applications, and that they were relying on the information provided by other detainees or police officers. In 2025, according to CNRR, asylum applicants in detention had effective access to legal counselling and did not face obstacles in accessing legal assistance. Legal counselling was provided upon request at any stage of the asylum procedure, through a mechanism ensuring communication between detention centre authorities and CNRR counsellors. However, no updated statistical data were provided regarding the number of asylum applicants assisted in detention.¹¹⁰⁹

CNRR reported that, IGI informs CNRR Bucharest by email when an asylum application is made.¹¹¹⁰ The representative of Arad centre said they inform the CNRR representative working in the centre if an asylum

¹¹⁰² High Court of Cassation and Justice, Penal Section, Decision no. 339 of 25 May 2022, available [here](#)
¹¹⁰³ Article 19^16(2) Asylum Act.
¹¹⁰⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 15 February 2022.
¹¹⁰⁵ *ibid.*
¹¹⁰⁶ *ibid.*, February 2025.
¹¹⁰⁷ *ibid.*, April 2026.
¹¹⁰⁸ *ibid.*, March 2025.
¹¹⁰⁹ *ibid.*, April 2026.
¹¹¹⁰ *ibid.* 7 February 2023.

claim is made, because while the detainee is an asylum applicant, he/she cannot benefit from the services provided under the project implemented. The director of Timișoara centre said they inform the legal counsellor in Timișoara if an asylum claim was made from the detention centre, but not every time.

In 2023, 2024 and 2025 legal aid was provided by CNRR under European Union funds. According to CNRR, from the practice encountered in 2024 and 2025,¹¹¹¹ asylum applicants did not face obstacles in accessing legal assistance in detention. They had effective access to legal assistance, such as legal assistance for asylum applicants in detention being provided by CNRR through the project “Specialised legal assistance for asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in Romania”, funded by the AMIF national program. If the detained asylum applicants expressed their wish to receive legal counselling before the interview or at any stage of the asylum procedure (e.g., lodging a complaint against the IGI decision), a CNRR legal advisor would provide the necessary assistance. In such cases, the asylum applicant would inform the centre’s management, who would then notify CNRR, and the legal counsellor would go to the detention centre. If the situation required it, the CNRR legal counsellor could call an interpreter to assist with the legal counselling session.¹¹¹²

According to the observations from the Ombudsman report on the visit conducted on 27 June 2024, to the Otopeni Detention Center: *“Legal and material assistance activities were carried out through projects implemented by non-governmental organizations with which IGI/the Centre had collaboration agreements, based on projects funded either from their own resources or from European Union funds. These organizations included: the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), and JRS – the Jesuit Refugee Service Romania.”*¹¹¹³

In May 2025, the Ombudsperson conducted a visit in Arad Detention Center. The Ombudsperson reported that detainees had the possibility to submit requests, complaints and petitions, which were registered and processed by the centre’s management. However, deficiencies were identified in relation to the complaint boxes, which were not adequately secured. It was recommended that these be relocated to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of submissions. The report also noted that a number of requests and complaints had been submitted by detainees in 2024 and early 2025, indicating that this mechanism is used in practice.¹¹¹⁴

According to the Ombudsperson, detainees benefited from the support of non-governmental organisations, including CNRR and AIDRom, which provided counselling, legal assistance and material support. These services contributed to informing detainees about their rights and supporting them in administrative and legal procedures.¹¹¹⁵

The report indicated that the centre’s staffing structure included 64 positions, of which 54 were filled at the time of the visit. Staff included personnel responsible for supervision, administration, medical care and support services. Participation in professional training activities was also reported.¹¹¹⁶

The Ombudsperson concluded that, while the centre generally ensures the provision of basic services and safeguards, several improvements are necessary. Key recommendations included repairing sanitary facilities and lighting systems, ensuring the proper placement and security of complaint boxes, and equipping the psychological office with appropriate tools to enable professional assessments.¹¹¹⁷

¹¹¹¹ *ibid.*, 03 February 2026.

¹¹¹² *ibid.*, February 2025. Confirmed in 2026.

¹¹¹³ Information provided by Ombudsman visit report in Otopeni Detention Centre, 27 June 2024, available [here](#).

¹¹¹⁴ Visit Report in Arad Detention Centre – 2025, available [here](#).

¹¹¹⁵ *ibid.*

¹¹¹⁶ *ibid.*

¹¹¹⁷ *ibid.*

E. Differential treatment of specific nationalities in detention

No differential treatment of specific nationalities has been publicly reported regarding detention.

In 2024 and 2025 CNRR mentioned they did not identify any cases of discriminatory or preferential treatment.¹¹¹⁸

¹¹¹⁸ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Confirmed in 2026.

Content of International Protection

Under Government Ordinance No. 44/2004 (“Integration Ordinance”), beneficiaries of international protection are included in an integration program upon request and according to a protocol concluded individually by IGI-DAI.¹¹¹⁹ The application for participation in the integration program has to be submitted to IGI-DAI within 3 months of the grant of protection, compared to 30 days provided by the previous form of the Integration Ordinance.¹¹²⁰

After the registration of the application, the integration officer of IGI-DAI interviews the beneficiary. At the interview representatives of NGOs, local public authorities or other institutions with competences in the integration area may participate. An individual needs assessment sheet is drafted to determine the type of assistance or activities needed for the social integration of the applicant.¹¹²¹ Based on this evaluation form, an individual plan is established, which includes deadlines, necessary activities to achieve the objectives, responsible persons, responsible institutions and / or organisations, as well as the decision of the IGI-DAI regarding the local community in which the integration activities of the program will be carried out.¹¹²²

Participation in the integration program is relevant to the enjoyment of certain rights such as [Housing](#) and Social Welfare.

Activities which may be included in the plan mainly include, separately or cumulatively, the following:¹¹²³

- ❖ Counselling and support activities to ensure access to the rights listed in the Integration Ordinance;
- ❖ Cultural accommodation sessions;
- ❖ Romanian language courses ([see Access to Education](#)).
- ❖ Educational and recreational activities;
- ❖ Non-reimbursable financial aid, granted under the conditions of Asylum Act;
- ❖ Financial allowance in an amount equal to that granted to asylum applicants until receiving the non-refundable aid, but not more than 3 months;
- ❖ Accommodation in one of the regional centres, depending on the number of available accommodation places;
- ❖ Other types of activities or benefits established according to the individual needs of the foreigner and granted by NGOs carrying out activities in the field of integration of foreigners or by local public administration authorities.

The implementation period of the integration program is 12 months from the date of signing the protocol or from the date provided in the protocol. It may grant an extension of maximum 6 months based on a motivated request of the beneficiary and assessment of the situation.¹¹²⁴

In addition to the integration program offered by the state authorities, there are several projects concerning the integration of beneficiaries of international protection and third-country nationals funded through the national AMIF scheme.

Since 2016 the implementation of these projects covers 6 regions throughout the country.¹¹²⁵ Each region has at least one Regional Centre for asylum applicants.

¹¹¹⁹ Article 15 Integration Ordinance.

¹¹²⁰ *ibid.* Article 16.

¹¹²¹ *ibid.* Article 17.

¹¹²² *ibid.* Article 18(1).

¹¹²³ *ibid.* Article 18(2).

¹¹²⁴ *ibid.* Article 20.

¹¹²⁵ Romania is Home, *Integration programs*, available in Romanian [here](#).

In Region 1, after more than 2 years of no integration project implemented,¹¹²⁶ IOM Romania, in partnership with AIDRom and the Schottener Social Services Foundation, implemented the project “InterAct + Active participation and integrated services for migrants from Romania” between 25 December 2020 – 24 December 2022. IOM Romania indicated that the project continued in 2023.¹¹²⁷ In 2024, Region 1 experienced a minimum six-month gap in funding, during which no integration project was active—leaving beneficiaries of protection and third-country nationals without structured support. Since May 2024, the InterACT project,¹¹²⁸ implemented by IOM Romania and funded under the 2021–2027 National Program for Asylum, Migration, and Integration, has resumed services through a one-stop-shop model supporting social, economic, and cultural inclusion. Region 1 includes Bucharest and the following counties: Ilfov, Prahova, Buzău, Dâmbovița, Argeș, Vâlcea, Gorj, Brașov și Covasna.¹¹²⁹ Services offered included: Information and advice on the rights and obligations of legally resident migrants (both beneficiaries of some form of protection and third-country nationals); Romanian language courses; cultural orientation sessions; socio-cultural activities; medical support through the settlement of services / treatments / medicines / payment of health insurance for migrants in vulnerable situations; psychological counselling; material assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations; school supplies and reimbursement for food costs for children; facilitating access to the labour market, including organising meetings with potential employers; financial education sessions; financial incentives to beneficiaries of a form of international protection that constantly participates in the activities organised by the project team.¹¹³⁰

In Region 2 JRS implemented the project “My place to Integration”. Supporting the process of effective integration of beneficiaries of international protection (BPI) and foreigners (RTT - third country nationals) legally residing in Romania in the following counties of Galați, Constanța, Vrancea, Bacău, Vaslui, Brăila, Tulcea. The project includes activities such as information, counselling, material, legal, medical, psychological assistance, employment counselling, as well as social, cultural, recreational, educational activities, Romanian language courses and cultural orientation, in 2 regional integration centres: Galați and Constanta. The project is introducing means of distance counselling / assistance for certain categories of beneficiaries (online courses, etc.) and facilitating access to the labour market through an online tool. The project also aims to involve cultural mediators, interpreters and volunteers at the local level as well as the development of local support networks at the level of institutions and organisations that come into contact with foreigners or within their communities.¹¹³¹ The project also covers the costs of meals in kindergarten and school, school supplies, rental fees in regional centres; offers social vouchers of 50 RON/10EUR two per person. The project ended in October 2023. From the end of 2023 until June 2024, there was a gap in integration assistance in Region 2. Since June 2024 and lasting until June 2026, JRS Romania has been implementing the project *My Place to Integration in Romania*, providing legal, social, educational, medical, and material support through Regional Integration Centres in Galați and Constanța, a Regional Contact Point in the Galați Reception Centre, and a newly established Virtual Integration Centre.

In Region 3 ICAR Foundation implemented in 2022 the project “Integration of foreigners with legal residence in Romania–INTEG-RO”, in partnership with AIDRom, which includes Rădăuți and Suceava, Botoșani, Neamț and Iași counties.¹¹³² The program provides information and social / legal counselling, vocational and professional guidance, psychological support to overcome difficulties and motivate participation in the integration program (in the case of beneficiaries of international protection). The services included both individual counselling sessions (social and psychological), information, assistance in contacting various public or private institutions and local community, as well as group activities (e.g.:

¹¹²⁶ Since 2 August 2019, no integration project has been implemented in Region 1.

¹¹²⁷ Information provided by IOM Romania, 4 January 2024.

¹¹²⁸ InterACT – Active participation and integrated support for migrants in Romania (Region 1), available in Romanian [here](#).

¹¹²⁹ Romania e Acasa, Integration Programs, available in Romanian [here](#). According to IOM Romania, 773 beneficiaries of international protection benefitted from its services in 2021.

¹¹³⁰ Information provided by IOM Romania, 19 February 2022.

¹¹³¹ JRS Romania, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹¹³² AIDRom, available in Romanian [here](#).

Romanian language courses, cultural accommodation sessions, group counselling, development of life skills, socio-recreational activities).¹¹³³ This project ended in October 2023. After a one-year interruption in the provision of integration assistance in Region 3 - which includes the counties of Suceava, Botoșani, Neamț, and Iași - support for migrants resumed in early 2025 through the launch of a new project named *“Integration of legally resident foreigners in Romanian society: a common construction”*.¹¹³⁴ The project is implemented by the ICAR Foundation, in partnership with AIDRom, under the national Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021–2027 program, coordinated by the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI). Running for 24 months, the project operates in two Regional Integration Centres located in Iași and Rădăuți, and aims to provide a wide array of free services tailored to the needs of beneficiaries of international protection and legally residing third-country nationals. Among the services offered are legal and social counselling, Romanian language courses, cultural orientation, psychological support, medical assistance, and help accessing housing, including rent subsidies for the initial months after leaving accommodation centres. The project also supports children's access to education by covering school materials and after school or kindergarten fees, and assists migrants with family reunification procedures, legal document translations, and citizenship applications. To promote community engagement, beneficiaries are encouraged to take part in intercultural and recreational activities, with small financial incentives (150 RON) offered for active participation. By re-establishing these essential services after a prolonged gap, the project contributes to rebuilding the integration framework in Region 3 and reinforces collaboration between local authorities, NGOs, and migrant communities, following a comprehensive one-stop-shop approach.

In Region 4 Previously, LADO Cluj, in partnership with Asociația Profesională Neguvernamentală de Asistență Socială Baia Mare (ASSOC) and IOM ROMANIA implemented in 2022 the project “SIM - CIS - Integrated services for migrants - intercultural and solidary communities. The project covers Maramureș, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Cluj, Bistrița Năsăud, Mureș, Harghita, Sibiu și Alba counties. The project aimed to support the integration into Romanian society of beneficiaries of international protection and third country nationals by creating a coalition of institutional and organisational actors operating as local support networks to increase the quality of integrated services for migrants. They offered the following services: Romanian language and cultural orientation courses; guidance on how to obtain Romanian citizenship; material assistance (food, clothing, hygiene products, etc.); translation of documents (especially identity documents); legal / psychological / medical assistance; socio-cultural and recreational activities; Support for insertion in the labour market. For minors they offer material assistance (school supplements, teaching materials); cover the costs for food / nursery / kindergarten / boarding / after-school.¹¹³⁵ The implementation of this project ended in 2022.¹¹³⁶ Following a service gap of over 6 months during which no integration programs were available in Region 4—which includes the counties of Maramureș, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Cluj, Bistrița-Năsăud, Mureș, Harghita, Sibiu, and Alba—the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Romania, in partnership with ASSOC Baia Mare, relaunched migrant support initiatives through the PRISM 4 – Promoting Inclusion Services¹¹³⁷ in Region 4 project. Running between 31 July 2024 and 30 July 2026, the project is funded through the AMIF. PRISM 4 is based on a one-stop-shop model, designed to centralize integration services for Beneficiaries of International Protection (BIPs) and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs). The project provides a broad spectrum of tailored support, including legal and social counselling, Romanian language instruction, cultural orientation sessions, psychological assistance, labour market inclusion support, and help in accessing healthcare. Beyond direct assistance, the project promotes active cooperation between migrants and local actors—encouraging engagement from local authorities, civil society, and private stakeholders—to reinforce community-level integration. PRISM 4 thus responds strategically to previous gaps, rebuilding the integration framework in Region 4 with the goal of enabling migrants to transition from vulnerable newcomers to active participants in Romanian society.

¹¹³³ *ibid.*

¹¹³⁴ Romania – Integration Measures 2024, European Website on Integration, available [here](#).

¹¹³⁵ LADO, available in Romanian [here](#): 134 beneficiaries on international protection were assisted by LADO and ASSOC in 2021.

¹¹³⁶ Information provided by IOM Romania, 4 January 2024.

¹¹³⁷ PRISM 4 – Promoting Inclusion Services in Region 4, available in Romanian [here](#).

In Region 5, the Western part of Romania, AIDRom in partnership with Filantropia Oradea, implemented in 2022 the project "AIM 5 – Actions to integrate migrants in Region 5" between September 2020-September 2022. The aim of the project was to support the socio-economic and cultural integration of beneficiaries of international protection and third-country nationals in Romanian society in Region 5, through an integrated "one stop shop" approach - by providing all the necessary information and services in one place and by strengthening the collaboration and active involvement of local authorities and community in supporting migrants during the integration process.¹¹³⁸ Region 5 includes Timișoara, and Arad, Bihor, Hunedoara, Mehedinți și Caraș Severin counties.¹¹³⁹ Services provided through this project included: information on rights and obligations and activities or services provided under the project; individual social counselling and assistance services; individual legal advice, advice on accessing the labour market; Romanian language courses and cultural accommodation, social, cultural and recreational activities; health insurance for a maximum period of 6 months, reimbursement of medical services, equivalent value of medicines and / or medical objects / materials; financial incentives for beneficiaries who consistently participate in project activities; supplies and other materials needed in the educational process; reimbursement of meal expenses charged to nurseries, kindergartens and afterschool as well as costs incurred in participating in extracurricular activities undertaken by educational institutions; emergency Financial Packages; reimbursement of public transport costs; document translations and legislations.¹¹⁴⁰ A similar project was implemented by AID-Rom until October 2023. After a break of at least six months, AIDRom and its partners have resumed their activities supporting migrant integration in western Romania. Through the project *INTEGRIS*:¹¹⁴¹ *Integration Initiatives for Migrants in Romania – implemented in Region 5*, a new stage of coordinated action has begun in the counties of Timiș, Arad, Bihor, Hunedoara, Mehedinți, and Caraș-Severin. Implemented between November 2024 and November 2026, the project is designed to support beneficiaries of international protection, third-country nationals, and those under temporary protection. The approach is integrated and human-centred, offering key services—social and legal counselling, Romanian language courses, material aid, cultural orientation, and child-specific support—in a single location. The two Regional Integration Centers, in Timișoara and Oradea, will continue to serve as essential hubs for these services. At the same time, the project fosters community engagement through awareness campaigns, volunteer mobilization, and collaboration with local authorities.

In Region 6, from December 2020-December 2022 the Global Help Association, in partnership with IOM Romania and AIDRom, implemented the project 'Regional network for the integration of migrants in Romania – MyRO'. The project ended in 2022.¹¹⁴² Region 6 included Giurgiu, Călărași, Ialomița, Teleorman, Olt și Dolj.¹¹⁴³ Integration activities in Region 6 only resumed in November 2024, with the launch of a new project¹¹⁴⁴ implemented by AIDRom. This initiative, funded under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), is set to run for 24 months, until 28 November 2026. The project aims to strengthen the socio-economic inclusion of migrants by providing integrated and personalized support, including language and civic education courses, medical and legal assistance, and professional development to facilitate access to the labour market. Activities are conducted through Regional Integration Centres located in the cities of Craiova and Giurgiu.

In June 2024, JRS Romania also launched the project "*A New Home in Romania – Strengthening the Social Integration Mechanism*" (project code: AM22G_01),¹¹⁴⁵ funded under the National Asylum,

¹¹³⁸ Information provided by AIDRom, 14 January 2022. AIDRom assisted 179 beneficiaries of international protection in 2021.

¹¹³⁹ AIDRom, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹¹⁴⁰ Information provided by AIDRom, 14 January 2022.

¹¹⁴¹ INTEGRIS: Migrant integration initiatives in Romania carried out in Region 5, available [here](#).

¹¹⁴² Information provided by IOM Romania, 4 January 2024.

¹¹⁴³ GlobalHelp Association, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹¹⁴⁴ AIDRom – Press Release on the Launch of Integration Project in Region 6, available [here](#), accessed 26 March 2025.

¹¹⁴⁵ A New Home in Romania – Strengthening the Social Integration Mechanism, available in Romanian [here](#), accessed 26 March 2025.

Migration and Integration Program. With a total budget of 3,700,000 lei (of which 3,330,000 lei represents European non-reimbursable funding), the project runs from June 2024 to January 2026, addressing the serious housing needs of Beneficiaries of International Protection (BPI). The project ensures adequate accommodation for at least 500 BPIs, offering direct rental assistance and mediating relations with landlords. Activities include continuous needs assessments, collaboration with local authorities and real estate agencies, and financial subsidies to support vulnerable groups, such as single-parent families, persons without income, Muslim women, and large families. Geographically, the project covers areas with Regional Integration Centres—Bucharest, Galați, Baia Mare, Timișoara, Rădăuți, Șomcuta Mare, and Giurgiu—with a significant focus on Bucharest, where 78% of the housing support is concentrated due to the high number of resettlements and the beneficiaries' preference for the capital. JRS Romania has been implementing this housing program since 2016 in Romania. The project ended at the beginning of February 2026. Another project started at the end of February 2026, running for only three months. In mid-March 2026, IGI published the guide for the new AMIF funding calls, and the call itself was opened at the end of March. In 2025, according to the Romanian Ombudsman, AIDRom implemented assistance activities in reception centres through AMIF-funded projects, including information and counselling, Romanian language courses, cultural orientation, and material support. In Galați, the “BRIDGE” project provided counselling, language courses and material assistance, while in Bucharest, the ASIST project included food and installation packages, language courses, and support for access to services.¹¹⁴⁶

The integration prospects for beneficiaries of international protection in Romania are assessed in the context of appeals against returns of beneficiaries from other European countries. Different courts in Germany and the Netherlands have dismissed such appeals on the ground that conditions for international protection holders in Romania do not present deficiencies triggering Article 3 ECHR,¹¹⁴⁷ including the case of a person with PTSD.¹¹⁴⁸

According to the IGI 2024 report, Romania achieved a 97.5% absorption rate under the AMIF 2014–2020 program, implementing 184 projects. A Norwegian-funded program also closed with an 89% absorption rate. Romania was the first EU country to submit a National Implementation Plan for the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.¹¹⁴⁹

Most of the projects related to integration were implemented until October 2023, and the new financial AMIF scheme allowed for implementation of projects starting with June 2024, only, with a noticeable breaking of seven months. Starting June 2024 and until the end of 2025, there were no issues related to AMIF funds.

Following a period marked by significant service gaps, Romania gradually re-established its migrant integration infrastructure across all six regions through projects financed under the **AMIF 2021–2027 national program**, coordinated by the **General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI)**. Below is a brief overview of each region's current project and implementing organizations:

- **Region 1:** After more than two years without structured support, the InterACT project, implemented by IOM Romania in partnership with AIDRom and Schottener Foundation, resumed in May 2024 and will run until May 2026.
- **Region 2:** The My Place to Integration in Romania project, led by JRS Romania, was relaunched in June 2024, covering a period of two years.

¹¹⁴⁶ Romanian Ombudsman, *Raport privind vizita desfășurată la Centrul Regional de Cazare și Proceduri pentru Solicitanții de Azil București*, 2025, available [here](#)

¹¹⁴⁷ (Germany) Administrative Court of Aachen, 6 L 202/18. A, 7 May 2018; Administrative Court of Düsseldorf, Decision 22 L 5230/17. A, 5 June 2018; Administrative Court of Hannover, Decision 12 B 3173/18, 3 July 2018; (Netherlands) Regional Court of the Hague, Decision NL.18.7700, 17 May 2018; Regional Court of Gravenhage, Decision NL18.21071, 5 December 2018.

¹¹⁴⁸ (Germany) Administrative Court of Aachen, Decision 6 L 606/18. A, 6 July 2018.

¹¹⁴⁹ According to the *Assessment of the activity of the general inspectorate for immigration in the year 2024* of the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), published in April 2025, summarising its operations during 2024. Official source [here](#).

- **Region 3:** The ICAR Foundation, together with AIDRom, started in early 2025 the project “A Common Construction”, running for 24 months.
- **Region 4:** The PRISM 4 project, implemented by IOM Romania and ASSOC Baia Mare, began in July 2024 and continues until July 2026.
- **Region 5:** The INTEGRIS project, coordinated by AIDRom and Filantropia Oradea, started in November 2024 and will be active until November 2026.
- **Region 6:** After nearly two years of inactivity, AIDRom resumed integration services in November 2024 through a new 24-month project based in Craiova and Giurgiu
- In addition, JRS Romania implemented the project “O Noua Casa in Romania”, assisting beneficiaries of international protection with access to housing.

In 2025, integration activities for beneficiaries of international protection and other third-country nationals continued to be implemented primarily by civil society organisations, although access and outcomes varied significantly in practice. According to the Global Help Association, integration support included Romanian language and civic orientation courses, socio-cultural and recreational activities, labour market guidance, and legal counselling, delivered throughout the year in Craiova, Giurgiu and Corabia, both in person and online. Participation remained relatively limited, with approximately 5 beneficiaries of refugee status, 62 beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, and 249 other migrants involved in such activities. Access to these services was subject to eligibility criteria, including residence in specific counties (Region 6) and the recent issuance of a residence permit, which may have further restricted participation.¹¹⁵⁰

At the same time, research findings indicate persistent and, in some areas, worsening barriers to effective integration. According to the Center for Comparative Migration Studies (CCMS), access to key public services, particularly employment and healthcare, continued to be uneven in practice, with an increasing gap between the legal framework and its implementation, as well as instances of structural discrimination. CCMS also noted that, while the role of local authorities in integration has grown, particularly in terms of awareness of responsibilities, significant disparities remain in their responses, including cases of differential or preferential treatment between groups. More broadly, CCMS highlighted structural challenges affecting the integration system, including limited coordination between public institutions, NGOs and academic actors, as well as reduced funding for research activities, which led to the scaling down of certain studies. These developments, combined with increasing societal polarisation and tensions related to migration, continue to impact the effectiveness and coherence of integration policies in practice.¹¹⁵¹

A. Status and residence

1. Residence permit

Indicators: Residence Permit

1. What is the duration of residence permits granted to beneficiaries of protection?

❖ Refugee status	3 years
❖ Subsidiary protection	2 years

The duration of residence permits granted for refugee status is 3 years and for subsidiary protection 2 years.¹¹⁵²

The conditions for issuing a residence permit – in the form of a card – are prescribed by the Asylum Decree.¹¹⁵³ In order to obtain a residence permit, issued free of charge, the beneficiary of international

¹¹⁵⁰ Information provided by Global Help, April 2026.

¹¹⁵¹ Information provided by CCMS, April 2026

¹¹⁵² Article 20(6) Asylum Act.

¹¹⁵³ Article 51 Asylum Decree.

protection has the obligation to submit a document to IGI-DAI which proves their legal residence. This can be a: title of ownership; lease agreement registered with the fiscal administration; commodity contract concluded in authentic form; or any other documents concluded under the conditions of validity provided by Romanian legislation in force regarding the housing title, which prove the acquisition of some housing rights.¹¹⁵⁴

Responsibility for issuing the residence permits lies with IGI-DAI. In practice there are no difficulties in the issuance of the residence permit. However, the AIDRom representative in Timișoara stated that beneficiaries encounter difficulties in obtaining a rental contract fulfilling the conditions required by the authorities. According to JRS Romania some beneficiaries of protection still experienced challenges in securing housing. One persistent obstacle is the reluctance of Romanian landlords to rent to foreigners, often refusing to declare rental agreements to the authorities. In addition, the requirement for a financial guarantee or deposit poses a significant challenge, as none of the NGOs are in a position to cover these costs. Some beneficiaries also struggle to find stable employment, making it difficult to sustain rent payments once NGO support ends. In certain cases, even paying for utilities becomes a burden, as these are not always included in the assistance provided by NGOs.¹¹⁵⁵

The beneficiary of international protection has to fill in a standard form,¹¹⁵⁶ which is usually filled in together with the officer in charge. The time of issuance of the residence permit card is issued differs from one Regional Centre to another: as of 2022, one week or even sooner in Bucharest, three weeks în Timișoara, according to the director of the regional centre of Timișoara, three weeks în Rădăuți, three weeks in Galați (also in 2023),¹¹⁵⁷ two to three weeks in Giurgiu. As for Șomcuta Mare, the director was not aware of the average duration. The situation in Timisoara in 2024 remained similar to the previous year's, with some minor improvements. Difficulties and delays may arise when the beneficiaries do not understand the procedure and do not bring all the required documents.¹¹⁵⁸

As regards the renewal of residence permit, beneficiaries of international protection do not encounter any problems. Before the expiry of the residence permit, they fill in a request for renewal and a new card is issued in the same time frame as mentioned above.

In 2024, IGI-DAI issued 2,416 residence permits to refugees and 2,417 to subsidiary protection beneficiaries.¹¹⁵⁹

In 2025, IGI-DAI issued 2,343 residence permits for refugees and 2,464 for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection.¹¹⁶⁰

2. Civil registration

The procedure of civil registration is set out in Act 119/1996.¹¹⁶¹

¹¹⁵⁴ *ibid.* Article 50(3).

¹¹⁵⁵ Information provided by JRS Romania, February 2025; confirmed also in April 2026.

¹¹⁵⁶ The form is available [here](#).

¹¹⁵⁷ Practice observed by JRS Romania, April 2024.

¹¹⁵⁸ Information provided by IOM, 19 February 2022.

¹¹⁵⁹ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

¹¹⁶⁰ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

¹¹⁶¹ Act 119/1996 on civil registration acts, available in Romanian [here](#).

2.1 Marriage and childbirth registration

With regard to marriage registration, the law provides the obligation for the future spouses to present identity documents, birth certificates, and medical certificates.¹¹⁶² Beneficiaries of international protection have to present several documents, such as:

- ❖ Identity document, which in their case may be the travel document issued after granting a form of protection;¹¹⁶³
- ❖ Birth certificate;
- ❖ Certificate/ evidence issued by diplomatic missions or consular offices;
- ❖ Declaration, authenticated by the notary, which proves that they fulfil the necessary conditions for getting married;
- ❖ Proof of divorce/ death certificate of the spouse as the case may be;
- ❖ Prenuptial medical certificate;
- ❖ Marriage convention.

In addition, foreign citizens who do not speak Romanian have to submit the marriage declaration in the presence of and through an authorised translator, which they have to pay for.

ASSOC/LADO reported that beneficiaries do not encounter any issues in case of civil registration.¹¹⁶⁴

In 2025, several challenges were reported, particularly in Bucharest, in relation to population records services (Evidența Populației). Notably:

- In cases of childbirth registration, the lack of authorized translators for certain languages, combined with the costs of translation and notarization, remains a significant barrier.
- Many beneficiaries lack original documents, having lost or been unable to carry them due to forced displacement, war, or prolonged travel. Others arrive with documents written in their national language that require legalized translation—a service that NGOs do not always cover financially.
- There are also practical difficulties related to the quality of translations. Inaccurate or unprofessional translations have led to misunderstandings or even rejection of documents by the authorities, affecting registration outcomes.

These administrative and financial burdens continue to hinder the full exercise of civil rights for some beneficiaries of international protection, particularly when attempting to register marriages or the births of their children.¹¹⁶⁵

2.2 Bank accounts

As mentioned in the past years, BIP in Romania face significant difficulties in opening bank accounts, particularly those from Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan.¹¹⁶⁶ Many banks refuse to provide services to these nationals due to security concerns, despite the Romanian National Bank stating that banks have the discretion to open accounts. In several cities, including Galați, Giurgiu, and Rădăuți, banks commonly reject applicants unless they have an employment contract, making it challenging for unemployed beneficiaries to access financial services.¹¹⁶⁷ Even small banks that previously allowed account openings have become more restrictive, preventing some beneficiaries from renewing their residence permits. In Bucharest, additional requirements such as proof of stable income, a passport, and Romanian language proficiency create further obstacles, and there have been cases where accounts were suspended without

¹¹⁶² Article 25(3) Act 119/1996.

¹¹⁶³ Local Council of Timișoara, *Marriage Registration*, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹¹⁶⁴ Information provided by LADO/ASSOC, 20 February 2023.

¹¹⁶⁵ Information provided by JRS Romania, January 2025.

¹¹⁶⁶ Practice observed by JRS Romania, April 2024. Information provided by IOM Romania, 19 February 2022. Information provided by AIDRom, 14 January 2022.

¹¹⁶⁷ Practice observed by JRS Romania, April 2024.

explanation. While some beneficiaries with employment contracts do not face these barriers, the overall banking restrictions severely limit financial inclusion for many refugees in Romania.

In 2025, according to JRS Romania, the situation regarding access to bank accounts for beneficiaries of international protection remained challenging, particularly for individuals from Syria. Changes in the Syrian conflict and shifts in European policy have led to increased scrutiny of Syrian nationals. While Revolut was previously a convenient alternative, its transition into a regulated national bank now requires stricter documentation. Syrian applicants are often asked to provide a valid Syrian passport—a requirement many cannot meet due to expired documents or the impossibility of obtaining new ones. Even those holding Romanian travel documents for refugees or subsidiary protection are frequently rejected by the app. Traditional banks like Banca Transilvania, ING, and Revolut have adopted increasingly restrictive internal policies, making account access difficult for many foreigners. In contrast, banks such as Linker and UniCredit have shown greater flexibility and empathy toward migrants. Moreover, foreign nationals—including recognized refugees—also report difficulties when attempting to open business accounts, despite the account being linked to a legal entity rather than personal use.¹¹⁶⁸

3. Long-term residence

Indicators: Long-Term Residence

Number of long-term residence permits issued to beneficiaries in 2025: 353¹¹⁶⁹

Long-term residence or permanent residence status is regulated by Government Emergency Ordinance No. 194/2002 (“Aliens Ordinance”). The conditions for obtaining long-term or permanent residence status are prescribed by Article 71 of the Aliens Ordinance and do not differ for refugees and people granted subsidiary protection.

- (a) **Lawful residence:** Permanent residence status may be granted to refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who have lawfully resided on the territory of Romania continuously during the last 5 years preceding the filing of the application.¹¹⁷⁰ Continuity implies that a person has not been absent from Romania for more than 6 consecutive months and shall not exceed 10 months of absence in total.¹¹⁷¹

The 5 years residence term may be reduced to 4 years for beneficiaries of international protection in Romania who actively participate in the economic, social and cultural life of the Romanian society, including following the integration programs provided by the Integration Ordinance,¹¹⁷² or are married to a person holding Romanian citizenship for at least 5 years.¹¹⁷³

According to the law, this period of residence starts from the moment when the asylum application was lodged.¹¹⁷⁴

- (b) **Knowledge of Romanian language:** In addition, the applicant has to know the Romanian language at least at a satisfactory level. Usually this requirement is verified by the officer examining the request for a long-term residence card, by having a discussion in Romanian with the applicant.¹¹⁷⁵

¹¹⁶⁸ Information provided by JRS Romania, February 2025.

¹¹⁶⁹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

¹¹⁷⁰ Article 71(1)(a) Aliens Ordinance.

¹¹⁷¹ *ibid.* Article 71(1)(a)(i).

¹¹⁷² *ibid.* Article 71(1)(a)(v).

¹¹⁷³ *ibid.* Article 71(1)(a)(vi).

¹¹⁷⁴ *ibid.* Article 71(1)(a)(vii).

¹¹⁷⁵ *ibid.* Article 71(1)(a)(vii).

- (c) **Public order / national security:** The applicant must not pose a threat to public order or national security.¹¹⁷⁶
- (d) **Health insurance.**¹¹⁷⁷
- (e) **Accommodation:** The applicant has to prove the legal possession of a living space.¹¹⁷⁸
- (f) **Means of subsistence:** The applicant has to prove they have at least the level of the gross average income in Romania.¹¹⁷⁹

Article 72 of the Aliens Ordinance sets out the documents that the applicant has to submit personally, when requesting the permanent residence status:

- ❖ Travel document¹¹⁸⁰ for which there is an exemption for beneficiaries of international protection;¹¹⁸¹
- ❖ Proof of the legal possession of the living space, in accordance with the law;¹¹⁸²
- ❖ Proof of the means of subsistence at the gross average earning in Romania;¹¹⁸³
- ❖ Proof of health insurance;¹¹⁸⁴
- ❖ Criminal record, issued by the Romanian authorities.¹¹⁸⁵

According to IOM Romania, difficulties occur when the beneficiaries cannot prove their means of subsistence, for example, if they have no employment contract and do not have social health insurance.¹¹⁸⁶

Applications for permanent residence status are examined by a special committee of IGI.¹¹⁸⁷ The decision has to be taken no later than 6 months from the day the application was registered. For objective reasons, the Head of IGI may extend this deadline by another 3 months, duly notifying the applicant.¹¹⁸⁸

The applicant is notified within 15 days of the request being granted. Within 30 days from the receipt of the communication, the person who has been granted the right of permanent residence in Romania has to present themselves to the regional office of the IGI, where the application was registered, for the issuance of the permanent residence permit.¹¹⁸⁹

In 2023, IGI-DAI indicated that it does not have statistics available regarding the number of requests for long-term residence permits lodged.¹¹⁹⁰ In 2024, IGI-DAI issued 320 long-term residence permits in accordance with Directive 2003/109/EC, including 155 valid permits for refugees and 165 valid permits for subsidiary protection beneficiaries as of 31 December 2024.¹¹⁹¹

¹¹⁷⁶ *ibid.* Article 71(1)(f).

¹¹⁷⁷ *ibid.* Article 71(1)(c).

¹¹⁷⁸ *ibid.* Article 71(1)(d).

¹¹⁷⁹ *ibid.* Article 71(1)(b).

¹¹⁸⁰ *ibid.* Article 72(1)(a).

¹¹⁸¹ Article 146 Asylum Act.

¹¹⁸² Article 72(1)(b) Aliens Ordinance.

¹¹⁸³ *ibid.* Article 72(1)(c).

¹¹⁸⁴ *ibid.* Article 72(1)(d).

¹¹⁸⁵ *ibid.* Article 72(1)(e).

¹¹⁸⁶ Information provided by IOM Romania, 4 January 2024.

¹¹⁸⁷ Article 73(1) -(2) Aliens Ordinance.

¹¹⁸⁸ *ibid.* Article 73(3).

¹¹⁸⁹ *ibid.* Article 73(4) -(5).

¹¹⁹⁰ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

¹¹⁹¹ *ibid.* 18 January 2024.

As of 2024, there have been no legislative or procedural changes to the criteria for obtaining long-term residence. The conditions set out in Article 71 of GEO 194/2002 continue to apply in full. The Romanian language requirement is still assessed informally through an interview with the IGI officer. All beneficiaries of international protection are eligible under the same terms as before, with no distinction between refugee status and subsidiary protection.¹¹⁹²

According to IGI, as of 31 December 2025, a total of 138 long-term residence permits had been issued to beneficiaries of refugee status, in accordance with Directive 2003/109/EC. In addition, 215 long-term residence permits had been granted to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection under the same legal framework. These figures represent the total number of valid long-term residence permits held by beneficiaries of international protection at the end of 2025.¹¹⁹³

4. Naturalisation

Indicators: Naturalisation

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. What is the minimum residence period for obtaining citizenship? | |
| ❖ Refugee status | 3 years ¹¹⁹⁴ |
| ❖ Subsidiary protection | 8 years |
| 2. Number of citizenship grants to beneficiaries in 2025: | Not available |

The main criteria for naturalisation are laid down in Article 8(1) of the Act on Romanian Citizenship.¹¹⁹⁵ According to the recent amendments, the standard 8-year residence requirement may be reduced under specific conditions to 5 or 3 years for refugees. Categories benefiting from this reduction include:

- Spouses of Romanian nationals (after 5 years of marriage);
- Refugees who demonstrate particular efforts towards integration (minimum 3 years of residence);
- Citizens of EU/EEA/Swiss Confederation;
- Persons born in Romania to parents legally residing at the time of birth.

Only recognised refugees benefit from the shortened 3-year residence requirement. Persons with subsidiary protection must still meet the full 8-year condition. A legal amendment to equalise these conditions was discussed but was not yet adopted as of May 2026.¹¹⁹⁶

The minimum period of residence prior to the naturalisation application is shorter for a number of categories of applicants treated preferentially.¹¹⁹⁷ Recognised refugees are one of the categories required to have resided in Romania continuously for a period of at least 3 years prior to the submission of the application. Therefore, the aforementioned provision clarifies the distinction between refugee status and subsidiary protection, which means that preferential treatment is afforded only to those bearing refugee status, while persons with subsidiary protection need to fulfil the condition of living 8 years prior to submitting the application.

¹¹⁹² Information provided by JRS Romania, January 2025.

¹¹⁹³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

¹¹⁹⁴ Law No. 14/2025 amending and supplementing the Romanian Citizenship Law No. 21/1991, as well as amending and supplementing other legal acts, available [here](#), accessed on March 27, 2025.

¹¹⁹⁵ Act 21/1991 of 1 March 1991, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹¹⁹⁶ *ibid.*

¹¹⁹⁷ Article 8(2) Act on Romanian Citizenship.

Another change would concern reacquisition of Romanian citizenship, requiring them to prove their knowledge of the Romanian language through a certificate, which could be relevant for beneficiaries of international protection coming from Ukraine where there are ethnic Romanian communities.¹¹⁹⁸

Two new articles, Article 8¹ and 8², now allow stateless persons or foreign nationals to apply for citizenship regardless of residence duration, provided they have significantly contributed to the protection and promotion of Romanian culture, civilization, and spirituality, or promoted Romania's image through exceptional achievements, particularly in sports. Eligibility under Article 8¹ must be confirmed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which assesses the cultural contribution based on activities such as teaching, research, publishing in Romanian, or supporting Romanian diaspora communities.¹¹⁹⁹

The competent authority remains the National Authority for Citizenship (Autoritatea Națională pentru Cetățenie – ANC).¹²⁰⁰

Law No. 14/2025 also introduces the obligation for applicants seeking reacquisition of Romanian citizenship to present a Romanian language certificate, a provision that could impact beneficiaries of international protection, especially those from Ukraine.

CNRR mentioned that several issues with regard to the citizenship acquisition process persist. Among these is the lack of a separate procedure for beneficiaries of international protection. Given the high volume of applications, there are long delays in scheduling the interview and there are situations in which officials of the NAC request civil status documents, which would involve contacting the authorities of the country of origin by beneficiaries. The request for documents from the authorities of the country of origin may be considered as voluntarily re-availing themselves of the protection of the country of nationality, a ground for cessation of refugee status or subsidiary protection.¹²⁰¹ Furthermore, it was acknowledged that there is a lack of an adequate procedure for vulnerable persons. All applicants (regardless of their status) must go through an interview to test their knowledge of the Romanian language, Romanian History, Romanian Geography, Romanian Culture and Constitution. Although the beneficiaries did not express their dissatisfaction with the difficulty of the test, there are people who for objective reasons (illness, the elderly, those with a disability, etc.) cannot pass the interview, although they meet all the substantive conditions. For example, a person with severe Down syndrome cannot pass the interview, and there is no exception or special procedure for such cases.¹²⁰² In 2023, CNRR added that there is no separate procedure for beneficiaries of international protection who would like to obtain Romanian citizenship, requests are processed under the legal provision for foreigners with legal residence.¹²⁰³ In 2025, according to the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), the main issues related to access to citizenship for beneficiaries of international protection remained largely unchanged.¹²⁰⁴

In 2023, CNRR¹²⁰⁵ highlighted again that under Article 8 of Law 21/1991, beneficiaries of international protection have the right to apply for Romanian citizenship. The same article offers more favourable conditions to persons with refugee status, with the possibility of shortening the eligibility period from 8 years of residence to 4 years. However, in the case of persons with subsidiary protection, this shortened period does not apply. Moreover, there is a lack of clear procedure stipulated in the legislation regarding access to Romanian citizenship for certain vulnerable categories, such as disabled or elderly people, as

¹¹⁹⁸ Ministry of Justice, 'Update 26.04.2024 – Proiect de Lege pentru modificarea și completarea Legii cetățeniei române nr. 21/1991, precum și pentru modificarea și completarea altor acte normative', 26 April 2024, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹¹⁹⁹ *Law No. 14/2025 amending and supplementing the Romanian Citizenship Law No. 21/1991, as well as amending and supplementing other legal acts*, available [here](#), accessed on March 27, 2025.

¹²⁰⁰ For further details, see European Statelessness Network, *Ending Childhood Statelessness: A case study on Romania*, 2015, available [here](#).

¹²⁰¹ Information provided by CNRR, 15 February 2022.

¹²⁰² *ibid.*

¹²⁰³ *ibid.* 7 February 2023.

¹²⁰⁴ *ibid.*, April 2026.

¹²⁰⁵ *ibid.* 16 January 2024.

well as stateless persons. Vulnerable persons have to take the interview for which they must acquire a thorough knowledge of history, geography, culture and knowledge of the Romanian Constitution. For example, a person suffering from dementia or Down's syndrome is unable to take the interview due to their condition, yet the interview is foreseen by law as a compulsory step in the procedure to obtain Romanian citizenship. In 2023, CNRR organized a citizenship course for beneficiaries of international protection, divided into 4 modules related to the topics addressed in the specific interview (history of Romania, geography of Romania, culture of Romania and the Constitution of Romania); the course was attended by 40 people.

In 2024, JRS Romania mentioned that the timeframe for obtaining Romanian citizenship remains lengthy, even after beneficiaries of international protection complete all the procedural steps. Many applicants report waiting periods of two to three years for a decision, with no notable improvement in processing times. Challenges also persist regarding the translation and legalisation of documents from the country of origin. Some beneficiaries lack the financial means to obtain certified translations, and in other cases, the poor quality of translations can negatively affect the application process. Furthermore, the procedure remains complex and difficult to navigate, particularly for those unfamiliar with legal terminology or institutional requirements. As a result, many applicants continue to rely on NGOs for guidance and support throughout the process - from preparing documentation to understanding legal specifications and following up with authorities.¹²⁰⁶

In 2025, IGI-DAI stated they do not keep statistics on citizenship granted to beneficiaries of international protection.¹²⁰⁷

5. Cessation and review of protection status

Indicators: Cessation

1. Is a personal interview of the beneficiary in most cases conducted in practice in the cessation procedure? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the law provide for an appeal against the first instance decision in the cessation procedure? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Do beneficiaries have access to free legal assistance at first instance in practice? ☒ Yes ☐ With difficulty ☐ No

Article 98(1) of the Asylum Act prescribes the grounds for cessation of refugee status as cases where the beneficiary:

- (a) Has voluntarily re-availed themselves of the protection of the country of nationality;
- (b) Having lost their nationality, has voluntarily re-acquired it;
- (c) Has acquired a new nationality and enjoys the protection of the country of their new nationality;
- (d) Has voluntarily re-established themselves in the country which they left or outside which they remained owing for the reasons on the basis of which they were granted refugee status;
- (e) Can no longer, because the circumstances in connection with which they have been recognised as a refugee have ceased to exist, continue to refuse to avail themselves of the protection of the country of nationality or habitual residence and cannot invoke, in order to justify such refusal, imperious reasons of concern to previous persecutions; or
- (f) Expressly renounces refugee status granted by Romania in writing.

Article 99(1) of the Asylum Act provides the following grounds for cessation of subsidiary protection:

¹²⁰⁶ Information provided by JRS Romania, February 2025.

¹²⁰⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

- (a) When the circumstances which led to its grant have ceased to exist or have changed to such an extent that this form of protection is no longer necessary; or
- (b) When the beneficiary expressly renounces in writing, to the subsidiary protection granted by the Romanian State.

These provisions on changed circumstances do not apply to a person who has been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection and who can rely on compelling reasons resulting from previous persecution, in order to refuse the protection of the country of origin or habitual residence.¹²⁰⁸

Article 102 of the Asylum Act describes the cessation and withdrawal procedure. It shall be triggered *ex officio* by IGI-DAI or at the proposal of one of the institutions responsible for national security or public order, when new elements or data indicate the existence of reasons to reconsider the situation of the persons enjoying international protection within the meaning of the Asylum Act. Where the procedure for the cessation or cancellation of international protection is initiated at the proposal of one of the institutions responsible for national security or public order, IGI-DAI shall inform the respective institution of the decision of the procedure.

Article 103 of the Asylum Act requires the case officer in charge to inform the beneficiary of international protection in writing of:

- (a) The initiation of the cessation or, as the case may be, withdrawal of the international protection granted by the Romanian state, as well as the reasons for initiating the procedure;
- (b) rights and obligations during this procedure;
- (c) the possibility to present, in a personal interview or written statement, the reasons why international protection should be maintained.

In addition, the same article sets out the rights and obligations of the person subject to cessation or withdrawal procedure. During the cessation or withdrawal of the international protection granted by the Romanian state, the beneficiary has the right to:

- (a) be assisted by a lawyer;
- (b) have an interpreter free of charge;
- (c) contact and receive assistance by a UNHCR official;
- (d) receive counselling and assistance by an NGO representative;
- (e) receive, upon request, legal and procedural information, including information on the procedure in the administrative phase, under the legislation on legal aid in civil matters, taking into account their personal situation;
- (f) be provided, on request, with information to clarify the reasons for a cessation or withdrawal of international protection decision at the administrative phase and to explain how such a decision may be challenged, under the legal provision on legal aid in civil matters. The beneficiary has the obligation to:
- (g) provide the competent authorities with full and complete information about their personal situation; submit all the documents at their disposal and relevant to their personal situation;
- (h) follow the stage of the procedure and inform IGI-DAI within 5 days regarding any change of residence;
- (i) respond to the requests of IGI-DAI.

The beneficiary of international protection has the possibility to present, in a personal interview or written statement, the reasons why their international protection should be maintained.¹²⁰⁹ The interview is not conducted in case the beneficiary of international protection has acquired Romanian citizenship.¹²¹⁰ If the

¹²⁰⁸ Articles 98(2) -(3) and 99(2) Asylum Act.

¹²⁰⁹ *ibid.* Article 103(1)(c).

¹²¹⁰ *ibid.* Article 103(3) citing Article 98(1)(c).

beneficiary is not present at the interview, the case officer will assess the case on the basis of the documents in the personal file.¹²¹¹

The re-evaluation of the case may be carried out in the Regular Procedure or Accelerated Procedure. The case officer decides on the re-examination of the case in the accelerated procedure, pursuant to the conditions set out in Article 75 for applying it.¹²¹²

Upon request, IGI-DAI grants UNHCR access to information on the procedure for reconsideration of the situation of beneficiaries of international protection and on the decisions issued, if the beneficiary has consented to this. In fulfilling its supervisory role under Article 35 of the Refugee Convention, UNHCR has the right to present its views to IGI-DAI on the procedure for reconsidering the situation of beneficiaries of international protection at any stage of this procedure.¹²¹³

After analysing the existing elements from the case file and, as the case may be, the reasons invoked during the interview, the case officer issues a reasoned decision, which maintains, ceases or withdraws international protection.¹²¹⁴ The cessation or withdrawal of the form of protection shall not have effect on the person's family members.¹²¹⁵

Depending on the reasons, which gave rise to the decision to cease or withdraw the form of protection, the case officer may mention, as the case may be, the obligation to leave the Romanian territory.¹²¹⁶ If the decision states also the obligation to leave the Romanian territory, IGI shall issue and enforce the return decision.¹²¹⁷

If the case officer decides to cease or to withdraw international protection, the beneficiary may appeal the decision, following the rules of the Regular Procedure or Accelerated Procedure.

The law does not prescribe a systematic review of the protection status and cessation did not occur systematically in the past years.

In 2024, IGI-DAI indicated a total of 53 cessation decisions (27 cessations of refugee status and 26 cessations of subsidiary protection). The people against whom these decisions were taken came from Afghanistan (11), Syria (21), Ukraine (4), Iraq (9).¹²¹⁸

According to the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), in 2025 a total of 95 decisions on the cessation of international protection were issued, including 37 cessations of subsidiary protection and 58 cessations of refugee status. With regard to subsidiary protection, most decisions concerned nationals of Syria (29 cases), followed by Ukraine (4), Iraq (2), and one case each concerning Lebanon and Sudan. As for the cessation of refugee status, the highest number of decisions concerned Syrian nationals (36 cases), followed by Iraq (9) and the Palestinian Authority (6). Additional cases were recorded for nationals of Iran (2), as well as Algeria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan and Senegal (1 case each).¹²¹⁹

In several cases, international protection was maintained.

¹²¹¹ *ibid.* Article 103(4).

¹²¹² *ibid.* Article 103(5).

¹²¹³ *ibid.* Article 103(6).

¹²¹⁴ *ibid.* Article 104(1).

¹²¹⁵ *ibid.* Article 104(2).

¹²¹⁶ *ibid.* Article 104(3).

¹²¹⁷ *ibid.* Article 104(4).

¹²¹⁸ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

¹²¹⁹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

6. Withdrawal of protection status

Indicators: Withdrawal

1. Is a personal interview of the beneficiary in most cases conducted in practice in the withdrawal procedure? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the law provide for an appeal against the withdrawal decision? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Do beneficiaries have access to free legal assistance at first instance in practice? ☒ Yes ☐ With difficulty ☐ No

Refugee status is revoked where:

- (a) the person who has been granted refugee status has made false statements, failed to provide certain data or used false documents that were decisive for granting refugee status, and there are no other grounds for maintaining the status of refugee; or
- (b) after granting the refugee status it was discovered that the person should have been excluded from being a refugee.¹²²⁰

Subsidiary protection is revoked under the same grounds as the refugee status,¹²²¹ the only difference being the grounds of exclusion. In 2024, IGI-DAI issued 9 withdrawals of protection status, including 3 decisions revoking refugee status (2 for Iraqi nationals and 1 for a person from the Palestinian Authority in Palestine) and 6 decisions revoking subsidiary protection (1 for a stateless person, 3 for a person coming from the Palestinian Authority in Palestine, and 2 for Syrian nationals).¹²²²

According to IGI, 11 decisions on the withdrawal of international protection were issued in 2025, in accordance with Articles 14 and 19 of Directive 2011/95/EU. Of these, 4 concerned the withdrawal of subsidiary protection and 5 the withdrawal of refugee status. The decisions were distributed across several nationalities. In the case of Afghanistan, 2 decisions concerned the withdrawal of subsidiary protection and 1 the withdrawal of refugee status. For Syria, 1 decision was issued for each form of protection. In relation to Iran, 1 decision concerned the withdrawal of subsidiary protection, while for Iraq, 3 decisions concerned the withdrawal of refugee status.¹²²³

B. Family reunification

1. Criteria and conditions

Indicators: Family Reunification

1. Is there a waiting period before a beneficiary can apply for family reunification? ☐ Yes ☒ No
❖ If yes, what is the waiting period?
2. Does the law set a maximum time limit for submitting a family reunification application? ☐ Yes ☒ No
❖ If yes, what is the time limit?
3. Does the law set a minimum income requirement? ☐ Yes ☒ No

There is no difference between refugees and subsidiary protection beneficiaries in relation to the criteria and conditions for family reunification.

¹²²⁰ Article 100 Asylum Act.

¹²²¹ *ibid.* Article 101.

¹²²² *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

¹²²³ Information provided by IGI, 02 March 2026.

1.1 Eligible family members

Article 2(j) of the Asylum Act defines family members of the beneficiary of refugee status or subsidiary protection, to the extent that the family is in the country of origin at the date of the asylum application made by the sponsor, as:

- ❖ Spouse;
- ❖ Minor unmarried children of the beneficiary or the spouse, with the condition that they are unmarried, regardless of whether they are born in the marriage or out of wedlock or adopted in accordance with the national law of the country of origin.

The law does not set out any waiting period before a beneficiary of international protection may apply for family reunification. The law does not prescribe any deadline for applying for family reunification. The beneficiary of international protection in Romania may apply for asylum for their family members as long as they are not on the territory of Romania.¹²²⁴ Beneficiaries of international protection are also not required to prove the existence of income, accommodation or health insurance for family reunification.

They only need to prove the family relationship with the family member or the fact that the marriage was concluded before entering the territory of Romania.¹²²⁵ In practice, if the beneficiary of international protection does not have the financial means to pay for the translation of necessary documents to prove family ties, NGOs might help them in covering the costs of translation. In this case, the beneficiary has to wait until they receive their residence permit, as the terms of the project funded by the national AMIF program clearly state that costs of such translations may be covered only if the person holds a residence permit.

1.2 Family reunification procedure

Family reunification applications are processed by every Regional Centre.

According to the law, once the application has been submitted, the beneficiary shall also present original documents (birth certificate, marriage certificate, identity card) to prove family ties with the family members or, in the absence of these documents, any other documents proving the status of family member.¹²²⁶

To obtain additional data and information on family ties and to clarify other relevant aspects of the asylum application lodged for family members, IGI-DAI must conduct an interview with the beneficiary of international protection.¹²²⁷ In 2023, interviews took place with Somali nationals.¹²²⁸ It should be noted that the interviews were conducted primarily with Somali nationals, but were not exclusively limited to these nationals. A substantial number of family reunification applications were submitted by Somali nationals during the reporting period; consequently, a higher number of interviews were conducted with those nationals.¹²²⁹ In 2024, interviews were conducted with the assistance of interpreters, including both authorised (i.e., certified) interpreters and, in some cases, interpreters informally relied upon by the authorities.¹²³⁰

If the beneficiary of international protection does not present to IGI-DAI sufficient documents showing their family relationship with the family member in whose name the application is made, where originals are in the possession of the family member who is in a third country, IGI-DAI must communicate to the

¹²²⁴ Article 71(1) Asylum Act.

¹²²⁵ *ibid.* Article 71(3).

¹²²⁶ Article 30(1) Asylum Decree.

¹²²⁷ *ibid.* Article 30(2).

¹²²⁸ Practice observed by JRS Romania, April 2024.

¹²²⁹ IGI reply provided on 27 May 2026.

¹²³⁰ *ibid.* February 2025.

Directorate-General for Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the list of the necessary documents.¹²³¹

The General Directorate for Consular Affairs requests the diplomatic mission or the consular office of Romania from the country where the family member of the beneficiary of international protection is, to establish the existence of the documents requested by IGI-DAI. The family member must present these documents, in original, to the diplomatic mission or consular office of Romania.¹²³² The documents shall be sent in copy, with the mention “according to the original”, through the General Directorate for Consular Affairs, to IGI-DAI by the diplomatic mission or consular office of Romania from the country where the family member is present.¹²³³

1.3 Cases of family reunification in 2024 per regional centre

Statistics for 2024 were provided by IGI-DAI, however not desegregated on each reception centre. The total number of family reunification applications made in 2024 were 295, from which 96 were admitted by IGI-DAI.¹²³⁴ No data was available for 2025.

1.4 Specific procedure for unaccompanied children

The Asylum Act provides for a family reunification procedure for unaccompanied children, with specific requirements. The family reunification for unaccompanied minors, beneficiaries of international protection, shall be done with respect to their best interests.¹²³⁵ The procedure may be triggered *ex officio* by IGI-DAI. In this case the consent of the legal representative and/or the unaccompanied child is also required.¹²³⁶ In all cases, the unaccompanied child's views will be taken into account and given due weight.¹²³⁷

If the unaccompanied child's family has been traced, the case officer analyses the possibility and the conditions for carrying out family reunification and issues a reasoned decision in this respect.¹²³⁸ The decision provided may be challenged under the same conditions as a decision delivered by IGI-DAI in the Regular Procedure.¹²³⁹

IGI-DAI shall take, as soon as possible, the necessary measures to trace the unaccompanied child's family, while protecting their best interests.¹²⁴⁰ The unaccompanied child's opinion on the tracing of their family is taken into account and given the due importance, in relation to their age and maturity.¹²⁴¹

The data and information collected for the purpose of family tracing are processed in accordance with the principle of confidentiality, especially when the life or physical integrity of a child or their close family who have remained in the country of origin is endangered.¹²⁴²

In 2023, in the case of 2 unaccompanied minors, family reunification requests were approved and their mothers arrived in Romania. There was also a case where the request for family reunification was approved and this positive decision was communicated to the legal representative, but the

¹²³¹ Article 30(3) Asylum Decree.

¹²³² *ibid.*, Article 30(4).

¹²³³ *ibid.* Article 30(5).

¹²³⁴ Information provided by IGI-DAI, January 2025.

¹²³⁵ Article 72(1) Asylum Act.

¹²³⁶ *ibid.* Article 72(2).

¹²³⁷ *ibid.*

¹²³⁸ *ibid.* Article 72(3).

¹²³⁹ *ibid.* Article 72(4).

¹²⁴⁰ *ibid.* Article 73(1).

¹²⁴¹ *ibid.* Article 73(2).

¹²⁴² *ibid.* Article 73(3).

unaccompanied child BIP was unaware until he requested legal support from JRS Romania. Moreover, in cases of unaccompanied minors, NGOs assist children and their parents for the visa appointments, not the legal representatives. For instance, in the two successful cases mentioned above, the mothers were illiterate and thus could not do the procedure on their own. Support for obtaining visa appointments was offered in many more cases.¹²⁴³

It was noted that IOM Romania and LADO/ ASSOC are of the opinion that an unaccompanied minor who attains the age of majority during the asylum procedure does not retain their right to family reunification,¹²⁴⁴ contrary to the judgment of the CJEU in Case C-550/16 *A and S v Staatssecretaris van Veiligheid en Justitie* of 2018.

Regarding 2023, the CNRR¹²⁴⁵ flagged a series of issues concerning unaccompanied minors. In 2024, according to JRS Romania, the situation concerning the asylum procedure for unaccompanied minors remained largely unchanged, despite the number of asylum applications - including those submitted by unaccompanied minors - being lower compared to previous years. The examination of asylum claims from unaccompanied minors continued to be marked by delays and inconsistencies, with some cases being prioritised while others faced prolonged processing times or insufficient procedural safeguards. These difficulties were often linked to the functioning of the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), whose representatives—appointed as legal guardians—frequently lacked specialised training and were responsible for an excessive number of cases, sometimes managing over 100 to 200 minors at the same time. This situation negatively affected the quality of representation and the effective protection of unaccompanied minors' rights during the asylum process.¹²⁴⁶ At Regional Centre Timisoara there were situations where the asylum applications of unaccompanied minors were not analysed swiftly. In the case of unaccompanied minor asylum applicants, communication between them and the legal representatives appointed by the DGASPC is not constant and tends to be limited to the measures and activities necessary for the asylum procedure. According to the information available to CNRR, the unaccompanied minors accommodated in the regional centres in Timisoara, Giurgiu, Șomcuta Mare and Rădăuți either have no contact with the legal representative or there is a very limited contact, and the only counselling they receive is from NGOs. The times when minors have contact with the legal representative appointed by the DGSPC are when the IGI conducts interviews in the administrative phase of the asylum procedure, or at court, when the legal representatives are required by law to be present. At the centre in Galati, a slightly more favourable situation could be observed in terms of communication between the legal representative and the unaccompanied minors, who showed a greater interest in the situation of minors, both legally and socially/culturally.¹²⁴⁷ In 2025, according to CNRR, the number of cases involving unaccompanied minors was relatively low, and no significant new developments were reported in practice.¹²⁴⁸

In 2024, Save the Children assisted a total of 17 children in submitting family reunification applications with a beneficiary of international protection: 8 in Timișoara, 7 in Maramureș, and 2 in Bucharest.¹²⁴⁹ No information was available for 2025.

This has an important impact on the family reunification procedure. In the case of unaccompanied minors, Art. 72 from the Law 122/2006 on the asylum procedure in Romania states that IGI has the competence to start the procedure for the family reunification of unaccompanied minors. The Order No 119/20643/2023 on the conditions of appointment, role, tasks and requirements of education, training and professional experience for persons appointed as representatives for unaccompanied foreign minors

¹²⁴³ Practice based observation by JRS Romania, April 2024.

¹²⁴⁴ Information provided by IOM Romania, 19 February 2022 and Information provided by LADO/ASSOC, 3 February 2022.

¹²⁴⁵ Information provided by CNRR, 16 January 2024.

¹²⁴⁶ Information provided by JRS Romania, February 2025.

¹²⁴⁷ Information provided by CNRR, 16 January 2024.

¹²⁴⁸ *ibid.*, April 2026.

¹²⁴⁹ Information provided by Save the Children, March 2025.

applying for or granted a form of international protection¹²⁵⁰ indicates that the legal representative needs to initiate steps for the immediate identification of the minor's family and verifying the possibility of reunification with them. However, in practice, the CNRR is not aware of any ex officio proceedings made by the legal representatives, finding that there is limited proactive behaviour of the legal representatives accompanied by ignorance of the law in some cases. Thus, legal representatives call on the services of NGOs that are active in the field of asylum and refugee assistance.

1.5 Time limits and duration

The law prescribes that the family reunification procedure must be completed as soon as possible, not exceeding 9 months from the date the application was made. If further checks are required, the 9-month period may be extended by up to 6 months.¹²⁵¹

According to IGI-DAI, in 2025, the reunification application was approved within the nine-month timeframe established by the relevant legal provisions. The authorities acted with due diligence throughout the procedure. Consequently, the extension of the actual family reunification process to twelve months cannot be attributed to any lack of diligence or fault on the part of the authorities.¹²⁵²

IGI-DAI stated they have no statistics regarding the average duration of the procedure for 2024.¹²⁵³ According to JRS Romania, a family reunification case involving a family from Cameroon extended over 12 months. Although the authorities officially approved the reunification request in September 2024, the children - six minors, only represented by their 16-year-old sister - were able to arrive in Romania and reunite with their mother and younger brother only in late January 2025. The absence of the father further complicated the procedure, particularly in identifying an airline company willing to accept the minors travelling alone. Such delays can arise from various factors, depending on the specific circumstances of each case. However, in practice, it is common for family reunification procedures to last more than nine months before the family is effectively reunited.¹²⁵⁴

In 2023, IGI-DAI reported a total of 245 applications for family reunification, of which 192 admitted and 53 rejected (countries of origin were not indicated).¹²⁵⁵ In 2024, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI-DAI) registered a total of 295 family reunification applications submitted by beneficiaries of international protection. Of these, 96 applications were approved, while 199 were rejected. Although the nationality of applicants was recorded in the SIMS database, detailed information regarding the countries of origin was not made publicly available.¹²⁵⁶ In 2025, 91 applications for family reunification were submitted.¹²⁵⁷

2. Status and rights of family members

If the case officer considers that the family relationship or, as the case may be, the conclusion of the marriage before entering Romania, has been proved by the beneficiary international protection, they will request the diplomatic missions or consular offices of Romania to grant the short stay visa for the family members holding valid travel documents.¹²⁵⁸

¹²⁵⁰ Art 21 (3) Order No 119/20643/2023 on the conditions of appointment, role, tasks and requirements of education, training and professional experience for persons appointed as representatives for unaccompanied foreign minors applying for or granted a form of international protection, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹²⁵¹ Article 31(4) Asylum Decree.

¹²⁵² IGI reply provided on 28 May 2026.

¹²⁵³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

¹²⁵⁴ Information provided by JRS Romania, February 2025.

¹²⁵⁵ *ibid.* 18 January 2024.

¹²⁵⁶ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

¹²⁵⁷ IGI, available [here](#).

¹²⁵⁸ Article 71(3) Asylum Act.

For the family members who do not hold valid travel documents or are unable to obtain them and they are outside the country of origin, at the request of the case officer, the diplomatic missions or consular offices of Romania shall issue *laissez passer* and shall grant a short stay visa in order to enter the country. The validity of the travel document shall be no more than 30 days and ceases on the date of entry of the holder into the territory of Romania.¹²⁵⁹

After their entry into Romania, if they consent to the asylum application, family members will have their application assessed according to the provisions of the Asylum Act.¹²⁶⁰ In practice, the family members are registered as asylum applicants, they are fingerprinted and photographed, granted temporary identity documents and follow the steps of the asylum procedure. They are scheduled for an interview and receive a decision. In all reported cases, family members were granted the same form of protection as the sponsor. IOM Romania also stated that family members are granted the same form of protection as the beneficiary that applied for family reunification.¹²⁶¹ According to information provided by CNRR, the situation remained similar in 2025. However, one case was reported involving a Syrian applicant whose asylum claim was rejected in the context of family reunification. The applicant had initiated the reunification procedure as a minor but reached the age of majority during the process. The authorities subsequently rejected the application on this basis. CNRR noted that the fact that the applicant became an adult during the procedure should not, in itself, have led to the rejection, given that the process had been initiated while he was still a minor.¹²⁶²

If the conditions for family reunification set out in Article 30 of the Asylum Decree are not fulfilled, the case officer shall issue a decision to reject the asylum application of the family members. The rejection of the application cannot be solely based on the lack of documentation certifying family ties or marriage.¹²⁶³ The decision shall be communicated to the sponsor beneficiary of protection who submitted the asylum application for the family members.¹²⁶⁴

C. Movement and mobility

1. Freedom of movement

Beneficiaries of international protection enjoy freedom of movement within Romania, in the sense that they may choose their place of residence freely and move freely, under the same conditions as other legally residing foreigners.¹²⁶⁵ Beneficiaries are not allocated to specific geographic regions or facilities.

2. Travel documents

The travel document is issued, upon request, to the beneficiaries of international protection (both persons with refugee status and subsidiary protection) in Romania for a period of 2 years, without the possibility of prolonging its validity. Upon expiry, a new travel document with the same validity period is issued.¹²⁶⁶ Refugees receive a dark blue trilingual travel document (Romanian, English, French) as specified in the 1951 Refugee Convention, while beneficiaries of subsidiary protection receive a different travel document, also trilingual but of grey colour, which mentions "subsidiary protection".¹²⁶⁷

¹²⁵⁹ *ibid.* Article 71(3[^]1).

¹²⁶⁰ Article 71(4) Asylum Act.

¹²⁶¹ Information provided by IOM Romania, 18 November 2019.

¹²⁶² Information provided by CNRR, May 2026.

¹²⁶³ Article 31(2) Asylum Decree.

¹²⁶⁴ *ibid.* Article 31(3).

¹²⁶⁵ Article 20(1)(b) Asylum Act.

¹²⁶⁶ *ibid.* Article 20(8).

¹²⁶⁷ Annexes 5 and 6 Government Decision 557/2006.

For beneficiaries of international protection who are abroad and do not possess valid travel documents, the diplomatic missions or consular offices of Romania, with the approval of IGI, will provide them with travel documents valid only for the return to Romania. The validity of the travel title is at most 30 days and ceases upon the holder's entry on Romanian territory.¹²⁶⁸

The travel document is valid for travel to all countries, except the country of origin of the beneficiary.

Refugees may travel freely in the EU, without a visa, while beneficiaries of subsidiary protection must apply for a visa. At the base of this trend lies the European Agreement on the Abolition of Visas for Refugees signed at Strasbourg on 20 April 1959,¹²⁶⁹ and the Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001. Before 2014, beneficiaries with subsidiary protection were assimilated to refugees and they were also exempt from the visa requirement.

In order to apply for a travel document, beneficiaries of international protection are obliged to certify their residence by submitting one of the following documents: lease agreement registered with the fiscal authority; commodity contract concluded in authentic form; or any other documents concluded under the conditions of validity provided by Romanian legislation in force regarding the housing title, which prove the acquisition of some housing rights. In addition, beneficiaries should also submit an ID photo when applying for a travel document. The travel document is issued for a fee of 265 RON/52 EUR from 258 RON/€50, which represents a tax imposed by the National Printing House.¹²⁷⁰

The application (standard form) for the travel document is made at IGI-DAI, after the temporary residence permit is issued. The authority issues the travel document within 30 days.

In 2023, IGI-DAI issued 2,981 travel documents.¹²⁷¹

In 2024, IGI-DAI reported that all asylum applicants and individuals granted international protection were provided with identity documents and, where applicable, travel documents.¹²⁷² No information was available regarding 2025.

D. Housing

Indicators: Housing	
1. For how long are beneficiaries entitled to stay in reception centres?	12 months ¹²⁷³
2. Number of beneficiaries staying in reception centres as of 1 January 2026:	53 ¹²⁷⁴

1. Stay in reception centres

Beneficiaries of international protection who participate in integration programs and have no financial means are allowed to stay in the Regional Centres, subject to availability of places.¹²⁷⁵ They may stay in the centres for 12 months with the possibility of extension for another 6 months in case of well-founded reasons, with the approval of IGI-DAI, without exceeding the implementation period of the integration

¹²⁶⁸ Article 20(9) Asylum Act.
¹²⁶⁹ European Agreement on the Abolition of Visas for Refugees signed at Strasbourg on 20 April 1959, signed by Romania on 5 November 1999 and ratified through Act 75/2001.
¹²⁷⁰ See: <https://pasapoarte.mai.gov.ro/tarife-2/>
¹²⁷¹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.
¹²⁷² *ibid.* 23 January 2025.
¹²⁷³ With the exception of vulnerable beneficiaries.
¹²⁷⁴ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.
¹²⁷⁵ Article 21(1) Integration Ordinance.

program.¹²⁷⁶ Vulnerable categories can be accommodated until it is established the condition of vulnerability ended.

A total of 131 beneficiaries of international protection were residing in the Regional Centres at the end of 2025.¹²⁷⁷

Centre	Total in 2025 ¹²⁷⁸
Timișoara	3
Șomcuta Mare	1
Rădăuți	6
Galați	43
Bucharest	75
Giurgiu	3
Total	131

Source: IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

Beneficiaries accommodated in Regional Centres have to pay rent, including maintenance costs, after 3 months.¹²⁷⁹ This was also confirmed by the directors of Timișoara, Giurgiu and Vasile Stolicu in the past years. The daily rental fee is different in every regional centre. Vulnerable beneficiaries may be accommodated free of charge in the Regional Centres.¹²⁸⁰ Although the rent costs are lower compared to the situation outside the Regional Reception Centre, they are high compared to the IPB (grant aid) income. Vulnerable IPB beneficiaries live in Regional Reception Centre without paying rent.¹²⁸¹

Beneficiaries of international protection who participate in integration programs and have no financial means have the right to stay in Regional Centres or in other facilities managed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs for a general period of 12 months, which may be extended for 6 months, while for vulnerable categories this period may be further extended indefinitely.¹²⁸²

In practice, beneficiaries of international protection în Timișoara, București, Șomcuta Mare, Rădăuți, Galați and Giurgiu, are allowed to stay for free, according to the amended Integration Ordinance, for up to 3 months, in comparison to 2 months as prescribed by the previous version of the Ordinance. Beneficiaries of international protection have to pay a rental fee after that period.

The rental fee to be paid by the adult beneficiaries differs from one centre to another, as follows:¹²⁸³

Centre	Rent summer	Rent winter
Timișoara	220 RON / €44	310 RON / €63
Giurgiu	248 RON / €50	387 RON / €79
Șomcuta Mare	280 RON / €57	431 RON / €87
Galați	330 RON / €67	480 RON / €98.

¹²⁷⁶ *ibid.* Article 21(2).

¹²⁷⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

¹²⁷⁸ *ibid.* 23 January 2025.

¹²⁷⁹ Article 21(5) Integration Ordinance. The rental fee is established at local level for the living facilities which are in the state's or territorial / administrative unit's property.

¹²⁸⁰ *ibid.* Article 34(2) and (3). IGI-DAI may provide accommodation in its centres to vulnerable persons that do not require specialised assistance and who cannot benefit from a home from the institutions ability within the space and funds available. For well-founded reasons, the IGI-DAI may extend the integration program for these persons.

¹²⁸¹ Practice based observation by JRS Romania, April 2024.

¹²⁸² Article 21(2) Integration Ordinance.

¹²⁸³ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

Bucharest	250 RON / € 50	267 RON / €54
Rădăuți	238 RON / €49	295 RON/ €60

After this period, the rental fees may be covered by NGOs through the implemented projects, if there are AMIF funded projects. JRS and AIDRom mentioned that this is paid until the beneficiary receives the non-refundable financial aid when leaving the Regional Centres and moving to a private home is achievable. This type of support was also available in 2023; however, for some civil society actors, particularly JRS Romania, the assistance was interrupted following the end of AMIF funding in October 2023. As a result, beneficiaries of international protection no longer received this form of support due to the lack of financial resources. According to JRS Romania the situation improved in June 2024, when new AMIF-funded integration projects were launched. Under the "A New Home in Romania" program, implemented by JRS Romania, beneficiaries who enrolled in the project received assistance in leaving the reception centres, securing private accommodation, signing rental contracts, and having their rent covered for a period of approximately 10 months. However, the program had certain limitations, as it did not cover rental guarantees or utility costs, which remained the responsibility of the beneficiaries themselves. The project came to an end at the beginning of February 2026. A new project was subsequently launched at the end of February 2026, with a duration of three months. In mid-March 2026, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) published the specific guide for the new AMIF funding calls.¹²⁸⁴ LADO/ASSOC stated that the period for which they may cover the cost of rent depends on several factors, namely: how long the beneficiary chooses to stay in the centre, how much money he/she has left according to the budget allocated by the project, as it is possible that he/she previously benefited from some medical services or the translation of some personal documents given that the money for these expenses is provided from the same budget.¹²⁸⁵

It should be noted that, considering the amount of non-refundable aid after paying rent, it is practically impossible to reach the level of resources necessary to maintain a minimum standard of living.¹²⁸⁶

2. Social housing

According to the law, beneficiaries of international protection have the right to access the social housing scheme under the same conditions as Romanian citizens.¹²⁸⁷

After the integration program is completed or when a job opportunity has been identified, IGI-DAI guides the assisted person to the community where there are vacancies and informs them on how to get a social home under the conditions set in the law.¹²⁸⁸

Local public administration authorities have the obligation to ensure, within the limits of available resources, social housing for persons who have acquired a form of protection in Romania and who are to move to the respective community under the same conditions as the Romanian citizens, even if they have not established their domicile or residence in that area.¹²⁸⁹

If the local public administration authorities cannot provide a social home, the beneficiary may rent housing within the respective local community.¹²⁹⁰ IGI-DAI subsidizes up to 50% of the rent, subject to

¹²⁸⁴ Information provided by JRS Romania, February 2025 and March 2026.

¹²⁸⁵ Information provided by LADO/ASSOC, 20 February 2023

¹²⁸⁶ Practice based observation by JRS Romania, April 2024.

¹²⁸⁷ Article 20(1)(q) Asylum Act.

¹²⁸⁸ Article 28 Integration Ordinance.

¹²⁸⁹ *ibid.* Article 29(1).

¹²⁹⁰ *ibid.* Article 29(2).

availability of funding, for a maximum period of one year.¹²⁹¹ Since 2022,¹²⁹² no beneficiary accessed this aid. According to JRS Romania in 2024 and 2025, no beneficiary accessed this aid.¹²⁹³

E. Employment and education

1. Access to the labour market

Beneficiaries of international protection have the right to be employed by natural or legal persons, to carry out voluntary activities, to exercise free professions and to carry out legal acts, to carry out acts and deeds of commerce, including independent economic activities, under the same conditions as Romanian citizens.¹²⁹⁴ There are no differences between refugees and subsidiary protection beneficiaries in relation to access to employment.

Beneficiaries participating in the integration program are registered as individuals looking for a job at the National Agency for Employment, within 30 days of signing the protocol.¹²⁹⁵

In order to carry out measures to stimulate employment, the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM), through its agencies, has the obligation to draw up an individual plan for each person included in the integration program and register them as a person looking for a job, according to the legal provisions. For this purpose, IGI-DAI provides information on the education and professional profile of the beneficiaries. The National Agency for Employment may also collaborate with NGOs in order to inform, counsel or provide other services to beneficiaries of international protection.

Unemployed beneficiaries of international protection included in the integration program may also benefit from relocation, mobility or activation allowance, if they are registered as unemployed.¹²⁹⁶

In 2024, IGI-DAI indicated to lack statistical data on the total number of refugees and subsidiary protection beneficiaries employed at the end of the year, as well as on the unemployment rate among these groups. These matters fall under the competence of the National Employment Agency (ANOFM). Additionally, IGI-DAI clarified that refugees and subsidiary protection beneficiaries do not require work permits, as they have the same employment rights as Romanian citizens. Furthermore, IGI-DAI emphasized that foreign nationals with the right to reside in Romania are assigned a Personal Numeric Code (CNP) starting with the digits 7 or 8. As such, when requesting employment-related data from the National Employment Agency (ANOFM), it is necessary to explicitly specify that the request pertains to individuals holding international protection, excluding those under temporary protection.¹²⁹⁷

According to information provided by ANOFM, the institution implements the measures outlined in Law no. 76/2002 regarding the unemployment insurance system and the stimulation of workforce employment, including for vulnerable categories. These measures apply to all individuals registered with employment agencies, including foreign nationals who have obtained international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection) and asylum applicants who have been in the administrative procedure for at least three months without receiving a decision, provided the delay is not their fault, or who are in the judicial phase of the asylum procedure without a final and irrevocable decision.¹²⁹⁸

¹²⁹¹ *ibid.* Article 29(3).

¹²⁹² Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024.

¹²⁹³ Practice based observation by JRS Romania, February 2025 and March 2026.

¹²⁹⁴ Article 20(1)(c) Asylum Act.

¹²⁹⁵ Article 24 Integration Ordinance.

¹²⁹⁶ *ibid.* Article 25.

¹²⁹⁷ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 23 January 2025.

¹²⁹⁸ Information provided by ANOFM, 04 March 2026 (also in 2025).

Foreign citizens or stateless persons who reside or have residence in Romania and are employed or obtain income under the law are automatically insured within the unemployment insurance system, in accordance with Article 18(c) of Law No. 76/2002. They may also benefit from unemployment benefits if they meet the contributory conditions established by law.¹²⁹⁹ ANOFM clarified that refugees, subsidiary protection beneficiaries, and asylum applicants do not require a work permit, as they have the same employment rights as Romanian citizens.

According to the IGI 2024 report, all work visa applications in 2024 were submitted exclusively online. Work permits were electronically issued and delivered via email, while the Foreigners Registration Portal (PIS) was modernised to improve user experience.¹³⁰⁰ According to the available information, the situation remained the same in 2025.

Regarding the unemployment rate among refugees and subsidiary protection beneficiaries, ANOFM stated that, according to Law no. 76/2002, it calculates the number of unemployed individuals and the registered unemployment rate at the national, county, and Bucharest municipality levels but does not provide specific unemployment data for refugees and subsidiary protection beneficiaries. According to ANOFM, the number of persons originating from non-EEA countries who registered with territorial employment agencies decreased in 2025 compared to 2024.¹³⁰¹

Below is the table presenting the number of persons registered and those who exited ANOFM records (either through employment or other reasons) in 2025, for individuals originating from non-EEA countries.¹³⁰²

Type of Persons	Registered Persons	Women	Exits by Employment	Women (Exits by Employment)	Exits by Other Reasons	Women (Exits by Other Reasons)
Beneficiaries of International Protection	18	7	3	2	3	2
Refugees	1,048	647	112	59	504	316
TOTAL	1,066	654	115	61	507	318

ANOFM indicated that it does not calculate unemployment rates specifically for refugees or for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. Instead, the institution calculates the number of registered unemployed persons and the registered unemployment rate at national and county level, based on the number of unemployed persons registered with the territorial employment agencies and the civilian active population.¹³⁰³

Persons registered in the ANOFM database benefitted from professional information and counselling services as well as job mediation services provided by the territorial employment agencies. In order to support the labour market integration of migrants and other persons with the right to work in Romania, ANOFM organised several activities through its territorial agencies. These included information

¹²⁹⁹ *ibid.*

¹³⁰⁰ According to the *Assessment of the activity of the general inspectorate for immigration in the year 2024* of the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), published in April 2025, summarizing its operations during 2024. Official source [here](#).

¹³⁰¹ Information provided by ANOFM, 04 March 2026.

¹³⁰² *ibid.*

¹³⁰³ *ibid.*

campaigns for employers regarding access to the labour market for vulnerable groups, information sessions organised within the Regional Integration Centres of the General Inspectorate for Immigration, and mini job fairs organised within these centres through inter-county cooperation depending on the needs of the local labour market. In 2025, ANOFM organised 25 information sessions, including 12 within Regional Integration Centres and 13 in other locations such as county councils, prefectures and non-governmental organisations. In addition, five information campaigns targeting employers regarding the integration of migrants were organised.¹³⁰⁴

At national level, ANOFM also organises two general job fairs each year: the General Job Fair, usually organised in spring, and the Job Fair for Graduates, organised in autumn. These events aim to facilitate direct interaction between job seekers and employers. Dedicated information stands for Ukrainian citizens were organised within these events.¹³⁰⁵

In 2025, IOM supported 161 beneficiaries of international protection through individual and group counselling sessions aimed at facilitating access to the labour market. Among them, 88 persons benefited from individual counselling. As a result of this support, 33 beneficiaries (26 men and 7 women) successfully secured employment by the end of the year. Of those employed, 18 held refugee status and 15 had been granted subsidiary protection. In addition to counselling activities, IOM supported beneficiaries through practical employment-related assistance such as CV and cover letter preparation, interview preparation and guidance on navigating recruitment procedures. The organisation also facilitated communication between beneficiaries and employers, participated in job fairs organised by public institutions and civil society organisations, and provided updated informational materials on labour market access in Romania. In certain cases, interpreters or integration counsellors assisted beneficiaries during job interviews in order to reduce language barriers and ensure clearer communication with employers.¹³⁰⁶

In 2025, beneficiaries of international protection continued to have unrestricted access to the labour market, without the need for a work authorisation, while asylum applicants could access employment under the conditions set out in Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, as reported by the Maramureş Labour Inspectorate. According to the same institution, as of 31 December 2025, a total of 1,764 third-country nationals and 106 stateless persons had concluded individual employment contracts at the level of Maramureş County.¹³⁰⁷

The data provided by the Suceava Labour Inspectorate for 2025, shows that the largest groups of foreign employees originated from Nepal (844 contracts and 841 employees), Sri Lanka (418 contracts and 417 employees), the Republic of Moldova (251 contracts and 238 employees) and Ukraine (235 contracts and 230 employees). Other significant groups included stateless persons (151 contracts and 150 employees), Bangladesh (137 contracts and 137 employees), India (63 contracts and 63 employees) and Turkey (33 contracts and 33 employees). Smaller numbers of employees were recorded for a wide range of other nationalities, including China (27 contracts and 27 employees), Pakistan (23 contracts and 22 employees), the Philippines (18 contracts and 18 employees), Egypt (7 contracts and 7 employees), Vietnam (7 contracts and 7 employees), Iran (5 contracts and 5 employees), the United States (4 contracts and 3 employees) and Indonesia (4 contracts and 4 employees). The data also includes a limited number of employees from EU and EEA countries, such as Italy (22 contracts and 22 employees), Austria (12 contracts and 11 employees), France (12 contracts and 8 employees), Poland (9 contracts and 9 employees) and Germany (9 contracts and 9 employees).¹³⁰⁸

¹³⁰⁴ *ibid.*.

¹³⁰⁵ *ibid.*.

¹³⁰⁶ Information provided by IOM, 25 February 2026.

¹³⁰⁷ Information provided by ITM Maramures on 25 February 2026.

¹³⁰⁸ Information provided by ITM Suceava on 04 March 2026.

In 2025, according to the Timiș Labour Inspectorate, the institution does not collect disaggregated data based on the permits held by employed persons, and it is as such not possible to exactly determine the number of employed asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.¹³⁰⁹

1.1 Obstacles to access in practice

Although beneficiaries of international protection have the same rights as Romanian citizens when it comes to access to the labour market, there are some fields where there is limited or no access. For example, doctors with refugee status or subsidiary protection do not have the right to practice medicine in Romania¹³¹⁰ unless they are married to a Romanian citizen, they are family members of an EU citizen, or they have a [Long-Term Residence](#) permit granted by Romania or an EU Member State.¹³¹¹

Legally there are no limitations imposed on beneficiaries of international protection regarding access to labour market. In practice, knowledge of Romanian language (and in some cases English) may hinder beneficiaries' access to labour market. In addition, many of the beneficiaries do not have diplomas that certify their studies, which makes it impossible for them to apply for certain positions.

According to CNRR in 2023,¹³¹² beneficiaries of international protection in Romania were mainly employed in the HORECA (it is the acronym for the hospitality industry: Hotels, Restaurants, Catering), and construction. According to JRS Romania, the situation in 2025 remains largely unchanged. In addition to employment in the HORECA sector, beneficiaries of international protection are also employed in construction and in various community businesses, often hired by compatriots or alongside other nationals from their country of origin within Romanian companies. In some cases, particularly in rural areas or for jobs requiring relocation, employers also provide accommodation and meals, and in certain situations, extend this support to the workers' family members.¹³¹³ They are generally paid the minimum wage, which does not allow a decent living, especially in the case of families with several children. This is also JRS Romania's observation at least for those living in Region 2.¹³¹⁴ Beneficiaries of international protection have the possibility to follow the "Second Chance"¹³¹⁵ educational program in order to complete their studies and to follow vocational training courses. In practice, these are not accessed as they lack the financial resources to support themselves during the program, preferring to take unskilled jobs. It is even more complicated for single mothers with several children. For educated people, accessing the labour market is easier, however they also face certain difficulties because they are unaware of the legal provisions and of their rights, and are victims of pressure from employers to work overtime or to accept delayed pay, for example.

According to CNRR, beneficiaries of international protection in Romania continued to face significant challenges in accessing the labour market also in 2025, particularly in their first years of integration. Key obstacles include lack of formal qualifications or recognition of prior professional experience, language barriers, insufficient institutional support for employment, discrimination, and employer uncertainty about hiring refugees. While BIPs are entitled to work without a special permit, many employers are unaware of this, often assuming the process is complex and highly bureaucratic. Additionally, xenophobic narratives in Romania further hinder their acceptance in the workforce.¹³¹⁶

¹³⁰⁹ Information provided by ITM Timis on 26 February 2026.

¹³¹⁰ The issue was debated during a meeting on 26 October 2017 with representatives of the Romanian Government, the College of Doctors, IGI, NGOs, UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM Romania). The conclusions of the meeting were that the Government will analyse the proposals and will try to find solutions. See EMINET, 'Obținerea dreptului de practică de către medicii străini, în contextul deficitului de personal din sistemul de sănătate românesc', 26 October 2017, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹³¹¹ Article 376(1) Act 95/2006 on Health Reform.

¹³¹² Information provided by CNRR, 16 January 2024.

¹³¹³ Practice based observation by JRS Romania, February 2025

¹³¹⁴ *ibid.* April 2024.

¹³¹⁵ Ministry of Education, *Programul „A doua șansă”*, available in Romanian [here](#).

¹³¹⁶ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Confirmed in April 2026.

In 2024 and 2025, CNRR mentioned that during the first year after obtaining their status, refugees can attend Romanian language courses and receive a monthly financial aid of approximately €150. However, this amount is insufficient to cover basic needs, leading many to seek employment.¹³¹⁷ According to JRS Romania, a major issue is that once a refugee starts working - regardless of whether the job is temporary - they permanently lose their right to financial assistance. This policy discourages early formal employment, pushing some refugees toward illegal work despite understanding its legal risks.¹³¹⁸ Moreover, CNRR added that language courses are held only in person during standard working hours, making it nearly impossible for employed refugees to attend, further limiting their language learning and professional opportunities.¹³¹⁹

According to CNRR, the language barrier remains the most significant obstacle for beneficiaries of international protection in accessing the labour market. Regardless of the skill level required for a job, a minimum conversational level of Romanian is almost always necessary for workplace integration and communication with colleagues. Additionally, language barriers hinder access to formal and dignified employment by limiting refugees' ability to search for job opportunities, understand hiring requirements, navigate employment procedures, network, and have their professional qualifications recognized.¹³²⁰ JRS Romania added that at present, there are several reasons that lead employers to refuse hiring beneficiaries of protection; among these are language barriers, a misunderstood patriotism that makes the employers at national level to hire only Romanians, distrust of foreigners from a culture different from theirs, the desire to avoid complicated employment procedures (although BPI does not require a work permit and when we mediate relations with a potential employer, we communicate this to them). According to JRS Romania there are other employers who offer BIPs a chance to work but take advantage of their limited employment opportunities elsewhere and their limited knowledge of labour law to exploit them.¹³²¹

According to CNRR, for those who have recently arrived in Romania and do not speak Romanian—or at least English—this process can be overwhelming and frustrating. As a result, many beneficiaries of international protection resorted to informal jobs as a last resort to sustain their livelihood. However, informal employment often came with significant disadvantages, including a lack of labour rights, wages below the national minimum, excessively long working hours with little to no time off, and unpaid overtime. This situation can trap refugees in a cycle of precarious work, making it even more challenging to transition into the formal labour market.¹³²²

In 2024, the lack of information amongst employers was one other challenge that refugees have to overcome in order to be hired. This was due to the fact that usually employers refrain from employing foreigners due to the fact that there is a high amount of bureaucracy involved. However, refugees enjoyed the right to work without having to obtain a special work permit from the Immigration office as the regular non-EU foreigners and most of the time employers do not know about the ease of the process. In order to overcome this, CNRR and other NGOs at times reached out to employers to explain what international protection involves and how they can hire refugees. Moreover, CNRR teams composed of counsellors and an interpreter accompanied refugees at job fairs to facilitate communication with potential employers and assist in the recruitment process.¹³²³

Moreover, according to CNRR in 2024, the socio-political context in Romania has been increasingly marked by xenophobic discourses, perpetuating stereotypes and discrimination against refugees. This may have created a harsh and tense environment for beneficiaries of international protection, making it

¹³¹⁷ *ibid.*

¹³¹⁸ Information provided by JRS Galati in February 2025.

¹³¹⁹ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Confirmed in April 2026.

¹³²⁰ *ibid.*

¹³²¹ Information provided by JRS Romania Galati in February 2025.

¹³²² Information provided by CNRR in February 2025. Confirmed April 2026.

¹³²³ *ibid.*

difficult for them to integrate and find a job.¹³²⁴ While the state provided a platform for job search, it is only available in Romanian, thus making it harder for refugees to access. The Agency for Employment does not have interpreters to offer professional counselling or to assist by making a personalised plan for the person to integrate in the labour market, and most refugees do not use its services, as they are not at all adapted to their needs.¹³²⁵ Some of the practices that proved to be efficient in supporting refugees to access the labour market are initiatives led by NGOs. CNRR collaborated with other such NGOs that offer free training courses available in languages other than Romanian or job matching assistance for vulnerable categories of people. Through such collaborations, refugees were able to get equipped with sets of skills that enable them to access better jobs, they got counselling on creating or improving their CVs, while NGOs advocated for refugees' rights amongst potential employers. In addition, CNRR collaborated with some private companies and facilitated refugees' applications and interview appointments.¹³²⁶

In 2024 according to CNRR, one of the other hurdles related to professional qualifications is the lack of training acquired by the jobs or programs. This means that refugees can only access unskilled, low income job opportunities, where sometimes their work rights are not respected making it more difficult for them to integrate long term in Romania. There are Romanian institutions such as the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM) that offer courses and training, but unfortunately these require a high level of Romanian, and a certain level of education formally recognized at the national level, which makes it difficult for someone who has recently moved to Romania to attend them and to work on their professional development.¹³²⁷

According to JRS Romania, in 2024, the lack of qualifications is another common problem, which is why many BIPs can only occupy jobs for the unqualified and these are not well paid. Theoretically, they have the right to participate in training courses for the unemployed, organized by the County Agency for Employment (AJOFM). In practice, the courses are held in Romanian and BIPs who have recently arrived in Romania do not know Romanian and learn it with difficulty (although they are enrolled in the preparatory course for learning the Romanian language organized by County School Inspectorate (ISJ) and JRS Romania also provides Romanian language courses to its beneficiaries). A minimum level of education is requested to enrol in AJOFM courses, depending on the difficulty of the course, a requirement that many IDPs do not meet.¹³²⁸

According to the JRS Romania representative in Galați, access to the labour market for beneficiaries of international protection in 2024 remained challenging, primarily due to language barriers. Employers often refused to hire individuals who did not speak Romanian, with cases observed in restaurants and bakeries where the lack of Romanian language proficiency was cited as a reason for rejection. As part of the integration program, beneficiaries are registered in the AJOFM database within the first months of obtaining protection status, and the agency offers qualification courses—though these are conducted in Romanian. However, many beneficiaries lacked the necessary language proficiency to participate in these courses. Despite this, JRS actively assists beneficiaries in job searching, both through monthly job listings provided by AJOFM in Galați and Brăila counties and through the efforts of JRS integration counsellors and social workers.¹³²⁹

Within the My Place project, in 2024 and 2025 JRS Romania conducted monthly meetings with beneficiaries to provide guidance on accessing the Romanian labour market. These sessions covered key topics such as employment contracts, employee rights and obligations, CV writing, interview preparation, labour legislation, and the importance of safeguarding personal documents. Beneficiaries

¹³²⁴ *ibid.*

¹³²⁵ *ibid.*

¹³²⁶ *ibid.*

¹³²⁷ *ibid.*

¹³²⁸ Information provided by JRS Galati in February 2025.

¹³²⁹ Information provided by JRS Galati in February 2025.

are also informed about institutions such as AJOFM and the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED). Under the project, JRS assisted a Cameroonian beneficiary in obtaining diploma recognition through CNRED, a process that typically takes about 30 days and is free for individuals with international protection. However, the certificate issued for employment and vocational training purposes does not allow for academic continuation. For professions that are regulated by sector such as medicine, veterinary sciences, and architecture, diplomas from EU, EEA, and Swiss institutions are recognized by the relevant authorities in Romania, as stipulated by Law no. 200/2004.¹³³⁰

ANOFM reported that the main difficulty encountered in interactions with foreign citizens concerns insufficient knowledge of the Romanian language or of an international language such as English or French, which complicates communication and limits access to employment opportunities similar to those previously held in the country of origin. The 42 territorial employment agencies, in cooperation with the Regional Centres for Adult Vocational Training, may organise Romanian language courses for foreign citizens depending on the availability of trainers, financial resources and the minimum number of participants required forming a training group.¹³³¹

According to CNRR, in 2025 access to the labour market for beneficiaries of international protection remained significantly limited, particularly for those who do not speak Romanian and/or English, who are generally restricted to low-skilled, blue-collar jobs. Although free Romanian language courses are available for one year after the granting of international protection, CNRR noted that these programmes are not adapted to the beneficiaries' actual needs, as many are required to prioritise immediate income, face caregiving responsibilities, or lack support measures enabling regular attendance. In certain cases, individuals are no longer eligible to participate in such courses, including beneficiaries returned to Romania under the Dublin procedure after residing for several years in another EU country. As a result, limited language acquisition continues to hinder sustainable labour market integration.¹³³²

CNRR further reported that undeclared work is common, exposing beneficiaries to exploitation, including unpaid overtime, lack of paid leave, and arbitrary dismissal. In practice, the absence of effective mechanisms to ensure enforcement of labour rights often leaves workers without remuneration. Access to employment is particularly difficult for vulnerable groups such as single parents, caregivers, persons with disabilities, and elderly beneficiaries, for whom no specific state measures or programmes are in place. While, in principle, beneficiaries of international protection have access to the same employment services as Romanian citizens, including registration with employment agencies, unemployment benefits and vocational training, these opportunities are often difficult to access in practice, especially for those who have recently arrived, do not speak Romanian, or lack proof of qualifications.¹³³³

Job fairs organised by the Employment Agency are accessible to beneficiaries, with participation often facilitated by NGOs and international organisations. However, no specific measures are in place to address language barriers, and some employers lack knowledge regarding the right of beneficiaries of international protection to work without a work permit, which may lead to reluctance or refusal to hire them. CNRR also reported instances of discriminatory attitudes towards foreign workers. In order to mitigate communication barriers, CNRR provides interpretation support during job fairs.¹³³⁴

These challenges often result in beneficiaries accepting employment below their qualification level and at minimum wage. Additional sector-specific barriers were reported, such as difficulties in the recognition of driving licences in the transport sector. Moreover, inconsistencies in legislation may further restrict access to certain professions. For example, although asylum legislation grants refugees access to employment under the same conditions as Romanian citizens, specific sectoral regulations may impose additional

¹³³⁰ *ibid.*

¹³³¹ Information provided by ANOFM, 04 March 2026.

¹³³² Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹³³³ *ibid..*

¹³³⁴ *ibid.*

requirements, such as citizenship, long-term residence or family ties with Romanian citizens, leading to situations where qualified beneficiaries are unable to practise their profession despite having obtained recognition of their diplomas.¹³³⁵

According to IOM observations, the main barriers faced by beneficiaries of international protection in accessing and maintaining employment include insufficient knowledge of Romanian or English, limited awareness of labour rights and institutional procedures, reluctance from employers due to confusion between the status of beneficiaries of international protection and that of non-EU workers, and socio-cultural challenges affecting integration. In the case of women, additional barriers include childcare responsibilities, limited professional experience and cultural expectations.¹³³⁶

According to Global Help, in 2025 beneficiaries faced difficulties in the integration process, including barriers to access to the labour market and public services, as well as language barriers, particularly as beneficiaries coming from the labour market often did not speak internationally used languages.¹³³⁷

In 2025, according to the Center for Comparative Migration Studies (CCMS), an increasing discrepancy was identified between the legal framework and its implementation in practice in the field of employment, alongside persistent structural discrimination in this area.¹³³⁸

1.2 Recognition / equivalence of professional qualifications

Beneficiaries of international protection in Romania are entitled to equal treatment as Romanian citizens concerning the recognition and equivalence of studies, diplomas, and professional qualifications. This right is established by the **Asylum Act (Law no. 122/2006)** and ensures access to regulated professions under the same conditions as Romanian nationals, in accordance with the legislation in force.¹³³⁹

For beneficiaries who wish to work in positions that require specific educational credentials, diplomas and qualifications obtained abroad must be recognized and validated. This process is carried out by the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED), an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education.

Procedure for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas:¹³⁴⁰

To apply for the recognition of studies and qualifications, beneficiaries must submit the following documents:

1. **Standardized application form** available on the CNRED website or at its offices.
2. **Diploma or certificate of studies** for equivalence or recognition:
 - a. If issued in Romanian, English, French, Spanish, or Italian, a copy of the diploma is sufficient.
 - b. If issued in another language, a certified translation into Romanian is required, along with a copy of the original document.

¹³³⁵ *ibid.*

¹³³⁶ Information provided by IOM, 25 February 2026.

¹³³⁷ Information provided by Global Help, April 2026.

¹³³⁸ Information provided by CCMS, April 2026.

¹³³⁹ Article 20(1)(r) Asylum Act.

¹³⁴⁰ CNRED, Recognition of studies for admission to post-secondary or university level, completed by citizens of other EU, EEA member states, the Swiss Confederation, family members, subsidiary protection and refugees, holders of a long-term residence permit, available [here](#).

3. **Academic transcript or an official document listing the completed courses**, especially if the specialization or field of study is not clearly indicated on the diploma:
 - a. Accepted in Romanian, English, French, Spanish, or Italian.
 - b. If issued in other languages, a certified translation into Romanian is required.
4. **Other relevant supporting documents**, if applicable.
5. **Copy of personal identification documents**, such as a passport or identity card.
6. **Proof of protection in Romania** (for beneficiaries of international or temporary protection).
7. **Proof of name change**, if the name on the diploma differs from the current identity document. If the document is not in Romanian, English, French, Spanish, or Italian, a certified translation into Romanian is required.
8. **Processing fee** of 100 RON / €20, unless the applicant benefits from a form of international or temporary protection.

The application is typically processed within 30 days from the date of registration, provided that all required documents are correctly submitted and complete.

More information and specific requirements can be found on [CNRED website](#), also available in English.

Still in 2025, according to CNRR, in the process of diploma and study recognition of higher education, refugees often face challenges due to a lack of official proof from their home institutions. Contacting these institutions is not an option, as it poses serious risks to their safety and refugee status. While copies of documents are accepted, higher education recognition remains impossible without proof from the issuing authority. Therefore, without any studies recognized, refugees have mainly access to low skilled labour. Additionally, there are no regulations for the recognition of an undocumented qualification acquired at work or as a result of a qualification or vocational courses in the country of origin or any other country.¹³⁴¹

According to IOM, a difficulty reported concerns the recognition and equivalence of professional qualifications obtained abroad. Due to complex administrative procedures, particularly for regulated professions, highly qualified beneficiaries may face delays or obstacles in obtaining recognition of their diplomas. As a result, some individuals accept employment below their qualification level while the recognition procedures are ongoing.¹³⁴²

LOGS reported that approximately 80 beneficiaries of international protection with whom the organisation worked during 2025 in Timisoara were employed by the end of the year. According to the organisation's estimates, approximately 53% of those employed were women and 47% were men. The main challenges affecting access to and retention of employment included language barriers and changes in the labour market. As a practical form of support, LOGS reported that it assists beneficiaries in developing job-search skills, including preparing CVs in Romanian, translating them into the beneficiary's language when needed, encouraging direct interaction with employers and identifying employment opportunities through the AJOFM job vacancy database.¹³⁴³

Regarding the recognition of qualifications, although Romanian legislation provides a framework for the recognition of diplomas and professional qualifications, CNRR noted that procedures remain lengthy, complex and unclear, particularly for regulated professions. While the law foresees a 30-working-day

¹³⁴¹ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

¹³⁴² Information provided by IOM, 25 February 2026.

¹³⁴³ Information provided by LOGS, 16 February 2026.

timeframe for recognition, in practice delays occur, and additional requirements such as examinations create further obstacles. The lack of a unified methodology and publicly available information on these procedures has led to situations where beneficiaries are unable to complete recognition processes for extended periods. In addition, recent changes to authentication procedures on online platforms have created further barriers, as available methods are not adapted to refugees' identification documents or require access to banking services, which many beneficiaries lack. As a result, most applications continue to be submitted in person.¹³⁴⁴

In 2025, Global Help reported that cooperation with public authorities, NGOs, educational institutions and employers took place on a case-by-case basis, depending on the specific needs of beneficiaries, and this helped them implement their activities.¹³⁴⁵

2. Access to education

Beneficiaries of international protection have the right to have access to all forms of education, under the same conditions as Romanian citizens.¹³⁴⁶ In order to have access to education, child beneficiaries of international protection need to have the minimum age provided by law for all children: 3 to 6 for pre-school education and 6 for primary education.

Although beneficiaries of international protection have the same rights to access the education system as Romanian citizens—such as free access to education and eligibility for social and merit scholarships—there are significant barriers to accessing education.¹³⁴⁷

According to CNRR, several challenges hindered the access to education for beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs) at the pre-university level:

1. Enrolment challenges: The County School Inspectorate is responsible for assigning students to schools. However, in some cases, delayed responses force families to search for schools independently, often far from their homes. As a result, children may be enrolled late or not at all.
2. Unclear application of legal provisions: There is a lack of consistency in how institutions apply the legal framework for refugee students. In Romania, BIP students initially enrol as auditors, attending classes without receiving grades while simultaneously taking Romanian language courses for both language acquisition and adaptation. This dual approach often leads to confusion regarding their official student status, whether they are required to attend both courses, and how their placement is determined if they transfer while still being an audient.
3. Lack of student progress tracking: Key institutions do not systematically track the academic progress of BIP students, including their transition from auditor status to full enrolment, the number of students completing Romanian language courses, or graduation rates. There is no standardized data collection on the number of BIP students enrolled in schools or annual courses. While CNRR has obtained this data upon request, practices vary across counties, and no uniform reporting system is in place.
4. Language barrier and teaching methods: The language barrier significantly impacts learning for students enrolled as auditors. Additionally, the lack of adapted teaching methods for non-native speakers often leaves them struggling to keep up, affecting their ability to absorb essential information.
5. Absence of state funding for audients: The state does not allocate a specific budget for audient students. As a result, they often lack access to essential educational resources such as textbooks, desks, student meals, or scholarships.

¹³⁴⁴ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹³⁴⁵ Information provided by Global Help, April 2026.

¹³⁴⁶ Article 20(1)(h) Asylum Act.

¹³⁴⁷ Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

6. No special exam accommodations: Despite Romanian being a second language for refugee students, no adjustment is made for national exams in the 8th and 12th grades, which are critical for continuing education. Their exam papers are graded using the same standards as those of native Romanian students, regardless of how long they have been in the education system. The only criterion for enrolling in these exams is that the student was not registered in school the previous academic year.¹³⁴⁸

According to CNRR at national level, Romanian language classes for children under 18 should be divided into three age categories. In some counties, these age segments are not respected, and children aged 7 take classes with children aged 13 or more, or both adults and children participate together, hindering the teaching process which is very different according to the child's age. In terms of teaching methodology, there is no national standard for teaching Romanian as a second language, instead, each teacher develops their curriculum, leading to inconsistent practices across educational institutions. Moreover, there is not standardised testing of the language acquisition in order to issue a certificate at the end of the course. Moreover, teachers who teach Romanian as a second language have not received specialized training, even though the law provides for such training. To address the lack of teacher training, CNRR launched a series of workshops on the socio-cultural norms of refugees' countries of origin. These sessions aim to help educators better communicate with students and adapt to their learning needs.¹³⁴⁹

Another significant obstacle is the lack of a standardized practice regarding the assessment methodology for transitioning from audient status to full student status for children who lack or have incomplete diplomas or certificates proving their level of education from their country of origin. The law provides several assessment methods from which parents should be able to choose the most suitable one for their child. However, in practice, the educational institution decides on the method without presenting parents with available options.¹³⁵⁰

The legislation includes provisions to facilitate access to education for students with special educational needs (SEN), including support for national exams, as well as curricula for students with disabilities. Refugee children have access to them in the same conditions as a Romanian citizen. However, the level of access could not be assessed by us, as our aid was not requested in any such case.¹³⁵¹

There are educational programs for BIPs who are no longer in school or who have exceeded the average age for their respective grade level by four years, known as the "Second Chance" program that do accelerate educational programs. However, in 2024, CNRR did not assist any person attending any such program.¹³⁵² In 2025, according to CNRR, 3 beneficiaries were reported to have participated in the "Second Chance" programme.¹³⁵³

There is access to vocational education and qualification courses, and they can be accessed under the same conditions as Romanian citizens. However, one of the main requirements is completing a minimum level of education - usually eight, ten or twelve grades. Without meeting this requirement, beneficiaries of international protection cannot access vocational or qualification courses, making this the main obstacle to participation, along language acquisition.¹³⁵⁴

From a financial perspective, there is support for continuing education similar to that offered to Romanian students (e.g., child allowance, social scholarships, and merit scholarships). However, there is no specific financial assistance for adults, beneficiaries of international protection, who wish to continue their studies.

¹³⁴⁸ *ibid.*

¹³⁴⁹ *ibid.*

¹³⁵⁰ *ibid.*

¹³⁵¹ *ibid.*

¹³⁵² *ibid.*

¹³⁵³ Information provided by CNRR, 03 March 2026.

¹³⁵⁴ *ibid.*

For example, there is no assistance provided to single parents, and being the sole caregivers for their children often prevents refugees from continuing their education.¹³⁵⁵

Also according to CNRR, when accessing higher education, the biggest limitation faced by BIPs is the lack of awareness among educational institutions regarding the rights of persons benefiting from international protection (e.g., the possibility for BIP to enrol in university under the same conditions as Romanian citizens, the possibility of transferring from spots allocated for foreign students to those for Romanian citizens, and the exemption from the requirement to provide documents from their country of origin).¹³⁵⁶

For refugees seeking recognition of higher education qualifications in fields such as dentistry or general medicine, where additional examinations are required, they must independently contact universities in the country offering these courses and attend sessions for students retaking exams or during exam sessions. The procedure is unclear, and each university applies different criteria and fees for attending these exams. Furthermore, some universities are unaware of this possibility, leaving refugees even more confused and uncertain about the process.¹³⁵⁷

There are social scholarships in higher education, but for BIPs to access them, they must enrol under Romanian student status. After this, they can obtain merit or social scholarships.¹³⁵⁸

According to JRS representatives in Galați, over the past six months of 2024, only one minor benefiting from international protection has been classified as having special educational needs (SEN). The process involved collecting the necessary documentation for evaluation at the County Centre for Resources and Educational Assistance (CJRAE), in collaboration with the IGI-CRPCSA Integration department. Following psychiatric and psychological assessments, the minor was officially classified as having SEN. She is enrolled in a mainstream state school, receives regular consultations from a paediatric psychiatry specialist, and benefits from the support of a teacher one day per week. Additionally, as a student with special educational needs, she receives financial support from the educational institution.¹³⁵⁹ In 2025, according to the County School Inspectorate Galați, no statistical data was available on refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection enrolled in the education system. Refugee children participate in education as auditors in schools and attend Romanian language initiation courses organised in designated centres or accommodation classes established for Romanian students returning from abroad. In practice, when allocating refugee students, the legal maximum number of pupils per class is not taken into account, while attendance and evaluation of auditors are carried out through a provisional grading catalogue. The Inspectorate identified the lack of national training programmes for teachers in teaching Romanian as a foreign language, as well as the limited interest of some foreign pupils in acquiring Romanian language skills, including cases where pupils follow online schooling in Ukraine. Furthermore, the Inspectorate does not collect separate data on beneficiaries of international protection, and data can be centralised upon request from competent institutions, but this requires time and depends on information provided by schools. No procedural changes regarding enrolment or monitoring were reported for the 2024–2025 school year.¹³⁶⁰

In 2025, according to the County School Inspectorate Maramureș, access to education was facilitated for refugee and migrant students, including beneficiaries of temporary protection. Romanian language courses for foreign citizens, accredited by the Ministry of Education and Research, are organised at the “Ioan Buteanu” Theoretical High School in Șomcuta Mare and are delivered by trained teachers.¹³⁶¹

¹³⁵⁵ *ibid.*

¹³⁵⁶ *ibid.*

¹³⁵⁷ *ibid.*

¹³⁵⁸ *ibid.*

¹³⁵⁹ Information provided by JRS Romania in February 2025.

¹³⁶⁰ Information provided by ISJ Galați 16 March 2026

¹³⁶¹ Information provided by ISJ Maramures 03 March 2026

In 2025, according to the County School Inspectorate Timiș, beneficiaries of international protection were enrolled directly as students with full rights and participate in Romanian language initiation courses. No differences in treatment compared to Romanian pupils were reported in practice, including regarding allocation, evaluation or support. The Inspectorate confirmed the existence of institutional cooperation with public authorities and non-governmental organisations in order to support educational integration. At the same time, the main difficulty identified in practice is the language barrier, although sufficient resources, including teaching staff and school counsellors, were reported to be available. No situations of segregation or concentration of students in certain schools were identified. School dropout among asylum applicants was reported to occur mainly when beneficiaries leave the territory of Romania. The enrolment procedure is carried out in accordance with Article 125 of ROFUIP, approved by Order no. 5726/2024. Institutional cooperation with public authorities and non-governmental organisations was reported in order to support educational integration.¹³⁶²

According to the law, there are no limitations to holders of international protection when accessing all levels of education. For minors aged 6 to 18 years old, the system provides an immersion through attendance system, while taking in parallel Romanian language classes for the first year. However, the language barrier remains one of the main challenges also when it comes to access to education, especially for adolescents. Until they learn the language and their diplomas are recognized, the students are enrolled as audients. During this time, they cannot be graded. However, teachers often lack specialized training methods and support tools that would facilitate foreign students' integration, which may lead some students to feel overlooked or overwhelmed.

Schools often refuse to enrol children granted international protection in the middle of the school year, citing overcrowded classrooms and a lack of available places, despite mandatory instructions from the Local School Inspectorate. As a result, parents must either postpone enrolment until the following year or choose schools located farther away. In some cases, the school and the location where Romanian language classes are held are situated on opposite sides of the city. In addition, the lack of available places within the same school for different age groups further limits options for families with multiple children, as parents may be required to enrol their children in different schools, creating significant logistical challenges.

Discussions with numerous school directors revealed a lack of awareness regarding the procedure applicable to children without documentation. At the moment, there are three possible methods that can be used, however, there is a legislative confusion as to which one should be applied, choosing the harder one. In practice, schools tend to apply the more complex procedure, which involves formal recognition or equivalence of previous studies and requires supporting documentation that is often not available.

The Romanian educational system does not provide any preparatory classes for beneficiaries of international protection, nor a specific informative session for the parents to prepare them to navigate the educational system. Schools are not equipped with cultural mediators. Romanian language classes are provided for children starting with the age of six, organized in three age groups, and should normally be attended in parallel to the school classes. In practice, due to lack of awareness, school representatives sometimes require the pupil to have completed the language course first before attending school, despite clear legal provisions. Following case-by-case interventions, the situation is generally clarified.

Romanian language teachers have yet not received specialized training in teaching Romanian as a second language, despite legal provisions requiring such preparation. In response to this gap, CNRR continued its series of workshops in 2025 regarding socio-cultural country-of-origin information, aimed at enhancing their understanding and communication with their students, allowing them to better adapt teaching methods to specific needs.

¹³⁶² Information provided by ISJ Timis 26 February 2026

For out-of-school youth, there exists the possibility to attend the “Second chance” program, which might allow a person to receive education from primary up until the inferior secondary studies. If a student demonstrates good results, the duration of studies can be reduced, allowing for accelerated completion of certain years. In practice, their schedule should be adapted for the needs of the working individuals that want to complete their studies. However, in 2025, CNRR has not assisted anyone that was willing to attend this type of education.

There is also an alternative educational pathway with reduced attendance requirements, designed for young people who are older than the standard age corresponding to their grade level. These students complete an additional year of schooling, at the end of which they are eligible to take the final high school examination. In 2025, CNRR successfully assisted a 17 year old minor who works to help his family to enrol in a low frequency lower secondary school program, following refusals from more educational institutions.

The legislation contains provisions aimed at facilitating access to education for students with special educational needs, including support measures during national examinations and adapted curricula for students with disabilities. Refugee children are entitled to access these measures under the same conditions as Romanian citizens. However, the actual level of access could not be assessed, as no requests for assistance in such cases were received by CNRR.

The legislation provides access to education/vocational training for adults and young people. If they are enrolled in school and actively following a form of education, instead of high-school, they can choose a 3-year program of professional education, or after graduating 10 classes, beneficiaries of international protection can choose a 720-hour professional course, or if they have finished high-school, with or without the final examination, they can follow post-high-school studies. However, for adults/young adults, attending a free professional course organized by the state, their eligibility is correlated to a certain level of educational background recognized by the Romanian state, either 8, 10 or even 12 classes. These courses are only available in Romanian, therefore for a person with international protection the possibility of attending such courses - provided that they have the educational background - is dependent on the language acquisition. CNRR noticed there is a lack of awareness among refugees regarding the existence of these courses.

There is no financial support provided specifically for refugees to continue their education. However, they have access to the same financial incentives available to Romanian citizens.

There is a lack of support for vulnerable individuals to access vocational training, particularly for single-parent families or households with several children living on a single minimum-wage income, often earned by the father. Because families must meet their immediate financial needs, many adults accept low paid, unqualified jobs or work without formal contracts instead of investing time in training. In the case of single parents with school-age children, limited resources and caregiving options often lead them to rely on social benefits rather than pursuing professional qualification opportunities that could improve their long-term employment prospects. CNRR assisted only one successful case in 2025 of a person who attended a private qualification course, as pastry chef, sponsored by herself. As of January 2026, the person's contract has been changed to meet her actual responsibilities.

The persons with international protection who want to continue their higher education have the same rights as Romanian citizens in accessing scholarships opportunities. As long as they complete the process of recognition of their studies and are enrolled in an educational institution in accordance with the law, they may access the benefits offered by the university under its internal regulations, under the same conditions as Romanian students.

As previously mentioned, holders of international protection that want to enrol in higher education institutions face challenges as they are often requested original documents from their country of origins to prove the completion of studies. Without original documentation, there are no clear procedures in place at university level to apply for studies as a person with refugee status (often mistakenly asked to apply as

a person with a study visa/foreign student). The situation is even more difficult for persons that came to Romania with a study visa and were subsequently granted international protection. In order to switch to a budgeted Romanian spot, with lower taxes, the student has to take the initial admission examination and apply for a credit transfer.¹³⁶³

IOM also supported access to education for beneficiaries of international protection. In 2025, 260 beneficiaries participated in Romanian language courses organised by IOM in Regions 1 (Bucharest, Ilfov and Braşov) and 4. In addition, the organisation supported the enrolment of 95 children with international protection status in public education institutions, including kindergartens, schools and high schools. The children originated mainly from countries affected by conflict and instability, including the Palestinian territories, Syria, Afghanistan and Sudan. IOM also identified several challenges affecting access to education for beneficiaries of international protection. Language barriers remain a significant obstacle both for children integrating into the education system and for adults attending Romanian language courses. In addition, limited awareness among administrative staff in certain educational institutions regarding the legal status and rights of foreign minors may create additional administrative difficulties during school enrolment procedures. Additional challenges relate to the absence of educational documents from countries of origin, often due to conflict or forced displacement. In such cases, children may undergo assessments in Romanian to determine their educational level, which can affect their ability to demonstrate their previous schooling. Late enrolment during the school year, often linked to the arrival of families after the start of the academic year, may also create difficulties in adapting to the school curriculum and integrating into the classroom environment.¹³⁶⁴

Furthermore, IOM assisted 39 beneficiaries of international protection in the recognition and equivalence of studies and professional qualifications obtained in third countries, in order to facilitate access to education, vocational training and employment in Romania.¹³⁶⁵

In 2025, Global Help indicated that integration activities covered several areas, including general orientation and information, access to education, access to the labour market, Romanian language courses, and legal counselling. The most requested areas by beneficiaries were access to education (including Romanian language and civic orientation courses and enrolment of children in the education system), access to the labour market, and legal counselling.¹³⁶⁶

2.1 Enrolment at schools

The legal provisions regarding Romanian language courses for children were detailed by the new amendment of the Integration Ordinance. Therefore, it is stated that, in order to integrate minor beneficiaries of international protection into the Romanian education system, they would benefit from a preparatory course for learning the Romanian language, emphasising that the course is intensive and free of charge during a school year. It was also added that the enrolment is open throughout the calendar year, and the attendance of the course may continue during the following school year.¹³⁶⁷

During the first year, children are enrolled at schools as ‘viewers and listeners’; they do not receive grades and are not registered in the class book.¹³⁶⁸ At the end of the preparatory course, the level of knowledge of Romanian language is assessed and an evaluation commission determines enrolment at school.¹³⁶⁹

¹³⁶³ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹³⁶⁴ Information provided by IOM, 25 February 2026.

¹³⁶⁵ *ibid.*

¹³⁶⁶ Information provided by Global Help, April 2026.

¹³⁶⁷ Article 10(1) Integration Ordinance.

¹³⁶⁸ *ibid.* Article 10(2). During the preparatory course children beneficiaries of international protection participate free of charge in pedagogical activities within the school units, without their presence being registered in official documents.

¹³⁶⁹ Article 10(3) Integration Ordinance.

The County School Inspectorates in Bucharest, Giurgiu, Galați, Suceava, Timiș, and Maramureș were contacted in 2024 to provide information on the enrolment of foreign nationals, including asylum applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, in the Romanian education system. Only three Inspectorates responded: Bucharest, Timiș, and Suceava.¹³⁷⁰ In 2025, same County School Inspectorates were contacted, however only Giurgiu, Galați, Timiș, and Maramureș.¹³⁷¹

In Bucharest, the School Inspectorate reported only the number of enrolled pupils and students from Ukraine holding temporary protection for the 2024 school year.¹³⁷²

In Timiș County, the School Inspectorate reported that in 2023, there were 84 foreign students with legal residence in Romania enrolled in educational institutions, including 34 beneficiaries of international protection. In 2024, the number slightly decreased to 75 foreign students, of whom 35 were beneficiaries of international protection who had completed their integration program. The students' countries of origin in 2024 included: Syria (26), Palestine (11), Russia (8), Pakistan (2), Somalia (2), Uganda (1), Sudan (5), Ukraine (17), and one stateless person.¹³⁷³

No information from Timis School Inspectorate for 2025.

In Suceava County, the School Inspectorate indicated that in 2024, a total of 6 asylum-seeking children were enrolled in the education system: one male child in preschool, one male child in primary school, three children (one male and two females) in lower secondary education, and one male child in high school. Additionally, 8 beneficiaries of international protection were enrolled: one male child in pre-school, one female child in primary school, one female student in high school, and five adult learners (two males and three females).¹³⁷⁴

As regards children with special needs, the conditions for accessing education are the same as for Romanian children. The child should first be issued a degree of disability by the Complex Assessment Service of the Child with Disabilities within the Directorate-General for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC). This is a particularly complicated and bureaucratic process, which has to be repeated every year.¹³⁷⁵

Based on the evaluation, the Complex Assessment Service of the Child with Disabilities also decides if the child should be enrolled in a school for children with special needs or in a state school, and at what grade.

Beneficiaries of international protection who have reached the age of 18 continue to face significant challenges in accessing vocational training or formal education. According to an AIDRom representative, these obstacles persist regardless of age and are primarily linked to language barriers. In many cases, if beneficiaries lack school diplomas, they are required to undergo exams covering all subjects from first to twelfth grade. Alternatively, if they cannot prove the number of years of study completed in their country of origin, they must repeat those school years in Romania, following the national curriculum. Very few young beneficiaries choose this path, despite the support and understanding shown by teachers. Some beneficiaries initially attended private or community schools (such as Arabic schools) and later attempted to transfer to public schools. According to IOM Romania, additional barriers include illiteracy, low levels of formal education, or the inability to meet specific entry requirements (such as completing primary education). The Professional Association of Social Assistance (ASSOC) also highlighted, alongside the

¹³⁷⁰ Information provided by JRS Romania, February 2025.

¹³⁷¹ *ibid.*, March 2026.

¹³⁷² Information provided by School Inspectorate in Bucharest in January 2025.

¹³⁷³ Information provided by School Inspectorate in Timis in January 2025.

¹³⁷⁴ Information provided by the School Inspectorate in Suceava in January 2025.

¹³⁷⁵ For the highly onerous administrative requirements to be met for this process according to Common Order No 1985/1305/5805/2016, see DGASPC, *Necessary documents for the complex assessment of the child's disability*, available in Romanian [here](#).

language barrier, a lack of motivation in certain cases. These challenges were still reported in 2024, as confirmed by JRS Romania, which noted that language barriers, missing educational documents, and limited schooling backgrounds continue to hinder access to education and vocational training for many beneficiaries.¹³⁷⁶

JRS representatives in Galati have not identified major barriers to accessing education for beneficiaries of international protection, as minors are enrolled in schools soon after applying for protection. Within the My Place project in Galati, minors initially attend school as audients to familiarize themselves with the Romanian language before undergoing an assessment to determine their appropriate grade level. However, challenges exist, such as delays due to document translation requirements, as seen in a 2024 case in Vrancea County, when the family was asked to translate documents from their country of origin and the minors had access to school a few weeks late, although the request had been made in advance. Access was granted after the family had also translated the documents. Both the General Inspectorate for Immigration and JRS were involved in expediting the process.¹³⁷⁷

Language remains a significant barrier, with many beneficiaries struggling with reading and writing. Additionally, some lack diplomas certifying prior education, limiting their ability to continue studies. While the law grants beneficiaries of international protection the same educational rights as Romanian citizens, tuition fees for higher education remain unaffordable for many, with no known financial aid programs available. Within its funding limits, the My Place – JRS project which started in 2024 provides partial subsidies for food, after-school programs, and extracurricular activities for a limited number of children.¹³⁷⁸ Special education support is also available in some cases. JRS assisted a minor with special educational needs (SEN) in enrolling in mainstream education, securing financial aid, and arranging support from a specialized teacher. Additionally, a young Ukrainian beneficiary with a severe disability was enrolled in a special vocational school in Galați, receiving a disability allowance and supplementary financial support.¹³⁷⁹

In 2024, Save the Children continued to assist beneficiaries of international protection in accessing education. A total of 52 refugee children and 31 beneficiaries of subsidiary protection were supported in their school enrolment: 52 refugees (Timișoara – 6, Bucharest – 46) and 31 beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (Timișoara – 4, Maramureș – 4, Bucharest – 20, Suceava – 3). The children were enrolled at various educational levels, including kindergarten (7 children – 4 girls and 3 boys in Timișoara), primary education (7 children in Maramureș and 1 in Suceava), lower secondary education (1 girl in Suceava), upper secondary education (1 boy in Suceava), and tertiary education (3 students in Timișoara: 1 girl and 2 boys). In Bucharest, Save the Children assisted 21 boys and 38 girls to access education.¹³⁸⁰ In 2025, Save the Children continued to support beneficiaries of international protection, including children and families, in accessing education. However, no updated statistical data were available regarding the number of persons assisted.

2.2 Integration courses

The new amendments of the Integration Ordinance stipulate that IGI-DAI, in collaboration with the authorities of the local public administration, organises sessions of cultural accommodation and counselling activities, aiming to familiarise the adult beneficiaries of international protection with the traditions, customs, legislation and specifics of the Romanian society.¹³⁸¹ The previous provision stipulated that IGI organises these activities and may collaborate with public authorities and NGOs. IGI

¹³⁷⁶ Information provided by JRS Galati in February 2025. Confirmed in April 2026.

¹³⁷⁷ *ibid.*

¹³⁷⁸ *ibid.*

¹³⁷⁹ *ibid.*

¹³⁸⁰ Information provided by Save the Children in March 2025.

¹³⁸¹ Article 13(1) Integration Ordinance.

and the local public administration authorities may collaborate with other public institutions and non-governmental organisations in order to organise these activities.¹³⁸²

Under Government Ordinance No. 44/2004, an **integration program** refers to a set of measures and activities designed to facilitate the social integration of foreigners who have been granted a form of protection in Romania. These programs are implemented upon request and involve collaboration among public institutions, local communities, and non-governmental organizations, all coordinated by the National Office for Refugees of the Ministry of Administration and Interior.¹³⁸³ The integration programs for foreign nationals who were granted a form of protection in Romania shall be established and implemented based on the beneficiaries' needs, without any discrimination, by respecting their cultural background.¹³⁸⁴ People who were granted a form of protection in Romania shall be included in integration programs based on their individual requests within 30 days from granting a form of protection at the headquarters of the National Office for Refugees.¹³⁸⁵

According to IGI-DAI in 2023 a number of 739 adults newly was registered in the integration program in and a number of 761 adults had registered in 2022 continued the program in 2023.¹³⁸⁶ Additionally 16 unaccompanied minors followed the integration program in 2023. The main countries of origin were Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Iraq.¹³⁸⁷ No data was available for 2024. 1,019 people participated in 2025 in the integration program.¹³⁸⁸

In 2023, CNRR¹³⁸⁹ mentioned that community empowerment activities were organised in Bucharest and in other cities of Romania, having diverse thematic such as: information about the labour contract and employees' rights (tips & tricks for the Somali community, about 15 participants attended the event), women's reproductive health, an event organised by CNRR in partnership with ANAIS organisation (about 10 participants), Somali cultural evening during with which the Somali community had the opportunity to share its culture and values and to learn more about Romanian culture (50 participants). CNRR also organised two legal education workshops for children aged 11-14 and 15-18, attended by 34 children from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia. Through interactive exercises, the children were explained the provisions of the law on domestic violence, the risks of consuming prohibited substances and how people under 18 can be held accountable if they commit illegal acts. Also, in partnership with the organisation Active Random, a series of creative workshops were organised for children beneficiaries of international protection (photography, digital art, musical instruments). These events took place over 3 months and ended with an exhibition of photos taken by the children. During 2023, 6 children BIPs attended English language courses through a partnership concluded between CNRR and the British Council. In 2025, according to CNRR, a decrease in available funding and limited resources affected the organisation of community empowerment and integration activities. As a result, CNRR relied more on partnerships with other non-governmental organisations and associations in order to minimise costs, and some activities were organised online.¹³⁹⁰

In addition to the integration program offered by the state authorities, several integration projects resumed or were launched in 2024 after a significant gap in funding. These projects, implemented under the AMIF 2021–2027 scheme, expanded the range of activities available to beneficiaries of international protection and third-country nationals. Compared to previous years, the new projects introduced additional services such as housing support schemes (rent subsidies and mediation with landlords), the establishment of virtual integration centres to provide remote assistance, and targeted financial support for school-related

¹³⁸² *ibid.* Article 13(2).

¹³⁸³ *ibid.* Article 2(c) Integration Ordinance.

¹³⁸⁴ *ibid.* Article 3.

¹³⁸⁵ *ibid.* Articles 15-16.

¹³⁸⁶ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 18 January 2024. See also information available [here](#).

¹³⁸⁷ *ibid.*

¹³⁸⁸ Available [here](#).

¹³⁸⁹ Information provided by CNRR, 16 January 2024.

¹³⁹⁰ *ibid.*, April 2026.

expenses and meals for children. Furthermore, some projects incorporated financial incentives for beneficiaries actively participating in integration activities and expanded the use of community engagement initiatives at local level. These activities complemented the previously reported initiatives by CNRR in 2023 and addressed persistent gaps identified in earlier programming periods.¹³⁹¹

Adult beneficiaries of international protection benefit from intensive and free Romanian language courses, organised by the specialised structures of the Ministry of National Education, in collaboration with IGI. Enrolment is made throughout the calendar year, and the attendance of the course may continue throughout the following school year.¹³⁹² IGI-DAI, in collaboration with NGOs provides the necessary spaces for organising the courses.¹³⁹³ The Ministry of Education appoints a qualified person to teach the Romanian language course for adults and minors and it also ensures adequate training for these teachers.¹³⁹⁴ The Ministry of Education establishes the organisation, duration and schedule of these courses.¹³⁹⁵ At the end of the preparatory course, a commission issues a certificate that demonstrates the level of knowledge of the Romanian language.¹³⁹⁶

For unaccompanied minors who are beneficiaries of international protection, IGI-DAI collaborates with DGASPC and NGO representatives. They establish the integration plan for the children and implement the activities included in the plan.¹³⁹⁷

In 2024 and 2025, JRS Romania implemented the *My Place* project in Region 2. As part of this initiative, in addition to Romanian language courses, various cultural, recreational, and educational activities were organized. JRS Romania collaborated with the Agency Against Human Trafficking, the National Anti-Drug Agency, as well as non-governmental organizations, public and private educational institutions, and universities. These partners played a key role in facilitating joint activities and supporting initiatives aimed at fostering the effective integration of beneficiaries into Romanian society.¹³⁹⁸

In Timisoara, LOGS reported that approximately 15 beneficiaries of international protection were supported in accessing education in 2025. Among them, four children attended kindergarten; eight were enrolled in primary education (grades CP–IV); two in lower secondary education (grades V–VIII) and one in high school. According to estimates provided by the organisation, approximately 70% of the children were girls and 30% were boys. According to LOGS, language barriers represent a significant difficulty for children accessing education. The organisation also reported cases in which schools were reluctant to enrol children who did not speak Romanian, as well as instances of bullying and discrimination.¹³⁹⁹

F. Social welfare

Beneficiaries of international protection who for objective reasons lack the necessary means of subsistence have the right to receive, upon request and within the limits of the state's financial resources, a monthly non-reimbursable aid (“aid”) for a maximum period of 12 months.¹⁴⁰⁰ The amount of aid is related to the reference social indicator under the terms and conditions established by Government

¹³⁹¹ Information provided by JRS Romania, January 2025.

¹³⁹² Article 14(1) Integration Ordinance.

¹³⁹³ *ibid.* Article 14(2).

¹³⁹⁴ *ibid.* Article 14(3).

¹³⁹⁵ *ibid.* Article 14(4).

¹³⁹⁶ *ibid.* Article 14(5).

¹³⁹⁷ *ibid.* Article 35(3).

¹³⁹⁸ Practice based observation by JRS Romania, March 2025.

¹³⁹⁹ Information provided by LOGS, 16 February 2026.

¹⁴⁰⁰ Article 20(1)(m) Asylum Act.

Decision.¹⁴⁰¹ More exactly the amount of the financial aid is 1.08 ISR¹⁴⁰² and equals 714 RON/ ~ €143, marking a significant increase compared to 2023.

In 2023, some beneficiaries of international protection reported to JRS Romania that they felt discriminated against in comparison to persons benefiting from temporary protection, as the material assistance provided by the state to the latter was significantly higher. In 2024, this perception slightly diminished, as international funding for Ukrainian refugees decreased and JRS Romania's assistance approach remained consistent for all categories. It is important to underline that these differences stemmed from the disparity in available funding and project opportunities, and not from JRS Romania's internal policy or practices.¹⁴⁰³ In 2025, according to JRS Romania, such perceptions were no longer reported. This development reflects the further reduction and restructuring of assistance available to persons benefiting from temporary protection.¹⁴⁰⁴ It was also reported that IGI gives much more consistent material support to asylum applicants than the Romanian state allocates through National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (AJPIS) within the framework of non-reimbursable aid.¹⁴⁰⁵

The Integration Ordinance states that to ensure effective access to social rights, the competent authorities take into account the specific situation of the beneficiaries of international protection.¹⁴⁰⁶ New provisions were added by the amendments, stipulating that at IGI's request, local support teams may be set up to integrate beneficiaries of international protection and other foreigners who have a right of residence in Romania, as well as citizens of the Member States of the European Union, the European Economic Area and citizens of the Swiss Confederation. The local support teams are composed of IGI-DAI, local public administration authorities, public institutions and NGO representatives.¹⁴⁰⁷ No further rules have been published, prescribing how these support teams are established, how they operate and what their responsibilities are.¹⁴⁰⁸

The timeline for the submission of the application for inclusion in the integration program is 3 months from the date the international protection was granted, by the amended Integration Ordinance.¹⁴⁰⁹ Another legal provision introduced by the amendment prescribes that NGO representatives may participate at the interview conducted by the integration officer of IGI-DAI with the beneficiary of international protection.¹⁴¹⁰ The interview is scheduled within 10 working days.¹⁴¹¹ The scope of the interview is to establish the type of assistance or activities necessary for the social integration of the applicant.¹⁴¹² Based on this assessment, an individual integration plan is developed jointly with the beneficiary, which includes the identification of relevant activities tailored to their needs and available resources, as well as the establishment of timelines for achieving the set objectives.¹⁴¹³ In 2025, 1,019 people participated in the integration program.¹⁴¹⁴

The duration of integration programs for beneficiaries of international protection is 12 months, which may be extended with 6 months.¹⁴¹⁵

¹⁴⁰¹ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁰² *ibid.* Article 20 (5[^]1).

¹⁴⁰³ Practice based observation by JRS Romania, January 2025.

¹⁴⁰⁴ Observed by JRS Romania in 2025.

¹⁴⁰⁵ Practice based observation by JRS Romania, in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

¹⁴⁰⁶ Article 14[^]1(1) Integration Ordinance.

¹⁴⁰⁷ *ibid.*, Article 14[^]1(2).

¹⁴⁰⁸ *ibid.* Article 14[^]1(3).

¹⁴⁰⁹ *ibid.* Article 16.

¹⁴¹⁰ *ibid.* Article 17(1) (2).

¹⁴¹¹ IGI, available [here](#).

¹⁴¹² *ibid.* Article 17(1) (2).

¹⁴¹³ IGI, available [here](#).

¹⁴¹⁴ IGI, PESTE 1.000 DE PERSOANE, SPRIJINITE ÎN PROCESUL DE INTEGRARE ÎN ANUL 2025, February 2026, available [here](#).

¹⁴¹⁵ *ibid.* Article 20.

In September 2025, the Government adopted a decision¹⁴¹⁶ aimed at providing better support for the integration of victims of domestic violence and human trafficking into the labour market. The main regulations include: free access to vocational training programs for job-seekers who are in situations of domestic violence or human trafficking; granting a subsidy of 2,250 lei/month (440 Euros) to employers who employ such persons, if they are registered as unemployed; clearly establishing the documentation and deadlines required to access employment stimulation measures, as well as establishing exceptional mechanisms for justified situations; obligation of confidentiality for employers regarding the victim status of employed persons; verification of the veracity of information regarding protection orders and victim status, through collaboration with the competent authorities; maintaining financial support granted to employers, including in the event that the protection measures ordered by protection order cease.

Conditions for aid

The non-refundable financial aid is granted for an initial period of 6 months, with the possibility of extending it to 12 months. In order to receive non-refundable aid, beneficiaries of international protection must be enrolled in the integration program.¹⁴¹⁷ However, some groups, referred to as “special cases”, are exempt from the obligation to be enrolled in the program. The special cases are:¹⁴¹⁸

- a. Unaccompanied children;
- b. Persons with disabilities;
- c. Persons who have reached retirement age and do not benefit from retirement;
- d. Pregnant women;
- e. Single-parent families with juvenile children;
- f. Victims of human trafficking;
- g. Victims of torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological or sexual violence.

The provision of aid is subject to the actual residence of the beneficiary, which is mentioned on the Residence Permit. The beneficiary of international protection is included in the integration program coordinated by the IGI-DAI office territorially competent for the area where they reside.¹⁴¹⁹

In case a beneficiary would like to change their place of residence, they have to communicate this intention to IGI-DAI where they started the integration program and has the obligation, within 15 days from the date of moving to the new address, to present themselves to the IGI-DAI office territorially competent for the area in which they now reside or, as the case may be, to the relevant territorial entity of the Aliens Authority, to register themselves and to make the necessary changes to the identity document.¹⁴²⁰

UNHCR reported ongoing problems in the application of non-reimbursable financial aid for beneficiaries of international protection, with practices varying depending on the region. At least one meeting was facilitated by UNHCR, at the initiative of CNRR, involving the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (ANPIS), the Ministry of Labour and IGI. Discussions focused on: the assessment of “standard of living” criteria; legal and procedural gaps; retroactive cancellation of aid payments; unequal application of the law across regions.¹⁴²¹

Application procedure for aid

The authority responsible for granting non-refundable aid is the County Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (*Agenția Județeană pentru Plăți și Inspecție Socială*, AJPIS). The funds necessary for granting

¹⁴¹⁶ Government Decision No. 711/2025 amending and supplementing certain normative acts in the field of employment, Official Gazette no. 823 of 5 September 2025, available (RO) [here](#).

¹⁴¹⁷ Article 60(1) Asylum Decree.

¹⁴¹⁸ Article 33(2) Integration Ordinance.

¹⁴¹⁹ Article 60(1) Asylum Decree.

¹⁴²⁰ *ibid.* Article 52(2).

¹⁴²¹ Information provided by UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

aid are provided from the budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection through the Agency for Payments and Social Inspection of the County.¹⁴²²

The application for non-refundable aid is drafted individually by each beneficiary of international protection who fulfils the conditions set out in the law or by their legal representative or guardian, according to a template established by IGI.¹⁴²³ This requirement raises issues in practice for unaccompanied children in Bucharest. An unaccompanied child beneficiary of international protection may not access non-refundable financial aid due to the fact that he was not appointed a legal representative by DGASPC, since the legal representative only assists unaccompanied asylum-seeking children during the asylum procedure and not after they are granted a form of protection.

In 2021 OIM stated children have access to financial aid represented by the monthly allowance for children by the state only when they are 18. Until then, the money is collected in an account on behalf of the beneficiary. Upon leaving the centre, the child will live in a DGASPC centre, and the director of the centre becomes the legal representative of the child.¹⁴²⁴

In practice, the application is made within 3 months of the date of granting international protection, with an NGO's assistance. IGI-DAI forwards the file of the beneficiary to the AJPIS for review. The application must be accompanied by the decision granting international protection, the temporary residence permit, as well as a certificate attesting the registration in the integration program issued by the territorially competent IGI-DAI office.¹⁴²⁵

In order to establish the right to aid, the AJPIS makes a social investigation within 10 days from the receipt of the application to confirm that the applicant lacks the necessary means of subsistence.¹⁴²⁶ The Executive Director of the AJPIS approves granting the financial aid, starting with the following month in which the application was registered with the territorial agency, on the basis of the documents submitted by IGI-DAI.¹⁴²⁷ Until the first month of payment of the aid, beneficiaries who have no means of subsistence shall receive from IGI-DAI material aid equal to the amount granted to asylum applicants, within the limits of available funds, but for no more than three months.¹⁴²⁸

IGI-DAI reviews the situation of each beneficiary of aid, twice a year, depending on the active participation of the person in the activities stipulated in the individual integration plan and submits to the competent AJPIS proposals for extending the period of granting, suspending or terminating the payment of aid.¹⁴²⁹

According to JRS Romania no problems were reported in to obtain financial aid were reported in Șomcuta Mare, Galați, Rădăuți, Bucharest, and the situation remain unchanged in 2025¹⁴³⁰

According to JRS Romania's representatives in Galați, in 2024 and 2025 the main obstacle beneficiaries faced in accessing social assistance was the length of time it takes to actually receive the aid. One relevant example is the financial support linked to children's access to state education. Although the entitlement is calculated from the date the application is submitted—provided all required documents are in order—the actual transfer of funds can take approximately 2 to 2.5 months. This delay affects the child's family or legal representative, who must manage expenses related to school attendance (such as supplies, clothing, or transportation) without having immediate access to the financial aid meant to support

¹⁴²² Article 20(5) Asylum Act.

¹⁴²³ Article 60(2) Asylum Decree.

¹⁴²⁴ Information provided by IOM Romania, 19 February 2022.

¹⁴²⁵ Article 60(2) -(3) Asylum Decree.

¹⁴²⁶ *ibid.* Article 60(5).

¹⁴²⁷ *ibid.* Article 60(4).

¹⁴²⁸ Article 22(3) Integration Ordinance.

¹⁴²⁹ Article 60(6) Asylum Decree.

¹⁴³⁰ Information provided by JRS Romania in February 2025.

these needs. While the entitlement is not lost, the lag in implementation undermines its effectiveness, especially for vulnerable families who cannot bridge the gap from their own resources.¹⁴³¹

According to CNRR, in 2024 beneficiaries of international protection often had limited awareness of their socio-economic rights and the relevant institutions responsible for implementing them. While they received some information through the integration program provided by the General Inspectorate for Immigration or NGOs, they were generally unaware of additional incentives and financial aid available outside this program, as well as the procedures required to access them. In some instances, insufficient knowledge among social assistance staff leads to misunderstandings and delays in granting support, creating additional barriers for refugees seeking essential services. Strengthening institutional awareness and capacity in this regard would contribute to a more efficient and equitable process.¹⁴³² Despite these challenges, those who manage to apply for socio-economic rights are often successful in obtaining them. However, the absence of interpreters within institutions necessitates reliance on NGO support to provide adequate counselling and assistance to refugees.¹⁴³³ Furthermore, a recurring practical issue is the limited availability of funds for certain types of financial aid, which are accessible to both refugees and Romanian citizens. Due to high demand, these funds are often depleted rapidly, restricting access to necessary support.¹⁴³⁴

Beneficiaries of international protection who participate in the integration program, who do not meet the conditions for receiving non-refundable financial aid and who have no means of subsistence, are supported in order to fulfil the legal conditions for obtaining the minimum inclusion income.¹⁴³⁵

Beneficiaries of international protection also have the right to benefit from social insurance, social assistance measures and social health insurance, under the conditions provided by the law for Romanian citizens.¹⁴³⁶

According to CNRR, beneficiaries of international protection continued to face significant obstacles in accessing social welfare and socio-economic rights in 2025, largely reflecting challenges already identified in 2024.

In 2025, CNRR reported that individuals seeking to access social services and benefits continue to face obstacles such as bureaucratic barriers, gaps in national legislation, language barriers, lack of interpreters within public institutions, and insufficient awareness of their rights. Beneficiaries of international protection are entitled, during the first 12 months following the granting of status, to a monthly allowance of approximately EUR 150 if they are considered “deprived of the necessary means of subsistence”. However, CNRR highlighted that the law does not define clear criteria for assessing this condition, leading to case-by-case interpretation and uneven practice. In some instances, authorities interpret this condition restrictively, requiring applicants to have no income in order to qualify, although the law does not explicitly exclude persons with insufficient income.¹⁴³⁷

CNRR further noted that beneficiaries often encounter difficulties in complying with administrative procedures and deadlines, particularly when applying for or extending financial support, as they are not yet familiar with institutional processes or the way official communications are handled. This may result in the loss of financial aid, including for vulnerable individuals or families with children.¹⁴³⁸

¹⁴³¹ *ibid.*

¹⁴³² Information provided by CNRR in February 2025.

¹⁴³³ *ibid.*

¹⁴³⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁴³⁵ Article 22(1) Integration Ordinance.

¹⁴³⁶ Article 20(1)(g) Asylum Act.

¹⁴³⁷ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹⁴³⁸ *ibid.*

Regarding access to other social benefits to which beneficiaries are entitled under the same conditions as Romanian citizens, CNRR reported that obstacles remain, including requests for documents from the country of origin to prove the absence of income or pensions, which are often difficult or impossible to obtain.¹⁴³⁹

In addition, holders of international protection who apply for the lump sum have been in the country most often for a short time, and are not yet familiar with the importance of complying with legal deadlines and understanding the way in which public institutions send official documents when navigating the procedure of social investigation or requesting to extend the lump sum for the last 6 months. As a result, families with many children or vulnerable individuals often end up losing their right to financial aid due to such misunderstandings.¹⁴⁴⁰

In addition, CNRR highlighted significant challenges related to housing. Social housing is limited, with waiting times ranging from 5 to 15 years. Beneficiaries returned to Romania under the Dublin procedure may face homelessness, as they are not accommodated in the reception centres and may not meet the conditions required for access to emergency shelters provided by local authorities. In some reported cases, families with children were left without shelter. Night shelters represent the only available option in practice, but they cannot accommodate families together and operate on a first-come, first-served basis. In certain cases, access has been denied on the basis that applicants are foreigners. As a result, CNRR reported that support is sometimes sought through informal solutions, such as temporary accommodation in religious institutions or employment providing housing.¹⁴⁴¹

In 2025, beneficiaries of international protection continued to receive social assistance primarily through local authorities, with a significant role played by municipal and sector-level social services. According to the General Directorate of Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest (DGASMB), a total of 79 beneficiaries of international protection were supported during the year, receiving a wide range of services including social counselling, financial and material assistance, and support in accessing healthcare, education, and housing. Access to healthcare was facilitated through practical support measures such as scheduling medical appointments, hospital admissions, and registration with family doctors within the public health insurance system, including through the CASMB platform. DGASMB also cooperated with medical institutions in Bucharest to ensure access to treatment and investigations for both adults and children.¹⁴⁴²

DGASMB also supported access to education for children, including enrolment in pre-university education institutions, as well as participation in day centres providing supervision, educational and recreational activities, psychological counselling and support for the development of independent living skills. In addition, beneficiaries received support for integration, including participation in integration programmes,¹⁴⁴³ Romanian language learning and assistance in identifying housing solutions on the private market. DGASMB cooperated with several institutions and organisations, including IGI, IOM, JRS Romania and CNRR, in order to facilitate access to services and support integration. DGASMB reported that no obstacles were identified in relation to access to the services provided, and beneficiaries were supported throughout the process to ensure effective access to available assistance.¹⁴⁴⁴

¹⁴³⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁴⁰ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁴¹ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁴² Information provided by DGASMB, 16 February 2026.

¹⁴⁴³ *ibid.* including the Iuliu Maniu Day Centre for Counselling and Support for Parents and Children, the Maria Day Centre, the Pipera Support Centre for Women and Children and the PrimoHUB Ominis Centre. These centres offered supervision, care, recreational and educational activities, psychological counselling and activities supporting independent living skills. DGASMB specialists also facilitated the enrolment of minors in pre-university education institutions.

¹⁴⁴⁴ *ibid.*

At the same time, the system continued to address the needs of vulnerable groups. According to DGASMB, persons accommodated in 2025 included children (328, including unaccompanied or separated minors), persons with disabilities (19), individuals with medical or psychosocial needs (51), and victims of violence or trauma (9).¹⁴⁴⁵ According to DGASMB, in 2025 no obstacles were identified in accessing social assistance services, and beneficiaries were supported throughout the process of accessing these services.¹⁴⁴⁶

However, information from other local authorities indicates that challenges persist. According to DGASPC Sector 2, the main difficulties in accessing social assistance services included language and cultural barriers, incomplete documentation, and pressure on administrative capacity due to the high number of cases. DGASPC Sector 2 also provided targeted support measures, including financial assistance for the prevention of child abandonment (for up to 48 months), social vouchers for food and medicines granted quarterly, and financial allowances for persons with disabilities.¹⁴⁴⁷

According to DGASPC Galați, no changes were recorded in 2025 compared to 2024 regarding the capacity of centres, procedures for taking over minors, the role of legal representatives, or cooperation with IGI. The main challenges identified concern insufficient accommodation capacity, lack of specialised staff, and the absence of interpretation services for unaccompanied foreign minors.¹⁴⁴⁸

In 2025, according to the Romanian Red Cross, certain activities were also carried out at national level for beneficiaries of international protection and other categories of migrants, notably through the provision of Restoring Family Links services. In addition, the organisation reported that it identified general needs among assisted persons, ranging from food to accommodation, without specific differences compared to needs assessments conducted by other institutions. The Romanian Red Cross further indicated that cooperation with public authorities took place, although such cooperation was not formalised through a cooperation protocol.¹⁴⁴⁹

G. Health care

Beneficiaries of international protection have the right to benefit from health insurance under the conditions provided by the law for the Romanian citizens.¹⁴⁵⁰ Persons suffering from mental health problems, including torture survivors and traumatised persons also have access to treatment in the same conditions as Romanian nationals.

Challenges in practice include lack of awareness of how the National Health Insurance House (*Casa Națională de Asigurări de Sănătate*, CNAS) works and what it entails. Therefore, NGOs play a key role in assisting beneficiaries of international protection to overcome all the practical obstacles, which would be insurmountable without this type of support.

Although Romanian law grants refugees the same access to healthcare as Romanian citizens, in practice, they often face significant barriers that prevent them from effectively accessing medical services.

Challenges faced by beneficiaries of international protection in the healthcare system¹⁴⁵¹

¹⁴⁴⁵ *ibid.* The category “persons with medical or psychosocial problems” includes 19 patients accommodated at the Femina Centre and 32 patients hosted at the Bucharest asylum centre following medical evacuations.

¹⁴⁴⁶ Information provided by DGASMB, 16 February 2026.

¹⁴⁴⁷ Information provided by DGASPC Sector 2, 13 February 2026. Child allowance: 292 RON for children aged 2-18, and 719 RON for children up to the age of 2, or 3 in case of a disabled child. In addition, community support in kind was provided through social vouchers amounting to RON 500 for food and RON 500 for medicines, granted on a quarterly basis

¹⁴⁴⁸ Information provided by DGASPC Galați, 23 February 2026.

¹⁴⁴⁹ Information provided by Red Cross, 16 February 2026.

¹⁴⁵⁰ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁵¹ Information provided by IOM in February 2022 and by CNRR in February 2025.

Limited understanding and financial barriers:

- Many beneficiaries struggle to understand how the health insurance system works;
- Lack of financial resources to pay for social health insurance;
- Even if insured, certain treatments and investigations are not covered and must be paid for by beneficiaries.

Bureaucratic and administrative challenges:

- Complex and lengthy procedure to obtain health insurance, register with CNAS, find a family doctor, and get specialist appointments;
- More complicated for unemployed refugees who must pay for their own insurance.

Limited access to healthcare providers:

- High waiting times for certain medical investigations;
- In big cities, family doctors often lack available slots or refuse refugee patients due to language barriers.

Language and cultural barriers:

- Most healthcare staff do not speak foreign languages, and hospitals/clinics do not provide interpreters;
- Difficulty navigating the healthcare system due to language barriers;
- CNRR provides support with interpretation services, medical accompaniment, assistance with forms, and communication with doctors.

Mental health challenges:

- Mental health is often overlooked for both refugees and host communities;
- There is a need for psycho-social support (PSS), psychological first aid (PFA), and trauma management, but Romanian healthcare and NGOs are not well-prepared.

According to CNRR, in practice, access to health care, particularly within the public healthcare system, remained difficult for beneficiaries of international protection in 2025. Although they are formally entitled to equal access to healthcare, persons granted international protection are not automatically insured after receiving status. During the first year of integration, beneficiaries may theoretically receive a monthly allowance of approximately EUR 150, intended to support their basic needs while learning Romanian and seeking employment. However, in order to access health services, they are required to pay contributions to the National Health Insurance House, which represents a significant financial burden for many of them. In addition, the procedure for obtaining health insurance is described as complex and cumbersome, requiring visits to several authorities before the final document proving insurance status can be obtained.¹⁴⁵²

CNRR noted that this situation worsened following legislative changes that entered into force on 1 August 2025 and removed the category of “co-insured person”. As a result, some beneficiaries of international protection who had previously been insured through an employed family member, including stay-at-home mothers insured through their husbands, are now required to pay health insurance contributions themselves.¹⁴⁵³

One of the main challenges remains the language barrier. The public healthcare system still does not provide interpreters within medical institutions, which makes even basic steps, such as scheduling consultations or medical procedures, extremely difficult. Communication problems also affect access to clear information on the costs of treatment and available services. In the absence of interpretation support, many beneficiaries rely on relatives or friends to communicate with doctors, despite the fact that these persons do not have professional medical interpretation training.¹⁴⁵⁴

¹⁴⁵² Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹⁴⁵³ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁵⁴ *ibid.*

CNRR further highlighted difficulties in accessing appropriate care for beneficiaries with highly specific medical conditions. In particular, women affected by female genital mutilation face serious obstacles in the public healthcare system, as medical personnel generally lack the specialised training and experience necessary to manage such cases, especially the most severe forms. CNRR referred to one case in which a patient in need of surgical intervention was assisted by a team of doctors from a private clinic who agreed to perform the operation *pro bono*. The medical team reportedly coordinated with specialised counterparts in other EU countries in order to prepare the intervention adequately. In that case, CNRR provided interpretation support between the patient and the medical staff.¹⁴⁵⁵

According to JRS Romania's representatives in Galați, in 2024 most beneficiaries of international protection did not have health insurance. However, according to the Law,¹⁴⁵⁶ certain groups are exempt from paying social health insurance contributions, including minors, young people up to 26 years old who are students or from the child protection system, dependents without their own income, persons with disabilities, patients under national health programs, and pregnant or lactating women, etc. Those who are unemployed and do not qualify for these exemptions can access emergency medical assistance at hospital Emergency Reception Units, while some medical costs, medications, psychological assistance, and health insurance may be subsidized through the integration programs run by NGOs, depending on funding. For insured beneficiaries, such as minors or those receiving minimum inclusion income, JRS has facilitated their registration with family doctors, assisting with language barriers by preparing written descriptions of symptoms. In cases requiring emergency unit visits, JRS has provided telephone mediation, and cultural mediators (Arabic and Ukrainian) are available to support communication. Non-urgent but acute medical issues occurring outside regular consultation hours are referred to Permanence Centers, which provide free primary healthcare in Galați between 3:00 PM and 8:00 AM on weekdays and operate 24 hours on weekends and public holidays. These centres offer medical assistance for acute conditions, referrals to specialists, emergency treatment administration, and the issuance of medical letters.¹⁴⁵⁷

As of 1 August 2025, co-insured persons (such as spouses or parents without income) are no longer entitled to free health insurance through an employed family member. This change has increased medical vulnerability among many families of beneficiaries of international protection, particularly in cases where only one spouse is employed.¹⁴⁵⁸

Furthermore, starting from 1 January 2026, patients enrolled in national health programmes are insured only for the specific condition covered by the respective programme (e.g. oncology or diabetes). For other conditions, including complications related to the primary illness, they are not covered. This has led to a decline in the quality of access to healthcare services and an increase in untreated serious medical conditions due to financial constraints among beneficiaries of international protection.¹⁴⁵⁹

Despite the legal provisions ensuring equal access to healthcare for beneficiaries of international protection, practical challenges such as bureaucratic hurdles, language barriers, and limited awareness of the healthcare system continue to hinder their ability to receive proper medical care. The role of NGOs in bridging these gaps is crucial, as they provide essential support in navigating the system, accessing medical services, and overcoming cultural and linguistic barriers.

Moving forward, a more coordinated approach involving authorities, healthcare institutions, and civil society is necessary to ensure that refugees and other vulnerable groups can fully exercise their right to healthcare. Strengthening integration programs, improving access to interpreters, and enhancing mental health support are key steps toward a more inclusive and efficient healthcare system. By addressing

¹⁴⁵⁵ *ibid.*. Problem observed in a similar case in 2025 by JRS Romania in Galați.

¹⁴⁵⁶ Article 224 Law 95/2006.

¹⁴⁵⁷ Information provided by JRS Romania, January 2025.

¹⁴⁵⁸ Information provided by JRS Romania, March 2026.

¹⁴⁵⁹ *ibid.*

these challenges, Romania can foster a healthcare environment that is not only legally inclusive but also practically accessible to all.

In 2025, according to the Center for Comparative Migration Studies (CCMS), an increasing discrepancy was identified between the legal framework and its implementation in practice, particularly in the area of access to healthcare, alongside persistent structural discrimination in this field.¹⁴⁶⁰

¹⁴⁶⁰ Information provided by CCMS, April 2026.

ANNEX I – Transposition of the CEAS in national legislation

Directives and other CEAS measures transposed into national legislation

Directive	Deadline for transposition	Date of transposition	Official title of corresponding act	Web Link
Directive 2011/95/EU Recast Qualification Directive	21 December 2013	27 January 2014	Ordonanța nr. 1/2014 pentru modificarea și completarea Legei nr. 122/2006 privind azilul în România și a Ordonanței Guvernului nr. 44/2004 privind integrarea socială a străinilor care au dobândit o formă de protecție sau un drept de ședere în România, precum și a cetățenilor statelor membre ale Uniunii Europene și Spațiului Economic European	https://bit.ly/3wJrax (RO)
Directive 2013/32/EU Recast Asylum Procedures Directive	20 July 2015	24 December 2015	Legea nr. 331/2015 pentru modificarea și completarea unor acte normative în domeniul străinilor	https://bit.ly/3wpLIXU (RO)
Directive 2013/33/EU Recast Reception Conditions Directive	20 July 2015	24 December 2015	Legea nr. 331/2015 pentru modificarea și completarea unor acte normative în domeniul străinilor	https://bit.ly/3wpLIXU (RO)
Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 Dublin III Regulation	Directly applicable 20 July 2013	24 December 2015	Legea nr. 331/2015 pentru modificarea și completarea unor acte normative în domeniul străinilor	https://bit.ly/3wpLIXU (RO)

The following section contains an overview of incompatibilities in transposition of the CEAS in national legislation:

Directive	Provision	Domestic law provision	Non-transposition or incorrect transposition
Directive 2011/95/EU Recast Qualification Directive	art. 17 (1)(d)	28 (1) (d) Asylum Law	Article 17 (1) (d) from the Directive 2011/95/EU stipulates that a third-country national or a stateless person is excluded from being eligible for subsidiary protection where there are serious reasons for considering that they constitute a danger to the community or to the security of the Member State in which they are present. The national legislation, namely Law No. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, with subsequent amendments and additions, stipulates in Article 28(1)(d) that "subsidiary protection shall not be granted to foreign nationals and stateless persons when there are serious grounds for believing that they constitute a danger to public order and national security of Romania", thus establishing a cumulative condition, and it is not sufficient that a foreign national or stateless person is only a danger to public order or national security. In view of this state of affairs, the operational situation revealed the need to amend the above-mentioned legal provision in order to establish the conditions for exclusion in an alternative, rather than cumulative, manner, depending on the degree of danger.
Directive 2013/33/EU Recast Reception Conditions Directive	Art 20(5)	Art 55^1 Asylum Decree	According to article 20(5) decisions for reduction or withdrawal of material reception conditions shall be based on the particular situation of the person concerned, especially with regard to persons covered by Article 21, taking into account the principle of proportionality. Member States shall ensure a dignified standard of living for all applicants. These provisions were not transposed in the Asylum Act and Decree.
Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 Dublin III Regulation	18(2)	94^1 Asylum Act	For persons whose applications are considered to have been tacitly withdrawn, i.e. persons who have left Romania and moved on to another EU Member State, and the asylum procedure has been discontinued, the asylum procedure may be continued if the person makes an asylum claim within 9 months of the decision to close the file, issued in case of implicit withdrawal. If the time limit has expired, the asylum claim is considered a Subsequent Application. Therefore, persons who withdraw their asylum applications and have not left the territory of the EU for at least 3 months or have not been returned to a third country or to the country of origin cannot continue their asylum procedure in case they return to Romania. As a consequence, they will have to lodge a subsequent application.

			This is not in line with the second paragraph of the article 18(2), which clearly states that when the Member State responsible had discontinued the examination of an application following its withdrawal by the applicant before a decision on the substance has been taken at first instance, that Member State shall ensure that the applicant is entitled to request that the examination of their application be completed or to lodge a new application for international protection, which shall not be treated as a subsequent application. Moreover, the Dublin III Regulation does not foresee a time limit for the possibility to continue the asylum procedure. The Romanian Asylum Act does not prescribe the possibility to continue the asylum procedure if the previous application of the returned person has been rejected at first instance. In this case the person returned has to submit a subsequent application. According to Article 18(2), Member States responsible shall ensure that the person whose application was rejected only at first instance has or has had the opportunity to seek an effective remedy.
--	--	--	---

Annex II – EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

In 2025, Romania continued preparatory efforts for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, following its adoption at EU level in 2024. The process has involved institutional coordination, initial legislative steps, and operational preparations, although limited public information has been made available regarding the overall implementation framework.

An inter-institutional coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum has been established through the Commission for Migration Management (CIM), operating under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Commission was created by Government Decision to coordinate the implementation of periodic strategic documents in the field of immigration within an inter-institutional cooperation framework. It represents the main mechanism for ensuring the effective implementation of immigration strategies, policies, and legislation, including monitoring the application of EU and international practices in this field.¹⁴⁶¹

The Commission is composed of representatives from key national authorities (such as the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), the Border Police, the Police, and the Gendarmerie) as well as relevant departments from other ministries and public authorities, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, institutions subordinated to the Government of Romania, and the Ministry of National Defence. The Commission is coordinated by a State Secretary within the Ministry of Internal Affairs responsible for public order and safety.¹⁴⁶²

In July 2024, a Working Subgroup dedicated to facilitating the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum was established within the Commission. The subgroup coordinates technical, legislative, financial, and logistical measures required for the implementation of the Pact and monitors progress in fulfilling these measures. It is coordinated by a State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs responsible for international relations and European affairs, while the secretariat is ensured by the Technical Secretariat of the Commission, composed of experts from the General Inspectorate for Immigration (Planning and Missions Service). The subgroup includes decision-making representatives and alternates from MAI structures involved in implementing the Pact, as well as technical experts responsible for specific implementation areas, including experts from IGI.¹⁴⁶³

During 2025, IGI carried out preparatory activities related to the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, particularly in cooperation with the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA) in the area of training staff working in asylum and reception, as further detailed below. In addition, institutional meetings were held both among structures within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and with other ministries.¹⁴⁶⁴

The implications of the Pact on Migration and Asylum for the asylum procedure (including administrative, accelerated, and border procedures) as well as for operational capacity (staff, reception centres, and infrastructure) were analysed within the framework of a National Implementation Plan for the Pact on Migration and Asylum. Several analyses were conducted across different areas of activity; however, these assessments are internal and have been taken into account in the process of drafting the legislation necessary for the implementation of the Pact.¹⁴⁶⁵

In 2025, IGI also cooperated with EUAA in preparing for the implementation of the Pact, particularly through training activities. IGI staff participated in EUAA modules included in the European Asylum Curriculum (EAC), organized training sessions based on online modules and conducted national training

¹⁴⁶¹ Information provided by IGI-DAI, 02 March 2026.

¹⁴⁶² *ibid.*

¹⁴⁶³ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁶⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁶⁵ *ibid.*

sessions. These activities will continue in 2026, including the organization of tailor-made training modules dedicated to the implementation of the new Pact on Migration and Asylum.¹⁴⁶⁶

According to IGI, no major challenges have been identified so far in relation to the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.¹⁴⁶⁷

However, NGOs reported that during the first half of the year, no official information was provided by the authorities regarding the national implementation plan of the Pact. There were informal indications that a draft plan had been submitted to the Commission and that the authorities were currently in the process of analysing existing legislation in light of the new regulations.¹⁴⁶⁸

In this context, several NGOs working in the field decided to submit a document containing recommendations and suggestions for the authorities, particularly on issues where the Pact grants Member States a degree of flexibility in implementation. In the absence of the authorities' vision regarding implementation, the recommendations remained relatively general. Based on this document, national NGOs requested meetings with key stakeholders in order to further elaborate on our proposals and to obtain additional information about the implementation plan. Meetings were held with a representative of the Border Police, with IGI during a project meeting on technical support provided by ICMPD, with the Ombudsman, and with the National Authority for Child Protection.¹⁴⁶⁹

Since the meetings were held separately with different institutions, the discussions focused on the specific mandates of each. These included the screening procedure, the independent mechanism for fundamental rights monitoring, the asylum procedure, reception standards, public custody and border return procedures, and the support provided to unaccompanied children and other vulnerable groups. Nevertheless, some topics were common across all meetings, including the role and involvement of civil society, the training of all actors involved, and the need for information provision, legal assistance, and interpretation services.¹⁴⁷⁰

UNHCR has been available to contribute to discussions on Pact implementation whenever requested by the authorities. Although UNHCR did not have an official role or input in drafting legislation, it participated in all relevant debates and provided advocacy input.¹⁴⁷¹

UNHCR was invited by the Border Police to participate in a pilot screening exercise in Sighet, where the new screening procedure was tested in a real-life scenario involving persons arriving irregularly to Romania. The pilot exercise took place in an integrated centre and involved IGI, Border Police, EUAA, Frontex and Europol, whereas the Ombudsperson, CNRR and Frontex Fundamental Rights Officers were observers. The exercise included all phases of screening: health checks, information provision, identification and verification of identity, registration of biometric data and database consultation, preliminary vulnerability identification, completion of the screening form, referral to subsequent procedures. UNHCR (together with CNRR) had the opportunity to observe how the mechanism functions in practice and to formulate observations. This provided insight into how the authorities envisage the practical implementation of the screening mechanism.¹⁴⁷²

Significant changes will take place, as the Pact introduces several new procedures, including the screening procedure, the independent mechanism for monitoring fundamental rights, the right to remain on the territory in certain cases. Not least, there will be major changes concerning unaccompanied minors,

¹⁴⁶⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁶⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁶⁸ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹⁴⁶⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁷⁰ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁷¹ Information provided by UNHCR, 13 March 2026.

¹⁴⁷² *ibid.*

who may, under specific exceptions, be placed in public custody. Some concerns relate to the lack of adequate conditions for vulnerable persons in public custody. This creates a greater risk of refoulement, as there will no longer be access to a higher court in the event of judicial errors. The accelerated procedures will also make it more difficult for individuals to access legal assistance in a timely manner and to have sufficient time to properly document their situation.¹⁴⁷³

On 4 February 2026, the Ministry of Internal Affairs published in transparency process the draft Law ensuring the national transposition of EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.¹⁴⁷⁴ It set a consultation period of ten calendar days from the date of publication, reflecting the minimum timeframe required by law. Following JRS request to extend it, the General Legal Directorate of the Ministry of Interior responded that “given the proximity of the date of entry into force of the European Regulations that make up the Pact on Migration and Asylum, respectively the transposition of Directive (EU) 2024/1346, namely on June 12, 2026, in relation to the complexity of the information contained therein” it cannot be extended; as mentioned before, the complexity of the draft law was not considered in deciding the minimum period for consultations.¹⁴⁷⁵ Also, the Ministry of Internal Affairs published with delay of five days after the initial publication and only after an express request, two relevant tables: one of concordance between the proposed Community normative acts to be transposed and the provisions of the implementing Draft Law and the second one comparative between the regulations in force and the proposed amendments, given that the Draft Law, intervenes in the existing normative framework; however, without considering any extension of the deadline. Two other documents were not published, namely preliminary assessment of the impact of the new regulations on fundamental human rights and freedoms, including by reference to the European Convention on Human Rights and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, and the impact study of the draft law.¹⁴⁷⁶ The Ministry of Internal Affairs responded that “these aspects were carried out at EU level in the context of the development of the legislative pieces that make up the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the current normative approach having the role of ensuring the harmonized implementation of the relevant European regulations, respectively the transposition of the specified directive, not having created new policies in the field of migration and asylum”.¹⁴⁷⁷ A public debate was organized on 24 February, following the specific request submitted by organizations who provided commentaries.

¹⁴⁷³ Information provided by CNRR, 03 February 2026.

¹⁴⁷⁴ Available [here](#).

¹⁴⁷⁵ Information provided by JRS Romania, March 2026.

¹⁴⁷⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁴⁷⁷ *ibid.* See also [here](#).