



# Mapping of social orientation: the case of Romania

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## Acronyms

<i>AMIF</i>	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
<i>GII</i>	General Inspectorate for Immigration
<i>JRS</i>	Jesuit Refugee Service Association in Romania
<i>MERI</i>	Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation
<i>IOM</i>	International Organisation for Migration – The Office in Romania
<i>TCN</i>	a third-country national

## Definitions

**Third country** - any state which is not a member of the European Union or of the European Economic Area, with the exception of the Swiss Confederation

**Third-country national = foreigner from a third country = third-country national (TCN)** - the foreigner who is a national of a non-EU Member State, the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation. Stateless persons may also be assimilated to the legal regime applicable to non-nationals from third countries, depending on the status and purpose of their stay in Romania.

**Immigration** - the movement of the population of a country of origin or residence to another country, called the country of destination, for the purpose of temporary or permanent settlement. It has the meaning of incoming migration, unlike emigration, which has the meaning of outgoing migration. In European countries, the immigrant population is defined statistically in two ways: by citizenship - persons who have the nationality of a state other than the one in which they reside, or foreign citizens and according to the place of birth - persons born abroad.

**Form of protection** - international protection or temporary protection granted by the Romanian State.

**International protection** - refugee status or status conferred through subsidiary protection.

**Refugee** - a foreign citizen or stateless person who meets the conditions set out in *the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* concluded in Geneva on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 1951, here in after referred to as the *Geneva Convention*, to which Romania adhered by *Law no. 46/1991*.

**Asylum seeker** - the foreign citizen or the stateless person who has expressed their will to obtain international protection in Romania, as long as the asylum procedure regarding their application has not been completed.

**The asylum procedure** - the examination of the asylum application by the competent authorities with a view to recognizing the refugee status or, where appropriate, granting subsidiary protection.

**Integration programme** - a set of measures and activities necessary to facilitate the social integration of foreigners, who have acquired a form of protection in Romania, carried out at their request under the coordination of the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

## **Country mapping report of language and social orientation programmes in Romania**

### **Aim**

The purpose of this report is to obtain a synthetic picture of the structure and content of the social integration programmes/modules and of the Romanian language tuition for foreign citizens, as part of the integration programmes in Romania. The report is a relevant tool in assessing the quality of these programmes/modules and identifying good practices.

### **Methodology**

The completion of the report involved a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, which highlighted, besides the legislative framework, the practices in the field. In our approach we included: analysis of secondary sources (literature on integration, published nationally and internationally); qualitative research (semi-structured interviews with IOM employees); quantitative research (questionnaire) and analysis of data received from public institutions. A questionnaire was elaborated that was sent for completion to two central public authorities, the General Inspectorate for Immigration and the Ministry of Education and Research, eight NGOs, The Intercultural Institute Timisoara, AIDROM, ARCA – The Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants, The Romanian National Council for Refugees, The Jesuit Refugee Service Association in Romania, The Human Rights League (Cluj Branch), Conect Association (AdoSahRom) and the International Organisation for Migration's Office in Romania. The questionnaire was completed by the date of reporting only by the GII.

An interview was conducted with the Head of Mission of the International Organisation for Migration, the Office in Romania (IOM) and a group interview with two Romanian language teachers and two persons conducting cultural accommodation sessions within the IOM.

# I. Legal and institutional framework

## 1. Legal framework of social orientation

The legal framework for courses, social integration programmes for foreign citizens consists of a series of normative acts representing primary legislation and respectively, secondary legislation.<sup>1</sup>

The **primary legislation** is made up of the following normative acts:

- *Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, with subsequent amendments and supplements.* This law establishes the legal regime of non-nationals seeking a form of protection in Romania, the legal regime of foreign beneficiaries of a form of protection in Romania, the procedure for granting, terminating and cancelling a form of protection in Romania, as well as the procedure for the determination of the Member State responsible for examining the asylum application.
- *Decision of the Romanian Government no. 1251/2006 approving the implementing rules of Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, with subsequent amendments and supplements.*
- *Ordinance no. 44/2004 on the social integration of non-nationals who have acquired a form of protection or the right of residence in Romania, as well as of the citizens of the Member States of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, as subsequently amended and supplemented.* This ordinance aims at facilitating the social integration of the following categories of persons: a) non-nationals who have acquired international protection in Romania by ensuring access to the following rights: the right to a job, the right to housing, the right to health care and assistance social security, the right to education, as well as by carrying out specific activities of cultural accommodation, counselling and learning of the Romanian language, reunified in integration programmes; b) non-nationals who have acquired a right of residence in Romania and nationals of the European Union and the European Economic Area, by carrying out specific activities of cultural accommodation, counselling and learning of the Romanian language.
- *Government Decision no. 1483/2004 approving the Methodological Norms for the application of the Government Ordinance no. 44/2004 on social integration of non-nationals in Romania, with subsequent amendments and supplements.*

The **secondary legislation** is made up of the following normative acts:

- *Order of the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation no. 5925/2009 approving the methodology for organising and conducting the initiation course in Romanian and the schooling of children of non-nationals and the procedures related to the elaboration, approval and distribution of the programmes and manuals of the Romanian language courses for children of non-nationals who have acquired a form of protection or a right of residence in Romania, as well as citizens of the Member States of the European Union and of the European Economic Area.*
- *Order of the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation no. 5924/2009 for the approval of the methodology for the organisation and conduct of the Romanian language training course, the procedures related to the elaboration, approval and distribution of the programmes and manuals of the Romanian language course and of the evaluation procedures for the participants in the Romanian language course,*

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<sup>1</sup> General Inspectorate for Immigration, Legislation, <http://igi.mai.gov.ro/ro/content/legisla%C8%9Bie>, accessed 03 January 2018.

*for adult non-nationals who have acquired a form of protection or a right of residence in Romania, as well as citizens of the Member States of the European Union and of the European Economic Area.*

The enrolment in the integration programme is voluntary for persons who obtain a form of protection on the territory of Romania. A person with a form of protection can receive a grant of 540 lei (116 EUR) /person/month for maximum 12 months, but they have to enrol and participate in the activities of the integration programme, which are set in the individual integration plan. This condition, in order to benefit from the non-refundable grant, results from the provisions of Article 60 of the *Romanian Government Decision no. 1251/2006 approving the implementing rules of Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania*. If a person with a form of protection refuses to participate in the activities included in the integration programme without proper reasons, according to the legal provisions, the General Inspectorate for Immigration in collaboration with the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection may terminate or suspend the granting of the non-refundable aid. When deciding on granting of the right of long-term residence in the case of persons with a form of protection, the degree of integration is assessed, taking into account the Romanian language knowledge, the means of maintenance, etc.

## 2. Course/module providers

Romania has had legislation in the field of integration since 2004. Certain ministries and the local authorities are the main attributions in this area. The legislation is in the process of changing to adapt to the existing situation, to the new needs, to the new requirements at European level. In this respect, it is likely that the legislation will undergo some changes in the near future.

In Romania, each institutional actor (The Ministry of Home Affairs, The Ministry of National Education, The Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, The Ministry of Health, etc.) is responsible for integrating non-nationals in its field of activity, coordinating and monitoring the policy of the Ministry of Home Affairs through the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII), which also has the task of providing, through its regional structures, specific services to facilitate the integration into the Romanian society of different categories of foreigners.

Institutional coordination is mainly done through meetings with decision makers (organised according to the National Immigration Strategy) and expert meetings (regularly organised by the General Inspectorate for Immigration through the Asylum and Integration Directorate). The measures provided for by the law to achieve integration refer, on the one hand, to facilitating access to a range of economic and social rights, such as the right to a job, housing, the right to education, the right to health care and social assistance, and on the other hand the implementation of integration programmes (specific activities of cultural orientation, counselling and learning of the Romanian language).

*Government Ordinance no. 44/2004 on the social integration of non-nationals who have obtained a form of protection in Romania, as amended and supplemented*, defines social integration as the process of active participation of non-nationals who have acquired a form of protection or a right of residence in Romania and citizens of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area to the economic, social and cultural life of the Romanian society, in order to prevent social marginalisation, respectively in order to adapt to the conditions of the Romanian society.

The general objective of the policy of integrating non-nationals who have obtained a form of protection in Romania is to help them self-support, become independent from the state assistance or non-governmental organisations, and actively participate in economic, social and cultural life.

In this regard, the General Inspectorate for Immigration through the Regional Centres supports these people by offering a package of services in the Integration Programme:

- o accommodation on request in GII centres for the enrolment period of the person in the integration programme (up to 12 months); to benefit from this service, they will have to pay a monthly contribution representing the cost of utilities; vulnerable persons are exempted from the payment of utilities, according to the provisions of *GO 44/2004*.
- o Romanian language courses, during the period of the person's enrolment in the integration programme (up to 12 months), organised with the support of the school inspectorates;
- o cultural accommodation sessions;
- o granting, for a period of 2 months, material assistance equal to the number of asylum seekers;
- o social counselling that includes ensuring access to their rights in Romania: the right to a job, the right to housing, the right to health and social care, social security, the right to education;
- o counselling and psychological support;
- o a non-refundable grant amounting to 540 lei/person, granted for a maximum period of 12 months, provided that they enrol in and participate in the activities of the integration programme set out in the individual integration plan;
- o after the completion of the programme, financial support may be requested for the payment of accommodation outside the Centre by the settlement of up to 50% of accommodation costs for a period of up to one year.<sup>2</sup>

Within the integration programme, three types of activities are offered:

- a. Romanian language courses
- b. Cultural accommodation sessions
- c. Counselling sessions/activities

The General Inspectorate for Immigration has attempted some changes in the field to meet new requirements and needs, as people who obtain protection - and not only them, because they have integration responsibilities and for third-country nationals with a legal form of residence on the national territory - are no longer located only in the area of the regional centres, but also in foreign communities in other cities, in Cluj, Iași, Constanța, Brașov, Craiova, Oradea, etc. The entire system was re-established, and through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund - regional integration centres were created in 11 cities with foreigners' communities. Here all the activities of the integration programme are carried out on a centralised basis - all Romanian language courses, cultural accommodation, recreational activities, counselling of the target group are carried out throughout the national territory. In these regional centres the work aims at integration within the civil society that is supported through grant contracts. In the Bucharest region, the International Organisation for Migration has regional integration centres open in Bucharest and Craiova, and a work point in Giurgiu and Pitești. In Galați region, there is World Vision, with one regional integration centre in Galați, one in Constanța, and a work point in Brăila. There is also the ICAR Foundation for the Suceava region which has two regional centres open in Rădăuți and Iași, and one work point in Vaslui. There is also the region of the center of Șomcuta Mare - Maramureș, LADO Cluj, with a regional integration centre created in Cluj and one in Baia Mare. In the west there is AIDROM Romania, with one regional integration centre created in Timișoara and another one in Oradea.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <http://igi.mai.gov.ro/ro/content/programul-de-integrare>, accessed on 03 January 2018.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.euractiv.ro/the-uncountryed-romania/eleodor-pirvu-inspectoratul-general-pentru-imigrari-directia-azil-si-integrare-e2-80-9eromania-pana-in-momentul-de-fata-nu-a-avut-foarte-multe-cereri-de-azil-7291>, accessed on 04 January 2018.

The General Inspectorate for Immigration is designated at national level as a delegated authority for evaluating tenders, projects, contracting and making payments through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. The cooperation of the General Inspectorate for Immigration with the non-governmental organisations active in the field is carried out either through a partnership between the two institutions or on the basis of a financing contract resulting from a project selection. Organisations conducting courses, social integration modules are those that implement projects funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, such as the Integration Organisation for Migration - the Romanian Office, the Jesuit Refugee Service Association, the Intercultural Institute of Timișoara, the Ecumenical Association of the Romanian Churches, the League for the Defence of Human Rights, the ICAR Foundation, the Romanian Association for Health Promotion, the Romanian National Council for Refugees. These projects are carried out at regional level:

- Region 1: Bucharest, Ilfov, Dolj, Prahova Buzău, Dâmbovița, Argeș, Vâlcea Gorj, Brașov, Covasna, Giurgiu, Călărași, Ialomița, Teleorman and Olt;
- Region 2: the counties of Galați, Vrancea, Bacău, Vaslui, Tulcea and Constanța;
- Region 3: the counties of Suceava, Botoșani, Neamț and Iași;
- Region 4: the counties of Maramures, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Cluj, Bistrița Năsăud, Mureș, Harghita, Sibiu and Alba;
- Region 5: the counties of Timiș, Arad, Bihor, Hunedoara, Mehedinți and Caraș Severin.

The Romanian language courses are organised by the General Inspectorate for Immigration in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education through the school inspectorates and by the non-governmental organisations that are active in the field of asylum and integration of non-nationals in Romania and which carry out annually projects funded by *the Fund for Asylum, Migration and Integration*.

The cultural orientation courses and the counselling sessions are supported by the integration officers and the specialised staff of the Regional Centres of the General Inspectorate for Immigration and by NGOs working in the field of asylum and integration of non-nationals in Romania and carrying out projects funded by the previously mentioned fund.

## II. Audience

According to the GII data, the number of non-nationals in Romania fluctuated slightly between 2007 and 2017, standing at about 100,000, of which about 40,000 are EU citizens. At 31 December 2016 there were 112,144 non-nationals in Romania, of which 58% were from third countries and 42% from EU and EEA countries.

Statistics of the *General Inspectorate for Immigration* submitted in January 2018

### RIGHT OF STAY – CITIZENS FROM EU AND EEA

Table 1. Number of EU and EEA non-nationals with legal residence, by country of origin

Citizenship	Total 31.10.2017	on Total 31.12.2016	on Total 31.12.2015
ITALY	14,271	13,673	12,543
GERMANY	5,890	5,617	5,317
FRANCE	5,721	5,268	4,747
HUNGARY	2,765	2,937	2,933
GREECE	2,688	2,558	2,388
BULGARIA	2,617	2,482	2,235
GREAT BRITAIN	2,357	2,191	2,081
SPAIN	2,203	2,125	1,963
AUSTRIA	1,773	1,818	1,842
POLAND	1,756	1,638	1,555
Others	7,256	6,904	6,278
Grand Total	49,297	47,211	43,882

We note a predominance of non-nationals from Italy, followed by Germany and France.

Table 2. Number of EU and EEA non-nationals with legal residence, by county of residence

County	Total 31.10.2017	Total 31.12.2016	Total 31.12.2015
Bucharest	10,659	10,002	9,112
Cluj	5,284	4,642	3,949
Timiș	2,964	2,508	2,467
Ilfov	2,574	2,364	2,230
Arad	2,276	2,269	2,154
Bihor	2,152	2,142	2,151
Sibiu	1,859	1,872	1,763
Iași	1,812	1,813	1,733
Mureș	1,762	1,725	1,524
Constanța	1,510	1,543	1,465
Others	16,445	16,331	15,334
Grand Total	49,297	47,211	43,882

**Table 3. Number of EU and EEA non-nationals with legal residence, by age group and sex**

Age range	31.10.2017			31.12.2016			31.12.2015		
	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M
0-13 years	1,604	774	830	1,542	737	805	1,563	763	800
14-17 years	486	234	252	454	213	241	409	177	232
18-34 years	16,006	6,340	9,666	15,233	5,829	9,404	14,012	5,158	8,854
35-64 years	25,353	4,338	21,015	24,580	4,149	20,431	23,346	3,855	19,491
Over65 years old	5,848	960	4,888	5,402	922	4,480	4,552	772	3,780
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,297</b>	<b>12,646</b>	<b>36,651</b>	<b>47,211</b>	<b>11,850</b>	<b>35,361</b>	<b>43,882</b>	<b>10,725</b>	<b>33,157</b>

We note that the majority of the EU and EEA non-nationals with the right of legal residence fall within the age range of 18 to 60 years, so they are older people/part of the active population.

The gender profile highlights a predominantly male migration.

### RIGHT OF LEGAL STAY – THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

The number of third-country nationals has varied over the last few years to around 60,000, rising to several thousands in 2008-2009, followed by a decline as a result of the economic crisis and a slight and steady increase since 2014, so that in the last three years it is around 60,000, up to 64,903 registered by the General Inspectorate for Immigration at the end of 2016.

**Table 4. Number of third-country non-nationals with the right of legal residence, by country of origin**

Citizenship	Total 31.10.2017	Total 31.12.2016	Total 31.12.2015
MOLDOVA	10,566	10,485	9,272
TURKEY	9,050	9,087	8,882
CHINA	7,879	7,727	7,542
SYRIA	5,241	4,852	4,505
ISRAEL	3,223	2,777	2,260
IRAQ	2,716	2,675	2,259
USA	2,176	2,091	2,107
SERBIA	1,985	1,944	1,758
UCRAIN	1,914	1,873	1,744
TUNISIA	1,797	1,835	1,721
Others	20,134	19,557	18,207
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>66,681</b>	<b>64,903</b>	<b>60,257</b>

We note the majority originate from Moldova, followed by Turkey and China.

**Table 5. Number of third-country non-nationals with legal residence, by county of residence**

County	Total 31.10.2017	Total 31.12.2016	Total 31.12.2015
Bucharest	22,306	22,571	21,256
Ilfov	6,467	5,939	5,549
Timiș	4,288	4,062	4,009

Constanța	3,868	3,988	3,646
Iași	3,811	3,777	3,334
Cluj	2,664	2,546	2,249
Galați	2,069	1,800	1,549
Suceava	1,433	1,304	1,261
Arad	1,345	1,261	1,124
Brașov	1,341	1,236	1,116
Others	17,089	16,419	15,164
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>66,681</b>	<b>64,903</b>	<b>60,257</b>

Concerning the concentration on residential areas, most of the non-nationals are in Bucharest - Ilfov, followed by Timiș, Constanța, Iași and Cluj.

**Table 6. Number of third-country non-nationals with the right of legal residence, according to the reasons for the stay**

Aim	Total 31.10.2017	Total 31.12.2016	Total 31.12.2015
Studies	15,898	15,437	13,698
Family members	26,430	27,903	26,382
Employment/dependent activities	6,493	5,638	5,461
Other aims	17,860	15,925	14,716
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>66,681</b>	<b>64,903</b>	<b>60,257</b>

From the perspective of the reasons for staying in Romania, most third-country nationals come for family reunification followed by those coming for study and work.

**Table 7. Number of third-country non-nationals with legal residence, by age group and sex**

Age range	Total 31.10.2017			Total 31.12.2016			Total 31.12.2017		
	F	M		F	M		F	M	
0-13 years	5,031	2,368	2,663	4,873	2,320	2,553	4,532	2,180	2,352
14-17 years	2,003	1,000	1,003	2,101	1,067	1,034	1,904	937	967
18-34 years	30,197	7	17,350	29,388	12,680	16,708	27,564	11,750	15,814
35-64 years	26,799	9,141	17,658	26,055	8,708	17,347	24,089	7,812	16,277
Over 65 years old	2,651	1,230	1,421	2,486	1,189	1,297	2,168	1,044	1,124
		26,58							
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,681</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40,095</b>	<b>64,903</b>	<b>25,964</b>	<b>38,939</b>	<b>60,257</b>	<b>23,723</b>	<b>36,534</b>

We note that the majority of the third-country foreign population with the right of legal residence fall between the ages of 18 and 60, being at working-age/part of the active population, and the gender profile shows a predominantly male migration.

## 1. Coverage of social orientation courses, by category of non-nationals

According to the GII data submitted in January 2018, on 30 September 2017, IGI's recorded 1.103 persons with a form of protection who opted for joining the integration programme carried out between 30 September 2016 – 30 September 2017. The countries of origin are: Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Palestinian stateless persons, Somalia, Yemen, Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, Central African Republic, Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Libya, Armenia, Bosnia, Georgia, Ukraine and Congo.

The minimum indicators set by the GII for the projects dedicated to integration activities and funded by AMIF:

**Table 8. Number of beneficiaries of a form of protection / non-nationals with legal residence in Romania who benefit from educational activities, including Romanian language courses and cultural orientation / accommodation, by region**

Region	No. of protection beneficiaries	No. of TCNs with right of legal stay
Region 1 Project developed by <i>IOM Romania</i>	400	100
Region 2 Project developed by <i>JRS Romania</i>	150	50
Region 3 Project developed by <i>ICAR Foundation</i>	100	40
Region 4 Project developed by <i>the League of Human Rights Defence - Cluj Branch</i>	100	40
Region 5 Project carried out by <i>the Ecumenical Association of the Romanian Churches</i>	50	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>280</b>

All persons who received a form of protection or a right of residence on the territory of Romania benefit from information and counselling activities.

**Table 9. Number of beneficiaries of a form of protection enrolled in the integration programme**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	Variation
Persons with a form of protection enrolled in the integration programme	246	269	204	521	↑

The persons with a form of protection mentioned above have benefited from cultural accommodation sessions.

## 2. Categories of non-nationals having access to/obligation to attend social orientation courses/modules

The social integration of foreigners who have acquired a right of residence in Romania and of citizens of the Member States of the European Union and of the European Economic Area is made by participating, upon request, in cultural accommodation, counselling and learning of the Romanian language.

The person who has obtained a form of protection, either refugee status or subsidiary protection, may request the Romanian state to be included in the integration programme; the integration programme is not compulsory, but if the person wants the support of the Romanian state, then they are required to join the programme. They cannot benefit from any social aid if they do not participate actively in the integration programme according to the individual plan drawn up by the specialised personnel of the six regional centres, together with the non-governmental organisations with which projects from the Fund for Asylum, Migration and Integration are implemented. Therefore, thus the person who has obtained a form of protection is obliged to participate in the Romanian language learning activities, cultural accommodation activities and counselling sessions.

The Romanian language learning courses are organised by the Ministry of Education and Research (MER) in collaboration with the General Inspectorate for Immigration and their aim is to familiarise the participants with the Romanian language. At the end of the course the participants' knowledge is evaluated by a committee designated by the MER that evaluates the level of knowledge of the participants and issues a certificate of participation.

The cultural accommodation sessions are carried out by the GII specialized staff in order to familiarize the above mentioned persons with the Romanian traditions, customs and cultural values and to provide practical information on the Romanian society.

Foreign citizens from the EU, EEA or third countries have the right to participate in integration activities according to the individual needs, but do not sign an integration protocol.

The following categories of non-nationals benefit from access to Romanian language courses:

- minors seeking asylum;
- persons who have obtained a form of protection;
- foreign citizens with right of residence on the Romanian territory.

## 3. Initiatives targeted at specific non-national groups

No data in this respect.

# III. Courses/modules' characteristics

Within the integration programme three types of activities are provided:

1. language learning courses
2. cultural accommodation sessions
3. sessions / counselling activities

These activities take into account the integration needs of the target group at local and regional level, in particular the promotion of autonomy and equality concerning the treatment in accessing public services, including the adaptation of these services, so as to meet their needs.

#### 1. Romanian language courses

Foreign residents outside the EU and the EEA can benefit, according to the law, from free Romanian language courses for one year. In this respect, interested persons must apply to the School Inspectorate in the county where they live. Therefore, for the persons who have obtained a form of protection, the Romanian language courses are free of charge within the integration programme and are organised in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education, through the school inspectorates and complementary by the NGOs working in the field of asylum and integration of foreigners in Romania and running projects funded by FAMIF.

According to the GII data, between June 2017 and June 2018, the NGOs working in the field of asylum and integration of foreigners in Romania and conducting Romanian language courses through AMIF funded projects are:

- **The International Organisation for Migration, its Representative in Romania, project implemented in Region 1** (Bucharest, Ilfov, Dolj, Prahova Buzău, Dâmbovița, Argeș, Vâlcea, Gorj, Brașov, Covasna, Giurgiu, Călărași, Ialomița, Teleorman and Olt), *"INTERACT - Integrated Services for Migrants, Social and Multicultural Dialogue" Programme*. Within the project, **2 Regional Integration Centres (in Bucharest and in Craiova) were set up, two work points (in Pitești and Brașov)**, and two regional coordination points in the GII Regional Centres in Bucharest and Giurgiu;
- **The Jesuit Refugee Service Association in Romania**, the project *"I Am a Stranger Until You Get to Know Me"* being developed in Region 2 (Galați, Vrancea, Bacău, Vaslui, Tulcea and Constanța counties). **Within the project, 2 Regional Integration Centres were set up in Constanța and Galați**, and a work point in Vaslui;
- **ICAR Foundation**, project developed in Region 3 (Suceava, Botoșani, Neamț and Iași counties) the project *"Integration of Foreigners with Legal Stay in Romanian Society - a Common Challenge"*. Within the project one **Regional Integration Centre** in Iași was established and a work point in Rădăuți;
- **Human Rights Defence League - Cluj Branch**, project developed in Region 4 (Maramures, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Cluj, Bistrița Năsăud, Mureș, Harghita, Sibiu and Alba counties), the project *"MigraNet – The Regional Network for the Integration of Migrants"*. Within the project, **2 Regional Integration Centres were set up in Cluj-Napoca and Baia Mare and 3 work points at Șomcuța Mare** within the Regional Centre of GII, in Târgu Mureș and Sibiu;
- **The Ecumenical Association of Romanian Churches**, project implemented in Region 5 (Timiș, Arad, Bihor, Hunedoara, Mehedinți and Caraș Severin counties), the project *"Integration NOW – A Comprehensive and Unitary Approach on Migrants"*. Within the project, **2 Regional Integration Centres were set up in Timișoara and Oradea** and one work place within the Regional Centre of GII in Timișoara.

The following categories of foreigners benefit from access to Romanian language courses:

- minors seeking asylum;
- persons who have obtained a form of protection,
- foreign citizens with right of residence on the territory of Romania.

The following categories of non-nationals benefit from cultural accommodation and counselling sessions:

- asylum seekers;
- persons who have obtained a form of protection;
- foreign citizens with right of residence on the territory of Romania.

Courses are conducted in schools appointed by the school inspectorates and complementary in the Regional Integration Centres referred to in point 1.

At the beginning of each school year, the school inspectorates appoint the teachers and the educational units where the Romanian language courses will be held. The courses supported by NGOs are provided by lecturers employed in the project.

The objective of the Romanian language learning course is to provide an elementary level of language that facilitates integration into the Romanian society.

The organisation and running of the Romanian language courses through the school inspectorates are achieved according to:

- *Order of the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation no. 5924/2009 for the approval of the methodology for the organisation and conduct of the Romanian language training course, the procedures related to the elaboration, approval and distribution of the programmes and manuals of the Romanian language course and of the evaluation procedures for the participants in the Romanian language course, for adult non-nationals who have acquired a form of protection or a right of residence in Romania, as well as citizens of the Member States of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, published in the Official Gazette no. 0858/09.12.2009*

- *Order of the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation no. 5925/2009 approving the methodology for organising and conducting the initiation course in Romanian and the schooling of children of non-nationals and the procedures related to the elaboration, approval and distribution of the programmes and manuals of the Romanian language courses for children of non-nationals who have acquired a form of protection or a right of residence in Romania, as well as citizens of the Member States of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, published in the Official Gazette no. 0863/10.12.2009.*

The Romanian language courses supported by NGOs are carried out according to the methodologies approved by the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

The Romanian language courses supported by school inspectorates are full-time courses held twice a week, of 2 hours. Those supported by NGOs are more flexible and adapted to the needs of the beneficiaries, so that they can acquire knowledge (where appropriate, they can be held in evening, at distance, etc.).

There are Romanian language textbooks for foreign citizens.

Through projects funded by AMIF, in parallel with the courses of Romanian language and cultural orientation, there are also carried out socio-educational and recreational activities meant to consolidate the acquired information. For more details, see the websites of organisations running AMIF funded projects.

The Romanian language courses supported through the school inspectorates are funded through the state budget, namely the MNE.

The beneficiaries of courses attend the Romanian language courses free of charge. The only exception is that for foreign citizens with the right of residence in Romania attending the courses organised through school inspectorates, textbooks are provided against remuneration.

Under AMIF-funded projects, financial incentives can be granted to complete social integration activities.

Also, in case of persons who receive a form of protection and are enrolled in the integration programme, the attendance at the Romanian language course is taken into account.

As concerns the EU and EEA citizens with right of legal residence, Romanian language courses are organised against remuneration by the Romanian Cultural Institute, some being provided in collaboration with private language centres, others in collaboration with foreign language departments of faculties, NGOs, etc.

## **2. Sessions of cultural accommodation for people who have obtained a form of protection**

Cultural orientation courses are supported by the integration officers from the GII Regional Centres and by NGOs active in the field of asylum and integration of foreigners in Romania and running AMIF funded projects.

The following categories of foreigners benefit from cultural orientation sessions:

- asylum seekers;
- persons who have obtained a form of protection;
- foreign citizens with the right of residence on the territory of Romania.

The cultural accommodation sessions are held within the Regional Integration Centres.

The staff is provided by the GII through integration officers, and in the case of NGOs through their own staff.

The objective of the cultural accommodation sessions is familiarisation with the specifics of the host society and the European values, so as to increase the degree of adaptation and to facilitate integration.

Cultural orientation sessions supported by NGOs are carried out according to their own methodologies approved by the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

The projects funded by AMIF, in parallel with the courses of Romanian language and cultural orientation, also carry out socio-educational and recreational activities meant to consolidate the acquired information. For more details, see the websites of organisations running FAMI funded projects.

The cultural orientation sessions are provided free of charge to the beneficiary, their cost being borne by AMIF.

Under AMIF-funded projects, financial incentives can be granted to complete the social integration activities.

Also, in the case of persons who receive a form of protection and are enrolled in the integration programme, at the award of the grant the attendance at the cultural orientation sessions is taken into account.

There are no forms of examination and no participation certificates are issued. The degree of participation and interest in integration activities is specified in the evaluation of the integration programme carried out by the GII integration officer.

## **3. Sessions / Counselling activities for people who have obtained a form of protection**

Counselling is supported by the integration officers within the GII Regional Centres and by the NGOs active in the field of asylum and integration of foreigners in Romania and running AMIF funded projects.

The following categories of foreigners benefit from counselling sessions:

- asylum seekers;
- persons who have obtained a form of protection;
- foreign citizens with the right of residence on the territory of Romania.

Counselling and information activities can be carried out in the Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum Seekers, at GII counters and/or in the Regional Integration Centres.

The staff is provided by the GII through integration officers, and in the case of NGOs through their own staff.

Counselling is based on leaflets and brochures developed by NGOs and endorsed by the GII. For more details see the websites of organisations running AMIF funded projects (e.g. [www.romaniaeacasa.ro](http://www.romaniaeacasa.ro))

Through AMIF-funded projects, socio-educational and recreational activities are developed to enhance the information acquired, the target group also benefits from the assistance of intercultural mediators and volunteers. Activities are funded through AMIF.

Information and counselling sessions are free of charge.

## IV. Content of courses

### 1. Aims of the courses

The objective of the Romanian language learning course is to provide an elementary level of language that facilitates integration into the Romanian society.

The objectives of the cultural accommodation sessions are: to initiate and facilitate the integration process in Romania; to provide a more accurate picture of the realities in Romania; to raise awareness of the basic cultural, linguistic and civic aspects of the society.

The purpose of the counselling activities is to inform about the rights and obligations provided by law.

### 2. Themes covered

Rights of foreigners in Romania, institutional framework, access to social services, health, education, employment, entrepreneurship, relevant legal framework, norms and values, national holidays, cultural customs, history, traditions, tourist objectives.

### 3. Teaching methods

Presentations, group discussions, working in small groups, meetings with representatives of institutions and organisations of interest to foreigners (*County Agency for Employment, National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons, etc.*), study visits (museums, parks, shops, cultural events, sights), watching movies, role plays, etc.

### 4. Participation of host society in the courses

Civil society representatives are invited to attend the courses; intercultural events are also taking place.

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