

Romania – ANED country profile

The information contained in this summary was compiled by the Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED) in April 2009.

Academic networks and resources

[Institutul National pentru Prevenirea si Combaterea Excluziunii Sociale a Persoanelor cu Handicap](#) (INPCESPH) - National Institute for Prevention and Control of Social Exclusion for People with Disabilities

Review [Society and Disabilities](#), publication of National Institute for Prevention and Control of Social Exclusion for People with Disabilities (INEPCESPH), Bucharest.

[Bulletin of National Institute for Prevention and Control of Social Exclusion for People with Disabilities](#) (INEPCESPH), Bucharest.

Review for Special Education, National Institute for Recuperation and Education of People with Disabilities.

Policy and enforcement bodies

The key national bodies with responsibility for disability law and policy implementation include:

[Autoritatea Nationala Pentru Persoane cu Handicap](#) (ANPH) is a governmental body with responsibilities for policies, national and regional strategies and intervention programs for all person with disabilities. Also, they manage services, propose legislation and monitor NGOs.

State Secretary for Persons with Handicap (SSPH)

National Agency for Child Protection and Adoption (ANPCA)

Ministry of Health and Family (MHF)

Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity (MMSS)

Ministry of Education and Research (MEC).

Organisations of disabled people

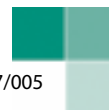
The national organisation representing disabled people at the European level (European Disability Forum) is:

[Organizatia Nationala a Persoanelor cu Handicap din Romania](#) (ONPHR) is the most important NGO involved in national programs for deinstitutionalization, equality of opportunity and social integration. The [initiative to form a national council of disabled people](#) (CNDR) occurred in 2004.

Other significant national organisations of disabled people include:

[Romanian National Association for the Deaf](#)

[Romanian Association of the Blind](#)



National law and strategy

Romania has signed the [United Nations Convention](#) and the [Optional Protocol](#).

Important national laws, policies and strategies concerning disabled people include:

[Law no. 448/2006](#), Regarding the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Disabled Persons, Republication (last [amended in June 2008](#)). [269/207](#) provides detailed rules for implementation.

[Law no. 448/2006](#), Regarding the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Disabled Persons, Republication 1 OG no. 1 – January 3, 2008. Norms for accessibility in the built environment are set out in [NP 051 2001](#)

The [National Strategy for the Special Protection and Social Integration of Disabled People in Romania](#) was approved in 2002, based on the principles of the 1993 UN Standard Rules, and addresses: rehabilitation; special education; equal opportunities; support services. The priority objectives were administrative and institutional reform.

[The Disability Manifesto in Romania](#) (Report of Romanian National Council of Disability), 2003, Bucharest.

Facts and figures

Data on population indicate that:

According to the official data there were 613,924 persons with disabilities at December 31, 2008 (much below the share of 7-12% in the total population calculated for EU Member States). Of these, 59,164 were children and 554,760 were adults ([National Authority for Disabled Persons](#); [ANPH Statistics](#); National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption). Organisations representing disabled people contest the figures, mainly because they refer to the number of disability certificates issued by each territorial commission.

In 2006 disabled adults and children were 2.25% of the population (488,054 persons, of whom 261,449 are women), slightly increasing during 2007 to 2.63% (567,542 persons, of whom 308,812 women).

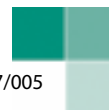
The number of disabled adults in residential institutions has decreased, while the number of disabled adults in the care of the family or living on their own has increased.

Data on employment indicate that:

The number of disabled persons employed was recorded as 21,906 on 31 December 2007, compared to 16,225 on 31 December 2006.

Of these, 2,431 were people with severe disabilities and 16,707 people with significant disabilities. ([National Strategic National Report Regarding Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008-2010](#))

The [Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) is involved in a programme to promote employment and occupational training for disabled people (funded by the US Department of Labor.t



Data on education indicate that:

Almost one third of all children and young people with SEN in Romania attend mainstream schools, mainly children and youths with a low or medium extent of SEN.

Where children with severe and multiple SEN attend special or mainstream schools this has often been made possible with the support given by NGOs.

Teachers in mainstream schools are trained in teaching individualised lessons. Special and mainstream school teachers do not co-operate together.

A considerable number of children with severe and multiple impairments do not attend school at all.

The identification of SEN is done from a medical deficit point of view as opposed to an SEN point of view. The shift towards a positive view of SEN, including the necessary support, that has been made in the European countries over the last decades, has not been taken into account yet in Romania.

Most special education units are in urban areas (84.9% compared to 15.1% in rural areas).

19,315 pupils attend special classes, of which 61.8% are boys and most have learning difficulties. The number of children in these schools decreased by 9.8% as compared to the 2004-2005 academic year.

Data on accessibility indicate that:

Accessibility evaluations were completed for four areas (Satu Mare, Constanta, Cluj Napoca, Ramnicu Valcea) as part of an [ONPHR project](#).

Of 401 objectives evaluated 2006 by the National Organization of Persons with Handicap in Romania and other six local NGOs, only 88 buildings were declared partially accessible and 75 as accessible to disabled people. None were completely accessible. ([National Organization of Persons with Handicap in Romania](#))

Romania was not included in the [MeAC](#) e-Accessibility survey (2006, before accession to the EU)

There is a free Urban Transportation scheme (calatorii gratuite la transportul urban)

Data on poverty and incomes indicate that:

In 2006, total monthly incomes were LEI 1,386.3 per household and LEI 473.3 per person, up by 14.4%, and 14.7% from 2005. Salaries were 49.3% of these amounts, up 2% compared to 2005 (National Institute of Statistics - "Coordonate ale nivelului de trai în România – veniturile și consumul populației, anul 2006")

Incomes from social benefits are , 19.9% of household total incomes (the same as in 2005) with social benefit income is of 24.7%. Pensions have the highest weight (78.7%), the unemployment fund represents 2.6%, family benefits 5.7%, social aids 4.5% (Law no. 416/2001).



Data on attitudes indicate that:

The difficulties of integration for disabled persons are extremely varied and, mainly relate to community and employment, accessibility and attitudes. Employers often prefer to pay the penalties set forth by the law rather than to employ disabled persons.

In 2006, Romanians were comparatively less in favour of measures being adopted to provide equal opportunities employment of disabled people (79%, which is 8 points below the European average ([Eurobarometer, 2007](#)))

Romanians were less likely than EU25 citizens to think that all forms of discrimination, with the exception of age, are widespread in their country ([Eurobarometer, 2007](#))

Attitudes include indifference, contempt, or fear of disability (*The Disability Manifesto in Romania, 2003*).

Data on public spending indicate that:

The implementation of the [National Strategy](#) required the allotment of important financial national and external resources, as follows:

In 2006, the amount of RON 3,463,000 was allotted from the state budget for special protection and socio-professional integration of disabled adults.

Two new residential institutions were set up for more than 200 persons, professional qualifications for 300 disabled persons were established, 31 ambulatory care centres for neuromotor recovery were developed and training for 160 persons working in the field.

Capital repairs of 14 residential centres were funded, as well as sanitation and endowment of 45 centres.

During the period 29 November 2005 – 29 October 2007, the Phare project (2003/005-551.01.04 “Supporting the reform of the system for disabled persons protection”) and state financed 78 new services (protected homes (45), centres of integration by occupational therapy (5), care and assistance centres (13), neuropsychic recovery and rehabilitation centres (10), day centres (4), “respiro” centres (1).

Social protection

Key features of the national system include (including adapted items from the [MISSOC](#) database December 2008):

Disability benefits

Payments are financed by contributions from employees, employers, self-employed, and unemployed people. Long-term care benefits are provided by different schemes covering invalidity, employment injuries/diseases, old age, etc.



In 2007, RON 1,248,151,098 was spent on social benefits intended for disabled persons ([2008 Strategic National Report Regarding Social Protection and Social Inclusion](#)).

42,404 people received payments for severe and accentuated disability, 427,175 monthly allowances for severe and accentuated disability and 507,295 personal complementary budgets for severe and accentuated disability.

Rehabilitation and re-training

Disabled people are entitled to: free access to professional assessments, training courses, reasonable adaptations to the workplace; counselling before and during employment, a paid trial period of at least 45 working days; the opportunity to work less than 8 hours per day, and exemption from the payment of tax on the salary.

Just under 13000 people with disabilities have a job (representing 2.93% of the total number of disabled people)

Preferential employment and quotas

As from 01 January 2007:

Employed disabled people are exempt from the payroll tax and accumulate social benefits for disability from salary income. Employers who refuse to employ a disabled person are liable for fines of RON 3,000 - RON 9,000.

Employers with less than 50 employees, are obliged to employ at least 4% of disabled persons Or be liable for fine.

Long-term support and care

In Romania there are a large number of disabled people in large residential institutions, in particular for people with intellectual and mental health impairments. Community services are still at an early stage of development.

For those who live at home there may be limited options for Personal Assistant (asistent personal), Qualified Personal Assistants (asistent personal profesionist). There is an Indemnity (indemnizatie) as an alternative to Personal Assistant (asistent personal).

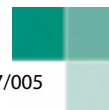
Complementary Personal Budget (buget personal complementar) for payment of tariffs (phone, radio, television, electricity subscriptions).

Reforms of the system are planned from 2007-2011 (e.g. "Social Inclusion Programme" financed by IBRD the amount of EUR 14,400,000). This will involve setting up of 20 protected homes and 16 social assistance centres for disabled adults.

Additional information

Useful sources of more detailed information about the situation of disabled people, and the policies and support available, include:

[Official statistical information and analysis](#) is available from ANPH.



[The Disability Manifesto in Romania](#) (Report of Romanian National Council of Disability), 2003, Bucharest.

The Bulletin of National Institute for Prevention and Control of Social Exclusion for People with Disabilities (INEPCESPH), Bucharest.

[The Situation of Children and Young People at the Regional Level in Romania](#) (UNICEF 2004)

[Quality of life in Bulgaria and Romania](#), First European Quality of Life Survey.

Final Report of Phare Program: [Access to Education for Disadvantaged Groups](#), 2005