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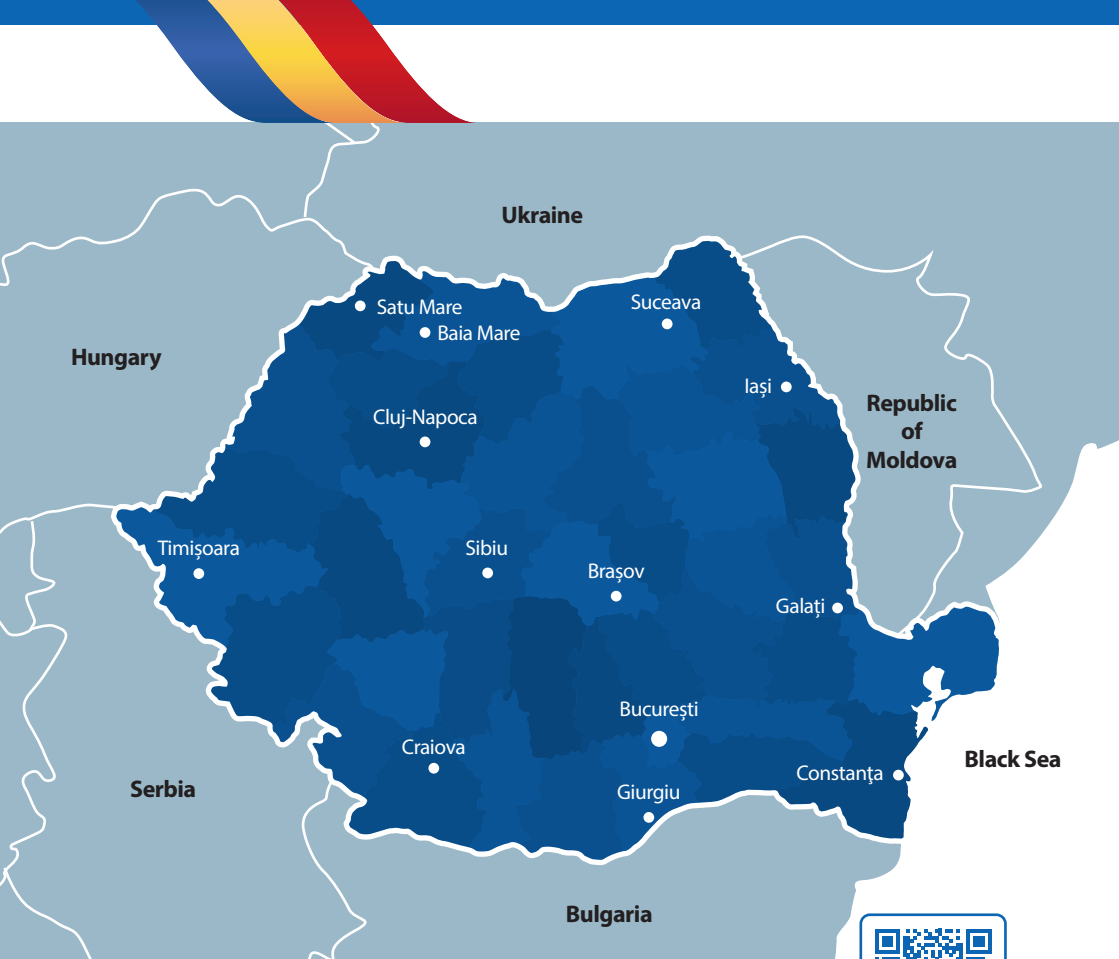
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MY FIRST STEPS IN ROMANIA

**Practical guide for persons who have been
granted international protection in Romania
(refugees and persons with subsidiary protection)**

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About Romania

It is good for you to know a few things about Romania before you get started. Romania is a country situated in South-Eastern Europe, bordering Hungary and Serbia to the west, Ukraine and Moldova to the northeast, and Bulgaria to the south. The capital is Bucharest, the largest city, located in the south-eastern part of the country, with a population of approximately 2 million inhabitants. The city is divided into 6 Districts (in Romanian “Sectoare”). Besides Bucharest, Romania has a number of important cities with diversified economic roles: Brașov, Timișoara, Iași, Constanța, Cluj-Napoca, Baia Mare, Satu Mare, Craiova, Suceava, Sibiu and many others.

The Regional Reception and Accommodation Centres (in Ro: Centre Regionale de Cazare și Proceduri pentru Solicitanții de Azil) in which refugees, resettled refugees and asylum seekers may reside are located in 6 cities: Bucharest, Giurgiu, Galați, Timișoara, Șomcuta Mare (near Baia Mare), and Rădăuți.



Scan the code
to see the map
of Romania on
Google Maps

Who is a beneficiary of international protection?

According to the Romanian law, there are two main categories of beneficiaries of international protection the state can grant to a foreigner or stateless person. The form of international protection can be granted by the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) or by a court of law.

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of his race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. In Romania, this form of international protection is recognized by the state for the alien or stateless person who fulfills the conditions stipulated in the Convention on Refugee Status, signed in Geneva on July 28, 1951, commonly known as the Geneva Convention, to which Romania adhered with Law No. 46/1991. As regards the domestic legislation, the main law in the matter are **Law No. 122/2006** and **OG 44/2004**.



The status of “Subsidiary protection” refers to a form of protection granted by the Romanian State to an alien or stateless person for reasons other than those named in the Geneva Convention; this form of protection is granted in accordance to Law no. 122/2006 and Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and applies for member states of the

European Union. The subsidiary protection can be granted to the foreign citizen who does not fulfil the conditions of being granted the refugee status, if there are well-founded reasons to believe that if the foreign citizen is returned to his country of origin he is at risk of suffering a violation of his rights

After you receive a form of international protection it is your right to have a residence permit issued by the GII authorities. The residence permit is issued to all beneficiaries of international protection and it is valid for a period of 2 or 3 years, with possibility of extension. In both cases, the document will be **issued free of charge** at the GII office that granted you the form of international protection.

We kindly recommend that you keep your residence permit on you at all times and memorize your CNP code.

Your Personal Numeric Code (Ro: Codul Numeric Personal / CNP) is very important as it is your unique identification number. This number is printed on your residence permit, under your legal status.

Other documents that you are entitled to:

- **Birth certificate.** If you have a child born in Romania the authorities will issue a document that attests the birth of your child. Birth registration in the civil register is required for the child to obtain a **birth certificate**.
- **Travel document.** You can travel outside Romania if you have a travel document. This travel document is issued by the GII authorities upon request and you will have to pay a sum of money.



Residence permit sample for refugees and persons with subsidiary protection

It is very important to keep all the documents that you receive from the GII authorities or from the court that granted you the form of protection. Do NOT throw away any official documents that you receive as most certainly you will need them at a later time.

Integration Program

The integration program is a set of measures and services provided by the Romanian state, through the GII, for the persons who have been granted a form of protection in the country. If you are a person who has been granted **international protection (refugee, resettled refugee or holder of subsidiary protection in Romania)**, we encourage you to apply for the Integration Program in order to adapt more easily to the specifics of the Romanian society and to have access to mainstream assistance services.

You can register in the integration program within no more than 3 months after having received a form of protection from the GII or from the court that granted you the form of international protection. After 3 months, you can no longer access the Integration program. Think very carefully before rejecting this opportunity!

Mainstream assistance services within the Integration Program:

- Accommodation in the Regional Reception Centers, upon request, for the period in which you are enrolled in the Integration Program (up to 12 months);
- Romanian language classes, also for the period in which you are enrolled in the Integration Program (up to 12 months);
- Counselling and social assistance / psychological, medical advice and aid;
- Facilitation of access to employment. Your local Integration Officer can offer you counselling regarding the right to employment, vocational training and diploma

recognition. He will also inform you about the public institutions that are responsible for specific duties regarding these issues;

- You can also benefit from child care services and assistance in accessing the child allowance, a universal child benefit in Romania;
- After the completion of your program, you may be able to apply to GII to receive additional housing support, as 50% financial subsidy towards the monthly rent for a period of maximum one year.

Once enrolled in the Integration Program you will have the following obligations:

- You have to participate regularly to the activities scheduled in the individual plan;
- You have to make efforts in order to get through the stages of the integration program;
- You have to comply with the disciplinary, conduct regulations and those imposed by the persons in charge of the classes as well as with accommodation centres internal regulations;
- You have to inform the GII authorities regarding any change that could affect your presence at the integration activities and financial entitlements.

You have the right to request from the GII authorities a maximum 3 months intermission from your integration program, arguing what are the reasons which prevent you from participating in the program.



Non-reimbursable financial aid for refugees

This financial non-refundable aid is meant to support you at the beginning of your integration in the Romanian society. You can only receive this form of aid if you are enrolled in the Integration Program and if you are unable to support yourself. This financial non-refundable aid is meant to support you at the beginning of your integration in the Romanian society. You can only receive this form of aid if you are unable to support yourself and only for a period of 12 months. This aid as been designed to cover your basic needs like utilities, food, clothing and can be received only if you participate in the Integration Program activities. If you are not enrolled in the Integration Program and you don't attend the activities, the non-refundable aid can be suspended on cancelled.

In order to receive this aid, you should file a request with the GII integration officer as soon as possible, after a maximum of 3 months after your protection status has been granted. If you don't submit the request in 3 months maximum, then it will be rejected.

Your GII officer will assist you in submitting all the necessary paperwork. Keep in mind that this aid is temporary and that you can only receive it once in your lifetime. It is very important that you find ways to self-support on long term by finding legal employment or starting your own business.





Family reunification and family reunion

If you have family members (spouse, minor children or parents who depend on you), you can reunite with them in Romania by means of the procedure of family reunification or family reunion, according to the law. You can start this procedure as soon as you become a beneficiary of international protection.

Contact the GII office nearest to you in order to find out more information.

Keep in mind that the official institution from the Romanian state responsible for your integration in Romania is the GII authority assistance. In addition, there are several nongovernmental organizations that can offer you complementary assistance.



Scan the code
to enter the GII
website

The main aspect that you must remember is that in Romania you have the same rights as a Romanian citizen, **except for political rights.**



Healthcare

You are entitled to receive healthcare in the same conditions as any Romanian citizen. In Romania, every person must apply for health insurance in order to receive proper healthcare services. You are entitled to free health insurance if:

- You are under 18 years old;
- You are between 18–26 and you are a pupil enrolled in school or a student and you don't have an income;
- You have a disability and a certificate in this sense;
- You are pregnant and you don't have an income or your income is below the minimum wage;
- Your husband/wife has health insurance and you don't have an income (*Ro: coasigurați*).

Also, your employer has the obligation to pay your contribution to the Health Insurance fund.

If you don't fit in the above categories, you need to pay for your healthcare insurance. We encourage you to pay your contribution to the healthcare insurance system right from the moment you are granted a form of protection. If you register later, you will pay your healthcare insurance **retroactively** for a **maximum period of 6 months.**

To benefit from the healthcare coverage you need to pay a monthly contribution of 5.5% of the minimum wage.



In order to benefit from the national healthcare insurance coverage, you need to contact the Healthcare Insurance Fund (Ro: Casa de Asigurări de Sănătate) and register at a local family doctor.



Employment

Employment and financial autonomy are important elements of integration.

You have the right to access the labour market and to work in the same conditions as Romanian citizens.

YOU DO NOT NEED A WORK PERMIT IN ROMANIA!

However, your employers will ask for a form of identification which will show that you can legally reside in Romania. For more information and assistance on this matter you should contact your Integration Officer from the GII and the local Employment Agency from the city/district where you live in order to register yourself as a person in need of employment. Also, there are vocational courses that you can access, depending on your desires and education background.



Education

As a person granted international protection, you have the same rights as a Romanian citizen to access education. In addition to Romanian language classes within the Integration program, there are educational opportunities that will give you the possibility to start, continue or complete your studies in Romania. As for children, there are special laws regulating their education and it is quite desirable for them to start school as soon as possible.



Social services and benefits

There is a variety of social services and benefits you can access after you were granted a form of international protection. You should ask the Integration Officer about the possibility to access them and the requirements. The institution that has direct responsibility in the field of social assistance is the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (in Ro: Direcția Generală de Asistență Socială și Protecția Copilului).

If you have an emergency you can call 112 from any phone, at any time, for free. This number is a direct line to the **police, ambulance and fire department**.



112



For the future

There is no such thing as an ideal or unique formula for your integration into the Romanian society. The country that granted you international protection made a commitment to lay down for you the basic conditions to integrate; however, it is also up to you to get involved in the process and make all the necessary efforts to become a productive member of the community you live in.

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