
PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS OF ROMANIAN MIGRATION IN UK, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA DURING 2020

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Abstract: *In the current context of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Globalization, the emphasis of Romanian migration in Western countries (particularly in this article in UK, Germany, and Austria) has become a phenomenon with multiple challenges and dilemmas on different levels and dimensions. Thus, the special attention from the state authorities on these issues is not just a short-term task, requiring a complex collaboration between the political government, the medical system, and specialized researchers. Both state institutions can establish medium and long-term interests regarding the effort to strengthen the Romanian state's relations with citizens abroad, negotiate inter-community solutions, guide public policies to support the insertion on the labour market, etc., a complex set of analysis and solutions with a multidisciplinary scientific contribution. In the conditions of intensifying the flows of Romanian immigrants, the risks of losing an important national productive and creative segment also increase. Local human resources management is a strict subject of internal management and abroad human resources management, this being a subject of Community legislation, diplomatic communication and policies of inclusion, integration, and insertion in the labour market. The long-term goal is to strengthen the sense of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identity and security of Romanians abroad, consolidating the Romanian cultural heritage.*

Key words: *immigration, cultural identity, insertion, labour market, civil rights, public health, COVID-19 Pandemic.*

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1. Romanian emigration in a European context during COVID-19 Pandemic

In the midst of a medical crisis, the number of Romanian immigrants has slightly declined in 2020. The year 2020 has also been a difficult one for Romania, particularly medically and economically. Throughout this period, the number of Romanian immigrants decreased substantially over a period determined by the multiple problems caused by the global health crisis. According to the National Statistical Institute, as of January 1, 2020, „*the resident population was 19,318,000, a reduction of 96,500 compared to January 1, 2019. The main cause of this decline is the negative natural increase (number of deaths surpassing the number of live births by 73,630 persons). The balance of long-term temporary international migration was negative (- 30,591 people). On January 1, 2020, the population living in the urban area was 10,449 thousand, down 0.1% from January 1, 2019*” (NIS, 2020).

Romanian communities around the world are characterized by a weak cohesion and vulnerability against the factors of erosion of their identity belonging to the motherland, evolving towards a set of perceptions weakly correlated with cultural heritage. At their level, there is a number of common features:

- a) the lack of a sufficiently consolidated associative framework to offer a unitary and efficient presentation of its members in their relationship with the authorities of the countries they reside and even in their dialogue with the Romanian State;
- b) the lack of institutional culture necessary for procedural and organizational articulation, essential points for a better effectiveness of one's actions;
- c) lack of internal democratic experience that decreases the chance to support leaders / authentic representatives of diaspora communities;
- d) the non-involvement of the elites inside the Romanian communities abroad and their minimal relationship with the professional networks in the country;
- e) the lack of vision of the Romanian communities, together with problems of image distortion compared to the public opinion in the country of residence;
- f) the problems of Romanian communities abroad are, generally speaking, peculiar.

Emigration shaped up from successive waves of Romanians having different reasons, depending on the historical and social moments when they left, the phenomenon of migration meeting variable dimensions (eds. Zamfir and Cace, 2020). In this regard, there are important differences between Romanian communities, depending on their attitude and relationship to: representatives of Romanian public authorities (including citizenship reports), religious authorities, Romanian cultural heritage (including Romanian language) and professional groups in Romania. In short, after giving up the rigorous control of the emigration process, difficult and subjective characteristic of the former communist regime, Romania faced a massive process of emigration without precedent. The main feature was the transition from emigration for ethnic reasons (the example of ethnic Germans and Jews) to a massive emigration of the majority ethnic

groups, for economic reasons, as a dominant circulatory type. This is often characterized by the sum of confusing, sometimes abusive procedures over a period of political change (legal entries followed by illegal jobs, illegal entries followed by compliance with legal support in those countries). There have also been changes in the migration mechanisms in Romania, changes focused on the following directions:

- a. the evolutionary change by years of the share of the number of emigrants, changing also the reasons for emigration;
- b. the specialized legislation on the migratory phenomenon is found in three main categories of laws: laws on migration, laws for the labour force and laws for the attestation of diplomas and qualifications.

In recent years, major progress has been made in amending existing legislation and adopting new regulatory documents compatible with the community “acquis”. During the completion of the legal-institutional environment in accordance with the requirements of the European Union, Romania creates its own migration policy. Moreover, the Romanian treaty of accession to the European Union has a series of regulations regarding the transition period introduced at the will of a member state from the European family. The suggestion to control the migratory phenomenon by establishing transitional periods aims to determine the increase of uncertainty regarding the migratory flow and the decrease of the pressures created by migration, establishing a balanced structure of the qualification of the labour force. After 1990, an institutional environment was created in Romania, with the aim of presenting activities related to the preservation and sustenance of the cultural, religious, ethnic and linguistic identity of all Romanians everywhere. Once the migratory conditions were diversified, the Romanian institutions created specific mechanisms for keeping the various aspects of migration in order. The Department for Romanian Relations from all over the world was created in the departmental area of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has now been transferred to the Government, as the main instrument of the state to support communities abroad, Romanian values and identity.

Also, in accordance with the regulations of Government Decision no. 162 of 1998 and later by Law no. 150 of 1998 - on support for Romanian communities around the world, the Eudoxiu Hurmuzachi Institute was created for Romanians everywhere.

There are also other institutions with responsibilities and competences in the field: for the administration of bilateral agreements signed by Romania in the field of labour movement, the Office for Labour Migration was created within the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, which has the task of grants scholarships and diplomas, respectively professional qualifications for Romanian representatives abroad; the structure and competencies of the Romanian.

Language Institute have been strengthened, and the Ministry of Cults and Culture administers funds meant to support the Romanian cultural and religious heritage abroad (Dumitru, 2010). Through the specialized institutions for diplomatic missions and consular offices, as well as the strengthening of relations with the competent authorities of the host countries, a proper monitoring of the real situation of Romanian communities and Romanian citizens abroad, in order to preserve the rights, was carried

out in the name of the Constitution and in the spirit of the European Treaties, which ensure equal and non-discriminatory treatment with all European Community states for any European citizen. In the short and medium term, the Romanian language enjoys the same rights with the other languages spoken within the EU (Spain, Italy, Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, France, etc.) or with the languages spoken outside Europe (of interest to the USA, Canada, and Israel).

The new European status that Romania received in 2007 has a special impact on the dynamics of the neighbouring Romanian communities: Romania has become an increasingly attractive destination for many compatriots from the Balkans and neighbouring countries, countries outside the EU, which contributes to the decrease of Romanian minority groups in these areas and implicitly to the evolution of Romanian communities through the emigration of these categories of Romanians to EU member states. Emigration, especially in Western European countries, will remain a solid social phenomenon and Romania will be a source of sustenance for this type of migration, with a special appeal for highly educated human resources. Therefore, in the coming years, an increase of the Romanian communities abroad is foreseen, such as their consolidation, being more necessary every day as an underlining of the Romanian civil society in the international environment. If the number of this type of migration and the risk included by the loss of an important national productive and creative segment increases, as seen in recent years, the potential of these communities should be exploited in a higher way economically, politically, socially, and culturally for Romania, benefits pursued by the involvement of the Romanian emigrant elites. Promising from this point of view, for prompting professional networks that have specialists abroad and personalities or institutions from inside the country, becomes a “sine-qua non” condition for promoting the national goal, the Romanian cultural and scientific heritage.

There is a need for an increasingly active involvement of specialized institutions in the organization of migration and those arising from this globalized phenomenon, some of which are already mandatory, especially in European areas, on topics such as:

- a) high level of crime in host countries;
- b) insufficient integration of migrants into host societies;
- c) the emphasis on the labour shortage in some economic sectors in Romania;
- d) mobility of highly educated human resources, which calls for urgent solutions to increase brain drain through repatriation policies, providing conditions of employment at European standards;
- e) changing the demographic and cultural structure of Romanian communities abroad;
- f) the observance of the cultural rights of the citizens of Romanian origin by the authorities of the host countries;
- g) proper coordination of the image of the Romanian communities in the countries of residence with direct implications on the bilateral reports;

h) encouraging lobbying actions with the participation of Romanian elites abroad and the corresponding associative environment. (Down H. et al., 2011, p.5-6)

Considering the constitutional and moral obligation of the Romanian state in promoting the relationship with Romanians everywhere, the fundamental objective is to promote good cooperation relations, as well as partnerships with Romanian institutions whose activity could help Romanians abroad.

2. The case of the Romanians in UK

Lifting labour market restrictions in the UK remains a goal for the future. Numerous negative articles have appeared in London newspapers in recent years regarding the criminality of Romanians in England. The right question is: what does the freedom to work in the UK have to do with catching criminals? And why are British conservatives making deals with the anti-immigrant party Ukip on this issue? Probably British politicians have fallen into the cheap trap of prejudices according to which Romanian immigrants are prone to have the crime gene to a greater extent than all other nations. In England, the idea of restricting the access of Romanian immigrants to medical care, social benefits and jobs was grounded. As proof, insulting notes appeared at the entrance to some London stores where it was written that: "*Romanian access is forbidden*".

Another important issue is the status of Romanian workers after Brexit. In 2019, over 140,000 Romanians living and working in the UK applied for help from the European Granting System to be able to stay in the UK, even after Brexit. Over 410,000 Romanians have been living in the UK since 2017, becoming the second largest community of migrants in the EU, after Poles, according to official data. In their first meeting, the British ambassador Andrew Noble and the Romanian foreign minister, Ramona Mănescu, congratulated the over 140,000 Romanians in Great Britain who requested the European settlement scheme and encouraged the rest of the Romanians in Great Britain to request this help, through which their rights are guaranteed. These advantages were enjoyed, in particular, by Romanian students, including those whose university courses started in January 2020.

According to this agreement, Romanians who were in the UK before October 31, 2019 applied for the established status, given that they lived in the UK for more than five years, or pre-settled status, if they lived in the UK less than five years. Applications can be submitted until 31st of December 2020. Those who obtain the established status can then live and work in the UK for as long as they want, bring their families, and apply for British citizenship (minimum 12 months after obtaining the status).

All EU citizens with a pre-established status in the UK can stay, work and study in the country, using the National Health System, apply for state pensions and have the right to rent a house. To date, around 1 million of the almost 4 million EU residents living in the UK have chosen to remain under this system.

EU citizens arriving in the UK after 31st of October 2019 will not be able to apply for this scheme, in accordance with current regulations. According to Euronews however, the British government intends to grant to all EU residents who enter the UK between

the scheduled date for Brexit (without considering the Covid-19 medical crisis), 31 October 2019 and the end of 2020, a right of residence for three years.

In 2020, in the midst of a pandemic period, Romanians in the UK retained their third place as the largest community after the Irish and Indians, but they are also the most vulnerable group at risk of poverty. Brexit and Covid19 have not reduced the number of Romanians, according to Professor David Coleman, a demography specialist who advocates for Eastern Europeans in Britain. Many of them have jobs in the living area, working on supermarket shelves or for the elderly in nursing homes, asylums, hotel rooms, restaurants, etc.; however, there is a fear that social and economic isolation implies discomfort among most Romanian workers. Most EU citizens are not well informed about Brexit, and Romanians make no exception. The language barrier, the fact that most Romanian citizens do not get information directly from the British press, makes them somehow, quite vulnerable. Within the Romanian community, it was observed that many Romanians consider that the establishment process would be a simple and automatic process, as long as they will pay taxes, being citizens who respect the law. A closer look at the Romanians interviewed by The Guardian reveals that they arrived in Great Britain to improve their material life. A large number of parents tell heart-breaking stories about left behind children in the care of their grandparents to ensure a better life for them.

3. The case of the Romanians in Germany

Sometimes, several German officials complain about Romanians because they use their social assistance system selfishly and inefficiently. Here is a discriminatory statement: *"Romanians and Bulgarians are raiding our countries to abuse welfare systems, stealing jobs, probably our cars and wallets,"* concluded Ernst Peter, a German journalist at Die Zeit. *"No German or British politician will say it so responsibly, but that is the point,"* he said in his June 2, 2018 article.

In Germany, the term *"welfare tourism"* has emerged among Bavarian conservatives. Bavaria is a battleground for regional and federal elections, and Romanian immigration has become an election campaign theme for German conservatives in the CSU. A large part of the Bavarian politicians plead against Romania's entry into the Schengen area. *"Those who come to work are welcome, but we must not accept that people come here only for social benefits,"* is the argument mentioned by a journalist from Die Zeit. Indirectly it particularly refers to Roma - Romanians, who are entitled to about 200 euros per child each month; they usually have more than 5 children per family.

Since hundreds of thousands of ethnic Roma have Romanian passports, the term *"Romanian"* is often used as a euphemism for the racist term *"gypsy"*. In Britain and Germany there is no mass invasion as has happened in countries like Italy or Spain.

Pensions are the main form of protection of citizens by state social insurance. In an attempt to identify the possible causes of the significant differences that exist today between the amounts of pension obtained for the age limit of a Romanian pensioner who worked in Germany, I will make a comparison between the main sources on the establishment of state social security regarding the state contribution of employees and

employers, more precisely by the way in which a pension is granted and the way in which the public pension is calculated (Pillar I).

Romanians who worked in Germany and reached retirement age is regarded in the home country as an ideal scenario for many of Germany's foreign residents, whose numbers are rising. In 2019, approximately 5.2 million non-Germans (without citizenship) paid into the country's social security system. That is 330,000 more than in the previous year. Those managing the German public pension fund estimate that the number of foreign taxpayers will increase again this year. The eurozone crisis is an additional reason why Romanian workers have left for Germany. In 2019, the German Federal Statistical Office registered an influx of 800,000 thousand people in Germany, most of them refugees. During the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic, more precisely after May 2020, the inflow process decreased a lot, sporadically restarting with the seasonal period.

Romanian employees of German companies contributed to the social security system. Currently, they have paid 18.9% of income in the pension system, with an additional 2.05 per cent compared to 2018, and will enter a fund for extended disability care insurance. German employers pay half of these contributions. During a working life, the money paid in these systems is added. However, not all foreign employees benefit equally from what they have contributed. For German economist Reinhold Schnabel of the University of Duisburg, *“the most important distinction must be made between foreign workers in the EU and elsewhere.”* This is partly due to the fact that in the EU, citizens of all Member States must be treated equally. Romanian workers, for example, should not be at a disadvantage compared to their German counterparts, who have the same rights. Every EU citizen has the right to receive a pension from Germany, provided they pay in that scheme for at least five years. All Romanians who have contributed to the German pension system for less than five years do not enjoy the same rights as longer-term taxpayers. This does not mean that their money is lost. The money they paid can be added to the pensions they get from their countries of origin, which means that pensioners can live on payments made in the systems of several countries. For the lump sum option, Romanian workers who were obliged to pay pensions but remained in Germany for less than five years also have the option to pay their contributions in a lump sum, instead of adding to the benefits of monthly pension drawn elsewhere. This option is only available after taxpayers have reached the age of pension eligibility. Extended care insurance usually becomes relevant for the elderly. When people retire or have German pension rights added to home benefits, employers' contributions are included.

Immigrants from outside the EU may face disadvantages when it comes to the pension system, as they are not governed by the European Union's uniform policy in this regard. Employees in Germany are also required to pay in the long-term disability insurance program, which helps cover costs for those in need of extended care services. The same goes for Romanian workers, the system costs them about 1 per cent of their income, especially for cases where the elderly need help to pay for asylum. These payments help too few financially retired foreign workers who want to return home.

As a result, Romanian immigrants who eventually leave Germany often lose the money they paid for extended care insurance. Upon returning home, they are subject to the laws governing their home nations. When someone from Romania comes to work in Germany for a few years, and then returns home, the regulations apply in their home country. There is no payment available, as there is with pensions. Also, the existing agreements on pensions in Germany and non-EU countries do not contain provisions for the recovery of extended care insurance payments. As members of the European Union, Romania and Germany have, at least officially in the case of Romania, an active social policy. For both countries, the term "welfare state" is used as a guarantee given by their fundamental laws; the welfare state is obliged to take measures for economic development and social protection, ensuring citizens a decent living. The right to receive a pension is enshrined in all European countries as a fundamental citizen's right. However, while in Germany the average social pension significantly exceeds, in some cases, the amount of 500 euros, in Romania the average social pension was, in July 2019, around 250 euros. At such an average net pension level, we cannot bring the ensuring of a decent living for Romanian retirees in discussion. Regarding the level of annual expenditures for public pensions, Romania registered in December 2018, 4,872 million social pensioners, of which over 3 million were retirees (with full or incomplete stage), the annual expenditures for pensions representing 7.3% of GDP, while in Germany - a country with a population four times larger than the population of Romania - the total number of pensioners was about 24.6 million, public pension spending accounting for about 11.5% of GDP.

4. The case of the Romanians in Austria

In 2017, there were over 36,000 Romanians in Vienna, and in all of Austria there are over 123,461 Romanians.¹ The closure of the borders, the suspicion of the spread of the pandemic also affected the lives of immigrants. Not long ago, Romanian seasonal workers waited to board planes to Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain, etc.

For tens of thousands of seasonal workers (mostly from south-eastern Europe), the pandemic has become the most difficult time. Most Romanian workers faced an extremely difficult choice: to go to work in the host country, in the presence of major risks in the area of social assistance or to return to the country of origin without benefiting from a performing medical system. Many Romanians, who have taken advantage of their freedom of movement, are now trapped in a foreign country, with border closures, no repatriation flights, and if they have lost their jobs, their financial situation does not provide them with a safety net.

Despite the strict quarantine conditions to protect public health in Romania and Bulgaria, tens of thousands of workers in both countries choose to stay in the west so as not to lose their jobs, especially on seasonal farms where wages are very low. In Germany, the government has dropped employment provisions to save the white asparagus crop; German food growers will not need social security contributions for migrants as long as they are refugees again in 115 days.

¹ <https://www.wien.gv.at/statistik/pdf/menschen2017.pdf>

Meanwhile, Austria has defied the closure of the border by organizing charter flights from Romania and Bulgaria to bring in hundreds of workers and caregivers for the elderly. Several flights with over 200 people, mostly women, from Timisoara and Cluj arrived in Vienna. According to some of those who travelled, they did not have the opportunity to distance themselves socially during the trip, having their passports with them during the quarantine organized by the state. Once in Austria, the local media published several critical articles on the situation of Romanian workers.

Approximately 40,000 Romanians already work as caregivers for the elderly in Austria, on two- and four-week shifts. Employment contracts are exempt from certain obligations and, as a result of the pandemic, they are exposed to major risks. Romania has banned domestic travel and much of its travel abroad, after the government declared a state of emergency on March 16. When the borders were closed, many caregivers were blocked - some in their patients' homes, others in Romania, where they have no income. Their employment arrangements require them to spend half a month in the patient's home in Austria, and half in Romania. Earning less than 11,000 euros a year - the threshold is mandatory to complete a tax return to the Austrian authorities.

As EU citizens, many Romanians do not have national insurance numbers or bank accounts in Austria, so they do not qualify for help from the Austrian state or the Romanian state. *“We feel abandoned by both states”* said Marinela Dagadita, a caregiver and rights activist. Some Romanians in Austria wanted to return home to their children and had to pay expensive taxes to reach the border and then cross the border on foot.

Misinformation, poor knowledge of the German language, Austrian law, power dynamics and typical isolation for care jobs have generated several problems for Romanian caregivers (especially women).

If flights can be arranged for caregivers to go to work, why can't they also arrange flights back home? In conclusion, there is a need for better regulation of the sector and stronger employment contracts.

There are some unresolved issues regarding certain rights of Romanian children living in the Republic of Austria. The Austrian allowance *“die Familienbeihilfe”* (family allowance) was regulated by the law *“Familienlastenausgleichsgesetz”* of 1967 (Law on compensation of family burdens), which provides that the parent of the child is entitled to receive the allowance, unlike the allowance in Romania, where the holder is the child (Law 61/1993, updated 2018, art. 3, paragraph 2). In Austria, the holder must be over 18 years of age, have a job and have a non-working person in charge, for whatever reason. The guardian of the child, according to Austrian law, is obliged to live with him in order to receive the right for allowance. For these reasons, a different address of residence between the child and the guardian parent cancels his right to withdraw the allowance. The given situation forces the address on the child's documents to coincide with the documents of the guardian parent. In conclusion, a Romanian worker is obliged to have the same address in Austria, together with his child, to enjoy this right. If the same worker has his residence address in Austria, and his child is in the care of other persons (residing in Romania or in another country) then he will not receive the allowance. Naturally, the child allowance is established as a form of state protection

granted to all children up to the age of 18, without discrimination. In other EU Member States, the child allowance is granted regardless of their address, as well as for health insurance and care, provided that the holder of the right to the state allowance is the child directly. The same goes for situations where the child does not live with the parents.

The Austrian case, from a human rights perspective, imposes a discriminatory restriction that prevents the children of Romanian workers in this country from enjoying a universal right. The law of residence of the holder brings, in conclusion, a problem that belongs to human rights, but also a problem that annuls the law of reciprocity.

5. Conclusions. General solutions to the problems of Romanian emigration during a Pandemic

Taking into account the complexity of the medical and socio-economic difficulties faced by Romanian emigrants, as well as the challenges of solving them, the amount of efforts and coordination of state institution's actions as a way to solve them become imperative. On the other hand, in order to establish partnerships with the Romanian associative field abroad and with the state residence institutions, there is the possibility of a very precise analysis of the needs, resources and strategies. Here are some steps in this regard:

- a) organizing the congress of Romanian associations abroad;
- b) supporting the partnership between the Romanian communities and the public institutions in Romania with interest for the image of Romanians from abroad (cultural institutions, etc.);
- c) achieving a close collaboration between the Romanian organizations from different European states in order to know, collaborate and support each other;
- d) to support the creation of organizations and associations of Romanians in places of emigration in order to cohesive the community and its affirmation in the states of residence;
- e) supporting organizations and associations of Romanian students abroad for studies and vocational education;
- f) the evolution of the Romanian administrative capacity and associations, through the financial support of adequate headquarters, of the necessary human resources, of the logistics;
- g) facilitating the transmission of good management practices in the evolution of projects designated to Romanians abroad by establishing partnerships between Romanian organizations and organizing changes in experience;
- i) consolidation and inter-institutional cooperation to unite Romanians in the Diaspora;

- j) adapting and articulating the legislation around the objective of associating qualified Romanian migrants - in a balanced partnership - to the economic evolution of the country.
- h) integration of Romanians abroad and the recognition of specialists as “*strategic potential*” of human resources, but also of social capital.

Due to the increase of the Romanian labour traffic in the community space, we are witnessing a qualitative and quantitative increase of emigration (OCDE Report, 2019). Taking into account the labour crises in Romania and the brain drain, the programs to support the construction of professional networks are part of the activities of the Romanian authorities regarding the recovery of the Romanian scientific culture, as well as the highly skilled workforce (brain recovery phenomenon). Professional networks contribute to the accumulation of efforts to identify, apply and transmit good practices in various fields of activity, with beneficial effects, in terms of coordinating the actions of Romanians who are engaged in projects of mutual interest everywhere. The support of these networks can have beneficial effects on strengthening the cohesion of the Romanian communities abroad and their relations with the Romanians inside the country.

Measures to be considered would consist of:

- a. mapping the networks of professional associations and students that already exist and creating a database as complex as possible to stimulate this type of initiative and provide the reproduction and pooling of resources through integrated communication platform on the Internet;
- b. supporting professional network projects, self-organization being one of the principles underlying professional communities;
- c. supporting and encouraging actions aimed at Romanian researchers and active universities involved in the international scientific scene;
- d. the organization in the first edition of the Forum of the Romanian associations from Italy / Germany / France / Spain / England, as workshops dedicated to some professional fields.

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Legislative resources

International legal environment

ONU (1966) International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights

- *** UN General Assembly Resolution 47/135 of 18 December on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities
- *** European Convention on Human Rights
- *** Convention established for the protection of national minorities of the European Council
- *** European Charter for Religious or Minority Languages (Council of Europe)
- *** The Hague Recommendation on the Rights of National Minorities in Education (1996)
- *** Oslo Recommendation on the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities (1998) promoted by the OCDE

Bilateral legal environment

- *** Treaty of Understanding, Cooperation and Good Neighborhood between Romania and the Republic of Albania which entered into force in 1995
- *** Treaty on Understanding, Cooperation and Good Neighborhood Relations between Romania and the Republic of Hungary, 1996
- *** Treaty on Good Cooperation Relations and Cooperation between Romania and Ukraine, 1997
- *** The collaboration protocol in the field of culture, education and sciences between Romania and Germany, renewed in 2004
- *** The Cooperation Protocol signed in 2003 was signed in Dinkelsbühl between the German Ministry of Culture and Cults of the Transylvanian Saxons, taking into account even the protection of the cultural heritage of the Transylvanian Saxons
- *** Treaty between the Austrian Federal Government and the Romanian Government on the reciprocal exchange of data in the field of migration control and asylum issues, signed by the Ministers of the Interior in 2004
- *** Cultural collaboration program between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Austria for the years 2006-2009, completed in 2007
- *** Institutional resources Romania's representatives in European commissions, institutions, bodies (ie the Committee of the Regions), the European Council, the UN