



European Platform tackling undeclared work

National campaign 'Information at home! Safety in the world'

Romania

	<p>Summary</p> <p>'Information at home! Safety in the world' is a two-stage awareness-raising campaign, aimed at young Romanian people and adults, to inform about the potential risks they are exposed to when pursuing work and education opportunities abroad. This campaign aims to reduce cases of undeclared work, exploitation and trafficking.</p>
<p>Title of the practice in original language</p>	<p><i>Campania Națională "Informare acasă! Siguranță în lume!"</i></p>
<p>Name(s) of authorities/bodies/organisations involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry for Romanians Abroad (<i>Departamentul pentru Romanii de Pretutindeni</i>); • Romanian Labour Inspectorate (<i>Inspekția Muncii</i>); • Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (<i>Ministerul Muncii și Protecției Sociale</i>); • Ministry of Internal Affairs (<i>Ministerul Afacerilor Interne</i>); • Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<i>Ministerul Afacerilor Externe</i>); • Ministry of National Education (<i>Ministerul Educației și Cercetării</i>); • Youth and Sports Ministry (<i>Ministerul Tineretului și Sportului</i>); • Ministry of European Funds (<i>Ministerul Fondurilor Europene</i>); • Ministry for Business, Environment, Commerce and Entrepreneurship (<i>Ministerul pentru Mediul de Afaceri, Comerț și Antreprenariat</i>); • National Agency against Human Trafficking (<i>Agenția Națională Împotriva Traficului de Persoane</i>); • Local and County Authorities (<i>Autoritățile Locale și Județene</i>); • Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps; • The Orthodox Church.
<p>Sectors</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Target groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people, pupils and students (directly targeted).



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School teachers and principals (directly targeted). • Adults considering working or studying in other European countries (directly targeted).
Purpose of measure	Changing attitudes: awareness raising

	<p>Aims and objectives</p> <p>The overall aim is to educate citizens on their rights as European citizens and how to act upon any violation of these rights when working or studying abroad. Informative brochures and leaflets were used to spread awareness of the risks posed by undeclared work and how to avoid it.</p>
Background context	<p>Romania is a primarily sending European member state (sending more citizens to other European countries than received). National authorities have uncovered frequent cases of undeclared work and labour exploitation by temporary work agencies taking advantage of this. Approximately 10 million Romanians are living outside of the country's bordersⁱ and an estimated 80,000 Romanians were victims of labour exploitation in 2016ⁱⁱ.</p> <p>The high number of citizens accepting undeclared work abroad has also been linked to an entrenched lack of trust in authorities caused by a lack of understanding amongst citizens surrounding the reason for and benefits of taxation. This consequently influences citizens to participate in undeclared work ⁱⁱⁱ.</p> <p>The campaign was introduced in 2018 to build trust in authorities and to educate citizens on the risks they could face when engaging in undeclared work abroad.</p>
Key objectives of the measure	<p>General Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of the risks associated with undeclared work when travelling abroad to pursue work and education opportunities. <p>Specific Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing Romanians about their rights as European citizens. • Educating citizens on how to act upon any violation of their rights. • Equipping citizens with the tools and information they need to make fully informed decisions surrounding travelling for work and education. • Reduce the cases of undeclared work, exploitation and trafficking of Romanian citizens.



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Main activities

The campaign started in 2018 with a pilot project in three regions and has since been rolled out in two stages to reach all target groups^{iv}. The campaign is now taking place across all 41 counties of Romania as well as the municipality of Bucharest.

Information brochures and leaflets have been distributed which detail advice and recommendations on searching for safe work and education opportunities abroad. These include lists of exploitative traits they may encounter in the workplace and tips on how to avoid these in advance of travelling^v.

To avoid undeclared work and other forms of exploitation, the main messages have been outlined in the information materials, for Romanians who plan to work abroad:

- Being careful when accepting jobs offers found online, through telephone conversations or recommended by other people and avoiding unauthorised labour mediators;
- Checking the job offer, the employment contract and / or the mediation contract carefully;
- Checking the legislation of the foreign country to avoid undeclared work and other illegal activities;
- Looking out for potential 'traps' that unlawful labour mediators use, such as: paying for workers' travel expenses, keeping their identification documents, advising them to lie to the border officers about the real reason of their visit to the foreign country, etc.
- The risks of performing undeclared work such as: dangerous working conditions, being under paid or not paid at all, lack of medical and social insurances, becoming a target for human trafficking.

For those planning to work or study abroad, several safe and certified employers are listed in the campaign's brochure, to provide clear pathways to gaining safe contracted jobs from European employers.

Guidance is provided for citizens to seek help when they identify themselves as victims of undeclared work and other forms of exploitation. A helpline has been set up and made available 24/7 for those seeking advice. Details of Member State authorities and Romanian representatives have also been provided to be contacted when seeking advice abroad.

Information events took place across all regions of Romania supported by labour inspectorates and the police.

The Ministry for Romanians Abroad plans to extend the campaign also in the Republic of Moldova, to respond to the needs of Romanian citizens living there.



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Funding/organisational resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National funding
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	<p>Outcomes</p> <p>While evaluation of the information campaign is not publicly available, evidence suggests that the results of the information campaign have been overall positive, leading to increased awareness of rights and a reduction in trafficking.</p>
Achievement of objectives	<p>The evaluation of the campaign is not publicly available but has been considered a contributory factor in the reduction of human trafficking cases in Romania^{vi}.</p> <p>Campaigns to raise awareness of similar issues surrounding undeclared work across European countries have noted that it is difficult to measure changes in behaviour resulting from an isolated campaign. This is likely to be the case for Romania as a legislative change implementing new sanctions for employers who fail to make full declarations was implemented at a similar time to the campaign^{vii}, making it difficult to determine changes that were prompted by the campaign alone.</p>
Lessons learnt and success factors	<p>Perceived fairness and justice of governments and their tax systems should be considered when designing these campaigns.</p>
Transferability	<p>This campaign system sustainable method to help tackle the issue at its root cause and could therefore be easily transferred to any interested country.</p>

Further information	
Contact	<p>Ministry for Romanians Abroad Tel.: +4 021 233 9687 E-mail: cabinet.ministru@mprp.gov.ro Website: www.mprp.gov.ro</p>
Useful sources and resources	<p>http://www.mprp.gov.ro/web/lansarea-campaniei-nationale-informare-acasa-siguranta-in-lume-2019/ (Ministry for Romanians Abroad website – Launch of campaign page)</p>



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ⁱ National Strategy for Romanians Abroad 2017–2020, referenced in:

<http://www.mprp.gov.ro/web/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Brosura-IASL-2019.pdf>)

ⁱⁱ The Global Slavery Index (2016):

<https://downloads.globalslaveryindex.org/ephemeral/GSI-2016-Full-Report-1605542412.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ European Platform Undeclared Work (2017) 'Member State Factsheets':

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=18723&langId=cs>

^{iv} European Commission 'Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings- Romania'

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/member-states/romania_en

^v Leaflet:

http://www.mprp.gov.ro/web/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/final_Pliant-IASL.pdf

Brochure:

<http://www.mprp.gov.ro/web/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Brosura-IASL-2019.pdf>

^{vi} National Agency Against Human Trafficking, referenced in:

<https://www.agerpres.ro/politica/2019/04/09/natalia-intotero-la-lansarea-campaniei-informare-acasa-siguranta-in-lume-consideram-ca-un-cetatean-informat-este-un-cetatean-castigat--289092>)

^{vii} Eurofound (2017):

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/article/2017/romania-efforts-to-fight-undeclared-work-continue>