

Antisemitism overview - Romania

Overview of antisemitic incidents recorded in Romania in 2014-2024

Contents

Romania.....	3
Official data	3
Unofficial data	8
Monitoring the antisemitism online	8

1. Romania

The country overview provides a descriptive analysis of the available official and unofficial data. ‘Official data’ refers to those collected by law enforcement agencies, authorities that are part of criminal justice systems and relevant state ministries. ‘Unofficial data’ refers to those collected by civil society organisations, including Jewish community organisations. All data presented are based on the countries and organisations’ own definitions and categorisations of antisemitism. Some of these draw on the IHRA Working definition of antisemitism, which was endorsed by all EU member states, except Malta. Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia also adopted the IHRA Working definition on antisemitism. ⁽ⁱ⁾ Where available, the country overview provides a breakdown of the data by month following 7 October 2023, showing stark increases in recorded antisemitic incidents following the Hamas attacks and the and the ensuing military intervention in Gaza.

This publication is part of a larger series of overviews of antisemitic incidents. FRA and its predecessor (the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia) have monitored antisemitism since 2004.

1.2. Official data

Since 2018, the General Prosecutor’s Office in Romania has been collecting statistical data on the bias motivation of incidents it records. It registered 63 potentially antisemitic cases in 2024, compared with 42 cases in 2023 (Table 1). The overall trend suggests an increase in incidents between 2014 and 2024, with a slight decrease in 2023 (Figure 1). The data provided by the General Prosecutor’s Office show that, out of the 63 new cases recorded in 2024, 6 were based on Article 297 (2) with of the Criminal Code with antisemitism as a motive , 29 cases were based on Article 369 (incitement to hate or discrimination) of the Criminal Code,13 cases were recorded on the basis of Law No 157/2018 (on combating antisemitism), and 38 were offences under GEO 31/2002 with antisemitism as a motive.

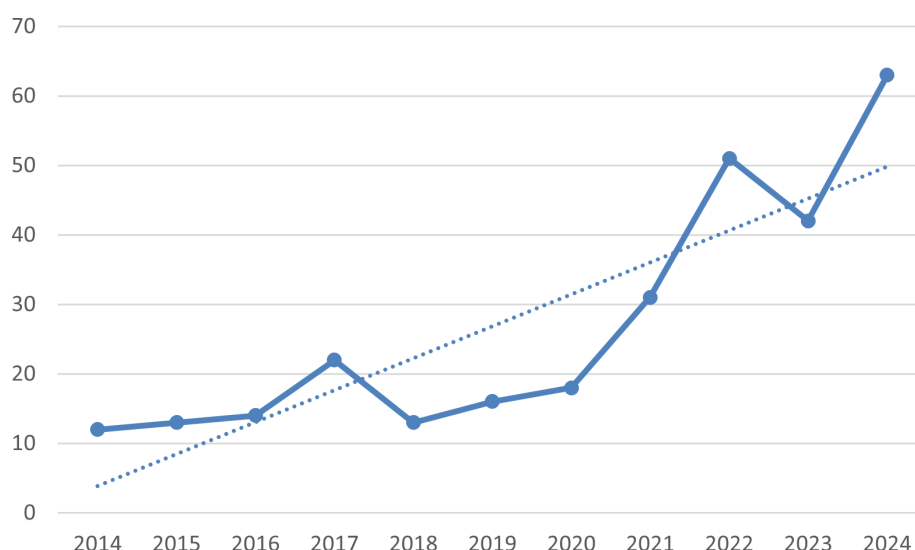
Table 1: Number of incidents pertaining to antisemitism in Romania, 2014–2024

Year	Antisemitic incidents
2014	12

Year	Antisemitic incidents
2015	13
2016	14
2017	22
2018	13
2019	16
2020	18
2021	31
2023	42
2024	63

Source: General Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, 2014–2024.

Figure 1 – Number of incidents pertaining to antisemitism in Romania, 2014–2024



Alternative text: A line chart shows the evolution of incidents between 2014 and 2024. The number of incidents recorded per year rose from 12 in 2014 to 63 in 2024. The dotted line represents a trend line. See Box B1 below for details.

Source: General Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, 2014–2024.

NB: The dotted linear regression line indicates the trend based on data for 2014–2024.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs provided data about cases punishable under Law No 157/2018 regarding measures towards combating and preventing antisemitism (Table 3). The law prohibits antisemitic acts, such as the dissemination of antisemitic material ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾. In 2023, 11 complaints were registered, compared with 7 complaints in 2022, 4 complaints in 2021, 3 complaints in 2020, 2 in 2019 and 7 in 2018, according to that information.

In 2023, the Romanian Police recorded 36 antisemitic hate offences (Table 2)

Table 2 Antisemitic offences recorded by the Romanian Police, 2023

Indicators	2023	October-December 2023
Antisemitic offenses – TOTAL, out of which:	36	17
Possession disorder (art. 256 Penal Code - PC)	1	1
Incitement to hatred or discrimination (art. 369 PC)	7	3
Government Emergency Ordinance no. 31/2002 on the prohibition of fascist, racist or xenophobic organizations and symbols and the promotion of the cult of persons guilty of crimes against peace and humanity	17	7
Law no. 157/2018 regarding some measures to prevent and combat anti-Semitism	11	6

As regards the significant differences recorded between the number of acts of an anti-Semitic nature recorded in the operative records of the Romanian Police before 2022 and those recorded after 01/01/2022, it is to be noted that from this date on, crimes of this kind have been collected based on discrimination criteria.

Thus, in 2022, 7 crimes/ complaints regulated by Law no. 157/2018 regarding some measures to prevent and combat anti-Semitism were recorded, as also found in the FRA Report. 10 other crimes of an anti-Semitic nature were recorded, seven of which under the O.U.G. no. 31/2002 regarding the prohibition of fascist, racist or xenophobic organizations and symbols and the promotion of the cult of persons guilty of crimes against peace and humanity and 3 under the provisions of the Criminal Code (1 crime punished under art. 368 and 2 crimes under art. 369).

Table 3: Complaints registered under Law No 157/2018 in Romania, 2018–2023

Year	Number of complaints
2018	7
2019	2
2020	3
2021	4
2022	7
2023	11

The National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD) monitors, investigates and punishes cases of discrimination based on antisemitism. Most of the discrimination cases that involve antisemitic behaviour concern the use of the intent to use fascist symbols (Table 4).

Table 4: Discrimination cases based on antisemitic behaviour in Romania, 2014–2024

Year	Number of cases filed	Discrimination proved	Outcome Discrimination	NCCD did not have competence	Cases closed during the year	Ongoing cases
2014	12	2	4	2	2	2
2015	4	4	0	0	4	0
2016	1	0	0	1	0	0
2017	6	1	1	1	1	2
2018	4	2	1	1	4	0
2019	14	4	1	3	6	6
2020	15	4	10	0	14	1
2021	9	2	1	1	4	5

Year	Number of cases filed	Discrimination proved	Outcome Discrimination	NCCD did not have competence	Cases closed during the year	Ongoing cases
2022	7	1	4	4	9	8
2023	11	1	2	2	7	11
2024	10	0	1	0	1	9

Source: NCCD, 2014–2024.

1.2. Unofficial data

In January 2023, the non-governmental organisation Centre for Legal Resources published an overview study of hate crimes and hate speech in Romania for 2021–2022 ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾. Among its recommendations, the report mentions that law enforcement agents, prosecutors and judges should undergo specific training on working on cases of hate crimes.

1.2.1. Monitoring the antisemitism online

The Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, a governmental institution, publishes details concerning the antisemitic incidents that have come to its attention. In October 2023, when this report was compiled, the [latest available data](#) covered May 2022–April 2023. ^(iv) The report issued by INSHR-EW, covering May 2023 – April 2024 ^(v) is available for public on the institute’s [website](#), and the report covering May 2024 – April 2025 was published in July 2025. ^(vi)

In 2023 and 2024, according to the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, antisemitic and negationist accounts have been identified both on less regulated chat apps such as Telegram, and on bigger social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Tik Tok during the monitoring period. ^(vii) According to INSHR, during the period May 2023–April 2024, the dissemination of hate speech continued in the online environment, with a core group being noted that constantly posts, on average at least 1–2 articles, antisemitic, denialist, conspiratorial themes, either by assuming the identity, or under the editorial signature or without a coordinator.

Among the promoted themes are recurring topics such as the myth of Judeo-Bolshevism, the control held by Jews manifested at the political and economic levels (Jews rule Romania/the world), Holocaust denial or the promotion of the cult of persons convicted of war crimes.

It was also observed that at the level of social networks, a diversification of the means of transmitting content and adaptation to the specifics of different channels was recorded.

Thus, the content ranges from memes through which dehumanizing narratives based on humor or forms of language adapted to the audience are constructed (e.g.: photos with legionary symbols inserted into images containing politeness messages), to images created with artificial intelligence (e.g.: visual reproduction of the narrative according to which Jews are diabolical, dominating and oppressing the world), in order to increase attractiveness for a young audience.

In addition, it was observed that until October 2023, prior to the outbreak of the conflict in the Middle East, the average of references on various platforms to Jews and Israel was 13,474 references per month, after which the number of mentions increased by more than 10 times, reaching an absolute peak of 135,851 in a single month. In November they halved, and in the following months they continued to decrease, remaining, however, even in February, higher, almost double the average from the beginning of the previous year.

Moreover, the general analysis of the online environment revealed that there is a tendency to expand the space of antisemitic manifestations (e.g.: increasing the number of documents, public demonstrations, vandalism actions, distribution of literature/propaganda materials and use of mass media).

A small-scale exploratory study was conducted within a European project focusing on 'monitoring the antisemitism phenomenon online' in four countries (Belgium, Italy, Romania, Spain). It found that the removal rate of antisemitic content online in Romanian was only 7.8 % of all reported content. ^(viii) The antisemitic tropes reported for Romanian are similar to those in other countries, the study shows.

In 2023 and 2024 antisemitic and negationist accounts and content have been identified both on less regulated chat apps such as Telegram, and on bigger social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, despite the latter's efforts to regulate, moderate and pursue the European rules embodied in the DSA.

Empirical research carried out in the INSHR-EW report for 2023-2024 based on keywords shows that the 7 October 2023 attack increased the number of references

regarding Israel and Jewish people 10 times for the whole month compared to the previous monthly average. Most of the coverage coming from websites consisted in news about the attack and its aftermath. However, websites also host antisemitic claims, most commonly in their comment sections, often left unmoderated. Nonetheless, most antisemitic statements or slurs were found on social media, especially in comments. To exemplify, antisemitic terms such as “kyke” (in Romanian - “jidán”) and “khazar” were identified in 5% (18,087) of the online messages, most of them on Facebook (55.15%) followed by websites 26.45%, Video Platforms 9.65% – especially YouTube, but also Rumble and Bitchute, X tweets 6.84%, blogs 1.23% and TikTok 0.4%. However, antisemitic content on TikTok has significantly increased since 2023, and the use of the platform as well. One important limitation of the analysis, which produces much lower results for platforms hosting video content (YouTube, TikTok), is that it only analysed the text in the posts, and not in the video transcripts. The analysis also showed that the October 2023 attack increased the usage of the term “Zionist” (15 times in October compared to previous months’ average), which was previously rather uncommon. In 86% instances, the term “Zionist” was used in an antisemitic context.

Box B 1 – Identifying trends in antisemitic incidents

To identify trends that underlie annual changes in the number of recorded incidents, linear regression lines (trend lines) were fitted to the data. This country overview presents trend lines where the following two conditions are fulfilled:

- the data were collected using the same methodology for at least three years in a row.
- the mid-point of the trend line for the series was not below 20 cases.

If the number of recorded incidents is low, the direction and magnitude of the trend is likely to be highly susceptible to change from one year to the next, making reliable trend analysis difficult. The number of recorded incidents is considered to be low if there were under 20 cases per year in all or most of the years between 2014 and 2024, resulting in the mid-point of the trend line falling under 20 cases.

It should also be emphasised that ascending or descending trend lines should not be interpreted as growing or declining antisemitism. The increase or decrease in recorded incidents may mean, for example, that more people are reporting incidents in a given year or that the police are becoming more efficient in recording incidents as antisemitic.

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- (ⁱ) See an overview of EU Member States and accession countries that adopted the [working definition of antisemitism](#) by the 2016 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.
 - (ⁱⁱ) Government of Romania (2018), [Law No 157 of 2 July 2018](#), *Monitorul Oficial*, Vol. 561, 4 July 2018.
 - (ⁱⁱⁱ) Haller, I. (2023), [Hate Crime and Hate Speech – The situation in Romania: 2021–2022](#), Centre for Legal Resources, Bucharest.
 - (^{iv}) Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania (Institutul Național pentru Studierea Holocaustului din România ‘Elie Wiesel’), [Raport de Monitorizare](#) (2023).
 - (^v) Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania (Institutul Național pentru Studierea Holocaustului din România ‘Elie Wiesel’), [Raport de Monitorizare](#) (2024).
 - (^{vi}) For more information, see the Report on monitoring antisemitism and denial of the Holocaust in 2024-2025, available at: [Raport de monitorizare: antisemitism și negarea Holocaustului în anul electoral 2024-2025 – INSHR](#)
 - (^{vii}) Data NLO provided to FRA, 2019–2024.
 - (^{viii}) Cambruzzi, M. and Heller, D. (2022), [Shadow Monitoring of Illegal Antisemitic Hate Speech](#), Research, Knowledge and Education against Anti-semitism.