

# **Coronavirus pandemic in the EU – Fundamental Rights Implications**

**Country:** Romania

**Contractor's name:** Human European Consultancy

**Date:** 3 June 2020

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# 1 Measures taken by government/public authorities

## 1.1 Emergency laws/states of emergency

*Provide information on emergency laws/declarations of states of emergency, including actions taken by police to enforce them and court rulings concerning the legality of such measures.*

In **Romania**, the state of emergency was declared for 30 days, on 16 March 2020, by presidential Decree<sup>1</sup>, and it was prolonged, also by presidential Decree<sup>2</sup>, until 14 May 2020. The measures related to the state of emergency are covered by the previous two reports.

In **Romania**, the fines for not observing the measures taken during the state of emergency (16 March – 14 May) were increased by emergency ordinance<sup>3</sup> at the beginning of April. The fines for individual persons ranged between RON 2.000 and 20.000 lei (approx. € 415-4,150), and for legal persons between RON 10.000 and 70.000 (approx. € 2,100-14,500). The Ombuds Office (*Avocatul Poporului*) has challenged the constitutionality of the measure<sup>4</sup> and asked the Minister of Interior to be more precise in defining the offenses, to avoid abusive sanctions against individuals, such as „the discretionary application of the measures, in the context in which the misdemeanours are severely punished, including the confiscation of the goods used to perpetrate the deed”<sup>5</sup>. At the beginning of May, the Romanian Constitutional Court (*Curtea Constituțională a României*) accepted the Ombuds’ claims and ruled that the emergency ordinance is unconstitutional<sup>6</sup>. In its motivation, the Court noted that: the norm must be drafted with sufficient precision to allow the citizens to control their conduct; the acts, facts or omissions that constitute contraventions are not clearly indicated; the determination of the contraventions is left arbitrarily at the free discretion of the ascertaining agent; not only are the facts giving rise to liability not specifically provided for, but the same main sanction is established regardless of the nature or gravity of the act<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Romania, Decree on the establishment of the emergency situation on the territory of Romania ([Decret nr. 195 din 16 martie 2020 privind instituirea stării de urgență pe teritoriul României](#)), 16 March 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Romania, Decree on the prolongation of the state of emergency on the territory of Romania ([Decret nr. 240 din 14 aprilie 2020 privind prelungirea stării de urgență pe teritoriul României](#)), 14 April 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Romania, Emergency Ordinance on amending the Emergency Decree n. 1/1999 regarding the state of siege and state of emergency ([Ordonanță de Urgență nr. 34 din 26 martie 2020 pentru modificarea și completarea Ordonanței de urgență a Guvernului nr. 1/1999 privind regimul stării de asediu și regimul stării de urgență](#)), 26 March 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Romania, Ombuds Office (*Avocatul Poporului*) (2020), ‘[Recomandările Avocatului Poporului privind contravențiile și sancțiunile în timpul stării de urgență](#)’, press release, 7 April 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Romania, Ombuds Office (*Avocatul Poporului*) (2020), ‘[Solicitare adresată ministrului afacerilor interne privind utilizarea, în viitoarele ordonanțe militare, de formulări rigurose exacte în definirea conținutului constitutiv și juridic al faptelor ce constituie contravenții și privind instruirea persoanelor care răspund de aplicarea acestor norme](#)’, 1 April 2020.

<sup>6</sup> Romania, Constitutional Court (*Curtea Constituțională a României*), ‘[Comunicat de presă, 6 Mai 2020](#)’, press release, 6 May 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Romania, Constitutional Court (*Curtea Constituțională a României*), ‘[Decizia nr. 157 din 13 mai 2020 referitoare la excepția de neconstituționalitate a dispozițiilor art. 2 lit. f\) și ale art. 4 din Ordonanța de urgență a Guvernului nr. 21/2004 privind Sistemul Național de Management al Situațiilor de Urgență](#)’, 13 May 2020.

In **Romania**, the state of alert (*stare de alertă*) was initially declared on 15 May 2020, by Decision<sup>8</sup> of the National Committee for Emergency Situations (*Comitetul Național pentru Situații de Urgență*), for a period of 30 days. On 18 May 2020, new legislation<sup>9</sup> specifically regulating the Covid-19 situation was enacted. Thus, the Government declared again the state of alert, for a new period of 30 days, through a Government Decision<sup>10</sup>, later endorsed, with amendments, by the Parliament<sup>11</sup>. The content of the two decisions is similar, and it includes three types of measures:

- Measures to increase responsiveness;
- Measures to ensure community resilience;
- Measures to reduce the impact of the identified risk.

The measures included in the Government's Decision cannot exceed the framework established by the law<sup>12</sup>, and the law provides in detail the punishable offenses during the state of alert. The fines range between 500 and 15,000 RON (€100-3,000). The Government publishes daily press bulletins which include the number of offenses. By 31 May 2020, 2,266 persons were fined, with a total amount of RON 1,549,530 (€320,000)<sup>13</sup>. More serious offenses related to the health emergency, such as failing to respect quarantine measures or not declaring trips abroad or potential Covid-19 contacts, are punishable according to Art. 352 of the Penal Code<sup>14</sup>. By 31 May 2020, 42 penal investigations were opened nation-wide<sup>15</sup>. The Penal Code was amended, through Emergency Ordinance, at the beginning of the pandemic<sup>16</sup>. Lawyers criticized the ambiguity of the new provisions, which may lead to abuses<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Romania, Decision on approval of national alert, institutions and measures to prevent and control information, in the context of the epidemiological situation generated by the SARS-CoV-2 virus ([Hotărâre nr. 24 din 14 mai 2020 privind aprobarea instituirii stării de alertă la nivel național și a măsurilor de prevenire și control al infecțiilor, în contextul situației epidemiologice generate de virusul SARS-CoV-2](#)), 15 May 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Romania, Law regarding some measures to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Lege nr. 55 din 15 mai 2020 privind unele măsuri pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 15 mai 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Romania, Decision on the declaration of a state of alert and the measures to be taken during it to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Hotărâre nr. 394 din 18 mai 2020 privind declararea stării de alertă și măsurile care se aplică pe durata acesteia pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 18 May 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Romania, Decision of the Parliament on approval of the state of alert and of the measures established by the Government Decision no. 394/2020 on the declaration of the state of alert and the measures applied during it to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Hotărâre nr. 5 din 20 mai 2020 pentru încuviințarea stării de alertă și a măsurilor instituite prin Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 394/2020 privind declararea stării de alertă și măsurile care se aplică pe durata acesteia pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 20 May 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Romania, Law regarding some measures to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Lege nr. 55 din 15 mai 2020 privind unele măsuri pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 15 May 2020.

<sup>13</sup> Source: data compiled by the researcher based on the daily bulletins published by the Government on [the official Covid-19 page](#).

<sup>14</sup> Source: data compiled by the researcher based on the daily bulletins published by the Government on [the official Covid-19 page](#).

<sup>15</sup> Romania, Ministry of Interior (*Ministerul Afacerilor Interne*) (2020), '[Buletin de Presa 28 Aprilie 2020, ora 13.00](#)', press release, 28 April 2020.

<sup>16</sup> Romania, Emergency Ordinance 28 on amending the Penal Code ([Ordonanță de Urgență nr. 28 din 18 martie 2020 pentru modificarea și completarea Legii nr. 286/2009 privind Codul penal](#)), 18 March 2020.

<sup>17</sup> Hotnews.ro (2020), '[Frânarea răspândirii coronavirusului și represiunea penală](#)', 30 April 2020.

## 1.2 Measures affecting the general population

### 1.2.1 Social distancing

Focus on:

- *Lifting of stay at home orders, and measures/rules for general physical distancing when in public or at home*
- *Enforcement and penalties*

In **Romania**, strict 'stay at home' orders were in place<sup>18</sup> between 24 March 2020 and 15 May 2020, during the state of emergency. These were covered in the previous reports, and no notable changes have occurred.

In **Romania**, some temporary measures adopted during the state of alert<sup>19</sup> restricted traveling outside the locality or outside the metropolitan area, defined as the localities situated less than 30 km of a large urbanhub. The individuals who needed to travel outside this area need to provide justifying reasons and fill in a statement. The accepted reasons were:

- a) travel in professional interest, including between home / household and the place / places where the professional activity takes place and back;
- b) travel for humanitarian or voluntary purposes;
- c) travel for agricultural activities;
- d) travel for the sale of agri-food products by agricultural producers;
- e) travel for the care or administration of a property in another locality or the issuance of documents necessary to obtain certain rights;
- f) travel to participate in medical programs or procedures;
- g) travel for other justified reasons, such as the care / accompaniment of children / family members, the care of a relative / relative or dependent, the assistance of elderly, sick or disabled persons, the death of a family member;
- h) travel for medical assistance that cannot be postponed or made remotely;
- i) travel for individual outdoor recreational or sporting activities, namely cycling, hiking, running, boating, mountaineering, hunting, fishing or other outdoor recreational and sporting activities established by order of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Youth and Sports or the Minister of the Environment, Waters and Forests, as appropriate;
- j) travel to participate in family events;
- k) travel for the acquisition, service, performance of PTI or other vehicle maintenance operations, activities that cannot be performed in the locality of residence;
- l) travel for the provision of goods that cover the needs of persons and pets, as well as goods necessary for carrying out the professional activity, which cannot be purchased from the place of residence / residence.

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<sup>18</sup> Romania, Military Ordinance no. 3 regarding measures to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 ([Ordonanța Militară nr. 3 din 24 martie 2020 privind măsuri de prevenire a răspândirii COVID-19](#)), 24 March 2020.

<sup>19</sup> Romania, Decision on on the declaration of a state of alert and the measures to be taken during it to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Hotărâre nr. 394 din 18 mai 2020 privind declararea stării de alertă și măsurile care se aplică pe durata acesteia pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 18 May 2020.

Inside the locality / metropolitan areas, movement of individuals is unrestricted but the movement of persons in pedestrian groups larger than 3 persons who do not belong to the same family, as well as the formation of such groups, was forbidden for a temporary period of time.

The restriction to travel outside the locality / metropolitan area will be lifted starting with 1 June 2020<sup>20</sup>.

Not respecting the travel restrictions, both inside and outside the locality, is subject to fines between RON 500 and 2.500 (€100-500).

In **Romania**, starting with 22 May, in closed public spaces, commercial spaces, means of public transport and at work, individuals have the obligation to wear a protective mask, under the conditions established by the joint order of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Internal Affairs<sup>21</sup>. The Government, through the Ministry of Health, will make available to the local public authorities the necessary protective masks for disadvantaged families and persons within the respective administrative-territorial units<sup>22</sup>. Not respecting these provisions is subject to fines between RON 500 and 2.500(€100-500).

## 1.2.2 Education

Focus on:

- *Steps to reopen educational institutions (schools, third level educational facilities and kindergartens/day care). Please include any specific measures aimed at children from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds*
- *Measures to protect students and staff as they return to educational institutions (e.g. related to physical distancing, shift patterns, health and hygiene, etc.)*

In **Romania**, all schools were closed on 11 March 2020, and they will remain closed until September 2020, according to the announcement made by the President on 27 April 2020<sup>23</sup>, enacted by the Government Decision on declaring the state of alert<sup>24</sup>, and implemented through Order of the Minister

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<sup>20</sup> Romania, Decision of the National Committee for Emergency Situations (*Comitetul Național pentru Situații de Urgență*) on the proposal to amend / supplement / relax the prevention measures and combating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic during the state of alert ([Hotărâre nr. 26 din 28.05.2020 privind propunerea de modificare / completare / relaxare a măsurilor de prevenire și combatere a efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19 dispuse pe durata stării de alertă](#)), 28 May 2020.

<sup>21</sup> Romania, Order on establishing the obligation to wear a protective mask, epidemiological triage and mandatory hand disinfection to prevent contamination with SARS-CoV-2 virus during the state of alert ([Ordin nr. 874/81/2020 privind instituirea obligativității purtării măștii de protecție, a triajului epidemiologic și dezinfectarea obligatorie a mâinilor pentru prevenirea contaminării cu virusul SARS-CoV-2 pe durata stării de alertă](#)), 22 May 2020.

<sup>22</sup> Romania, Decision of the Parliament on approval of the state of alert and of the measures established by the Government Decision no. 394/2020 on the declaration of the state of alert and the measures applied during it to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Hotărâre nr. 5 din 20 mai 2020 pentru încuviințarea stării de alertă și a măsurilor instituite prin Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 394/2020 privind declararea stării de alertă și măsurile care se aplică pe durata acesteia pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 20 May 2020.

<sup>23</sup> Romania, Presidency (*Administrația Prezidențială*) (2020), '[Declarația de presă susținută de Președintele României, domnul Klaus Iohannis](#)', press statement, 27 April 2020.

<sup>24</sup> Romania, Decision on on the declaration of a state of alert and the measures to be taken during it to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Hotărâre nr. 394 din 18 mai 2020 privind declararea stării](#)

of Education<sup>25</sup>. The only exception are the pupils supposed to take the national exams (8 and 12/13 grades), who will return to school for two weeks, between 2-12 June. During this time, they will prepare for exams, and the schools are supposed to implement strict social distancing and sanitary conditions. The participation in these preparatory activities is not mandatory. Upon parents' decision, pupils may remain at home during this period, in which case the school will provide online training sessions<sup>26</sup>.

In **Romania**, the national exams will be organized during the second half of June<sup>27</sup>. The schools will implement screening and standard social distancing measures (such as wearing masks, maintaining at least 2 meters between persons, and frequent disinfection)<sup>28</sup>.

In **Romania**, the Government allocated RON 150 million (€30 millions) for the implementation of a national program called "Home School" whose objective is the procurement of electronic devices connected to the internet for the equipment of state pre-university education units, in view of facilitating distance learning activities for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.<sup>29</sup> The legislative document does not mention the number of devices envisaged to be purchased, which will be determined based on the specific data centralised by the county school inspectorates. According to the press release of the Romanian Minister of Education and Research of 8 May, the estimated number of pupils needing such electronic devices was about 250,000<sup>30</sup>. On 21 May, the *market consultation announcement* regarding the procurement of the electronic devices was published by the National Agency for Public Procurement and thus, the procurement procedure was launched.

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[de alertă și măsurile care se aplică pe durata acesteia pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 18 May 2020.

<sup>25</sup> Romania, Order on amending the school organization ([Ordin nr. 4.249 din 13 mai 2020 pentru modificarea și completarea Regulamentului-cadru de organizare și funcționare a unităților de învățământ preuniversitar, aprobat prin Ordinul ministrului educației naționale și cercetării științifice nr. 5.079/2016](#)), 13 May 2020.

<sup>26</sup> Romania, Order for the implementation of the measures regarding the education system in the context of the establishment of the alert state on the Romanian territory ([Ordin nr. 4.266/840/2020 pentru punerea în aplicare a măsurilor privind sistemul de învățământ în contextul instituirii stării de alertă pe teritoriul României](#)), 18 May 2020; and Order for the establishment of measures to prevent and control diseases with SARS-CoV-2 in educational institutions / institutions ([Ordin nr. 4.220/769/2020 pentru stabilirea unor măsuri de prevenire și combatere a îmbolnăvirilor cu SARS-CoV-2 în unitățile/instituțiile de învățământ](#)), 12 May 2020

<sup>27</sup> Romania, Order regarding the organization of the National Evaluation ([Ordin nr. 4.248 din 13 mai 2020 pentru modificarea și completarea Ordinului ministrului educației naționale, interimar, nr. 4.916/2019 privind organizarea și desfășurarea evaluării naționale pentru absolvenții clasei a VIII-a în anul școlar 2019-2020](#)), 13 mai 2020; and Order regarding the organization of the Bacalaureat ([Ordin nr. 4.307 din 21 mai 2020 pentru modificarea și completarea Ordinului ministrului educației naționale nr. 4.950/2019 privind organizarea și desfășurarea examenului de bacalaureat național – 2020](#)), 21 May 2020.

<sup>28</sup> Romania, Order for the establishment of measures to prevent and combat SARS-CoV-2 diseases in educational institutions / institutions, public institutions and all structures under the subordination or coordination of the Ministry of Education and Research ([Ordin nr. 4.267/841/2020 pentru stabilirea unor măsuri de prevenire și combatere a îmbolnăvirilor cu SARS-CoV-2 în unitățile/instituțiile de învățământ, instituțiile publice și toate structurile aflate în subordonarea sau coordonarea Ministerului Educației și Cercetării](#)), 16 May 2020.

<sup>29</sup> Romania, Decision on the approval of the National Program "Home School" and for the allocation of an amount from the Budget Reserve Fund at the disposal of the Government, provided in the state budget for 2020, for the Ministry of Education and Research ([Hotărâre nr. 370 din 7 mai 2020 privind aprobarea Programului național "Școala de acasă" și pentru alocarea unei sume din Fondul de rezervă bugetară la dispoziția Guvernului, prevăzut în bugetul de stat pe anul 2020, pentru Ministerul Educației și Cercetării](#)), 7 May 2020.

<sup>30</sup> [Press release](#) of the Ministry of Education and Research from 8 May 2020.

However, it is highly unlikely that the devices will reach their beneficiaries before the end of the current school year, on 12 June.

In **Romania**, all universities' campuses/buildings remain closed, and all activities, including exams, are carried out online. Universities, both public and private, enjoy a large autonomy in relation to education-related decisions, but the restrictions imposed to in-door group gatherings make it impossible to resume regular, face-to-face, courses.

In **Romania**, all kindergatens and day care centres, both public and private, remain closed during the state of alertness. Some activities are carried out online but it is not compulsory. In each family with children under 12 years old, one parent or legal guardian is entitled to paid leave of absence until the end of the school year (12 June 2020)<sup>31</sup>, in some conditions: the person is employed, and the work cannot be performed from home. The monthly stipendium can not exceed 75% of the national average brut revenue (RON 5.429, approx. € 1.120)<sup>32</sup>.

### 1.2.3 Work

*Focus on:*

- *Steps for specific sectors/the general population to return to work and measures to protect employees in the workplace (physical distancing, health and hygiene, shift patterns, etc.)*
- *People in precarious work*

In **Romania**, during the state of alert, the Government established specific measures to be taken by employers to protect employees in the workplace<sup>33</sup>:

- ensuring the epidemiological triage consisting in the control of the temperature of the own staff and of the visitors, at the control-access points in the premises;
- mandatory disinfection of hands before entering work spaces;
- compliance with the rules regarding the activity in the offices with common spaces (open space) and the rules regarding the operation of the accommodation units in hotel regime;
- shift of the work schedule, for entities with more than 50 employees, so that the beginning or end of the work schedule is done at intervals of at least 1 hour, during at least 3 hours, in series of at least 20% of personnel.

In addition, public institutions and economic operators who carry out commercial activities / work with the public that involve the access of people inside the buildings, take measures for the organization of the activity, as follows:

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<sup>31</sup> Romania, Law regarding some measures to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Legea nr. 55 din 15 mai 2020 privind unele măsuri pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 15 May 2020

<sup>32</sup> Romania, Law on on granting parental leave for the supervision of children in the event of the temporary closure of educational establishments ([Legea nr. 19 din 14 martie 2020 privind acordarea unor zile libere părinților pentru supravegherea copiilor, în situația închiderii temporare a unităților de învățământ](#)), 14 March 2020.

<sup>33</sup> Romania, Decision on on the declaration of a state of alert and the measures to be taken during it to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Hotărâre nr. 394 din 18 mai 2020 privind declararea stării de alertă și măsurile care se aplică pe durata acesteia pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 18 May 2020.



- the access must be organized in such a way as to ensure a minimum area of 4sqm for each client / person and a minimum distance of 2m between any two close persons;
- not to allow the access of persons whose body temperature, measured at the entrance to the premises, exceeds 37.30C;
- to ensure the disinfection of the exposed surfaces and to avoid the crowding of people, especially in the areas of cash registers / counters.

Detailed instructions are included in an Order jointly signed by the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Health<sup>34</sup>. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (*Ministerul Muncii și Protecției Sociale*) published guidelines to help employers with the implementation of the legal requirements<sup>35</sup>.

In **Romania**, no specific measures for people in precarious work were adopted during the state of emergency or the state of alert. Researchers from the Research Institute for the Quality of Life (*Institutul de Cercetare pentru Calitatea Vieții*) (part of the Romanian Academy) draw attention to the lack of measures to support precarious workers<sup>36</sup>. The main measure of social policies during the state of emergency was the introduction of technical unemployment, paid by the state, as a form of social protection for employees whose employment contract was suspended, but also as economic protection for employers. The measure leaves outside the safety net various types of precarious workers, researchers are noting, including: daily workers, part-time workers, and workers that may become ineligible for unemployment benefits. The researchers recommend additional support measures for these categories.

#### 1.2.4 Access to justice

*Focus on:*

- *Strategies /steps to lift measures or restrictions previously imposed on court proceedings (e.g. resuming physical hearings)*
- *Measures to address the backlog in cases/proceedings prompted by lockdown restrictions*

In **Romania**, the Decree declaring the state of emergency<sup>37</sup> included provisions on the functioning of the courts as well, limiting the work of the judiciary during this period both in relation to civil and criminal cases. The issue was addressed in the previous reports.

In **Romania**, restrictions to the courts proceedings were lifted during the state of alert. As any other employer / public institution, the courts are taking measures to protect their employees and the public (see Section 1.2.3). Each court has the freedom and responsibility to take its own specific measures. For example, the Bucharest Tribunal (*Tribunalul București*), the most crowded court in the country,

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<sup>34</sup> Romania, Joint Order on measures to prevent contamination with the new SARS Cov-2 coronavirus and to ensure the performance of the activity at work in conditions of safety and health at work, during the state of alert ([‘Ordin comun privind măsurile pentru prevenirea contaminării cu noul coronavirus SARS Cov-2 și pentru asigurarea desfășurării activității la locul de muncă în condiții de securitate și sănătate în muncă, pe perioada stării de alertă’](#)), 17 May 2020.

<sup>35</sup> Romania, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (*Ministerul Muncii și Protecției Sociale*), [‘Ghid pentru revenirea la muncă în condiții de siguranță pentru angajați și angajatori’](#), 17 May 2020.

<sup>36</sup> Research Institute for the Quality of Life (2020), [Pandemia și standardul de viață. Politici de protecție socială](#), 25 April 2020.

<sup>37</sup> Romania, Decree on the establishment of the emergency situation on the territory of Romania ([Decret nr. 195 din 16 martie 2020 privind instituirea stării de urgență pe teritoriul României](#)), 16 March 2020.



has published a set of regulations<sup>38</sup> that refers to: measures to protect employees; general rules for the public access to the court's building; scheduling of hearings to avoid rooms' crowding and to maintain social distancing; and a system of phone and online appointments for various interactions with the public. Similar measures are adopted by all other courts in the country.

In **Romania**, the High Court of Justice (*Înalta Curte de Casație și Justiție*), analysing the effect of the suspension on access to justice, announced that it will fully operate during the month of July (traditionally this period is a judicial vacation), giving priority to the cases that were suspended during the state of emergency<sup>39</sup>. This decision applies to the High Court only. Similar decisions are expected from other courts.

### 1.2.5 Freedom of movement

*Focus on:*

- *Steps to reopen borders/lift restrictions on freedom of movement to (external borders) and within the EU (internal borders), including rules or restrictions applying to certain categories of people (citizens; 'essential workers'; cross border commuters etc). Please mention what requirements are in place for various categories of people to enter country (e.g. negative COVID-19 test result and/or obligation to self-quarantine; work certificate etc).*
- *Any changes to asylum application procedures (e.g. lifting of temporary suspensions or restrictions on procedures, or mentioning whether such restrictions are rather still in place)*

In **Romania**, the borders were closed to foreigners during the state of emergency (13 March – 14 May), with some exceptions (please see the previous reports). The restriction was maintained during the state of alert<sup>40</sup> (starting with 15 May). The allowed exceptions are:

- a) family members of Romanian citizens;
- b) family members of the citizens of other Member States of the European Union or of the European Economic Area or of the Swiss Confederation, with residence in Romania;
- c) persons with a long-stay visa, a residence permit or a document equivalent to the residence permit issued by the authorities or a document equivalent to them issued by the authorities of other states, according to the legislation of the European Union;
- d) persons traveling in the professional interest, proven by visa, residence permit or other equivalent document, respectively medical staff, researchers in the medical field, medical staff for geriatric care, as well as carriers and other categories of personnel involved in the transport of goods providing such necessary transport;
- e) diplomatic or consular personnel, personnel of international organizations, military personnel or personnel who can provide humanitarian aid;
- f) persons in transit, including those repatriated as a result of the granting of consular protection;

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<sup>38</sup> Romania, Decision no. 72 of the President of the Bucharest Tribunal ([Decizia nr. 72 din data de 15.05.2020 a Președintelui Tribunalului București](#)), 15 May 2020.

<sup>39</sup> Romania, High Court of Justice (*Inalta Curte de Casatie si Justiei*), '[Comunicat de presă privind activitatea desfășurată de instanța supremă în perioada 16.03.2020 - 16.04.2020](#)', press release, 24 April 2020.

<sup>40</sup> Romania, Decision on on the declaration of a state of alert and the measures to be taken during it to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Hotărâre nr. 394 din 18 mai 2020 privind declararea stării de alertă și măsurile care se aplică pe durata acesteia pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 18 May 2020.

- g) passengers traveling for imperative reasons;
- h) persons in need of international protection or for other humanitarian reasons.

In **Romania**, starting with 15 May, during the state of alert, for all persons coming to Romania from abroad, the measure of quarantine / isolation for 14 days is established at the home / location declared by the person in question, together with anybody living in the same household, including the family / relatives, as the case may be<sup>41</sup>. The following exceptions to this rule apply:

- a) drivers of goods vehicles with a maximum authorized capacity of more than 2.4 tons;
- b) drivers of motor vehicles for the transport of persons who have more than 9 seats, including the driver's seat;
- c) the aforementioned drivers ((a) and (b)) who move for professional reasons from their country of residence to another Member State of the European Union, or from another state of the European Union to their country of residence, regardless of whether the movement is made by individual means or on their own account ;
- d) members of the European Parliament, parliamentarians and staff belonging to the national system of defence, public order and national security;
- e) aircraft pilots and flight crew;
- f) locomotive drivers and railway staff;
- g) Romanian, maritime and river shipping personnel repatriating by any means of transport, presenting to the competent authorities the "certificate for workers in the international transport sector", the model of which is published in the Official Journal of the European Union, series C, no. 96 I of March 24, 2020;
- h) sea and river navigating personnel carrying out the exchange of crew on board ships located in Romanian ports, regardless of the flag they fly, if at the entry into the country, as well as at the embarkation / disembarkation from the ship, they present to the competent authorities from the international transport sector the "Certificate for workers in the international transport sector", the model of which is published in the Official Journal of the European Union, series C, no. 96 I of March 24, 2020;
- i) navigating personnel disembarking from inland waterway vessels flying the Romanian flag in a Romanian port, provided that the employers provide the certificate for international transport workers and personal protective equipment against COVID-19, on the time of movement from the ship to the location where the person can be contacted between voyages;
- j) cross-border workers entering Romania from Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Ukraine or the Republic of Moldova;
- k) employees of the Romanian economic operators who perform works, according to the concluded contracts, outside the Romanian territory, on their return to the country, if they prove the contractual relations with the beneficiary outside the national territory;
- l) the representatives of the foreign companies that have subsidiaries / branches / representations or agencies on the national territory, if at the entry on the Romanian territory they prove the contractual relations with the economic entities on the national territory;
- m) persons entering Romania for the provision of activities of use, installation, commissioning, maintenance, service of medical equipment and technology, as well as equipment in the fields of science, economics, defence, public order and national security, if the reports prove

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<sup>41</sup> Romania, Decision on on the declaration of a state of alert and the measures to be taken during it to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Hotărâre nr. 394 din 18 mai 2020 privind declararea stării de alertă și măsurile care se aplică pe durata acesteia pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 18 May 2020.

contracts with the beneficiary / beneficiaries from the territory of Romania, as well as the inspectors of international bodies;

- n) members of diplomatic missions, consular offices and other diplomatic missions accredited in Bucharest, holders of diplomatic passports, staff assimilated to diplomatic personnel, as well as members of the Romanian Diplomatic and Consular Corps and holders of diplomatic and service passports, as well as members of their families ;
- o) employees of the national system of defence, public order and national security who return to Romania from missions performed abroad;
- p) pupils, students, Romanian citizens or citizens of the neighbouring states of Romania, with domicile or residence outside Romania and enrolled in educational units / institutions on the territory of our country, who have to take tests or exams at the end of secondary education / high school / higher education.

Persons who do not have the possibility to meet the conditions for quarantine / isolation at home / other location or who request this in order not to expose their family may opt for the institutionalized quarantine measure, in specially designed spaces provided by local public administration authorities. Persons who do not comply with the quarantine / isolation measures at home / other location are placed in institutionalized quarantine for a period of 14 days and are obliged to bear the value of accommodation and food during the institutionalized quarantine.

In **Romania**, the General Inspectorate for Immigrations (*Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări*) announced that the activities of receiving new in-person applications, except for applications for international protection and applications for access to a new asylum procedure, shall be suspended during the state of emergency<sup>42</sup> (13 March – 14 May). All activities were resumed starting with 15 May.

### 1.3 Impact of measures on particular groups

Select the three most relevant groups from the following:

- *persons with disabilities,*
- *homeless people,*
- *Roma and Travellers (Note – for those countries requested to collect additional data on the impact of COVID-19 on Roma – Service request No 33 (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden), information submitted on Roma for Bulletin 3 should not be duplicated in this additional data collection)*
- *Detainees (including measures on early release or alternatives to detention)*
- *or another group not listed that have emerged in your country as facing particular challenges - before selection, this should be discussed with FRA.*

#### Persons with disabilities

In **Romania**, the situation of persons with disabilities, either institutionalized or not, was a permanent concern of the Ombuds and human rights organizations, during the state of emergency. Please see

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<sup>42</sup> Romania, General Inspectorate for Immigration (*Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări*), '[Informare în atenția solicitanților / beneficiarilor de protecție internațională](#)', 14 March 2020.

the previous reports for details. In addition to the previously reported cases, the Ombuds signalled, on 13 May 2020, the difficult situation at the Dărmănești Neuropsychiatric Recovery and Rehabilitation Center (*Centrul de Recuperare și Reabilitare Neuropsihiatrică Dărmănești*), where 64 persons were reported infected, out of the 74 residents and 30 patients, and they lack proper medical care<sup>43</sup>.

In **Romania**, the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Children and Adoptions (*Autoritatea Națională pentru Drepturile Persoanelor cu Dizabilități Copii și Adopții*) reported that, at the end of the state of emergency (14 May), 1.15% of the total institutionalized beneficiaries were infected with the Sars-Cov-2 virus, respectively 657 people, of which 17 children<sup>44</sup>; 436 persons were infected and cured; 122 persons died, all of them elderly or adults with disabilities (the numbers are not broken down), meaning that 10% of the total deaths were institutionalized persons. Among staff, there were 360 infected and 2 dead. The Center for Legal Resources (*Centrul pentru Resurse Juridice*), human rights organization, asked the Ministry of Health to amend the specific Covid-19 protocols, and to include the workers in such institutions among the priority groups for Covid-19 testing, in order to avoid new outbreaks<sup>45</sup>.

### Homeless people

In **Romania**, during the state of emergency, the local public administration authorities had the obligation to identify and keep records of homeless people, as well as to ensure their shelter and care. The evidence of homeless people is updated and reported weekly to the County Center / Municipality of Bucharest for coordination and management of the intervention<sup>46</sup>. There is no centralized monitoring on how these measures were applied. The measures were discontinued after 14 May, during the state of alert. Watchdog NGOs have signalled the case of the city of Baia-Mare, where the Mayor allegedly used these provisions against the poor inhabitants of the city<sup>47</sup>. Homeless people and beggars were removed from the streets using force, by employees of the Social Assistance Direction ( *Direcția de Asistență Socială*), a department of the Mayor. Later, they were forced to clean the streets, without any payment<sup>48</sup>.

### Detainees

In **Romania**, during the state of emergency (13 March – 14 May), specific measures related to the situation of detainees were taken. They were discussed in the previous reports. The measures are no

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<sup>43</sup> Romania, Ombuds (*Avocatul Poporului*), '[Avocatul Poporului solicită Ministrului Muncii și Protecției Sociale luarea de măsuri urgente față de situația dramatică de la Centrul de Recuperare și Reabilitare Neuropsihiatrică Dărmănești](#)', 13 May 2020.

<sup>44</sup> Romania, National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Children and Adoptions (*Autoritatea Națională pentru Drepturile Persoanelor cu Dizabilități Copii și Adopții*), '[Situația răspândirii epidemiei COVID-19 în sistemul de asistență și protecție a copilului la finalul stării de urgență](#)', press release, 16 May 2020.

<sup>45</sup> Center for Legal Resources (2020), '[De ce este ignorată testarea persoanelor cu dizabilități instituționalizate?](#)', 15 May 2020.

<sup>46</sup> Romania, Military Ordinance no. 3 regarding measures to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 (*Ordonanța Militară nr. 3 din 24 martie 2020 privind măsuri de prevenire a răspândirii COVID-19*), 24 March 2020.

<sup>47</sup> The Group of NGOs for Democracy (2020), '[Am sesizat Avocatul Poporului după ce Primarul din Baia Mare a declarat că "ridică" persoanele care cerșesc pe stradă](#)', 15 May 2020.

<sup>48</sup> The Mayor of Baia-Mare published photos from this action [on his Facebook page](#).

longer enforced starting with 15 May, during the state of alert. The National Administration of Penitentiaries (*Administrația Națională a Penitenciarelor*) has taken standard precautions (social distancing, disinfection) to limit the risk of infection during the contacts between inmates and their families<sup>49</sup>. During visits, both the detainees and the visitor (only one person) will wear protective gear (mask, gloves, visor) at all time. Intimate visits are allowed only if the visitor presents a medical certificate showing that they are not infected with Sars-Cov-2; after the intimate visit, the detainee will be placed in isolation for 14 days.

## 2 Impact on fundamental rights of older people

*Please provide information under each title / sub-title; and indicate n/a when no information available.*

### 2.1 Data/statistics

*Where available, data should be disaggregated by age groups and sex.*

#### 2.1.1 Share of persons 60+ in the total number of persons infected, recovered and died in relation to COVID-19.

- Infected by COVID-19
- Recovered from COVID-19
- Died in relation to COVID-19

| <b>Romania</b> | Total number of cases | Cases 60+          | 60-69 | 70-79 | 80+    |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Infected       | 19,400                | 31.9%              | 18.4% | 8%    | 5.5%   |
| Recovered      | 11,663                | Data not available |       |       |        |
| Death          | 1,270                 | 76.70%             | 26.8% | 26%   | 23.90% |

Data disaggregated by gender is not available.

Source of data: National Institute of Public Health (*Institutul Național de Sănătate Publică*)<sup>50</sup>.

Reference date: 1 June 2020.

<sup>49</sup> Romania, National Administration of Penitentiaries (*Administrația Națională a Penitenciarelor*), '[În atenția apărținătorilor persoanelor private de libertate – Stare de alertă](#)', 18 May 2020.

<sup>50</sup> Source of data: [weekly statistical bulletins](#) published by the National Institute of Public Health (*Institutul Național de Sănătate Publică*), reference data: 25 May 2020.

### **2.1.2 Share of persons 60+ in the total number of persons in institutional settings infected, recovered and died in relation to COVID-19.**

- Infected by COVID-19
- Recovered from COVID-19
- Died in relation to COVID-19

In **Romania**, disaggregated data on the cases in institutional settings is not available from official sources. The information under 2.1.1. includes all information with regard to people infected, recovered and dead in relation to COVID-19.

### **2.1.3 Number and type of institutions affected**

In Romania, data on the number and type of institutions affected is not available from official sources.

### **2.1.4 Do official statistics on mortality rates from COVID-19 include deaths of older persons in care homes? Has there been any critique of data collection with respect to care homes?**

In **Romania**, statistics on mortality rates from COVID-19 do include deaths of older persons in care homes but the data is not disaggregated by setting or sex.

### **2.1.5 Independent studies published on the situation of older persons with respect to the impact of and responses to COVID-19**

*Please reference up to three studies and provide brief information on their focus.*

In **Romania**, researchers from the Research Institute for the Quality of Life (*Institutul de Cercetare pentru Calitatea Vieții*) (part of the Romanian Academy) have analysed the impact of the Covid-19 crises on the social assistance system and on the quality of life in a series of policy papers published in April-May 2020:

- 'Pandemia și standardul de viață. Politici de protecție socială'<sup>51</sup>: the study is a broad analysis of the impact of the pandemic and the measures taken during the state of emergency on the income and quality of life. A section analyses situation of elderly.
- 'Calitatea vieții în timpul pandemiei: probleme și politici de răspuns'<sup>52</sup>: the study proposes an in-depth analysis of the social policies in Romania, with a focus on the pandemic shock. It is advocating for a new social policy and a new vision for the country. It has consistent references to the situation of elderly.

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<sup>51</sup> Research Institute for the Quality of Life (2020), [Pandemia și standardul de viață. Politici de protecție socială](#), 25 April 2020.

<sup>52</sup> Research Institute for the Quality of Life (2020), [Calitatea vieții în timpul pandemiei: probleme și politici de răspuns](#), 27 April 2020.

- 'Pandemia COVID19 din perspectivă demografică'<sup>53</sup>: the focus of the study is on the demographic evolutions, including a discussion on the aging population and how the pandemic is affecting the older people.

## 2.2 COVID-19 measures targeting older people

*Please indicate the age group/s concerned; e.g. 60+, 65+, 70+ etc.*

*Please consult and refer in particular to measures related to existing or planned national exit strategies (policies/measures).*

*Please report on developments for the reference period 1 May – 31 May (inclusive) and on any changes/revisions of measures reported in the 1st and 2nd bulletin regarding older people.*

### 2.2.1 National guidelines/protocols in response to COVID-19 addressing older people

- in residential care homes (including protective equipment, visits etc.)

In **Romania**, the Government introduced<sup>54</sup> strict regulations for social services such as residential care centres for the elderly, residential centres for children and adults with and without disabilities, as well as for other vulnerable categories, both public and private. These services are not allowed to suspend or discontinue their activity during the state of emergency. Visits are not permitted. Residents are not allowed to exit. The workers in these services will be forced to remain in quarantine inside the centres for 14 days, followed by another 14 days of quarantine at home. The measures were maintained at the end of the state of emergency (16 March – 14 May), and during the state of alert<sup>55</sup>.

In **Romania**, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Children and Adoptions (*Autoritatea Națională pentru Drepturile Persoanelor cu Dizabilități Copii și Adopții*) published general guidelines for social services applicable during the state of alert generated by the epidemic of Covid-19<sup>56</sup>.

- in the community in general

In **Romania**, all movement restrictions for older people (65+), that were introduced during the state of emergency (please see the previous reports), were lifted on 15 May, when the state of emergency ended. Older people now need to respect the same social distancing measures as the rest of the population (please see Section 1).

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<sup>53</sup> Research Institute for the Quality of Life (2020), [Pandemia COVID19 din perspectivă demografică](#), 18 May 2020.

<sup>54</sup> Romania, Military Ordinance no. 8 regarding measures to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 ([Ordonanța Militară nr. 8 din 9 aprilie 2020 privind măsuri de prevenire a răspândirii COVID-19](#)), 9 April 2020.

<sup>55</sup> Romania, Decision on on the declaration of a state of alert and the measures to be taken during it to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Hotărâre nr. 394 din 18 mai 2020 privind declararea stării de alertă și măsurile care se aplică pe durata acesteia pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 18 May 2020.

<sup>56</sup> Romania, National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Children and Adoptions (*Autoritatea Națională pentru Drepturile Persoanelor cu Dizabilități Copii și Adopții*), '[Protocol recomandări pentru serviciile sociale aplicabile în perioada stării de alertă generată de epidemia de COVID-19](#)', 16 May 2020.



## 2.2.2 National guidelines/protocols on patient triage that apply age as the main and decisive criterion

In **Romania**, no national guidelines/protocols apply age as the main and decisive criterion<sup>57</sup>.

## 2.2.3 Targeted testing of residents and staff in residential care homes

- Is this laid down in a targeted policy/measure or done on an ad-hoc basis when a case has been detected?

In **Romania**, all symptomatic residents and staff are tested (as a general rule, all symptomatic patients are tested). Starting with 14 May 2020, the National Institute for Public Health (*Institutul Național de Sănătate Publică*) included the following relevant categories on the list of persons recommended for priority testing<sup>58</sup>:

- Asymptomatic institutionalized people - when registering first time in residential center or upon returning to the residential center from the family or from the hospital;
- Symptomatic institutionalized people;
- Residential care and support staff - twice a month;

The testing is undertaken by the county Public Health Directions (*Direcția de Sănătate Publică*), which may publish relevant information in press releases. There is no centralized data on the number of tests and results.

In **Romania**, it was mandatory that the beneficiaries and all staff/personnel of the centers to be tested at the headquarters of the social service by the public health departments in case of manifestation of specific symptoms COVID-19 or in case of information resulting from direct contact with an infected person among the beneficiaries or staff/personnel. According to the amendments to the document Case definitions for Acute Respiratory Syndrome with the new coronavirus (COVID-19) and testing algorithms, published on the website of the National Center for Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases, care staff/personnel in elderly homes /residential centers is recommended to be tested twice a month. <http://www.cnscbt.ro/index.php/1665-definitii-de-caz-si-algoritm-de-testare/file>

- Data/statistics on testing & frequency of testing – institutions, residents, staff

In **Romania**, data/statistics on testing and frequency of testing in institutions is not centralized and available from official sources to reflect national data.

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<sup>57</sup> Protocols are published [on the webpage of the National Institute of Public Health](#) (*Institutul Național de Sănătate Publică*).

<sup>58</sup> Romania, National Institute of Public Health (*Institutul Național de Sănătate Publică*), '[Definiții de caz și recomandări de prioritizare a testării pt COVID 19 actualizare 14 05 2020](#)', 14 May 2020

## **2.2.4 Restrictions/bans on visits to residential care settings, and any (conditional) lifting of these restrictions**

*Please report on the conditions applied.*

For **Romania**, stricter regulations for moving in and out the residential care settings were introduced during the state of emergency (16 March – 14 May)<sup>59</sup>, and maintained during the state of alert<sup>60</sup>. Visits are not permitted. Residents are not allowed to exit, with the exception of those who wished or for whom their families or relatives wished to care for them at home in this period. The workers in these services will be forced to remain in quarantine inside the centres for 14 days, followed by another 14 days of quarantine at home.

## **2.2.5 Restrictive measures for older people living in the community**

*Please report on any restrictions for older people after gradual lifting of confinement measures (e.g. use of public services, work, and participation in voluntary and social activities).*

For **Romania**, stricter movement restrictions for older people (65+) were introduced during the state of emergency (16 March – 14 May)<sup>61</sup>: walking outside the house was permitted only during some time windows, and only for justified reasons. These measures were detailed in the previous two reports. The restrictions were lifted on 15 May, when the state of emergency ended. Older people now need to respect the same social distancing measures as the rest of the population (please see Section 1).

## **2.2.6 Access to healthcare for older people for conditions unrelated to COVID-19**

*Please report on measures targeted at older people living in the community and in institutional care settings (e.g. home-based visits, mobile health care, other hospital treatment).*

In **Romania**, during the state of emergency (until 14 May), it was recommended for older people (65+) not to exit the house for healthcare but it was allowed to do so if access to healthcare services was not possible otherwise<sup>62</sup>. Phone and online consultations were permitted, and the doctors were allowed to issue prescriptions without the use of the personal card of the patients. The situation remains unchanged during the state of alert.

## **2.2.7 Support measures and promising practices targeting older people, including access to goods and services online and offline, social/psychological support, and use of digital tools and technology**

*Please also report on any targeted measures for people with dementia.*

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<sup>59</sup> Romania, Military Ordinance no. 8 regarding measures to prevent the spreading of COVID-19 ([Ordonanța Militară nr. 8 din 9 aprilie 2020 privind măsuri de prevenire a răspândirii COVID-19](#)), 9 April 2020.

<sup>60</sup> Romania, Decision on the declaration of a state of alert and the measures to be taken during it to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ([Hotărâre nr. 394 din 18 mai 2020 privind declararea stării de alertă și măsurile care se aplică pe durata acesteia pentru prevenirea și combaterea efectelor pandemiei de COVID-19](#)), 18 May 2020.

<sup>61</sup> Romania, [Military Ordinance no. 2 regarding some measures of first emergency regarding people gatherings and trans frontier circulation of goods \(Ordonanța Militară nr. 2 din 21 martie 2020 privind măsuri de prevenire a răspândirii COVID-19\)](#), 21 March 2020.

<sup>62</sup> Romania, [Military Ordinance no. 2 regarding some measures of first emergency regarding people gatherings and trans frontier circulation of goods \(Ordonanța Militară nr. 2 din 21 martie 2020 privind măsuri de prevenire a răspândirii COVID-19\)](#), 21 March 2020.

In **Romania**, during the state of emergency (16 March – 14 May), local public authorities had the legal obligation identify persons over 65 years old, that have no support, and help them with the social isolation efforts<sup>63</sup>. There is no centralized monitoring of the implementation of these measures. Media reported<sup>64</sup> that some local public authorities have pro-actively introduced support measures for elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons in self-isolation. This usually included a phone line available to request support with shopping for food and medicine or to report any emergency. But in other cases, media reported<sup>65</sup> that people do not receive such support from the local councils.

In **Romania**, a nation-wide network of civil society organizations and volunteers have offered support to vulnerable people, including (and mostly) older people, from shopping to psychological support. The portal RoHelp, developed by the National Authority for Digitization (*Autoritatea Națională pentru Digitizare*) is listing several hundreds such initiatives<sup>66</sup>.

In **Romania**, the Minister of Labour and Social Protection (*Ministerul Muncii și Protecției Sociale*) has launched a project, financed from European Social Fund, aiming at offering direct support to 100.000 older people and people with disabilities affected by the isolation measures<sup>67</sup>. The beneficiaries will receive direct financial support, psychological support and other forms of tailored support, decided case by case. The project will be implemented in partnership with 116 municipalities from all counties.

## **2.2.8 Consultation of older people’s organisations and/or other civil society organisations in the design, implementation and review of COVID-19-related measures**

In **Romania**, according to the national legislation on disaster prevention<sup>68</sup>, the National Committee for Special Emergency Situations (CNSSU – *Comitetul național pentru situații speciale de urgență*) was convened to monitor the situation. CNSSU is an inter-ministerial committee presided by the Minister of Interior, and it takes decisions enacted immediately. CNSSU is basing its decision on the advice of the Technical-Scientific Support Group (GSTS – *Grupul de Suport Tehnico-Științific*), an advisory body that includes specialists and high level public servants. The decision on all Covid-19 related measures was highly centralized to a limited number of people that are included in the two mentioned bodies and did not include civil society organisations or organisations of older people.

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<sup>63</sup> Romania, [Military Ordinance no. 2 regarding some measures of first emergency regarding people gatherings and trans frontier circulation of goods \(Ordonanța Militară nr. 2 din 21 martie 2020 privind măsuri de prevenire a răspândirii COVID-19\)](#), 21 March 2020.

<sup>64</sup> [Stirileprotv.ro](#) (2020), ‘[Ce fac primăriile de sector din București ca să ajute populația afectată de coronavirus](#)’ 17 March 2020.

<sup>65</sup> [Libertatea](#) (2020), ‘[Familia autoizolată a unei asistente de la Universitar așteaptă de 3 zile cumpărături de la autorități: “Dăm banii, nu putem ieși din casă”](#)’, 23 March 2020.

<sup>66</sup> [RoHelp.ro](#)

<sup>67</sup> Romania, Minister of Labour and Social Protection (*Ministerul Muncii și Protecției Sociale*), ‘[Metodologie selecție proiect POCU "Sprijin pentru persoanele vulnerabile în contextul epidemiei COVID-19, cod MYSmis 137872"](#)’, 26 May 2020.

<sup>68</sup> Romania, Emergency Ordinance on the national system for the management of emergency situations ([Ordonanța de Urgență nr. 21 din 15 aprilie 2004 privind Sistemul Național de Management al Situațiilor de Urgență](#)), 15 April 2004.