

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of a person's hands resting on the frame of a wheelchair. The image is tinted with a dark blue color. Overlaid on the lower half of this image is a light orange outline of the map of Romania. The text is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.

Romania Fact Sheet on Social Care & Support Services Sector for Persons with Disabilities

Part of a series of Country Fact Sheets available on the EASPD website

Written by: Mihaela Matei

Coordinated and edited by: Policy Impact Lab

SUBSECTORS OF SOCIAL CARE & SUPPORT SERVICES AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

The Romanian Law no. 448/2006 on the Protection and promotion of the rights of people with disabilities defines persons with disabilities as “persons whose social environment hinders completely or limits their access to equal opportunities in the life of society, requiring protective measures to support their integration and social inclusion, as the social environment is not adapted to their physical, sensory, psychological, mental and/or associated impairments”.

Romania has a National Strategy¹ in the disability field, for the period 2016-2020. The Strategy's aim is to ensure the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by Romania by Law no. 221 of 11 November 2010, with a focus on society without barriers for persons with disabilities.

The national system of social assistance defines two main categories of support:

- *social assistance benefits*, as a form of subsidy for individual/familial income, in order to ensure a minimum standard of living and a form of support for promoting social inclusion and increase the quality of life of certain categories of persons; and
- *social services*, defined as the activity or set of activities implemented to meet social and special needs of the individual, family or group to overcome difficult situations, to prevent and remove the risk of social exclusion, to promote social inclusion and improve quality of life.

The focus of this factsheet is on social services. Regulated by Law no. 292/2011, social services in Romania constitute a “set of institutions, measures and actions of the state, represented by central and local authorities and civil society, and used to prevent, mitigate or eliminate the temporary or permanent situations likely to generate poverty and social exclusion of persons, family, groups or communities”.

Social services are further classified in Romania into social care services (primary and specialized services) and socio-medical care services. Primary services aim to prevent or limit situations of difficulty or vulnerability that can lead to marginalization and social exclusion. Specialized services aim to maintain, restore or develop individual capacities to overcome a social need. Social-medical care services include basic or support services, health care and recovery services. Accreditation, respectively licensing, is a mandatory procedure for all social service providers operating in the territory of Romania.

Out of a total of 3,791 licensed social service providers, as at 31st December 2018, 432 target persons with disabilities as the main category of beneficiaries. Access to services and support from the State is dependent on the category of disability and not on age. According to official data on 31 December 2018, the total number of persons with disabilities in Romania was 823,956 persons. Most of these, 97.83% (806,048 persons) are in family care and/or living independently and only a small proportion of 2.17% (17,908 persons) are in residential social care institutions for adults with disabilities. The total number of persons with disabilities per type of disability was:

- physical disability – 205,491 adults and 4,358 children;
- somatic disability – 160,063 adults and 13,808 children;
- hearing disability – 23,564 adults and 1,831 children;
- visual disability – 95,699 adults and 2,726 children;
- mental disability – 130,666 adults and 10,092 children;
- psychic disability – 91,683 adults and 14,757 children;
- associated disabilities – 105,483 adults and 15,814 children;
- HIV / AIDS – 7,865 adults and 195 children;
- rare diseases – 3,353 adults and 1,409 children;
- deafness-blindness disability - adults 89 and children 11.

¹<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/181892>

Social services are organized at community level, depending on the needs identified, number of potential beneficiaries, complexity of situations and the degree of social risk, and may be provided by:

- *public providers of social services* which are: specialized structures within/under subordination to local authorities and executive authorities of administrative units organized at village, town, or city level and in the districts of Bucharest. Central government authorities or other institutions subordinate or coordinate them with duties established by law for providing social services for certain categories of beneficiaries; health care facilities, schools and other public institutions that develop services at community level, which are integrated social services.
- *private providers of social services*: Non-governmental organizations (associations and foundations on social activities); religious denominations recognized by law; individuals authorized by law; subsidiaries and branches of international associations and foundations recognized in accordance with the law; operators under special conditions prescribed by law.

The National Authority for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions under the Ministry of Labour, coordinates the services for persons with disabilities. Social services system, as a component of social assistance system, is established and financed as a competence of the local public administration authorities.

Table 1. Specific services for people with disabilities

Type of social services	Number at December 3rd 2018
Total number of accredited social services providers	2,698 (1679 urban; 1019 rural)
Total number of licensed social services	3,791 (2,866 in urban/ 925 in rural)

Source: <https://www.servicii-sociale.gov.ro/>

Early Childhood Intervention

All families have access to early intervention support in Romania. This is coordinated by three ministries: Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education and Research and Ministry of Health. Local authorities have the main responsibility for providing services to children with disabilities through the Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) or local offices of Social Assistance and Child Protection. Branches of the Directorate (DGASPC) are organised at the level of each county (41 and Bucharest) within the structures of local authorities and they are responsible for both social assistance and protection of children.

The services provided by the DGASPC Directorate or local office of Social Assistance and Child Protection are directly accessible care services available to all children (i.e. support and assistance for children in need, services for children without parental care, services to prevent child-family separation) and specific specialised support services for children with a disability. Concerning specific services for children with disabilities, every local DGASPC Directorate is responsible for carrying out, every year, a needs assessment on the basis of which it issues proposals for including children in the services system based on a particular recovery plan. This is called a Complex Assessment of the Child² and is completed in order to determine the degree of disability, adopt special protection measures, their follow-up and revocation, if necessary. Furthermore, DGASPC Directorate or local office of Social Assistance and Child Protection offer support services such as counselling for families, individual plans for children, home adaptations, and psycho-pedagogical counselling, such as speech therapy services through public or private inter-school logopaedic centers. The public services are free of charge for the users and are provided by physiotherapists, psycho-pedagogy professionals or social workers. Financing of the services provided by DGASPC is made from the state budget and county local budgets. Private providers charge fees.

Recovery day centres for disabled children provide children with disabilities with access to disability programs for functional recovery/rehabilitation for the purpose of maintaining or improving autonomy and their independence. The types of services can

² <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/184562>; <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/184866>;

include physiotherapy and massage, speech therapy, learning therapies, therapies for developing self-control skills, therapies for self-management and self-management skills, psychotherapy.

Furthermore, there are medical services including a complex screening and diagnostic services for infants with the potential for impairment or functional limitation. These are available in paediatric hospitals, are provided to all children by specialist doctors or professionals and are financed by the Ministry of Health through the health budget. For children enrolled in the nursery system, the physician and psychologist of the institution will periodically complete records containing the degree of psychomotor and health development of the child, according to the Nursery Law.³

In addition to publicly available services, others have been developed by non-governmental organizations in cooperation with local authorities and/or existing public services (hospitals, kindergartens, and counselling services), focusing on physiotherapy, speech therapy, behavioural and learning therapies, and sensorial stimulation (hearing and sight). Fees are charged in the private sector. Opportunities for the development of specialized services have been created in starting 2007 by financing projects through the EU Structural Funds.

It should be mentioned that the NGOs' experience regarding the early intervention and education of children with disabilities draws attention to the lack of programs and procedures for the identification and early diagnosis of disability, the lack of monitoring programs for school integration of children with disabilities, as well as insufficient funding. One expert⁴ pointed out that one of the biggest vulnerabilities is the lack of recognition and accreditation of Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services under the current legislation, and that means a lack of specific standards. Another weak point that was highlighted was that parents receive insufficient information on disability and on possibilities for recovery, and there is a systematic lack of counseling services for families of children with disabilities.

Education Support

Compulsory school education in Romania usually starts at age 6 with the mandatory "preparatory school year". Education is compulsory in Romania until the tenth grade, corresponding with the age of sixteen or seventeen. The main coordinator of the education system in Romania is the Ministry of Education and Research.

Education is free in Romania⁵. Students with disabilities including those with special educational needs⁶ do not pay for education independent of whether they are in mainstream, integrated or special schools. Students with disabilities are assessed at centres of resources and educational assistance organised at the level of each county and in the municipality of Bucharest (Centres for resources and educational assistance at county level – CJRAE and the Centre for resources and educational assistance of the municipality of Bucharest - CMBRAE), under the Ministry of Education and Research. These public centres are integrated special education units and provide support regarding learning, social inclusion, psycho-emotional needs, inclusion of students with disabilities.

The legislation in force gives the parents the right to choose the type of education⁷ desired for their children with disabilities:

- mainstream school education (with or without support from a mobile teacher or a facilitator)⁸; The private sector has an increasing role in providing kindergarten while most elementary schools are public. Private schools charges various fee levels.

³<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/83933>.

⁴Written comments were received from experts working with or for persons with disabilities

⁵<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/125150>

⁶The concept child with special (educational) needs refers to child education and include both concepts handicap and deficiency.

⁷The CoE Report show that in 2018 out of 59 930 children with disabilities enrolled in the current school year, 33 930 attend mainstream education, 2 131 are included in special classes or groups in mainstream schools, while 21 779 are enrolled in special schools.

⁸The facilitator may be the parent, the personal assistant / attendant (for children with severe disability), a person appointed by the parents and to whom the child has an attachment relationship, a specialist recommended by parents who may come from non-governmental organizations, universities and other institutions with which the educational establishment has concluded agreements in this respect. For severely disabled children requiring a personal assistant, the parents / legal representative ensure a facilitator.

- special education school units, entirely dedicated to education and training of children with special educational needs, where specialized teachers provide psychoeducational intervention to persons with different types and degrees of disabilities or deficiencies (see Table 2); Some private kindergarten and schools offers program for children with disabilities.
- integrated special education, regulated by National Commission for Alternative Education, ensuring both the social and school integration of the children with special educational needs, and the development of an inclusive educational environment in mainstream schools (within groups or classes organised in mainstream education institutions); The main educational alternatives are Montessori, Step by Step, Waldorf Alternative and are developed by NGOs or for-profit entities. Tuition fees for private education depends on the town/city where the institution is located and on the services offered.
- special vocational schools with the duration of at least 3 years and technological special high schools which cover the high-school grades from 9th up to 12/13th; organized in the public school system.

For more specific needs, mainstream or special education can be provided for children with disabilities in their homes. For children with chronic illnesses or children who need a rehabilitation/ hospitalization period of longer than four weeks, it can be provided to group of children or classrooms organized in hospitals and rehabilitation centres based on the proposal of the Centres for resources and educational assistance at county level according to a framework methodology developed by the Ministry of Education.

Next table provides an updated list of special education school units throughout Romania at the pre-primary, primary, and secondary level.

Table 2. Type of special education school units in Romania, 2018

Type of institutions of special education in 2018	Number
Total	149
Preschool	9
Primary and secondary	97
High school	20
Vocational	23

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Tempo online

Children with special educational needs who are integrated into mainstream education receive educational support through itinerant and support teaching staff. The special education system includes framework plans, school programs, psycho-pedagogical assistance programs, manuals and alternative didactic methodologies adapted to the type and degree of disability which are approved by the Ministry of Education and Research. In 2018 the authorities introduced national standards for the adaptation of some examinations to the needs of children with certain types of disabilities⁹. Children enrolled in special schools benefit from social, health and rehabilitation services.

As far as university education is concerned, universities are required to enable students with disabilities to participate fully. However, there are no specialised services that are tailored to students with disabilities.

The public sector plays the most important role in the education of children with disabilities. The financing of the special education system and special integrated education is provided from the budgets of the counties where the special education unit operates. The government provides specific cash and in-kind benefits, such as hot meals, school supplies, and personal hygiene facilities (i.e. adapted toilets).

⁹Ministry of National Education, Order no. 3622/2018 and Procedure no. 31852/2018.

There is an increase in the number of mainstream private education institutions. In order to be accredited, a private school must fulfil the national standards, differentiated by education level. Financing of private institutions is according to the legislation in-force and is primarily ensured through fees paid by the parents and private investments.

Starting 2017, financial support from the European Social Fund (ESF) and EEA and Norway Grants has been a particularly important source of financing, both for public and private sector, for a large number of activities, including those for children and youth with disabilities and their access to an inclusive and equitable quality education.

Employment Support

The Commission for medical expertise and recovery of work capacity within the National Public Pension House¹⁰ assesses and determines the degree of disability and corresponding work capacity. The degrees of disability can be minor, medium, profound and severe and refer to various disabilities. According to the statistical report for the 4th quarter of 2018 elaborated by the National Authority for People with Disabilities, on December 31st 2018, in Romania there were 823.956 people with disabilities, of which 50,67% of ages between 18-65 years (approximately 417.558 individuals).

The legislation adopted in 2017¹¹ requires that companies employing more than 50 employees fill at least 4% of the positions with persons with disabilities. Failing to do results to employers in a monthly fine to the state budget or requirement to buy products or services of authorized protected units. As of 1 September 2017¹², the monthly amount due as per Law no. 448/2006 is set at the level of the minimum national gross wage multiplied by the number of requisite workplaces for which persons with disabilities were not hired. Relevant studies show that the rate of employment of persons with disabilities is low (24%)¹³ compared to the national employment rate (over 64%). The legislation also regulates the employment of persons with disabilities in adapted workplaces or authorized protected units¹⁴. For employer, benefits of adapted workplace include certain fiscal deductions. The authorized protected unit is the private or public law economic operator, within which at least 30% of the total number of employees are disabled persons. The authorized protected units benefit from certain tax exemptions. The Center for Social Development¹⁵ has conducted research on the effects of the new legislation 16 months after its entry into force. According to the report, the main negative effect of this ordinance has been that it took away the market reserved for shelter units and thus led to the closure of a significant number of legal entities existing prior to passing the ordinance.

In this regard, one expert¹⁴ mentioned that, due to these negative consequences, a petition has been filed to the Romanian Ombudsman¹⁶ with respect to the lack of constitutionality of this approach. The Romanian Ombudsman partially accepted this matter, and sent the complaint to the Constitutional Court. So far, no final decision has been issued. In the meantime, NGOs have developed several proposals for amending the legislation in force, which were submitted to the Parliament for debate.

Employment support for people with disabilities in Romania is provided through the employment agencies (<http://www.anofm.ro>) which offer employment orientation, advice and additional support, reasonable adaptation of the workplace and usually funds the vocational training of persons with all kinds of disabilities across Romania.

Parallel with the services open to everyone at national level, since 2007, the National Employment Agency (NEA) has set up 20 public integration centres in different counties especially designed for persons with disabilities¹⁷. The services provided in these centres are accessible to all persons, regardless the type of their disability and include: market information,

¹⁰<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/188798>

¹¹<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/192155>

¹²<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/192155>

¹³http://www.insse.ro/cms/files/statistici/comunicate/com_trim/ocuparea%20persoanelor%20cu%20dizabilitati/a11/ocup_dizabilitati12r.pdf

¹⁴<http://anpd.gov.ro/web/informatii-utile/unitati-protejate-autorizate/lista-unitati-protejate-autorizate/>

¹⁵Written comments were received from experts working with or for persons with disabilities

¹⁶http://www.avp.ro/exceptii2019/exceptia3_2019.pdf

¹⁷<http://anpd.gov.ro/web/informatii-utile/resurse-utile/centre-consiliere-persoane-dizabilitati/>

elaboration of a Job Capacity Assessment, counselling and vocational guidance, vocational training, mediation and placement. Services are jointly funded by national government and local authorities.

European Social Fund, EEA and Norway Grants, or other similar sources of additional funding represent also an important source of financing the services for persons with disabilities to work in the mainstream labour market.

In 2018 a job fair specially dedicated to persons with disabilities was organized by NEA at national level. In 2019, the Government launched the project "Facilitating the insertion in the labour market of people with disabilities". The project is designed to provide 7,000 people with disabilities, aged between 18 and 65, specific counselling through the project, and help to acquire assistive devices in order to facilitate their access to the labour market (readers for the blind, wheelchairs, audio prostheses, robotic manipulative tools).

Non-state entities are offering support services by offering advice adapted to different categories of disabilities. Some NGOs provide services for people with different types of impairment (i.e. intellectual & learning¹⁸ or Autism Spectrum Disorder¹⁹) and some are offering online job mediation platforms for persons with disabilities.²⁰ These are usually non-profit organisations which are often self-funded based on donations, or through projects financed from non-reimbursable funds.

Day Care

Every local authority in Romania offers some form of day care or support for persons with disabilities. The terms and conditions for the establishment, provision and use of social services in Romania are regulated by the Law no. 292/2011²¹ on social work. In Romania, day care services for people with all types of disabilities are coordinated by the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC). Accreditation, respectively licensing, is a mandatory procedure for all social service providers operating in the territory of Romania, both public and private providers. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, through its specialized structures, is responsible for organizing, coordinating, and implementing the process regarding quality assurance in the field of social services, as well as for carrying out the control in the field. The list of accredited social services providers is available at <https://www.servicii-sociale.gov.ro/ro/registrul-electronic-unic>.

The licensing for social services provision is issued by the institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice. Social services are organized at community level, depending on the needs identified, number of potential beneficiaries, complexity of situations and the degree of social risk, and may be provided by:

- *public providers of social services*. The financing of the protection measures of day centres for persons with disabilities is ensured from the state budget, through the budget of the general directions of social assistance and the protection of the child or the authority of the local public administration at the level of the municipality.
- *private providers of social services* such as non-governmental organizations or for profit entities. The private centres can have various funding sources. In some cases the municipal administrations purchase day care services from NGOs via public procurement procedures. Specific allocation to NGOs is regulated by legislation and depends on the types of services and their cost. NGOs can also fund their activities from other sources, including private funds, donations, support from multilateral institutions.

The local administrations can decide to provide services themselves or issue a tender for contracting out the services to certified providers.

¹⁸<http://www.estuar.org/servicii-oferite-de-catre-fundatia-estuar>

¹⁹<http://conexiuni.autismromania.ro/>

²⁰<https://welljobs.wellromania.org/>; <https://potlucra.eu/>; <http://conexiuni.autismromania.ro/>

²¹<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/133913>

Table 3. Day centres for disabled adults

Type of social services	Number at December 3rd 2018	Public providers	Private providers
Day centres for disabled adults	122	37 (32 in urban)	85 (83 in urban)
• Day centres	104	23 (18 in urban)	81 (79 in urban)
• Ambulatory neuro-motor recovery centres	18	14 (14 in urban)	4 (4 in urban)

Source: <https://www.servicii-sociale.gov.ro/>

The public and private centres for persons with disabilities are coordinated by the National Authority for People with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions. The day care services include:

- *Day care centres for people with disabilities* (public or private) which are a social service that includes a set of activities carried out at different times of the day to meet the specific individual needs of adults with disabilities to overcome difficult situations, to develop personal potential, and to prevent institutionalization. These centres carry out activities such as information and social counselling; psychological counselling; enabling and rehabilitating; developing the skills of independent living; developing work skills, preparing for employment and supporting employment; social and civic integration and participation.
- *Ambulatory neuro-motor recovery centres for adults with disabilities* (public or private) is the social service that offers specialized interventions focused on neuromotor recovery in order to respond to the individual needs, identified by evaluation of the adults with disabilities, in order to maintain/develop the personal potential and to prevent institutionalization.

The services provided by the public system are free of charge. NGO-provided services are commonly free of charge. Services provided by private providers are sometimes contracted by local authorities and in this case the services are free of charge for the users. Otherwise, the private providers, may or may not impose fees,, depending on their individual sources of funding.

Living Support

According to the Social Assistance Law no. 292/2011, any dependent person is entitled to personal care services, provided according to individual needs, the socio-economic situation and the personal life environment. Local authorities in Romania have a legal duty under the Law no. 448/2006 to carry out a needs assessment to determine a person's eligibility for care and support. After the assessment is carried out, an individual rehabilitation and social integration plan is provided along with free information and advice on how to get the required support to improve a disabled person's quality of life and to support independent living. Personal care services can be organised and provided in an integrated form, together with medical care, rehabilitation and environment adaptation or other recovery services.

The framework law specifically regulates support services delivered primarily offered by local administration for people with disabilities which include:

- *Home care services*: The home care service is a social-assistance service aimed at the prevention, maintenance and recovery of residual potentials that allow the person to stay in their home and in their relational context. It is a service provided in order to assist individuals with severe handicap degree and include assistance with personal hygiene; supervision/assistance taking medication; assistance with eating and drinking; assistance with mobility (e.g. lifting, moving and walking). Means testing is applied and there may be out-of-pocket payments.
- *Personal assistant or professional personal assistant*: adults with severe disability are entitled to a personal assistant²², based on the socio-psycho-medical evaluation. Adults with severe or accentuated disabilities, who do not have a living space, do not earn income or have an income below the level of the average salary, can benefit from the care and

²²Law 448/2006, for the protection and promotion of the rights of people with disabilities, refers to the personal assistant as follows: "Art. 42 para 4: The parents or the legal representatives of children with severe disabilities, or adults with severe disabilities or their legal representatives, excepting the ones with severe visual disability, can choose between a personal assistant and a monthly indemnity."

protection of a professional personal assistant. Adults with a severe disability can choose between having a personal assistant and receiving an allowance.

- *Specialised home care services for disabled adults*, including through a mobile team. This service offers the possibility to maintain a degree of autonomy in one's personal environment and social participation of adults with disabilities by offering at home, specialized services for empowerment/rehabilitation.

Table 4. Home care services for the elderly, persons with disabilities, dependent persons

Type of social services	Number at December 3rd 2018	Public providers	Private providers
Home care units ²³	226	46 (36 in urban)	180 (127 in urban)
Personal home care services (provided by caregivers, professional personal assistants)	11	7 (6 in urban)	4 (0 in urban)
Specialised home care services for disabled adults, including through the mobile team	21	1 (1 in urban)	20 (19 in urban)
Home care services for disabled adults, provided by personal assistants	1	1 (0 in urban)	0

Source: <https://www.servicii-sociale.gov.ro/>

The services provided by the public system are free of charge. Charity organisations or for profit companies provide supported living services and services are commonly provided free of charge. Services provided by private providers may or may not impose certain taxes, depending on their individual sources of funding.

In order to provide home care, local councils can hire care staff depending on the period of care needed. Persons with disability who earn an income pay a contribution for home care received. The amounts are set by the local authorities depending on the type of services provided and on the person's income.

The DGASPC Directorate or local office of Social Assistance and Child Protection also provide community services to people with disabilities free of charge services funded by the state budget including:

- social services mainly related to the care of the person, prevention of social marginalisation and support for social reintegration, legal and administrative counselling, support for the payment of current services and obligations, housing and household care, housekeeping, food preparation;
- socio-medical services mainly related to helping to achieve personal hygiene, rehabilitating physical and mental capacities, adapting the dwelling to the needs of the person, and engaging in economic, social and cultural activities, as well as temporary care in day care centres, other specialised centres;
- medical services in the form of consultations and medical care at home or in health institutions, consultations and dental care, administration of medicines, provision of sanitary materials and medical devices (in accordance with the health insurance law).

NGOs contribute substantially to the social inclusion of persons with disabilities by providing access to programs for empowerment and rehabilitation.

²³Include home care services for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and dependent persons

Long-term Institutional Care and Respite Care

In Romania, long-term care is governed by laws relating to healthcare, social assistance and rehabilitation and is provided through the social protection system for disabled people under the responsibility of the National Authority for Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions, the local office of Social Assistance and Child Protection, and the Ministry of Health.

Financing of long term care is split between the NHIF (medical services), local budgets (home care), and the funds allocated from the state budget to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (cash benefits and allowances). As of 2017²⁴, public institutions for persons with disabilities are entirely supported from the state budget. The degree of disability is the only eligibility criterion for obtaining certain benefits. Institutional long-term care is provided with a means-tested co-payment from the end user.

Persons with disabilities are entitled to in-kind services of social and medical nature granted or in residential centres on the basis of a certificate attesting the disability. In a residential centre the social services may be supplied in an integrated system with medical, training, and employment services. At the end of 2018 there were 410 residential centres for adults with disabilities at national level. Social services may be provided by public providers of social services or by private providers of social services. The licensing for social services provision is issued by the institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice.

Table 5. Residential centres for disabled adults

Type of social services	Number at December 3rd 2018	Public providers	Private providers
Care and assistance centres	114	93 (45 in urban)	21 (13 in urban)
Recovery and rehabilitation centres	129	112 (69 in urban)	17 (9 in urban)
Crisis centres/respice centres	10	9 (8 in urban)	1 (1 in urban)
Shelter houses	129	88 (51 in urban)	41 (28 in urban)

Source: <https://www.servicii-sociale.gov.ro/>

The geographical distribution of the services for people with disabilities is available at <https://portalgis.servicii-sociale.gov.ro/arcgis/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=f41276641b5748bebf8b501cc5948a20>

Admission in a residential centre is based on a service contract concluded between the person with disabilities, as a social service beneficiary, and the social service provider, in accordance with the Individual Rehabilitation and Social Integration Program (PIRIS). PIRIS stipulates that the commission for the assessment of disability recommends social assistance through residential centres when the person with disabilities cannot benefit from protection and care at home or in other services in the local community where they reside. There are often waiting lists for public financed residential centre and recovery and rehabilitation centres are in many cases overpopulated. On December 31st, 2018²⁵ a number of 17.908 persons were institutionalised. In the care and assistance centres, there were 6,397 beneficiaries and 1,002 beneficiaries in shelter houses. A significant number of beneficiaries are in neuropsychiatric recovery and rehabilitation centres- 6,379 persons (neuropsychiatric recovery and rehabilitation centres places are reserved for people who have been diagnosed with a mental, psychological, or associated disorder or handicap).

The respite services – ranging from a few hours to several days – for families or caretakers of persons with disabilities are offered by public and private providers. In December 2018, there were 10 registered respite centres (8 public and 2 private). Fees are charged depending on the services provided.

²⁴<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocumentAfis/190671>

²⁵http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/images/buletin_statistic/2018/Dizab_an2018.pdf

Table 6. Institutionalised disabled persons, by types of deficiencies, on December 31, 2018

Type of deficiency	Care and assistance centres	Recovery and rehabilitation centres	Shelter houses	Respite care centre
Total number of disabled persons	6,397	9,355	1,002	9
Physical	972	217	32	3
Somatic	176	20	12	
Auditive	45	26		
Visual	224	71	13	
Mental	3,128	5,625	725	3
Psychic	925	2,138	115	
Associated	843	1,245	102	3
HIV/AIDS	77	13	3	
Rare diseases	6			
Deafness-blindness	1			

Source: www.mmuncii.ro

With the exception of crisis centres, persons with disabilities are admitted to a residential centre only when they cannot be provided with protection and care in their own home. Means testing is applied and people with disabilities who receive care at residential centres and they must pay a monthly contribution which was set up to RON 900 in 2019²⁶. The amounts are set by the local authorities depending on the person's income.

Other providers of long-term care services for persons with disabilities include private homes and non-profit and civic associations at local level. In some cases they are selected through public procurement by local municipal administrations and are financed by the state budget, and public finances at local level. Specific allocation to private providers is regulated by legislation and depends on the types of services and minimum cost standards²⁷. Otherwise, prices are charged in the private sector. The amounts are set by the private entities depending on the services provided.

Leisure and Social-Life Support

The legislation in force²⁸ stipulates that all service providers should make 'reasonable adjustments' to their buildings and services so that disabled people (children and adults) can use them. These include public transportation and all public institutions such as community and leisure centres.

Leisure time activities and social-life support for people of different ages with various types of disabilities are provided by public and non-profit organisations at local level. Organisations are financed by public finances at the local level, voluntary contributions, and contributions from clients. Leisure time activities and social-life support for people with disabilities are provided mainly through: social services homes, specialised facilities, day care centres and day centres, provided through public and private providers. All the facilities provide various kinds of leisure time activities.

²⁶<http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/images/Documente/Legislatie/O1887-2016.pdf>

²⁷<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocumentAfis/174318>

²⁸<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocumentAfis/145914>

Persons with disabilities can make use of free transportation, both local and interurban transport, a parking card and free vignette for traffic on national roads.

In terms of sports, the National Paralympic Committee has created a broad portfolio of opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate. Many activities are funded or subsidised by public and private entities.

FUTURE TRENDS

The process of deinstitutionalization and the development of community-based services, as well as the prevention of abandonment of children with disabilities are one of the main issues in Romania at the time of drafting this factsheet in the end of 2019. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has started the process of reforming the residential care system. The reform aims to implement a gradual transition from long-term institutional care at large residential facilities to complex community-based care and services provided by public and private providers. Thus, the adopted legislation limits the capacity of institutions at 50 places and provides for progressive cuts of state financing for institutions which fail to reorganise, and which will be entirely funded by county or local authorities, starting with 2022.

CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS

- 2 experts from Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Bucharest
- 2 parents of children with disabilities
- 3 experts working with or for persons with disabilities (written comments)

DATA SOURCES

- Alexiu Teodor Mircea, PhD (coord.). Mapping the hindrances and barriers to employment as experienced by vulnerable populations. Experiences of the disabled persons on the Romanian labour market. 2015. Available at <http://www.e-equal-see.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Hindrances-and-barriers-to-employment.-Experiences-of-the-disabled-persons-in-Romania.pdf>
- Anghelescu Aurelian et. al. Employment of People with Disabilities in Romania. International Medical Society, Vol. 9 Nr. 365. 2016, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3823/2236>
- Baci Elena-Loreni Baci, Lazar Theofild-Andrei, Between Equality and Discrimination: Disabled Persons in Romania, Transylvanian Review of Administrative Sciences, Nr. 51. 2017, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24193/tras.51E.1>
- Chivu, Luminita (2019) Local entrepreneurship and social services in Romania. Territorial analysis <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iemeen.2019.04.001>
- Council of Europe (2019) Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Report following her visit to Romania from 12 to 16 November 2018, available at <https://rm.coe.int/report-on-the-visit-to-romania-from-12-to-16-november-2018-by-dunja-mi/1680925d71>
- Developments in the field of social assistance in 2018, available at https://www.servicii-sociale.gov.ro/source/Studii%20si%20rapoarte/Asistenta%20sociala%202018_fin%20cu%20coperta_modif.pdf
- Diagnostic: Excluz de pe piața muncii. Piedici în ocuparea persoanelor cu dizabilități în România. Societatea Academică Română. 2015, available at <http://motivation.ro/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Diagnostic-exclus-de-pe-piata-muncii.pdf>
- Employment of persons with disabilities - http://www.insse.ro/cms/files/statistici/comunicate/com_trim/ocuparea%20persoanelor%20cu%20dizabilitati/a11/ocup_dizabilitati12r.pdf
- European Commission. (2015) Evaluation of legislation, policy and practice on child participation in the European Union (EU) Country Report: Romania, doi: 10.2838/836374, available at http://publications.europa.eu/resource/ellar/d5258d25-bba2-4703-bc48-1e14210dd6d6.0001.01/DOC_1
- European Parliament. (2013). Country Report on Romania for the Study on Member States' Policies for Children with Disabilities. Brussels: Policy Department C – Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs available at http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/libe/dv/25_rocountryreport_/25_rocountryreport_en.pdf
- Ghergut, A. (2011). Education of Children with Special Needs in Romania; Attitudes and Experiences. Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences 12(2011) pp. 595–599. doi:10.1016/j.sbspro.2011.02.073
- Government Decision No. 1437/2004 on the organization and operation methodology of the child protection commission
- Horga, Irina (2015) Educație pentru toți și pentru fiecare : accesul și participarea la educație a copiilor cu dizabilități și/sau CES din școlile participante la Campania UNICEF Hai la școală!, available at http://www.unicef.ro/wp-content/uploads/Educatia-pentru-toti-si-pentru-fiecare_2015.pdf
- Law 263/2007 regarding the establishment, organization and functioning of the nurseries
- Law 272/2004 regarding the protection of children's rights
- Law no. 292/2011 on social work, published in the Official Journal of Romania, Part I, no. 905 of December 20, 2011.
- Law no. 448/2006 on the protection and promotion of rights for the persons with handicap, republished in the Official Journal of Romania, Part I, no. 1 of January 3, 2008.
- Law no. 53 (The Labour Code), published in the Official Journal of Romania, no. 72 of February 5, 2003, available at <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/128647>
- Law no. 76/2002 on the unemployment insurance system and employment stimulation, available at <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/33919>
- List of special education institutions <https://www.siiir.edu.ro/carto/>
- Ministry of Education - Methodology regarding evaluation, psychoeducation assistance, school orientation and professional orientation of children, students and young people with special educational requirements

- Ministry of Education - Methodology regarding the organization of educational support services for children, students and young people with special educational needs integrated into mainstream education
- Ministry of Labour and Social Justice annual statistic, available at <http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/index.php/ro/transparenta/statistici/buletin-statistic/5491>
- OECD. (2006) Education Policies for Students at Risk and those with Disabilities in South Eastern 26 Europe Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, FYR of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia. Paris: OECD Publishing.
- Order no. 175 of 12 July 2006 on the Approval of Minimum Quality Standards for Domestic Social Services for Adult Persons with Disabilities - Order no. 559 of October 22, 2008 regarding the approval of Quality Specific Standards for Residential Centers, Day Care Centers and Protected Homes for Disabled Persons (abrogated February 13, 2015) 145 - Order no. 67 of 21 January 2015 on the Approval of Minimum Quality Standards for Accreditation of Social Services for Adults with Disabilities
- Order no. 1985/1305/5805/2016 of the Ministries of Labour, Health and National Education
- Report Protection of Disabled Persons in 2018, available at http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/images/buletin_statistic/2018/Dizab_an2018.pdf
- Tesliuc, Emil, Grigoras, Vlad, Stanculescu, Manuela (2015) Background Study for the National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, 2015-2020, available at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23830>
- The National Institute of Statistics, Tempo online statistical data, available at <http://www.insse.ro/cms/en>
- The national strategy "A society without barriers for people with disabilities" 2016-2020, available at <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/181892>
- Tudose, E. (2017). European Semester 2016/2017 Country Fiche On Disability. Academic Network of 14 European Disability Experts. Retrieved from <http://www.disability-europe.net/country/romania>



This fact sheet is prepared as part of the EASPD "Reaching Out" Work Programme 2019.

With the financial support of the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020).

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.

Copyright © EASPD 2019. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system without the prior permission of the copyright owners.