# Country summary: Romania

## COVID-19 cases

As of 22 September 2020, Romania registered 114,648 COVID-19 cases and 4,503 deaths[[1]](#footnote-0). Data was disaggregated by age and gender but not by disability and no data was found for people in institutions.

## Emergency, lockdown, and confinement

Romania declared a state of emergency, from 16 March to 16 May 2020, and a state of alert was declared for 30 days starting 15 July 2020[[2]](#footnote-1).

During this period, the Ombudsman repeatedly raised concerns about the situation of persons with disabilities. In a letter to the Minister of Interior, from 10 April, the Ombudsman alerted that none of the measures taken in almost a month of state of emergency took into consideration persons with disabilities and their needs, nor their dependency on the permanent support of social assistance services[[3]](#footnote-2).

Additionally, on 16 April, concerns were raised regarding persons with psychosocial disabilities and how they would be deeply affected by the emergency measures, as they would continue needing their emergency medication and, hence seeing their doctors. Media highlighted that persons with mental health conditions were being disproportionately affected because only a few specialists (psychiatrists, psychologists) were able to offer support over the Internet[[4]](#footnote-3).

## Involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities

Could not find mention of involvement of or action by DPOs.

## Communications and announcements

A Government information had closed captioning[[5]](#footnote-4) and the website of the Ministry of Health has some accessibility features, including a tool to navigate for those with screen readers[[6]](#footnote-5).

## Institutions and closed settings

In Romania, the situation of the persons with disabilities that are institutionalized raised concerns, according to Human Rights organizations. The Centre for Legal Resources conducted a research among the staff of 150 centres. It found out that, despite isolation measures at work, several centres reported COVID-19 cases among residents[[7]](#footnote-6). The most tragic case resulted to be that of the Sasca Mică Neuro-psychic Recovery and Rehabilitation Centre, in the County of Suceava, where over 300 residents and staff were infected. Several organisations brought light to this issue with a letter to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Labour and Social Protection, detailing how the institution did not have the adequate medical care and protections for the staff and raising concerns for severe discrimination happening[[8]](#footnote-7). The letter also demands the adoption of more effective testing routines, the provision of universal access to health care for all persons with disabilities living in institutions, and the prompt identification of any cases where residents were being denied medical treatment[[9]](#footnote-8).

## Health care

No specific information found

## Social Protection

The Government introduced new 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 were not allowed to suspend or discontinue their activity during the state of emergency[[10]](#footnote-9). The workers in these services were forced to remain in quarantine inside the centres for 14 days, followed by another 14 days of quarantine at home. The labour union Federation “Solidaritatea Sanitară Romania, representing the workers in this sector, has harshly criticized the measure, calling it unconstitutional and “a measure of forced labour”. However, the Centre for Legal Resources, a human rights organization, supported the measure, considering it efficient in the pandemic context, but asked for some kind of financial compensation for the workers accepting these conditions.[[11]](#footnote-10)

1. Data available in Romanian at: <https://datelazi.ro/> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. US Embassy in Romania, available at: <https://ro.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Bulletin 2, May 2020, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-coronavirus-pandemic-eu-bulletin-may_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Bulletin 2, May 2020, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-coronavirus-pandemic-eu-bulletin-may_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. <https://youtu.be/YeQZCzODMc8> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_5fUD4Fg5A&feature=youtu.be> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. <http://www.ms.ro/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Bulletin 2, May 2020, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-coronavirus-pandemic-eu-bulletin-may_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. European Disability Forum, ROMANIA: DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS CONDEMN WITHHOLDING OF MEDICAL TREATMENT TO PERSONS IN RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS, April 2020, available at: <http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/romania-disability-organisations-condemn-withholding-medical-treatment-persons> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
9. European Disability Forum, ROMANIA: DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS CONDEMN WITHHOLDING OF MEDICAL TREATMENT TO PERSONS IN RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS, April 2020, available at: [http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/romania-disability-organisations-condemn-withholding-medical-treatment-person](http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/romania-disability-organisations-condemn-withholding-medical-treatment-persons) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
10. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Coronavirus pandemic in the EU – Fundamental Rights Implications, Romania, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/ro_report_on_coronavirus_pandemic_may_2020.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
11. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Bulletin 2, May 2020, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-coronavirus-pandemic-eu-bulletin-may_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)