

ROMANIA FACTSSHEET (updated march 2017)

I. FAMILY SITUATION

- no gay marriage, no civil partnership for gay/straight couples; natural marriage is recognized and protected by the law. Couple adoption only allowed for married couples.
- A Constitutional revision to enshrine the natural family in the Constitution after it was already done in the new Family and Civil Code, 2009. 3 million signatures were collected to start the procedure for a referendum;
- children born out of wedlock: 31% as of 2014, from 15% in 1990;
- economic crisis hit families hard; the marriage rate has declined sharply since 2007 (190.000) to 2014 (118.000), while divorce rate is now 23(/100 marriages, as of 2014).

II. ABORTION SITUATION

Romania is a tragic illustration of policies obedient to the abortion industry interests:

- abortion was legalized in 1957 and has been legal ever since, with some restrictions between 1967-1989. In 1990 (after the fall of Communist regime) a new abortion law, one of the most liberal in the world, was implemented;
- current law (since 1996): **abortion on demand up to 14 weeks, „therapeutic” abortion up to 24th week of pregnancy;**
- **no strict definition of „therapeutic” abortion; law abuses are common and at ease;**
- no mandatory counseling before abortion, no waiting time;
- limited abortion alternatives; adoption is still difficult and bureaucratic;
- total no. of abortions (1958-2012): 21.9 million, underreported; of these, 8 million children were aborted as from 1990;
- about 80,000 abortions in 2014, underreported (real no. about 110,000);
- highest abortion rate in the EU - 410/1000 (official, underreported);
- still used as „family planning”;
- very sensitive and delicate issue in Romania (abt. 10,000 women died 1967-1989 because of botched abortions. During the Communist era pro-natality laws forced women to „produce labour force for the victory of Socialism”);
- with the exception of 2 small political parties, no party explicitly supports the right to life from conception.

ADDITIONAL LEGAL & MEDICAL ISSUES regarding ABORTION

Romania had a law that RESTRICTED abortions, the Decree 770, adopted in 1966. There were women exempted from this law, namely, those who:

- Had 4 children (5 children between 1985-1989);

- Were 40 years old (over 45 between 1985-1989);
- Had severe conditions, hereditary transmitted and/or because of genital anomalies;
- Had a physical and/or psychological disability, not compatible with raising of a child;
- The pregnancy threatened their lives;
- The pregnancy was the result of rape or incest.

Abortion was NOT abortion prohibited in Romania ever since its legalization in 1957. Between 1967 and 1989 (Decree 770), several million abortions were carried out in Romania.

The use of contraception, including oral contraception is allowed in Romania. The rationale regarding its prohibition is that in certain cases (hormonal contraception), it induces abortion. Beside this, the hormonal contraception is a real threat for women's health.

In case of abnormalities (neural tube defects, Down Syndrome etc.), abortion is allowed until 24 weeks.

CIVIC ACTIONS

- people are waking up and recently it turned out after a research that young people are in majority against abortion; older generations still supports abortion on demand;
- increasingly popular Marches for Life are held annually in over 200+ cities all over the country.

III. MATERNAL and WOMEN HEALTH - 2013 data

- infant mortality rate: Romania ranks 142 (out of 224 countries);
- maternal mortality rate: Romania ranks 128 out of 184 countries (much higher than most of the countries that restrict abortion);
- among EU countries, Romania has the highest breast cancer mortality rate and one of the highest cervical cancer mortality rates.

Some statistic data show the deterioration of the women's health in the last several years:

Each year, 10.000 of Romanian women are diagnosed with breast cancer. In 1960, the rate of mortality was 11,2 in 100.000 women, and in 2008, the rate soared to 27.51 in 100.000 women.

The incidence and mortality rates in Romania are among the highest in Europe. In 2004, Romania had one of the highest incidence rates in Europe in cervical cancer, 29.9 in 100,000 women. Cervical cancer is the second cause of cancer-related death in Romanian women, after breast cancer and the first cause of cancer-related death in the age-group 25-44 years. [For the last 20 years, Romania has the highest cervical cancer mortality in Europe, with rates 6.3 times higher than the average of European Union countries](#)".

IV. DEMOGRAPHICS – 2015 data

Situation is dire and getting worse:

- the total no. of abortions (1958-2012) tops the actual (official) population of the country. More than 4 million Romanians work abroad so our real population is about 15 million;
- so far birth rate, Romania ranks 185 (out of 200 countries) acc to WB 2016 list;
- so far fertility rate, Romania ranks 16 lowest in the world (9,14 births/1000) acc to World Atlas 2016 list.

V. OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES

- Euthanasia / assisted suicide strictly forbidden;
- Conscientious objection for medical personnel permitted, but still narrowly practiced. In the last years though, doctors awareness regarding this issue became higher;
- Religion taught freely in public schools to more than 90% of children (major success); atheists only 0.2% of population;
- Assisted procreation permitted but not legally regulated;
- Surrogate motherhood, including surrogacy for profit, unofficially permitted, but there is no law to regulate it;
- Embryo research status unclear; in fact there is no such activity because in Romania all major R&D facilities and projects have been shut down.

VI. SOCIAL ISSUES

- State guarantees for single mothers

The following financial help is available for single parent families: allowance of 70 (≈16,2 Eur) lei for families with 1 child, 80 lei (≈18,6 Eur), for families with 2 children, 85 lei (≈19,7 Eur) for families with 3 children and 90 (≈20,9 Eur) lei for families with 4 and more children.

We have to mention here that every child in Romania, from 2 to 18 years, receives a state allowance of 84 lei (≈ 20 Eur) per month. Up to 2 years, the state allowance is 200 lei/month (≈ 46,5 Eur).

- State guarantees for large families (with many children)

There is a state allowance for the support of the family, depending on the monthly average income per member of the family.

- State guarantees for disabled children;

Disabled children receive a state allowance (for the new-born babies) of 200 lei/month ($\approx 46,5$ Eur) up to 18 years old. Also, depending on their degree of handicap they are entitled to a personal complementary sum which varies between 33,5 lei/month ($\approx 7,7$ Eur) and 91 lei/month ($\approx 21,1$ Eur). Also, they and (in case of severe handicap) their assistants have different social aids, like free transport, tax exemption etc.

- State guarantees for abandoned children

The abandoned children receive certain financial help and material aids in accordance with the Law.

- State guarantees for juvenile mothers

Juvenile mothers, if they attend school, receive the child raising allowance of 600 lei/month ($\approx 139,5$ Eur), plus 200 lei/month ($\approx 46,5$ Eur) new-born allowance. In general, juvenile mothers can receive several types of aids, like state allowance for new-born children, state allowance for raising a child, state allowance for family support and social family aid. However, it depends on local authority decision; there is no a special law that refers juvenile mothers.

Data put together by ASOCIATIA PRO VITA Bucuresti, www.provitabucuresti.ro and Asociația PROVITA Media, www.provita.ro