

IOM Romania Annual Report **2014**



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation internationale pour les migrations
OIM Organizația Internațională pentru Migrație

This annual report is an overview of the IOM Romania's activity and results achieved in 2014.

The information in the report is structured in the following chapters:

I. About the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

II. IOM Romania

III. Outlook on migration—2014

IV. IOM interventions in Romania

1. Facilitating migration

2. Regulating migration

3. Addressing forced migration – refugee resettlement

4. Migration health—Medical Processing

5. Other services and programmes

6. Counter-Trafficking

V. Awareness raising events

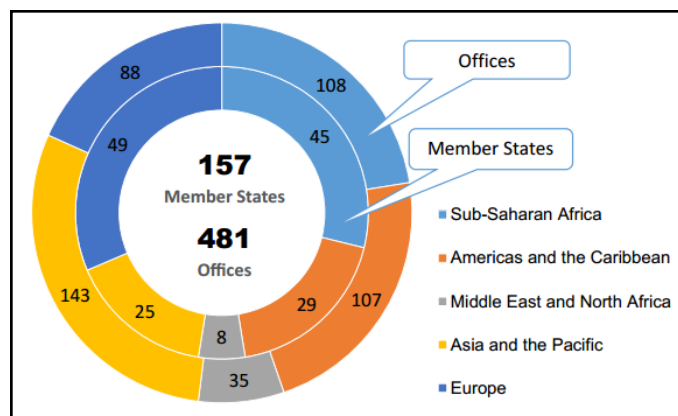
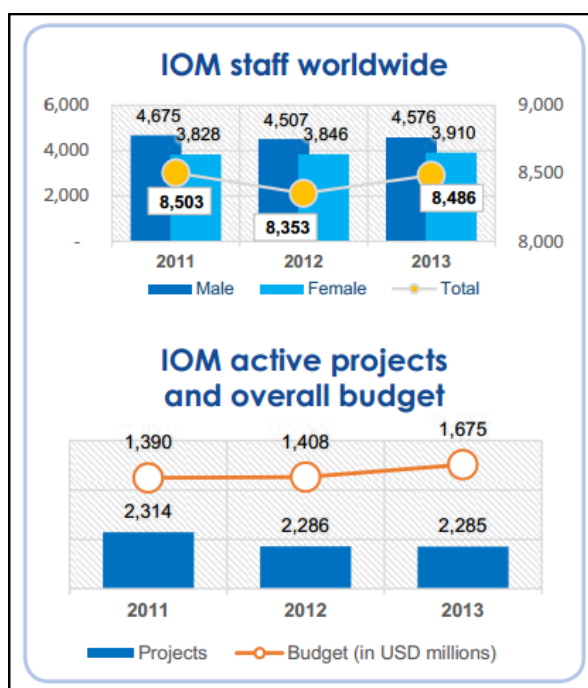
VI. Resources

I. The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organisation in the field of migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM works with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the well-being and human rights of migrants.

As a consequence of human mobility, IOM continues to grow, currently counting 157 Member States with a further 10 States hold observer status. The number of Field locations increased from 119 in 1998 to more than 480 in 2014. Operational staff increased from approximately 1,100 in 1998 to more than 8,400 currently, with more than 95 per cent of staff members based in the Field, with a ratio of 1:8 international versus national staff.

Migration POLICY



KEY INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS of Migrants

The international community increasingly recognizes that all migrants, irrespective of migration status, are entitled to have their human rights protected and fulfilled. IOM advocates for a more favourable, inclusive and balanced attitude towards migrants.

Migration GOVERNANCE

IOM works with governments to promote a “high-road” scenario for migration governance, one in which facilitating – not restricting – migration is the priority; which sees migration as a process to be managed rather than a problem to be solved; and which strives to expand the possibilities for people to realize their human development aspirations and potential through mobility.

Migration LAW

IOM has special expertise in the area of international migration law which contributes to advocacy for and compliance with international and regional standards.

IOM provides advice and support to governments and partners, with the overall aim to develop effective national, regional and global migration policies and strategies.

Migration MANAGEMENT

IOM provides support to States and other partners in the area of migration management to promote safer and more orderly migration – specifically through policy guidance, capacity-building of governments, standard-setting and quality control, direct service delivery, as well as through expert advice on mainstreaming migration in development planning and best practices in other areas, such as labour and facilitated migration, migration and development, countertrafficking, assisted voluntary return, migration health, assistance for vulnerable migrants, immigration and border management.

Migration EMERGENCY FUNDING MECHANISM

The IOM Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM) was established to allow for rapid emergency response in the critical period between the occurrence of an emergency and when funding is actually received.

For more information, visit www.iom.int

IOM's MIGRATION CRISIS OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

What is a migration crisis?

"Migration crisis" is short for "crisis with migration dimensions". A migration crisis may be sudden or slow in onset, can have natural or man-made causes, and can take place internally or across borders.

What is a migration crisis approach?

A migration crisis approach means looking at crises through a migration lens.

What does a migration crisis approach add?

A deeper analysis of crises and a more effective operational response.

How does IOM use the migration crisis approach?

To respond better to migration crises, IOM created the Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF).

In November 2012, IOM's 149 Member States approved the MCOF by consensus through a resolution of the IOM Council. The MCOF combines IOM humanitarian activities and migration management services. It is IOM's way to address migration dimensions of modern-day crises.

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE IOM MIGRATION CRISIS OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

- The MCOF combines IOM **humanitarian activities and migration management services**. Migration management activities are not traditionally part of humanitarian responses, but can help tackle migration aspects of a crisis more effectively.
- The Framework is based on **international humanitarian and human rights law, and humanitarian principles**. In line with these obligations, States are responsible for protecting and assisting crisis-affected persons on their territory. Through the MCOF, IOM supports States to fulfil this responsibility, upon their request and with their consent.
- The MCOF complements **existing international systems**: specifically, it is designed to fit in with the Cluster Approach of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the international refugee protection regime. It also identifies opportunities and challenges related to migration in preparedness and resilience-building, peace-building, security sector reform, and in the transition from post-crisis recovery to longer-term development.

EXISTING INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS

SYSTEMS

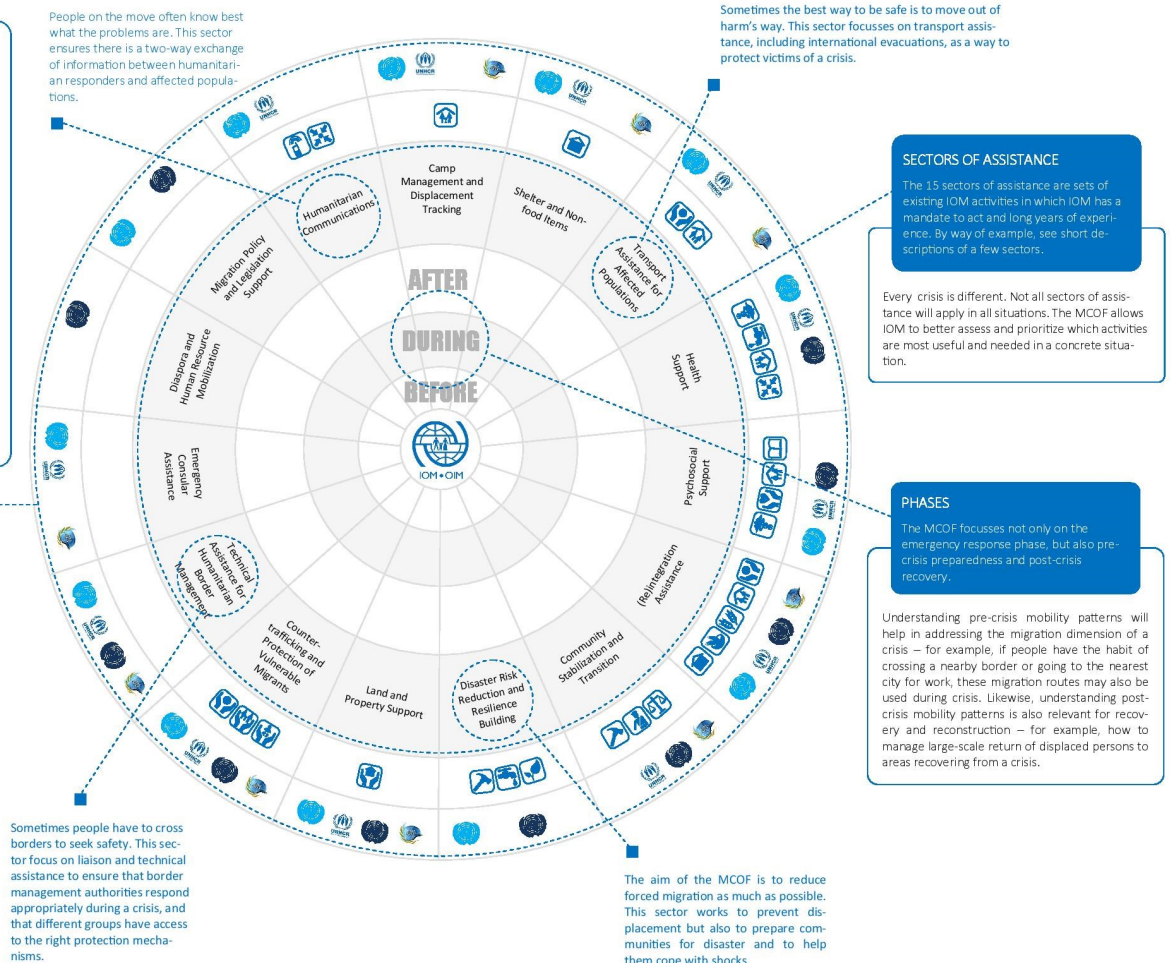
- Cluster System (OCHA)
- Refugee Regime (UNHCR)
- Development Actors (UNDP)
- Security and Peacebuilding Actors

CLUSTERS

- Camp Coordination & Camp Management
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Early Recovery
- Education
- Protection
- Logistics
- Emergency Telecommunications
- Health
- Food Security
- Shelter

OTHER CLUSTERS/SECTORS

- Housing, Land and Property Rights
- Gender-based Violence
- Coordination
- Rule of Law and Justice
- Mental Health & Psychosocial Support
- Safety and Security
- Environment
- Child Protection
- Agriculture



Source: [IOM Headquarters \(Geneva\)](#)

II. IOM Romania

IOM was established in Romania in 1992 to respond to the information and counselling needs of Romanian citizens regarding migration formalities.



Over the years, the Office in Romania has implemented various national and international cooperation programmes in the field of counter trafficking in human beings, facilitating migration, assisting refugees, voluntary return, migrant integration, migrants health and consular support activities.

In 2014, the main areas of intervention for the International Organization for Migration in Romania were:

In 2014, more than 3.000 persons were assisted by IOM Romania

Integration of third-country nationals (TCN):

IOM Romania has developed a nation-wide network of 15 Migrant Information Centres to facilitate the TCN's social, economic and cultural integration into their new communities. Information related to the integration process of migrants in Romania is available on the online platform: www.romaniaeacasa.ro (Romania is home), available in five languages.

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR):



IOM conducts AVRR activities, offering irregular migrants the possibility to return home with dignity and with a reintegration grant facilitating the social reinsertion for themselves and their families in the country of origin.

Refugee relocation:



The IOM Office in Romania is a key actor in the relocation process of refugees to Romania, working together with UNHCR and the Government of Romania.

Similarly, through the Emergency Transit Centre in Timisoara, a secure environment is provided to refugees while they await resettlement to other countries.

Medical Processing:

At the request of various governments, IOM, in close coordination with UNHCR and the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs, provides medical services for the migrants and refugees that are about to be resettled.

Assisted Transport to Canada, Australia and USA:

IOM facilitates one-way tickets at specially negotiated fares as part of a humanitarian programme addressed to those who immigrate to Canada, Australia and USA as well as to workers/students who have valid visas for more than 12 months.

Visa Application Centre for Canada:

IOM manages the Canadian Visa Application Centre. The centre is operational in Romania since August 2013.

Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings:

In 2014, IOM has provided specific assistance to Romanian citizens, victims of trafficking returning from Europe.



For more information, visit www.oim.ro

III. Outlook on migration 2014

General worldwide context

Migration is one of the most complex and dynamic phenomena of our today world. It is strongly linked to the social, cultural, economic, demographic, climate and political changes we face today and evolves within a global matrix of interconnected societies.

Migration is about people who move internationally and internally to follow their dreams, hopes and families or to escape poverty and conflict, natural disasters, violence and human rights violation. In 2014, there were more than 240 million international migrants. This number is expected to increase to an estimated 405 million in 2050.

Whereas it is acknowledged that migration brings benefits if well-governed, 2014 marked a new peak after the World War II in terms of people displaced by violence and humanitarian crises. According to the IOM data¹, over 7.1 million people were newly displaced by the conflict in Iraq and over 1 million in north-eastern Nigeria. The conflict in Syria has pushed over 3 million people; other 22 million people were displaced by natural disasters and over 3,300 migrants – women, men and children – died only in the Mediterranean.

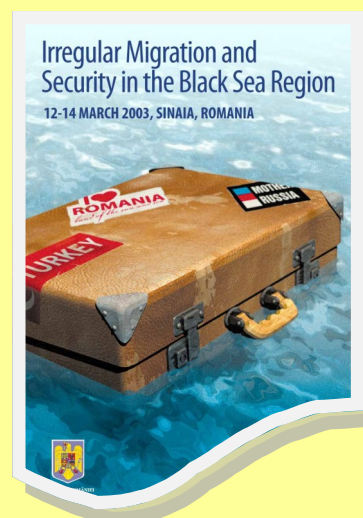
All these large scale crises highlighted the need for preparedness, solidarity, coordinated efforts and prompt emergency response to save and protect lives. They also emphasized the importance of a strategic approach and cooperation between origin, transit and destination countries towards a better governance of migration.

European context

Europe was under the pressure of migratory flows in 2014 at its Southern border. The phenomenon of maritime migration in the Mediterranean, although not new, saw a significant increase, with over 160,000 migrants rescued and other 3,500 who lost their lives.

Foremost, Europe witnessed high challenges on its asylum policy, with an increase of asylum applicants by almost 50 per cent in the third quarter of 2014 compared with the same quarter of the previous year, with a total number of 177 000 claims, out of which, 153 100 (87 %) were first time applicants.

Germany, Italy, Sweden, France and the United Kingdom experienced significant increases in asylum applications. Syrians, Eritreans and Afghans were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers. They lodged around 40 500, 15 100 and 10 500 applications respectively². Given the high instability in Libya and the high pressure on Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, the countries hosting large numbers of Syrian refugees, the asylum seekers claims in Europe are expected to follow the same increasing trend in 2015.



In terms of free intra -EU movement, the situation remains stable. Despite the leverage of the labor market restrictions, the number of expected Bulgarians and Romanians to the United Kingdom reached less than 15 per cent. Instead, Germany appears to attract as a magnet mobile EU citizens especially from the southern countries hardly hit by the economic crises.

¹ Migration Policy Practice, Vol. IV, Number 5, December 2014 – January 2015

² Source: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report

III. Outlook on migration 2014—Migration in Romania

In 2014, migration trends in Romania followed largely the pattern of the previous years. Romania is a country of origin, transit and destination.

Emigration

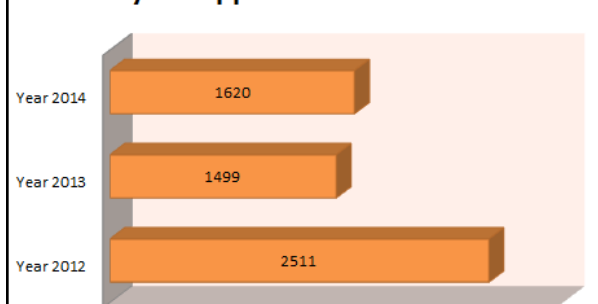
The “brain drain” continues to be a source of concern notably in the health sector. Currently, Romania has a deficit of doctors exceeding 10%. More than 2,600 doctors and medical care staff leave yearly Romania for better jobs and working conditions in the United Kingdom, Germany France and Belgium. Their number grows, thus, the Romanians residing abroad exceeds 3.5 million.

Irregular migration

The Black Sea was a hotspot in 2014. The maritime migration phenomenon intensified at the edge of the EU and Eastern Schengen border. Over 400 migrants, mostly from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, risked their lives in improvised and dangerous boats in their way to Europe. Rescue teams of the Romanian Border Police carried out over 9 rescue missions on the Black Sea reducing the risks of fatal journeys.

The increasing phenomenon of irregular migration on the Black Sea led to a slight increase in the number of asylum applications in Romania. These reached almost 1,700 and is with 8% higher than in 2013. Most of the asylum seekers came from Syria (616), Afghanistan (277), Iraq (212) and Iran (64). Despite the conflict

Asylum applications in Romania



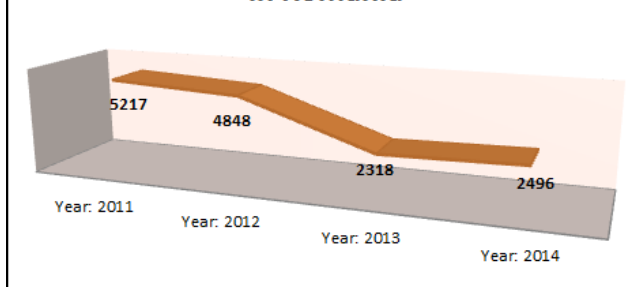
situation in the Ukraine, the number of Ukrainians seeking asylum in Romania was much lower than expected (34).

Out of the total number of asylum applications, nearly 46% have been positively solved. 345 migrants were granted the refugee status and the other 346 received subsidiary protection.

As for the number of irregular migrants, the trend is slightly increasing compared with 2013. 2,496 irregular migrants have been identified in Romania in 2014, 8% more than in 2013 (2,318 cases). 241 migrants have been forced returned by the Romanian authorities, whereas 113 chose the voluntary return and left Romania with IOM's support. In terms of countries of

origin, Albania, Moldova and Afghanistan followed by Syria, Turkey and Iraq continued to feed irregular migratory flows in 2014 as well.

Migration flow of irregular migrants in Romania



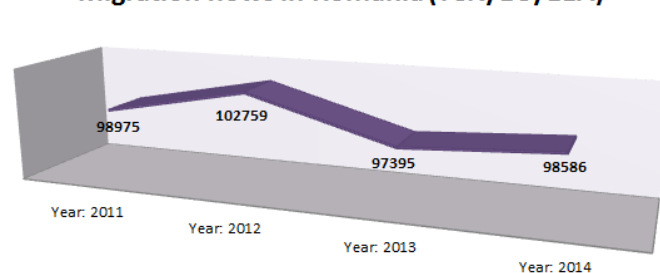
Voluntary returns with IOM

Overall, the number of voluntary returns decreased (113) compared with the previous year (197). This is mainly due to submission of the protocol between Romania and Republic of Serbia for application of the agreement between the European Community and Republic of Serbia on the readmission of persons residing illegally, signed in Brussels on 18 September 2007. By entering in force of this protocol, irregular migration to Romania has significantly decreased. IOM offered voluntary return and reintegration counseling in 2014 to over 350 irregular migrants. The leading country of origin for voluntary returns remains the Philippines, followed by Nigeria and Tunisia.

Regular migration

According to the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII), in 2014, the number of legal migrants in Romania

Migration flows in Romania (TCN/EU/EEA)



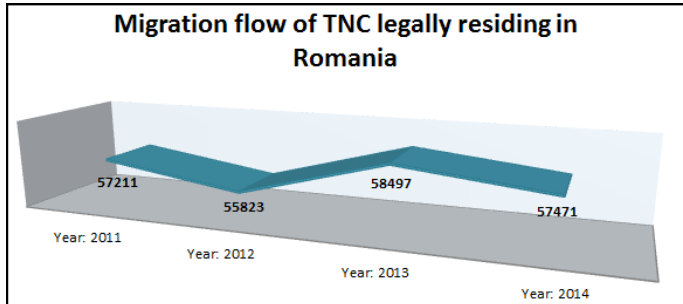
reached 98,586, out of which 57,471 third country nationals (TCN) and 41,115 EU/EEA citizens. In terms of scope of residence, 26,420 TCN came to Romania for family reunification or as family members of Romanian citizens, whereas 11,324 came for studies. To be noticed is the fact that the number of TCNs coming for studies to Romania is increasing. Unfortunately, TCNs labour migration continues to be very modest, with less than 2,100 working authorizations issued in 2014, from a 5,500 quota established by the Romanian Government for this year.

IV. IOM interventions in Romania

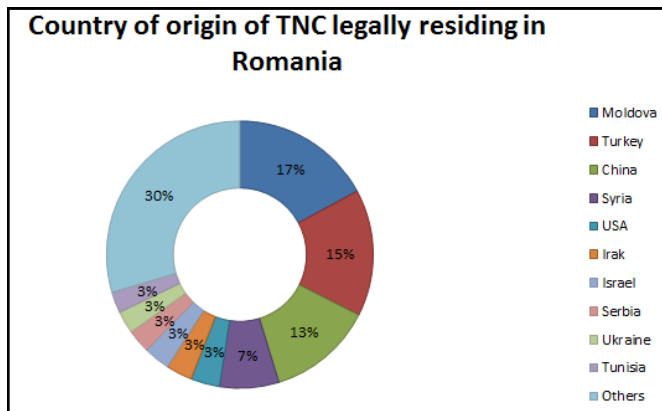
1. Facilitating migration

National coordination of third-country nationals (TCN) integration in Romania

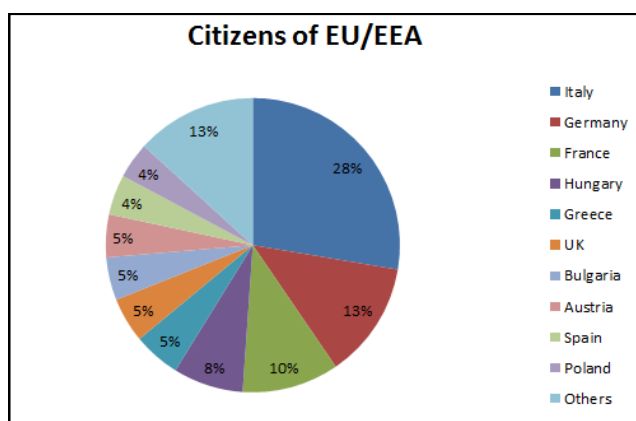
According to the General Inspectorate for Immigration, in 2014, the number of legal foreign residents in Romania reached 98.586, out of which



57,471 third country nationals (TCN) and 41,115 EU/EEA citizens. The overall number is about 1% higher compared with 2014. The small increase concerns the EU/EEA citizen's number, mainly from Italy (11,369), Germany (5,265) and France (4,378) who are in Romania for business development, work or studies. The number of TCN legally residing in Romania is nearly 2% smaller than in 2013. The vast majority of



them originate from Moldova (9,838), Turkey (8,816) and China (7,359).



The “**National coordination of third-country nationals (TCN) integration in Romania**” is a three-year project (2012 – 2015), co-funded by the European Union from the European Integration Fund, through the General Inspectorate for Immigrations and implemented in collaboration with APEL Association.



The project activities facilitate the social, economic and cultural integration of third country nationals (TCNs) legally residing in Romania through: (a) Information and counseling, provision of specific services such as supporting access to employment, education, healthcare and social systems, as well as direct assistance to vulnerable TCNs and (b) Raising awareness among local authorities on the integration needs of TCNs as well as strengthening the cooperation between the local institutions and organizations with responsibilities in TCNs integration.

IOM Romania is implementing the current project with resources created previously. Therefore, IOM



developed a network of 15 migrant information centers (MICs) located in Bucharest, Bacau, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, Constanta, Craiova, Galati, Iasi, Oradea, Pitesti, Ploiesti, Sibiu, Suceava, Tirgu Mures and Timisoara.

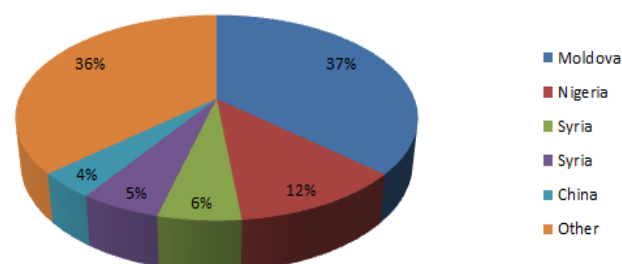
Under IOM coordination, the Migrant Information Centers provide general information to migrants, specific information and counseling on accessing healthcare and educational services and direct assistance to vulnerable migrants.

The project continues collecting data on the profile and needs of the beneficiaries and fosters exchange of information and good practices through a dedicated website on migrant integration - www.romaniaeacasa.ro.

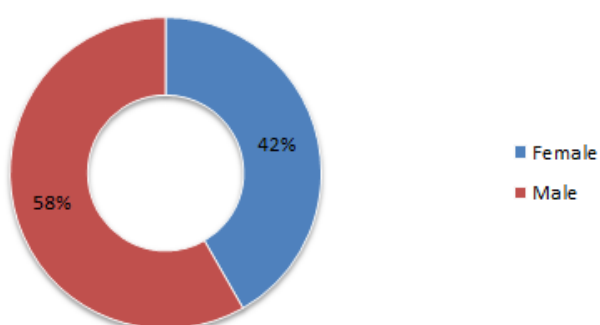
During the implementation of the project activities IOM and its partners worked closely with representatives of local authorities to ensure a better understanding of the migrant's specific needs and the advantages of an effective integration.

In 2014, the number of TCN in the framework of the project, 2.000 migrants who decided to call Romania their home benefited of information and counselling services .

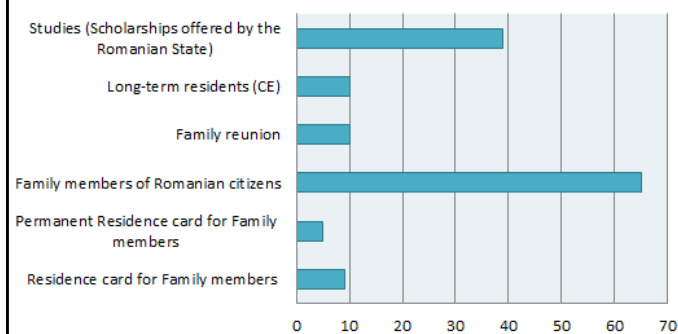
Country of origin of TNC (counseled and informed)



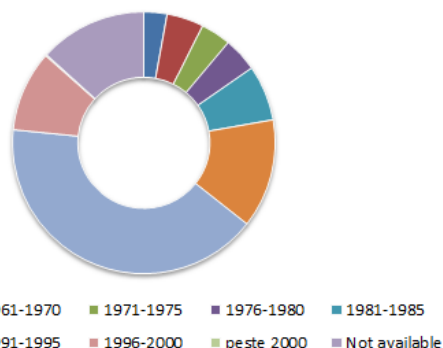
Gender distribution of TCN



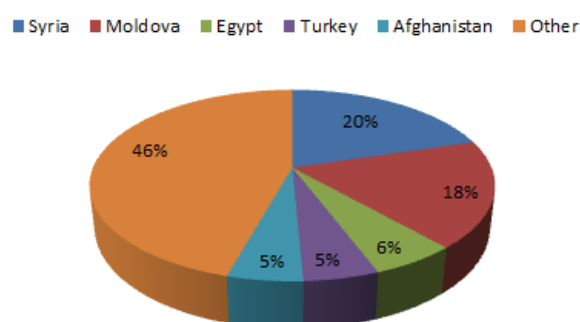
Type of residence of TNC (assisted)



Date of birth of TNC



Country of origin of TNC (assisted)



Active Citizenship: Enhancing political participation of migrant youth (ACCESS)

The ACCESS project aims to empower migrant youth to become politically active citizens on a local, national and EU-wide level and to be able to better contribute to the formulation of policies. Through peer reviews of policies and practices in ACCESS project countries, the project provides concrete advice and tools to policy-makers on involving young people ideas and concerns in decision-making. In the context of this project, political participation of youth doesn't only include participation in electoral processes but consists of a more comprehensive approach engaging all young people in the development, implementation and evaluation of all policies which affect them.

The ACCESS project, between late 2013 and mid-2015, is implemented by IOM Bucharest and managed by IOM Helsinki with support from IOM offices in Prague, Marseille, and Barcelona.

IOM Bucharest, in collaboration with Municipality of Cluj Napoca and Romanian Youth Council, aims to: (a) capacity building of migrant youth on political participation; (b) Strengthening municipalities to work towards more profound involvement of migrant youth and (c) Awareness-raising and building of networks.



2. Regulating migration

Strengthening of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programmes (AVRR) in Romania

The project “Strengthening of the assisted voluntary returns and reintegration programmes (AVRR) in Romania” is a three-year project (2012 – 2015) co-funded by the European Union from the European Return Fund, through the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigrations.



The project is implemented in partnership with Asociația Serviciul Apel and in collaboration with other three NGOs located in Galați, Suceava and Somcuta Mare.

More concretely, the project supports the development of the AVRR in Romania through awareness raising among beneficiaries and stakeholders and through voluntary return activities for eligible migrants. The target group consists of asylum seekers and irregular migrants who choose to return to their countries of origin.



Project results

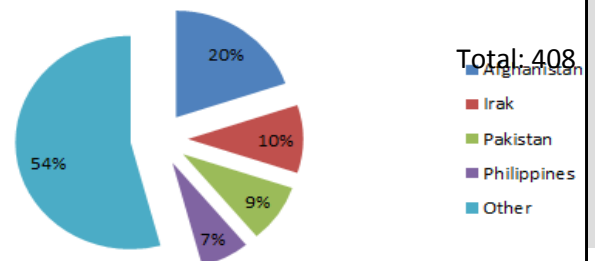
In 2014 over 400 migrants were assisted through counselling and information services available in the General Inspectorate for Immigration open and closed facilities for irregular migrants and asylum seekers.



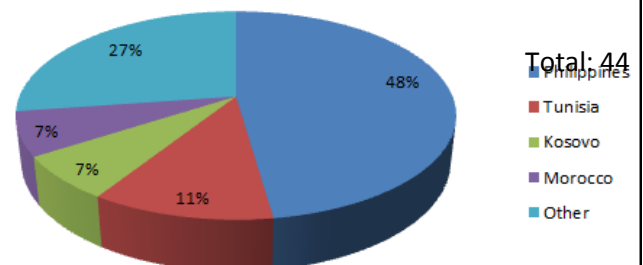
Voluntary return was organized for 114 beneficiaries, of which 36 also received basic material assistance prior to departure, and 47 have benefitted from social reintegration support post-return.

Moreover, 30 eligible migrants have graduated from entrepreneurship courses provided by the project, thus enhancing their chances of identifying employment opportunities. In order to ensure the sustainability of the project and the identification of good practices and solutions to potential challenges, two monitoring visits to the main countries of origin of the migrants were conducted jointly with our national partners.

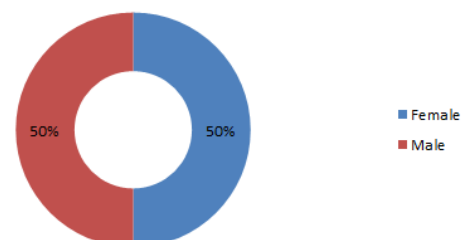
AVRR - Country of origin (counselled)



AVRR cases (reintegration support)



AVRR cases - gender distribution



3. Addressing forced migration – refugee resettlement

Resettlement of Iraqi Refugees from Turkey to Romania in 2014

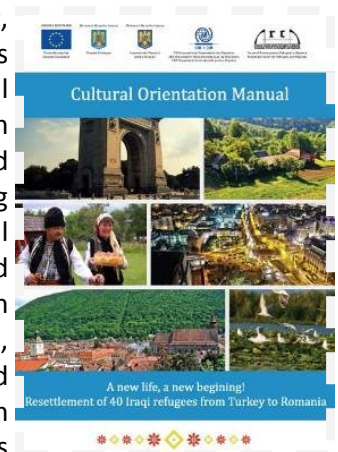
Iraqis constitute one of the largest groups of refugees in Turkey. In 2013, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced an estimate of 9.000 Iraqi refugees in Turkey.

The project *Resettlement of 40 Iraqi refugees from Turkey to Romania* aimed at contributing to the development and implementation of Romania's resettlement programme through pre-departure, transfer and post arrival assistance. The resettlement concerned 40 Iraqi refugees located in Turkey, proposed by UNHCR and selected by the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigrations (GII).

40 Iraqi refugees, comprising 22 adults and 18 children, were resettled from Turkey to Romania on 29 May 2014, with final destinations in Bucharest and Timisoara, Romania. Before being resettled, the refugees benefited from a 2-day cultural orientation session in Ankara, delivered in Arabic by IOM in partnership with two Romanian experts from the University of Bucharest.



As a basis for the cultural orientation session, IOM Romania in cooperation with the experts from the University of Bucharest, GII and local NGOs developed a cultural orientation manual in Arabic, Romanian and English highlighting cultural aspects, as well as providing updated realistic information about refugees' rights, responsibilities and benefits in Romania. In addition, the manual was used as a reference and guiding material for post arrival activities in Romania.



The concept of resettlement is not very familiar to the local public authorities and to the general public as Romania's European commitment to resettlement is a recent one. Therefore, to overcome the lack of information and to prepare the host communities in Bucharest and Timisoara to receive the refugees, IOM Romania and ARCA together with GII and



UNHCR organized two information events, on the 26th of March 2014 in Bucharest and on the 3rd of April in Timisoara.

The information events gathered around 100 participants, representatives of central and local public authorities with responsibilities in migrant integration (GII central and local structures, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, the Chamber of Commerce, the Directions General for Child Protection, the Schools Inspectorates, Romanian school teachers, the local State Local Agencies for Employment and the City Halls), as well as intercultural mediators, representatives of migrant communities, local NGOs and the media. All of them essential actors in the receiving communities whose activities and area of expertise may have direct impact on the integration process of the refugees.

3. Addressing forced migration – refugee resettlement

The Emergency Transit Centre in Timisoara (ETC)

The ETC in Timisoara is a facility jointly run by the Government of Romania, UNHCR and the IOM. Refugees in urgent need of international protection are temporarily evacuated to the ETC in view of onward resettlement to a third country. The transport arrangements to and from the ETC are done by the IOM which is also providing the fit-for-travel medical check and cultural orientation training. During their temporary stay at the ETC, refugees benefit from health care services, medical assistance, and psychological support, recreational and educational activities offered by UNHCR and its partner Generatie Tanara (GTR).

Since its establishment in 2008, the ETC Timisoara received 1,668 refugees, out of which 1,585 already left to resettlement country. During this period, 20 children were born and two refugees passed away. Ten countries offered a new home to the refugees from the ETC as following: 857 refugees went to USA, 352 to UK, 162 went to the Netherlands, 65 to Canada and 49 to Sweden. Other 80 refugees went to Finland (58), Australia (9), Germany (8), Norway (6) and Albania (1). Most of refugees transiting the ETC were of Iraqi (434), Palestinian (358), Eritrean (294) and Sudanese (213) origin.



4. Migration health—Medical Processing

Migration health assessments and assistance (MHAAs) are among the most well-established migration management services offered by IOM world-wide. At the request of the receiving country governments, MHD provides an evaluation of the physical and mental health status of migrants, for the purpose of assisting them with resettlement, international employment, enrolment in specific migrant assistance programmes, or the obtainment of temporary or permanent visas.



The main benefits of MHAA include prevention of certain diseases through immunization, early detection and treatment of conditions of individual and public health concerns, safer travel and protection of health for both migrants and hosting communities. It also provides authorities in the countries of destination with adequate information thus reducing the pressure on the health and/ or social services.

MHAA are aligned with the IOM goal „healthy migrants in healthy communities” and they respond to the real-time needs mirroring the changing migratory

patterns and epidemiological profiles of migrants.

Since 2001, IOM Romania has a fully established migrant health department (MHD) and consisting of 8 staff members. MHD coordinates two main activities:

⇒ **The self-payers programme** consisted of giving a complete spectrum of medical examinations to the visa applicants for Canada, Australia and New Zealand, according to the beneficiary Governments’ official requirements, performed by empanelled medical Clinics and personnel, and medically processed within no more than half a day. All medical findings are uploaded to the E-Medical online data-base system, under strict confidentiality rules.

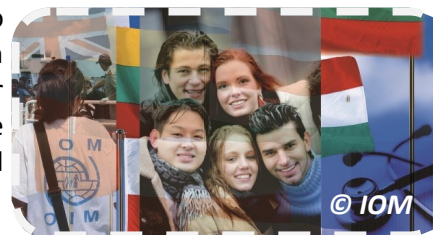
In 2014, 1.430 visa medical files have been processed, mainly for Canada.

⇒ **The refugee programme** includes assessment of the medical status for the refugees transiting the ETC in Timisoara as per the requirements of the countries of resettlement. The programme also serves an important purpose in the prevention and control of communicable diseases prior to a migrant’s departure and travel, in- and/ or out-bound ETC.

5. Other services and programmes

EQUI – HEALTH—Fostering health provision for migrants, the Roma, and other vulnerable groups

IOM and the European Commission joined forces through the EQUI-HEALTH to improve the access and appropriateness of health care services, health promotion and prevention to meet the needs of migrants, the Roma and other vulnerable minority groups, including irregular migrants in the EU/EEA. The project has been officially launched on the 1st of April 2013 and is scheduled to be ended on the 1st of April 2016.



In 2014, in the framework of the second component of the project *Fostering health provision for migrants, Roma and other vulnerable groups*, the Romania Progress country report started to be developed. The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis, from a multi-stakeholder perspective, of the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies and other national commitments with respect to Roma health in Romania.

For more information, please visit: www.oim.ro

Consular services

IOM has continued to support the Member States in terms of providing Consular Services assistance as follows:

- ◇ Medical screening services for migrants bound to Australia, Canada and New Zealand;
- ◇ Upon their respective governments requests IOM offers document verification for specific migrants bounded to Australia and New Zealand;
- ◇ Visa application services for the Government of Canada in managing the CANVAC center in Bucharest where not only the government benefits from data collection and upload but also the migrants are provided with counselling and technical support in filling in their visa applications.
- ◇ Support to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs efforts in assisting vulnerable Romanian citizens residing outside Romania.

Assisted Transport to Canada, Australia and USA



IOM facilitates one-way tickets at specially negotiated fares as part of a humanitarian programme addressed to those who immigrate to Canada, Australia and USA as well as to workers/students who have valid visas for more than 12 months.

In the framework of programme, in 2014, 679 persons benefited of the IOM assistance.

Out of 679 beneficiaries:

- ⇒ 398 were male and 281 were female
- ⇒ 40 persons emigrated to Calgary, 542 to Montreal, 48 to Toronto and 29 to Vancouver.
- ⇒ For 20 persons the country of origin is Republic of Moldova.

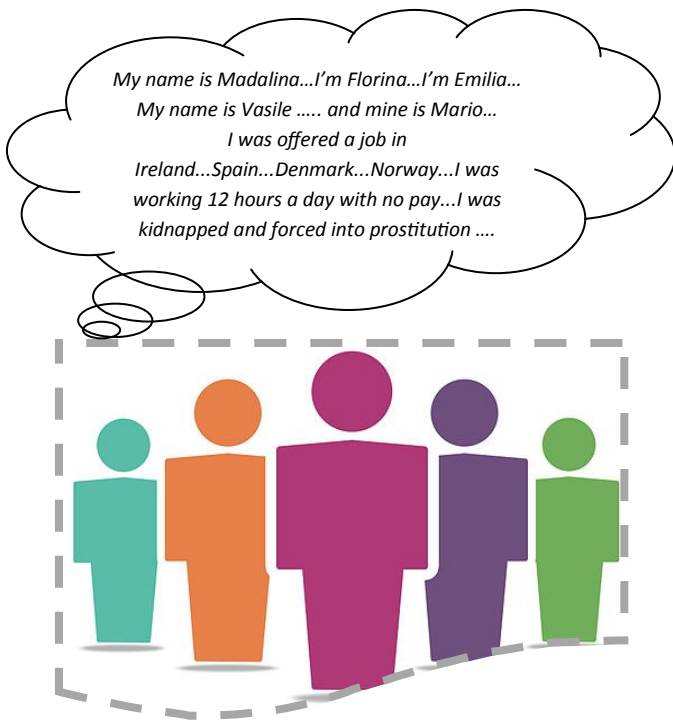
Canada Visa Application Center

IOM Romania manages the Visa Application Center for Canada (VAC). Since its opening in August 2013, more than 8.771 (7.572 in one year—2014) visitors, worker and student visa files have been processed.

The center offers applicants guidance in completing their application forms, as well as allows them to make the application, and collects travel documents returned from the Canadian Embassy throughout the working day.



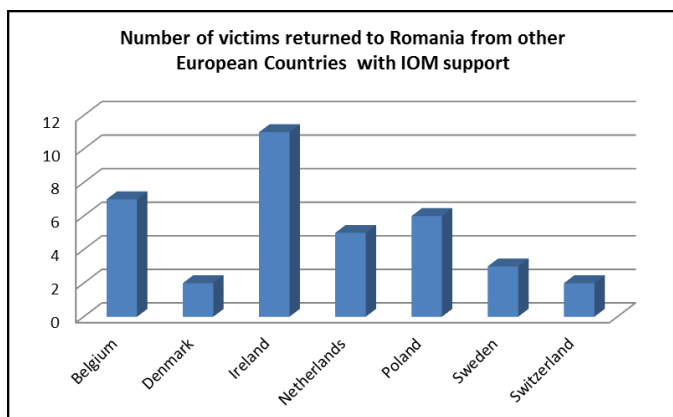
6. Counter-Trafficking



This is the way many life stories begin. Most of them are stories about broken dreams, deception and mistrust. They are stories of vulnerable people who have fallen into the trap of trafficking in human beings.

According to Eurostat – [Working Paper on Statistics - Trafficking in Human Beings 2014 edition](#), Romanian citizens are in top five countries in the EU in terms of absolute numbers of registered victims. Between 2010 and 2012, there were 3 230 Romanian *Victims of Trafficking* (VOTs) registered in Romania and other 2 870 registered in other countries at European level. Among those identified in other countries, only 121 have been returned to Romania with Governmental support.

36 Romanians returned to Romania in 2014 within the



IOM counter trafficking or voluntary return specific programs in countries of destination. IOM Romania in partnership with ADPARE, one of the most professional NGO in Romania specialized in providing assistance

to victims of trafficking, intervened with tailored specific services provision.

The support services ranged from the airport assistance to onward transportation, identification of housing, family support, psychological and legal counseling, medical screening, enrolment in vocational training courses, job identification, liaison with State social and legal institutions, liaison with organized crime departments, National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons and Police, monitoring and case rehabilitation evaluation.

Ireland, Belgium and Poland were the main countries of destinations for sexual and labour exploitation.

Out of the 36 Romanian re-
turnees with IOM support, 23 are female and 13 male, among which 8 children; women are most often subjected to sexual exploitation, whereas men are exploited for work and begging.



Victims' rehabilitation after return remains one of the most important challenges in Romania because of lack of resources. In this respect, the reintegration allowances granted by the countries of destination are most welcome. However, they very much vary between countries and can be thus used primarily to cover basic immediate needs, such as food, short term rent or medicines. Reintegration allowances provided by countries of destination outside the EU remain amongst the highest ones, allowing for long term reintegration plans and income generating activities.

IOM Romania and ADPARE will continue providing and developing support activities to Romanian victims of trafficking in cooperation with IOM Offices in countries of destination and Romanian public authorities with responsibilities in victims' rehabilitation.

Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings represents one of IOM's priorities world-wide and in this context IOM Romania together with its governmental and non-governmental partners availed its own resources to assist the growing numbers of Romanian citizens that find themselves in vulnerable situations. A key factor to the success of the above mentioned process was the interest and involvement of the dedicated IOM network of professionals, in particular those located in EU member states.

V. Awareness raising events

IOM PD&I Training in Bucharest

A recent IOM Regional Survey and Regional session of the GCoMM identified that capacity building remains a priority in our region to underpin better policy liaison and programme development and implementation.



Therefore, between November 25-27, 2014, IOM Romania hosted and facilitated the organization of the Regional Project Development and Implementation Training (PD&I). The objective of the training was to provide targeted participants with the theoretical and practical knowledge on the institutional tools and procedures involved in each phase of the entire project lifecycle, from conceptualization to evaluation. The PD&I training targeted IOM staff responsible for project development and implementation and/or project management. The training comprised the standard IOM PD&I three-day training curriculum leading to formal certification by the SDL.

IOM Goes to Hollywood - Private screening of the *The Good Lie* film

The Good Lie, starring Academy Award Winner Reese Witherspoon, was released in Romania on November 13th, 2014. More than 200 IOM partners and media representatives attended the IOM private screening.



Romanian premiere of the film and
A photo from one of *The Good Lie* scenes.

The film is about a group of Sudanese refugees accepted for resettlement in the US. The group arrives in Kansas clutching the IOM bags and is met by Ms. Witherspoon who plays an employment agency counselor.

IOM has provided essential services in support of refugee resettlement operations for over six decades. In the last decade alone, IOM has organized resettlement movements of 892,243 refugees from 186 locations around the world. IOM works closely with governments, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), NGOs and other partners to ensure that refugees accepted for resettlement are duly processed, given health assessments, pre-departure orientation, transport and reception in their new country.

The film received positive feedback from the invited journalists and interesting discussions were generated. On this occasion a brochure was produced providing a short overview of refugee resettlement operations and IOM resettlement movements.

IOM celebrates the International Migrants Day

On 18th of December 2014, IOM and the General Inspectorate for Immigration

(GII) have organised at the UN House premises in Bucharest an event dedicated to the International Migrants

Day. This year event focused on the global and local phenomenon of migration, on the integration of migrants into the Romanian society and their contribution to the cultural diversity.

On this occasion clothing and culinary traditions of different migrant communities were presented.

Short movies on migration management and integration in the host countries were screened as well. A thematic drawing contest produced by children and youngsters was exhibited. The winners were selected by counting the votes of the participants to the event. The best three drawings were awarded.

Representatives of the main institutions and organisations involved in the migration phenomena – IOM, GII, UNHCR, UNDP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NGO's and migrants communities attended the event.



Public events related to European funded programmes

In 2014, 5 national seminars, 25 local seminars and one press conferences were organised within the European funded projects

“Strengthening of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme in Romania”

and

“National coordination of the third country nationals (TCN) integration in Romania”



AVRR programme, Philippines, March 2014

Through these initiatives, IOM Romania advocates for a more favourable, inclusive and balanced attitude towards migrants and provides counseling and support to governments and partners, with the overall aim to develop effective national, regional and global migration policies and strategies.



TCNs Integration programme, Bucharest, May 2014

More than 1300 representatives (central and local public authorities, diplomatic missions in Romania, migrant communities, NGO and media) attended the events.



TCNs Integration programme, Bucharest, June 2014



AVRR programme, counseling session, Bucharest, March 2014

Events and campaigns related to European funded programmes

Press conference on migrant integration programme

On the 23rd of January 2014, the European Public Space of the Representation of the European Commission office in Bucharest hosted the IOM press conference on migrant integration programme. Media, NGO and governmental representatives attended the event.

The press statement outlined that IOM supports policies and strategies that promote the social,



economic and cultural inclusion of migrants within existing legal frameworks in Romania. IOM focus is on development of strategies that help migrants to better integrate into new communities and in raising awareness among hosting communities to acknowledge the positive contributions that migrants can make into society. This two-way integration process is essential for the existence of thriving, multicultural communities.



On the occasion, IOM launched the Media contest Romania e acasa (Romania is your home). Qualified journalists (print, online, radio, TV), bloggers, and representatives from migrant communities were invited to submit articles/media reports/testimonials (or any other editorial product) for the national media contest.

Public information campaign on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme

Documentary film *Horizon*

A documentary film has been produced to present through artistic lens the risks and difficulties of ir-



regular migration, the procedure and benefits of the AVRR programme. The film that was shot in Romania, Philippines and Georgia has been distributed together with Romania Libera, national daily

newspaper, in 5000 DVD copies.

The film, available [online](#), was also screened at various events.

Information campaign

More than 6.000 flyers&brochures and 1.000 posters have been distributed, for the AVRR project, TCN's Integration programme and the Relocation initiative. Between February and April 2014 one TV spot on AVRR has been broadcasted by the national television 135 times and one Radio spot has been broadcasted by the national Radio station 95 times.



Two media contests (*Romania e acasa* and *Get migration out of the shadow*) have been organized in the framework of the AVRR and TCNs Integration projects. The two contests have gathered more than 40 articles in central and local media, and 10 migrant testimonies of those who arrive in Romania, forced by various circumstances of life, and not give up, take their destiny in their hands and with courage and excitement build their new life in Romania.

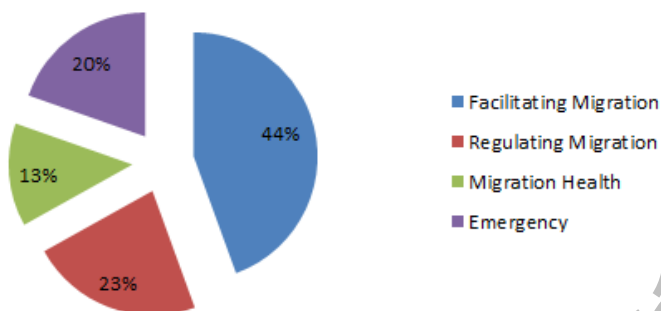


Romania e acasa media contest award ceremony

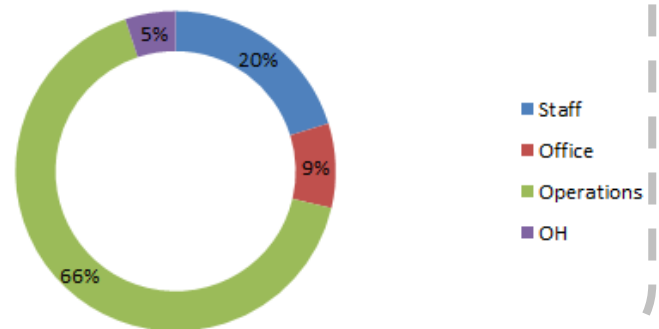
VI. Resources

In 2014, IOM Bucharest has spent a total of 2.174.766 USD out of which 748.486 USD were spent from European funded projects, especially under Migrant Integration and AVRR programmes.

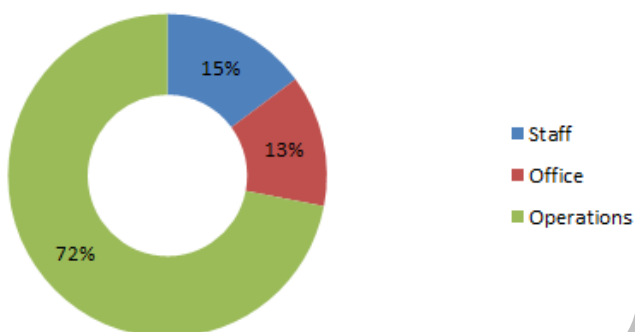
Expenses per service area



Expense per Type



Usage of EU project funds



Expenses per funding source

