

LEGISLATION IN TOURISM

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Abstract: Through UN programmes and funds, Romania benefits from a large volume of technical and financial assistance in areas of interest to the country: environmental protection, demography, human rights, health, agriculture, industry, consolidation of democratic institutions, etc. The value of these projects is substantially higher than Romania's financial obligations to the UN institutions. The financial assistance provided by the UN System is closely aligned with Romania's national strategies and programmes in order to ensure an effective response to Romania's development priorities. The United Nations system in Romania responds to governmental requests for assistance in formulating and implementing national strategies. The United Nations provide the government with the expertise and analysis capability on which they propose and encourage the implementation of important government public policies. The UN is represented in Romania by 11 specialized funds, programmes and agencies, each with its own responsibilities, but all working together to solve a wide variety of issues.

Keywords: international organizations, funds, national centres

United Nations Organization

The United Nations is the most important International Organization in the world. Founded in 1945 after the Second World War, it has 192 member states. The UN has the mission to ensure world peace, respect for human rights, international cooperation and respect for international law. The headquarters of the organization is located in New York.

The main divisions of the UN:

There are representatives of each member state in the **General Assembly**. Each state has equal voting rights. Also, the Assembly's resolutions are not laws, but mere recommendations.

Security Council: 15 members, of which 5 permanent (China, Russia, France, UK and US), and the rest elected for a two-year term. Five new members are elected each year. The important decisions of the Security Council must be voted by 9 members who also have the Veto right.

Many of the special organizations are subordinated to the **Economic and Social Council**.

The **Trusteeship Council** has temporarily suspended its work.

The **International Court of Justice** decides on international disputes (located in The Hague).

United Nations Secretariat: the largest administrative office is the UN Secretary-General.

Special organizations of the UN:

The United Nations Human Settlements Centre (UN-Habitat), founded in 1977, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - founded in 1964, based in New York, USA.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) - founded in 1946 with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - founded in 1965, based in New York.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - founded in 1972, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

The United Nations International Drug Control Programme, founded in 1991, based in Vienna, Austria.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, founded in 1950, headquartered in Geneva.

UN peacekeeping operations based in New York

United Nations Population Fund, founded in 1967, based in New York.

The Palestinian Refugees Agency, founded in 1950, based in Gaza.

World Food Program, founded in 1961, based in Rome.

The UN uses six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Nearly all official meetings are translated simultaneously into these languages. Almost all documents on paper or on-line are translated into these six languages. Depending on the circumstances, some conferences and working documents are translated only in English, French or Spanish.

Human rights were the main reason for the creation of the United Nations. The atrocities of World War II and the genocides have prompted a new organization to prevent similar tragedies in the future. A first objective was to create a legal framework to consider and take decisions on those who violate human rights.

The **United Nations** requires all member states to promote "universal respect for human rights observance" and to take "joint and separate measures" in this regard. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the General Assembly in 1948 as a common standard of accomplishment for all. The United Nations and its various agencies play an important role in implementing and observing the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is the case with the organization's support to countries in transition to democracy. Technical assistance in making free and fair elections, improving judicial structures, revising constitutions, engaging human rights officials, and transforming armed movements into political parties have greatly contributed to democratization in the world.

International organizations with centres in Romania

The first United Nations institution that opened an office in Romania was the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) - June 1970. UNIC provides the Romanian public with up-to-date information on the United Nations objectives and activities in the political, economic, social and humanitarian sectors. The centre represents both the active connection between the Organization and the media, educational institutions or local non-governmental organizations, as well as the main local source of public information about the United Nations system.

The **UN Information Centre** was followed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which opened its office in Romania in 1971. In its first years of work, UNDP provided technical assistance, organized training programmes abroad for Romanian experts or purchased western equipment. After the 1989 Revolution, UNDP was able to assume a much more dynamic role and became a real partner of the Romanian Government in its new development programmes. In order to cope with the challenges of the transition, in 1991, a new agreement was signed between the Government of Romania and UNDP. Romania's new priorities and areas of action of UNDP are now reflected in a new Country Programme (2005-2009) with a closer focus on the social sector.

UNESCO-CEPES (UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education) started its activity on September 21, 1972 and is hosted by the Kretulescu Palace in the centre of Bucharest. The creation of an institution to strengthen European cooperation in the field of higher education was recommended during the XVIth session of the UNESCO General Conference in autumn 1970. In the same year, the Romanian Government invited UNESCO to open a centre in Bucharest to promote international cooperation in the field of higher education, especially the collaboration between Western and Eastern Europe. UNESCO-CEPES organized a series of activities involving all the states in the region and developed strong connections with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations active in the same area of the world.

The **UN Population Fund** (UNFPA) is an international development agency that promotes every man's right to a healthy and equal life in society. UNFPA helps countries where they work to use population related information to develop policies and programmes to reduce poverty and create conditions for each task to be desired, every birth to be safe, every young person to be protected from HIV / AIDS, and every girl and woman to be treated with respect and to live a dignified life. In 2005, the Romanian Government and the UN Population Fund signed the Action Plan of the Programme for Romania, which established the basis of their collaboration for the next 5 years (2005-2009).

The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR) has been present in Romania since 1991. UNHCR's objectives in Romania are: to develop the national asylum system and the refugee protection regime according to European and international standards, to assist asylum seekers and refugees, to promote sustainable solutions for the problems faced by refugees, to prevent and reduce statelessness. The World Health Organization (WHO) for Romania was established in 1990. Since then, it has implemented the WHO Eurohealth programme, which had three phases:

1. An emergency one, the WHO preventing a crisis in the supply of basic medicine.

2. In the medium term, the Organization has assisted the Government in transforming health policies into national programmes on priority areas.

3. In the long term, the WHO provides assistance to the Government in the development of national health policies in line with the Health for All principle.

The **United Nations Children's Fund** (UNICEF) opened its office in Romania in 1991. UNICEF initially carried out two biannual emergency programmes. The subsequent Country Programme (1995-1999) aimed at helping families to cope with the difficulties caused by the transition, and since then has helped to build a solid foundation for reforming the national child protection system.

The **International Monetary Fund** (IMF) opened its representative office for Romania in 1991. Romania has been a member of the IMF since 15 December 1972, and has used the resources of this institution eight times so far to financially support the Government's programmes.

The **World Bank** opened its office in Romania in 1992. Romania joined the World Bank on December 15, 1972, and the first loan granted to Romania was approved on June 27, 1974. Eventually, the total funds granted to Romania by the World Bank were 4.9 billion dollars for 56 loan programmes. The **International Labour Office** in Bucharest (ILO) was opened in 1992. Romania has been a member of the ILO since its establishment in 1919. Since then, ILO has contributed to improving labour law in Romania on the basis of international labour standards. It has also provided technical assistance to implement several projects in Romania, including modernizing employment services and preventing alcohol and drug use at the work place.

The **United Nations Joint Programme on HIV / AIDS** (UNAIDS) opened its office in Romania in August 1997. Its objective is to help the Romanian Government implement the national strategy to counteract the spread of HIV / AIDS and to develop local capacities prevention of HIV / AIDS infection. The partners are government agencies as well as non-governmental organizations. UNAIDS is also engaged in research and testing to set up communication and information exchange networks to facilitate joint efforts to

combat the epidemic and reduce its effects. UNAIDS 'current activities in Romania are focused on supporting consensus on strategic HIV / AIDS planning and on preventing the spread of HIV in vulnerable groups. All UN funds, programmes and agencies in Romania work with the UN Resident Coordinator and its office to assist them in programme harmonization and coordination of activities. The operational harmonization is based on comparative advantages offered in specific areas of expertise by each UN agency or programme and includes the exchange of information, joint planning of activities, common approaches on topics of general interest, and the harmonization of programme cycles.

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