

Unclassified**English - Or. English**

13 January 2026

**DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE****Cancels & replaces the same document of 13 January 2026****Romania's readiness for accession to the DAC****Note by the Secretariat**

At the 7 November 2025 DAC Meeting, the DAC discussed Romania's request to join the Committee as an Associate under Item 8 of the Annotated Agenda [DCD/DAC/A(2025)14].

Following the meeting on 7 November 2025, the DAC was invited to agree, by written procedure, to the transmission of the proposal to invite Romania as an Associate to the DAC to Council. No objections were received by the deadline of 21 November 2025, and the proposal was transmitted to Council, via the External Relations Committee, for approval. Following Council's approval at its 16-17 December 2025 meeting [[C/M\(2025\)16](#), Item 271], Romania's Associate status in the Committee was formalised through an exchange of letters between the OECD Secretary-General and Romania on 19 December 2025.

This document has been updated to reflect these steps, and is now issued as FINAL and DECLASSIFIED.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

CRS	Creditor Reporting System
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCD	Development Co-operation Directorate
D4D Hub	Digital for Development Hub
DPDU	Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Policy Department
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DSU	Department for Emergency Situations
DSD	Department for Sustainable Development
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EPOC	Environment Policy Committee
ERC	External Relations Committee
EU	European Union
EUSDR	European Strategy for the Danube Region
Environet	DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EvalNet	DAC Network on Development Evaluation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
Gendernet	DAC Network on Gender Equality
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GNI	Gross National Income
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
GovNet	DAC Network on Governance
IASC	Inter Agency Standing Committee
IDA	International Development Association
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INCAF	International Network on Conflict and Fragility
IT	Information Technology

LDCs	Least Developed Countries
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoF	Ministry of Finance
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PCSD	Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
RoAid	Romanian Development Co-operation Agency
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission
TEIs	Team Europe Initiatives
TOSSD	Total Official Support for Sustainable Development
TSI	Technical Support Instrument
TWINNING	European Union instrument for institutional cooperation between Public Administrations
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPO	United Nations Department of Peace Operations
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
USD	United States Dollar
WBG	World Bank Group
WFP	World Food Programme
WP-STAT	DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

ROMANIA'S READINESS FOR ACCESSION TO THE DAC

Note by the Secretariat

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

1. Pursuant to the Revised Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [C(2012)100/REV2/FINAL] (hereafter the “Resolution on Partnerships”), non-Members may be invited to participate in meetings of OECD bodies as either *Associates*, *Participants*, or *Invitees*.¹ This note outlines a proposal to invite Romania to become an Associate in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) (hereafter, also referred to as “DAC member”). The different forms of Partnership are set out in Annex A of the present document.

2. Romania expressed interest in becoming an Associate of the DAC in a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Luminita Odobescu to the DAC Chair on 5 July 2024. In accordance with the Resolution on Partnerships, the request was notified by written procedure to the External Relations Committee (ERC) and no objections were received by the deadline of 3 October 2024. In the absence of objections in the ERC, it was transmitted to the DAC.

3. On 7 January 2025, the Secretariat circulated a note to the DAC providing context for Romania’s request [DCD/DAC(2025)6], which presented a short overview of Romania’s development co-operation system; a summary of Romania’s involvement with and commitment to the DAC and its work²; and a snapshot of Romania’s participation and role in select international organisations and bodies. In addition, the DAC received the Memorandum prepared by Romania containing information on its self-assessment of the fulfilment of and commitment to the conditions for accession [DCD/DAC(2025)5].

4. During the DAC meeting on 22-23 January 2025 [DCD/DAC/M(2025)1/FINAL], DAC members discussed the proposal to launch the DAC accession review for Romania, including possible implications of Romania’s accession for the Committee, and decided to launch a review of Romania’s readiness to join the DAC.

5. A team from the Secretariat (DCD)³ subsequently visited Bucharest from 7 to 10 July 2025 to review Romania’s international development co-operation system. During the visit to Bucharest, the team notably met with the Secretary of State for Romania’s OECD Accession Process, Economic Cooperation, UN and Francophonie; the Director General for interinstitutional relations and development cooperation; and the Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The full list of institutions that the team met with during the review mission is available in Annex C.

¹ See para. 1(a)(i) of the Annex to the Resolution.

² For example, Romania recently participated in the 2025 DAC High-Level meeting (HLM).

³ The team was comprised of staff from the Peer Review and Global Engagement teams. Guillaume Delalande served as a lead analyst for this review, together with policy analysts Claudio Alberti and Chloé Delaitre. Renwick Irvine and Rolf Schwarz oversaw the review.

6. To inform DAC Members, the present document provides the Secretariat's assessment of Romania's readiness for accession to the Committee as an Associate. Annex B outlines the status of Romania's alignment with, and commitment to adhere to legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC. This note also highlights Romania's envisaged contribution to the Committee's activities, for example in the areas of democratic transition or emergency response and its regional expertise in the EU Eastern Neighborhood countries.

7. The DAC agreed, by written procedure on 21 November 2025 to transmit the proposal to invite Romania as an Associate to the DAC to Council. Following Council's approval of the proposal at its 16-17 December 2025 meeting [C/M(2025)16, Item 271], Romania's Associate status in the Committee was formalised through an exchange of letters between the OECD Secretary-General and Romania on 19 December 2025. Romania is the first Associate to the Committee⁴.

1.2. Conditions and criteria for Associate status in the Committee

8. In accordance with the Resolution on Partnerships⁵, when considering which non-Members to invite to their meetings, committees should pay due regard to

which Partnerships would serve a mutual interest, in the light of:

- the effects of Partners' economic development on that of Members,
- the Partners' institutional and policy know-how,
- the appropriate number of Partners participating in the body concerned and the impact of such participation on the efficient functioning of this body.

9. In this context, the DAC should consider whether inviting Romania as an Associate would serve a mutual interest by supporting the achievement of its mandate and programme of work, as well as the Organisation's mandate of contributing to the development of non-Members. Adding to this, the 2025-2026 DAC Global Relations Strategic Directions [DCD/DAC(2025)33/FINAL] outlines three priorities for engagement with development partners for the Committee. One of the priorities is "engagement with other official development co-operation providers, notably (...) OECD accession candidate countries" (which is the case of Romania).

10. Beyond the above general considerations, the Resolution on Partnerships sets out specific requirements for Associates. These require that Associates:

- be able and willing to contribute substantially to the fulfilment of the body's mandate and programme of work through their active participation in its meetings and its work, including by providing the information which the body may require (same conditions as for Participants);
- demonstrate their commitment to the body's goals and practices (on the basis of an assessment of the candidate's policies and of its commitment to this body's goals, practices and high standards, demonstrated by these policies and by its adherence to at least the legal instruments defined for this purpose in the Participation Plan);
- provide any statistical information that may be required for the body's databases.

⁴ See the [OECD DAC Participation Plan](#).

⁵ See [C(2012)100/REV2/FINAL].

11. In line with the Participation Plan of the DAC⁶ and the accession process for non-OECD Members seeking to become Associates of the DAC approved by the Committee in the document “DAC Enlargement and Accession” [DCD/DAC(2023)24/FINAL], non-OECD Member candidate countries are assessed against the following conditions for Associate status in the Committee⁷:

- The existence of a policy, institutional and accountability (including monitoring and evaluation system) framework that commits the country to contribute to sustainable development, in partnership with developing countries, through the use of public resources, and evidence of political commitments in line with the DAC’s mandate and international agreements.
- An accepted measure of effort in providing official development assistance, for example, an ODA/GNI ratio of over 0.20% or an ODA volume above USD 100 million, or a time-bound commitment to work towards such levels.
- Provision of information on its alignment with the OECD legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC, including information on all relevant laws, policies, practices, and future plans to implement.
- Provision of information on its development co-operation efforts, including annual statistics on ODA flows at activity level for at least two years ahead of accession.
- Regular participation in DAC meetings as well as in meetings of subsidiary bodies of mutual interest as a Participant for at least two years.

12. In addition, upon joining the DAC, new DAC members (including Associates) pledge to fulfil the obligations of DAC membership, notably:

- To adhere, at the time of their accession to the DAC, to all the legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC.⁸
- To maintain the capacity to participate in all meetings of the DAC and at least one of its subsidiary bodies.
- To participate in a mid-term review within two years of accession and a peer review covering the full analytical framework within five years [DCD/DAC(2022)57/FINAL] if it has not conducted such a review as part of its accession to the DAC.⁹

⁶ See page 4 of the [OECD DAC Participation Plan](#).

⁷ These conditions are, by nature, somewhat flexible and subjective. Past accession processes have also considered transition periods during which new DAC members work towards further aligning with the conditions and membership obligations, with progress usually assessed in their first DAC Peer Review or by a mid-term review before their first Peer Review.

⁸ The [online Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments](#) provides an updated list of the OECD legal instruments under the DAC's responsibility. Please refer to the [OECD Legal Instruments webpage](#) for more information on OECD legal instruments.

⁹ The peer review methodology sets out a comprehensive analytical framework (see [DCD/DAC(2022)57/FINAL]). According to the current process of accession for non-Member Associates, the Secretariat conducts a review based on the full analytical framework of peer reviews.

- To conduct a regular Peer Review of its development co-operation, in line with the methodology approved by the DAC, and to serve as an examiner in reviewing other DAC member programmes.
 - To provide the annual submission of required official and private statistics which meet DAC requirements, reporting standards, and methods.¹⁰
 - To provide summary information to be included in the Development Co-operation Report on request.
13. Associates pay an annual fee of EUR 26 500 (2025 figure¹¹).
14. This report is structured along the above conditions and obligations. Section 2 of this report provides an assessment against the conditions for DAC Associate status. Section 3 provides an assessment of the capacity of Romania to fulfill the DAC obligations. Section 4 provides an overall assessment of Romania's readiness to join the DAC.

2. Assessment against the conditions for DAC Associate status

2.1. The existence of a policy, institutional and accountability (including monitoring and evaluation system) framework that commits the country to contribute to sustainable development, in partnership with developing countries, through the use of public resources and evidence of political commitments in line with the DAC's mandate and international agreements.

2.1.1. Overview

15. Romania's **Law No. 213/2016, adopted by Parliament in 2016, provides a clear regulatory framework** designating key stakeholders' roles and responsibilities within Romania's development co-operation and humanitarian assistance. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is the authority responsible for co-ordinating Romania's development co-operation and humanitarian assistance policy. The Development Co-operation Agency (RoAid) was set up in 2016 and is operational since 2017. It is under the direct authority of the MFA and is responsible for the implementation of projects and programmes. The "Advisory Committee for International Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance" ("Advisory Committee") is chaired by and operates under the co-ordination of the MFA, with RoAid acting as a technical Secretariat for the Committee (for greater details see the Organisation section). The Advisory Committee aims to ensure coordinated strategic planning within the Romanian development co-operation system and serves as a forum to identify, in a consensual manner across the government, geographical and thematic priorities for Romania's development co-operation and humanitarian assistance (see below for the list of geographic and thematic priorities).

16. The **"2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme of International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance"** is the current policy framework guiding Romania's development co-operation and humanitarian assistance. It was drafted by the MFA and approved by the Romanian Government in 2024,

¹⁰ DAC members have the obligation to report on their official and private flows to the Secretariat, as set out in the DAC mandate [C(2022)208] and the Statistical Reporting Directives [DCD/DAC(2024)40/FINAL] and relevant addenda [DCD/DAC(2024)40/ADD1/FINAL], [DCD/DAC(2024)40/ADD2/FINAL] and [DCD/DAC(2024)40/ADD3/FINAL].

¹¹ See the OECD website: <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/legal/partnerships-in-oecd-bodies.html>.

following consultations with the Advisory Committee as well as a broad consultation process at the national level that took into consideration the lessons learned from the previous 2020-2030 Strategic Programme. It outlines the goals, priorities, principles, medium- and long-term objectives, and implementation modalities of Romania's development co-operation and humanitarian assistance. The Strategic Programme is implemented through shorter-term annual plans that serve as operational documents to plan Romania's concrete activities in development co-operation and humanitarian assistance for the financial year.

17. **Romania's international development co-operation policy aims to contribute to the eradication of extreme poverty by promoting security and prosperity, through effective partnerships with partner countries, in order to support their own sustainable development goals¹², with a focus on its priority countries and territories.** Romania's development co-operation activities are shaped by its transformation from a recipient to a donor country and reflect the country's knowledge and experience, notably in terms of accession to the European Union, democratic transition processes, and education.

18. **The 2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme sets the thematic and geographical priorities for Romania's development co-operation initiatives. Geographically, Romania focuses on ten priority partner countries and territories – Albania, Ethiopia, Georgia, Mauritania, the Republic of Moldova (hereafter, "Moldova"), the Palestinian Authority, Senegal, Serbia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Ukraine.** European countries on the list were chosen based on geographic proximity, EU accession prospects and the opportunity to share Romania's experience from its own EU accession process, helping these countries navigate similar paths. Moldova and Ukraine are the two main priority countries of Romania's development co-operation. African countries were chosen mostly based on Romania's diplomatic presence and past relations, as well as Romania's expertise notably in education. Romania also decided to add the Palestinian Authority to the list. Beyond these, Romania continues to implement projects in non-priority countries based on requests from partners (see the section on Bilateral Co-operation).

19. **Romania's 2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme also sets out three main thematic priorities for its development co-operation and humanitarian assistance.** These are: institutional development; green transition, the environment and climate change; and human development. These three thematic priorities are complemented by the following cross-cutting priorities: human rights and fundamental freedoms; gender equality, combating discrimination and environmental impact assessment. The breadth of Romania's priorities means that they function as broader overarching areas of engagement (see the section on Bilateral Co-operation).

20. **Romania's engagement with African countries is guided by a dedicated National Strategy for Africa¹³, adopted in 2023.** The document outlines Romania's increased level of ambition in engaging with the African continent, with priority given to

¹² Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2024), <https://mae.ro/en/print/2062>.

¹³ Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2023), Romania-Africa: A Partnership for Future through Peace, Development and Education, https://www.mae.ro/sites/default/files/file/anul_2023/pdf_2023/strategie_africa_2023_eng.pdf.

those countries where Romania currently has a resident diplomatic representation.¹⁴ For its four priority African countries, Romania has an embassy in two of them: Ethiopia and Senegal. The National Strategy for Africa is guided by a “Team Romania” approach, with an emphasis on coordination of all efforts and initiatives of Romania’s government entities to maximise impact.

21. **Romania is making efforts to align its foreign and development co-operation policies.** The MFA emphasises that development co-operation and humanitarian assistance are complementary to Romania’s broader foreign policy and trade objectives¹⁵. Moreover, the geographic and thematic priorities outlined in the 2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme were developed taking into consideration Romania’s foreign policy priorities as one of its reference points¹⁶. While Romania’s Government’s Programme for 2023-2024¹⁷ provided a comprehensive section on strengthening development co-operation as a foreign policy instrument, the Government’s Programme 2025-2028¹⁸ makes less reference to international development co-operation, although it provides strong and renewed support to Moldova, other neighbouring countries and regional initiatives.

22. **Romania’s commitment to ODA is enshrined in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development**, which was approved in 2018 by Government Decision no. 877/2018 and has a dedicated section on ODA. The 2030 National Sustainable Development Strategy provides an overview of the nation’s roadmap to achieve the SDGs, emphasising inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societal development. It informs Romania’s Multiannual Strategic Programme, in an effort to foster a whole of government approach for policy coherence for sustainable development.¹⁹

2.1.2. Bilateral Co-operation

23. **Historically, Romania’s bilateral co-operation has focused on sharing its knowledge and experience in democratic transition and EU accession with its neighbouring countries, in line with its strategic and foreign policy priorities.**

24. **Romania’s bilateral aid amounted to USD 209.6 million in current prices (equivalent to 38.2% of total ODA) in 2023**, representing an increase of 76% in real terms from 2022, mostly due to an increase in support to Ukrainian refugees (total in-donor refugee costs amounted to 114.21 USD million in 2023). Romania allocated the highest share of gross bilateral ODA (38.3%) to upper middle-income countries in 2023, noting that 56.2% was unallocated by income group. LDCs only received 0.6% of Romania’s gross bilateral ODA (USD 1.3 million) in 2023, despite being a priority in the 2020-2023

¹⁴ Romania currently has a total of 31 Diplomatic Missions in 23 African countries, of which: 13 embassies, 1 general consulate and 17 honorary consulates. The embassies are resident in 13 African countries and are providing diplomatic representation for a total of 54 African countries.

¹⁵ Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2024), <https://mae.ro/en/print/2062>.

¹⁶ See page 9 in the [2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme of International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance](#).

¹⁷ See the [Government Programme for 2023-2024](#) (in Romanian).

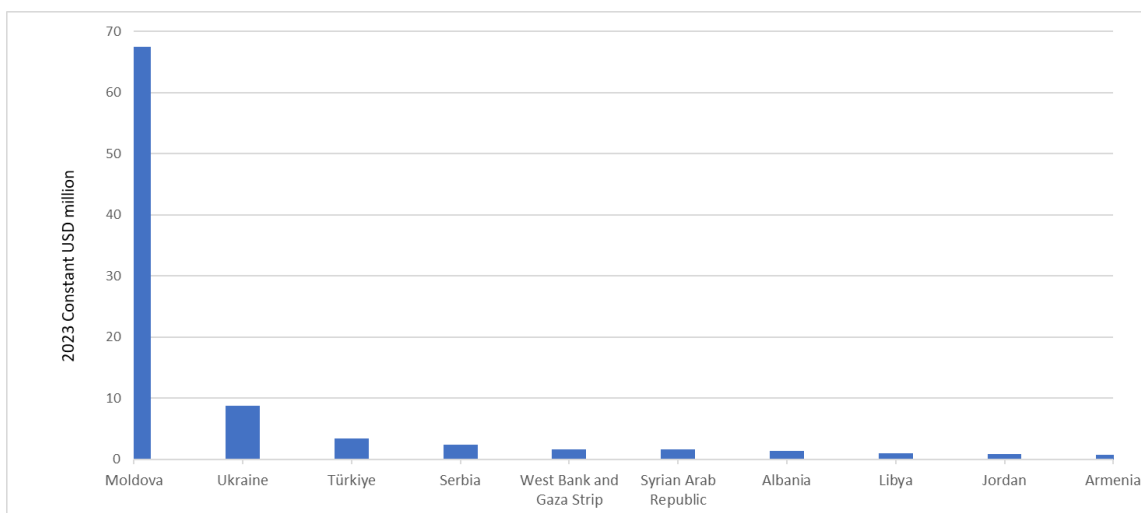
¹⁸ See the [2025-2028 Government Programme](#) (in Romanian).

¹⁹ Notably, the Multiannual Strategic Programme highlights that priorities for development co-operation have been decided based on the National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030.

strategy.²⁰ The new 2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme aims to focus “as far as possible” on the LDC category. Additionally, Romania allocated 32.1% of gross bilateral ODA to land-locked developing countries in 2023, equal to USD 67.2 million.

25. **Bilateral ODA allocations to Romania’s top 10 countries only partially reflects the focus on its priority countries and territories²¹.** On average in 2022-23, the allocation to Moldova constitutes 41% of bilateral ODA (see also Box 1 for more information on Romania’s support to Moldova) and the allocation to Ukraine amounted to 5.3%. On average in 2022-23, a total of USD 84 million (51% gross bilateral ODA) was provided to ODA-eligible countries in Europe. Approximately USD 5.1 million was allocated to the Middle East (3.1% of gross bilateral ODA). Only USD 3.2 million (2% of bilateral ODA) was allocated to countries in Africa and none of the four priority African countries appear in the top 10 (average 2022-23 – see Figure 1). Over the same period, 54.1% of gross bilateral ODA went to Romania’s top 10 recipients, which were primarily in Europe (e.g. Moldova, Ukraine and Serbia), as well as the Middle East (e.g. Türkiye, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Syrian Arab Republic and Libya).

FIGURE 1. ROMANIA’S TOP 10 BILATERAL RECIPIENTS, 2022-23 AVERAGE



Source: OECD (2024), OECD International Development Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00061-en>.

26. **The composition of Romania’s ODA has shifted following Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine.** To respond to Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, Romania recognises the importance of national co-ordination and multilateral collaboration to address the effects of the war on affected populations, neighbouring states, and the broader international community. Bilateral aid to Ukraine grew significantly from USD 119.1 million in 2022 to 209.6 million in 2023 in constant 2023 terms, due to exceptionally high in-donor refugee costs, which represented 54.5% of Romania’s gross bilateral ODA in 2023 (compared to 14.9% in 2022). The rest of Romania’s bilateral aid in 2023 was

²⁰ See the [Multiannual Strategic Programme on the International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance for the period 2020-2023](#).

²¹ Albania, Ethiopia, Georgia, Mauritania, the Republic of Moldova, the Palestinian Authority, Senegal, Serbia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Ukraine

focused on scholarships and trainings (31.5%), country programmable aid (7.6%, compared to the DAC members' average of 50.2%) and humanitarian and food aid (4.9%).

Box 1. Romania's development support to Moldova

Moldova is a [top priority](#) country for Romania's foreign policy and development co-operation. The country represents the largest recipient of Romania's bilateral development assistance in 2023, making up 69.13% of Romania's bilateral allocable ODA in 2023 (USD 64.58 million).

This support is based on the strong historical, cultural and linguistic ties between the two countries and their regional proximity, which position Romania as a natural development co-operation partner. The recently approved [Government Programme 2025-2028](#) reaffirmed Romania's continued and expanded support to Moldova, showing that Moldova represents a whole-of-government priority for Romania.

Romania has focused its bilateral interventions in Moldova notably on governance reform and institutional development, and on education. For example, RoAid implemented [a project in 2022 to improve Moldova's judiciary system](#), which included 14 missions for the training of magistrates, facilitated by Romania's National Institute of Magistracy. In partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Romania has also supported a multi-annual initiative that started in 2018 for the development of a new National Single Emergency 112 Calls System in Moldova. This has included training sessions in 2022 and in 2023 for personnel of the Training Centre of Moldova's General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations. On education, Romania's support to Moldova focuses on scholarships.

Romania also leverages the multilateral system in its development co-operation support to Moldova. It utilises the EU Twinning instrument to strengthen Moldova's institutional capacity through peer exchanges on EU accession, migration management in line with EU legislation, and on corporate governance and risk management in the financial sector. Another example of Romania's multilateral efforts includes how, through the OSCE, it has taken the lead to coordinate other donors and financially support projects on [anti-corruption efforts](#) and [combatting money laundering of virtual assets](#) in Moldova.

Finally, against the backdrop of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, Romania, alongside France and Germany, launched the [Moldova Partnership Platform](#). The Platform seeks to provide tailored support to Moldova in its EU accession process and overall development.

Sources: https://roaid.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/en_2024-2027_multiannual_strategic_programme_of_international_development.pdf; <https://roaid.ro/en/9173-2/>; <https://www.osce.org/node/574891>; <https://www.osce.org/VIRTUALASSETS>; <https://maisigurinue.md/the-moldova-support-platform/>; https://www.gov.ro/fisiere/pagini_fisiere/25-06-24-11-11-52PROGRAM_DE_GUVERNARE.pdf?mc_cid=13bfac6b7e&mc_eid=cd1f92f96c

27. **Romania implements bilateral projects much beyond its priority countries and territories²², notably to respond to ad-hoc requests from partners.** Looking at bilateral allocable ODA, Romania supports a high number of countries (30 countries, excluding scholarships), signalling the necessity to further streamline its cooperation. Better

²² See the Overview section for a list of the priority countries and territories of Romania.

alignment between strategic plans and operations on the ground, would enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Romania's development cooperation.

28. **Despite its commitments in the strategic plans adopted by the MFA, in 2023, only USD 4.4 million of ODA was allocated to countries in Africa (0.8% of total ODA and 4.7% of gross bilateral allocable ODA), mostly for scholarships and humanitarian aid.** According to its Africa Strategy, Romania's thematic priorities for development co-operation with African countries are education; peace and security; economic cooperation in areas such as agriculture, digitalisation and industry; and climate change and environmental protection. While this strategy is a first basis for the country to strengthen its engagement with African countries, Romania's support to Africa remains very limited and nascent. The country could start by allocating more resources to a streamlined list of priorities towards Africa, making sure that these priorities are fully aligned with those in the Multiannual Strategic Programme, and make publicly available the country plans for each African country as envisaged in the Strategy.

29. **Development co-operation projects are carried out though direct and/or indirect implementation.** Direct implementation includes public procurement, donations, transfers of expertise, or offering study and research scholarships and indirect implementation includes grants, direct budgetary support or voluntary contributions. Romania's 2025 Annual Plan amounted to EUR 1 million (approximately USD 1.08 million). With thirty-three bilateral development co-operation interventions²³, the average funding size of an intervention was therefore small at about 28 380 EUR (approx. USD 30 694).

30. **Romania used to hold annual competitive calls for project proposals, but these have not been held since 2024. The country continues to provide on a limited scale short term technical assistance missions through a "Mobility Fund for Experts".** Mostly due to budgetary constraints, since 2024, Romania no longer holds annual calls for proposals, and it is unclear if these calls will resume in the future. During the 2021–2023 period, several calls for project proposals issued by RoAid did not result in actual projects being implemented in partner countries. Applicants were discouraged by slim budgets and the short implementation timeframe. Some projects were also rejected in the selection process. These rejections were attributed mostly to incomplete or non-compliant documentation; insufficient quality or coherence; and inadequate budget justification by applicants. Both calls for proposals and the Mobility Fund for Experts are under the organisational and implementation responsibility of RoAid²⁴. The thematic and cross-cutting priorities set in Romania's Multiannual Strategic Programme also guide the project selection of bilateral development co-operation projects. Should Romania wish to continue using calls for proposals as a tool for delivering development co-operation, ensuring adequate human and financial resources for the Agency to operate will be crucial to implement relevant and effective interventions on the ground.

²³ Excluding the Humanitarian Assistance Fund (EUR 50 000), the Mobility Fund for Experts (EUR 3 300), and auxiliary costs (EUR 10130). The earmarked voluntary contribution to the UN OHCHR (EUR 10,000) is considered a bilateral intervention.

²⁴ For the [call for proposals](#), funds are distributed to private sector and non-governmental sector entities from Romania and from beneficiary partner countries. For the [Mobility Fund for Experts](#), funds are distributed to both public and private sector institutions from Romania and from beneficiary partner countries.

31. **Assessing sectoral allocations against thematic priorities remains challenging given the broad nature of these priorities (institutional development; green transition, the environment and climate change; and human development).** In 2023, from a sectoral perspective²⁵, Romania's ODA focused on social infrastructure (USD 75.3 million - with a focus on education for USD 72.2 million) and humanitarian assistance (USD 10.2 million or 4.9% of bilateral ODA). While these two sectors are among Romanian priorities, institutional development and the green transition seemed less prioritised in volume terms (e.g. the government and civil society sector only received USD 2.43 million in 2023). Earmarked contributions to multilateral organisations focused mostly on emergency response and reconstruction (USD 3.47 million), followed by government and civil society (USD 530 thousand).

2.1.3. Multilateral Co-operation

32. **Romania's commitment to working with the multilateral system and multilateral development co-operation is embedded in its Multiannual Strategic Programme for 2024-2027**, which cites the importance of the use of the international system to respond to interconnected global crises and challenges such as climate change or conflicts.

33. **The majority of Romania's development co-operation is provided to and through the multilateral system, with core multilateral ODA going mostly to the European Union.** In 2023, out of USD 547.9 million of gross ODA, Romania provided USD 344.1 million of gross ODA to the multilateral system. Of this, USD 338.4 million was core multilateral ODA (61.8% of total ODA), while USD 5.8 million was non-core contributions earmarked for a specific country, region, theme or purpose. The largest part of Romania's core multilateral ODA goes to EU Institutions (92.7% in 2023), followed by the World Bank (3.4% in 2023) and UN entities (2.9% in 2023). Romania's core multilateral ODA slightly decreased from 2022 by 5.22%. This was mostly due to a 4% drop in contributions to EU institutions and an 89% drop in contributions to Regional Development Banks.

34. **Romania joined the European Union in 2007 and has since contributed its expertise to the EU in development co-operation.** Romania held the Presidency of the EU Council in 2019, prioritising the following topics on development co-operation and humanitarian assistance: children and youth as a horizontal focus, the role of new technologies and their impact on humanitarian assistance and development, and pushing forward a coherent EU approach to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus²⁶. Romania also launched, together with Austria, the [European Strategy for the Danube Region](#) (EUSDR) for collaboration among the Danube region countries across 4 pillars: ensuring connectivity, environmental protection, boosting prosperity, and strengthening the region²⁷. It held the presidency of the EUSDR in 2012 and 2019.

35. **Romania aims to use existing EU tools to try to maximise impact and prevent duplication.** Romania contributes to the Team Europe approach in development co-operation, participating in various Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) at the global, regional

²⁵ And beyond the support to refugees (USD 114.2 million).

²⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2019), Presentation of the priorities of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the area of development cooperation and humanitarian aid before the Development Committee of the European Parliament, <https://www.mae.ro/en/node/47881>.

²⁷ The area covered by the EU Strategy for the Danube Region stretches from the Black Forest (Germany) to the Black Sea (Romania-Ukraine-Moldova).

and country levels. At the global level, it is part of the [Digital 4 Development Hub](#). At the regional level, Romania is part of TEIs with Latin America (the [EU-LAC Digital Alliance](#)), South-East Asia (the [Green TEI Initiative](#)) and Central Asia ([Water-Energy-Climate Change in Central Asia](#)). Romania also participates in 2 country-TEIs in Moldova, focused on [growth and jobs](#) and [raising awareness and media](#).²⁸

36. **Romania contributed to the financial replenishment of IDA21 with USD 6.5 million**²⁹. Romania is currently part of the Office of the Executive Director that represents the EDS19 Constituency of the World Bank, together with Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus³⁰, Georgia, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, the Republic of North Macedonia and Ukraine.

37. **Romania has been a full-fledged Member State of the UN since 1995 and actively engages with a wide array of its bodies and committees.** For example, Romania's role in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has included supporting the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, submitting two voluntary national reviews reports in 2018 and 2023.³¹ Romania is involved in several commissions such as the Commission on the Status of Women³², or the International Law Commission³³. Romania is also a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2023-2025.

38. **Romania provides most of its contributions to the UN system in the form of core contributions.** On average, in 2022-2023, 84% of Romania's contributions to the UN system were core contributions (representing USD 9.9 million in constant terms). Following the UN Secretariat, the top largest UN recipients of core funding were the FAO and the UN DPO. While most of the funding consists of core contributions to multilateral institutions, Romania should consider making more strategic use of voluntary contributions to advance its programmatic objectives. In 2022-2023, top recipients of earmarked contributions were UNDP, IOM and UNHCR.

²⁸ In addition, in 2019, RoAid applied to be accredited through the Pillar Assessment of the European Commission, a process that is not yet concluded.

²⁹ IDA (2025), Report from the Executive Directors of the International Development Association to the Board of Governors – Additions to IDA Resources: Twenty-First Replenishment, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099042525174542121/pdf/BOSIB-7a002896-02fc-42a9-b4f3-78737cf8b931.pdf>. Romania did not participate in the previous two replenishments (IDA19 and IDA20).

³⁰ Note by the Republic of Türkiye

The information in this document with reference to “Cyprus” relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Türkiye recognises the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of the United Nations, Türkiye shall preserve its position concerning the “Cyprus issue”.

Note by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union

The Republic of Cyprus is recognised by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Türkiye. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

³¹ See [Romania | High-Level Political Forum](#).

³² UN Women (2025), Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-ninth session, https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/membership_csw69.pdf.

³³ UN International Law Commission (2025), Seventy-sixth Session, <https://legal.un.org/ilc/sessions/76/members.shtml>.

2.1.4. Humanitarian co-operation

39. **Romania’s humanitarian support is overseen by the MFA Development and Humanitarian Policy Division**, and it is based on the regulatory framework provided by [Law No. 213/2016](#). Romania’s humanitarian assistance strategy is guided by the [2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme](#), and follows a prevention and resilience-based approach, based on the two pillars of: 1) providing humanitarian assistance bilaterally through Romania’s national institutions and 2) providing humanitarian assistance through and with Romania’s multilateral and bilateral partners.

40. **The Multiannual Strategic Programme indicates plans to further streamline Romania’s humanitarian assistance to increase flexibility, efficiency and long-term delivery of humanitarian support.** This process has not yet started but is expected to include shifting from the current ad-hoc response to determining Romania’s priority countries and territories receiving humanitarian assistance and the criteria for their selection beforehand, a greater anticipation of crises, and improved coordination with ministries for the delivery of assistance. While it is important for Romania to maintain flexibility to respond to emerging needs, it should, where possible (as it is the case in protracted crises), consider planning and better aligning its humanitarian funding with its development support and ensure predictability of its financial support. Romania is also [engaging multilaterally](#) in debates on the future of the humanitarian system³⁴ and the [‘IASC Humanitarian Reset’](#).³⁵

41. **The Romanian MFA does not have a dedicated budget line for humanitarian assistance and is funding humanitarian assistance on an ad-hoc basis.** However, within the Annual Plan for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, there is a dedicated Humanitarian Assistance Fund, which benefits from unearmarked resources that can be mobilised flexibly in response to crises. In times of crises, funds are also reallocated if necessary from the development co-operation budget, a decision taken in emergency meetings of the Advisory Committee. On average in 2022-2023, Romania’s humanitarian assistance amounted to USD 14.4 million, equivalent to 2.8% of Romania’s total ODA (in constant 2023 terms). Humanitarian ODA was mainly delivered in 2022 to Ukraine, Moldova and Türkiye and in 2023 to Türkiye, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Libya.

42. **On average in 2022-2023, 76% of Romania’s humanitarian assistance was delivered through bilateral channels, and 24% through multilateral channels.** Over this period, Romania’s main multilateral partners to deliver humanitarian assistance are EU institutions and the UN. To implement its humanitarian assistance strategy bilaterally, Romania provides primarily humanitarian assistance through the MFA and the Ministry of Interior’s Department for Emergency Situations (DSU).

43. **As part of its humanitarian assistance efforts, Romania has developed an expertise in disaster risk management (DRM), which it implements through the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU).** In 2023, Romania supported regional DRM knowledge exchange by hosting a [two-day workshop](#) with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the World Bank. The event brought together delegations from Armenia, Croatia, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in Bucharest to learn from Romania’s experience in emergency response and infrastructure resilience. The workshop sought to strengthen regional cooperation and encourage participating countries to advance their efforts in investing in building disaster and climate

34 [The Inter-Agency Standing Committee | IASC](#).

35 [Humanitarian Reset | IASC](#).

resilience. Given its proven expertise in DRM and going forward, Romania could consider expanding its support in this area to other priority countries, providing emergency preparedness and disaster risk management support beyond Europe and the Central Asia region.

Cross-cutting priorities

44. **Romania’s Multiannual Strategic Programme highlights human rights and fundamental freedoms as one of the cross-cutting priorities for development co-operation.** Romania upholds these priorities on the international scene, for example through its membership in the UN Human Rights Council for 2023-2025³⁶, where Romania emphasises the role of partnerships to consolidate democracy, strengthen democratic resilience and the rule of law; the importance of combatting corruption and coordination actions; and to safeguard the impact of new technologies on democracy. Increased allocations and concrete guidance towards RoAid and line Ministries on how to implement this, and other, cross-cutting priorities would help Romania to ensure that they are effectively implemented throughout the co-operation system.

45. **Romania also highlights gender equality and combating discrimination as cross-cutting priorities for its development co-operation.** Law No. 213/2016³⁷ indicates that humanitarian assistance shall be carried out in compliance with the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, being granted without regard to citizenship, religion, gender, ethnic group or political affiliation. The country has introduced specific general provisions in its development co-operation system to support these cross-cutting priorities. For example, RoAid’s “Code of Conduct, Ethics and Integrity” stipulates that staff shall avoid any form of discrimination or bias in the performance of their duties (Article 7) or avoid involvement in any form of sexual harassment (Article 7, 8 and 9). Romania also promotes gender equality and combating discrimination at the international level.³⁸ Developing a harmonised indicators framework for programme implementation, with data disaggregated by sex and age, could help track progress on these priorities during both the project assessment and implementation stages.

46. **Romania also considers the environmental impact assessment of development co-operation projects as a cross-cutting priority for its development co-operation.** Government Decision 613/2024³⁹ includes a requirement for environmental impact assessment (EIA) of development assistance projects, including an environmental impact checklist. RoAid adopted in July 2024 an internal operational procedure for assessing the need for EIA for international co-operation projects outside Romania. All implementers are

³⁶ Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2022), Romania for the United Nations Human Rights Council (2023-2025), https://www.mae.ro/sites/default/files/file/anul_2022/2022_pdf/anexa_2_brosura_r_un_hrc_print.pdf.

³⁷ Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2016), Law 213 of November 9th, 2016 on international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, https://www.mae.ro/sites/default/files/file/anul_2024/pdf_2024/law_213_2016_en.pdf.

³⁸ See Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2022), Romania for the United Nations Human Rights Council (2023-2025), https://www.mae.ro/sites/default/files/file/anul_2022/2022_pdf/anexa_2_brosura_r_un_hrc_print.pdf. Romania notably highlights its long-standing principled position to reject discrimination, racism, xenophobia and antisemitism, to monitor and sanction hate speech, and its commitment to advance the tolerance and inclusion agenda.

³⁹ The Government of Romania (2024), Decision no. 613 of 6 June 2024, <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/283946>.

required to complete an EIA checklist, and its validation is required to start project implementation. Should Romania resume calls for proposals, it may need to reflect on how to anticipate EIAs in light of already limited timeframes and budgets for project implementation. Introducing multi-year project proposals and budgets could help alleviate these constraints.

2.1.5. Organisation

47. **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is the key institution responsible for Romania's development co-operation policy.** Within the MFA, the primary department overseeing Romania's development co-operation efforts is the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Policy Department (DPDU). The DPDU reports to the Director-general and to the State Secretary for Interinstitutional Relations, Development Cooperation and Human Rights. The DPDU elaborates the Multiannual Strategic Programme and the annual plans, collects and reports on ODA data, and oversees the alignment of Romania's international development cooperation with OECD legal instruments.

48. **Romania's Development Co-operation Agency (RoAid) was set up in 2016 and is operational since 2017.** It operates under the direct authority of the MFA and is the main agency responsible for the implementation and monitoring and evaluation of development projects and programmes. The establishment of the Agency has allowed the MFA, as well as other public or private institutions in Romania or partner countries, to benefit from specialised expertise in international cooperation and humanitarian assistance. The Agency also facilitates the transfer of knowledge and experience from Romanian public authorities and institutions to beneficiary states. Moreover, the establishment of RoAid has increased Romania's focus on programming, enhancing Romania's institutional capacity to implement development co-operation projects. Going forward, adequate resources should be allocated to RoAid to leverage its programming capacity.

49. **A critical challenge for the MFA and RoAid in the implementation of development projects is that all projects must be implemented within the same calendar year.** This constraint, combined with relatively small project envelopes, represents a major obstacle for the MFA, RoAid and implementers alike, to deliver impactful projects in partner countries. Going forward, Romania may wish to consider how to waive this important regulatory constraint. In fact, multiyear budgeting and a more strategic approach to planning would enhance the capacity of the MFA and RoAid not only to deliver more impactful projects, but also facilitate engagement with and funding of civil society organisations, as well as better respond to partner governments' needs, thereby improving the overall quality of Romania's Development Cooperation action.

50. **Through the Advisory Committee on International Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance, Romania fosters a whole-of-government approach to development co-operation policy.** The Advisory Committee is regulated by [Government Decision No. 678/2017](#). It was established in 2017 and operates under the co-ordination of the MFA, with RoAid as its technical Secretariat. The Committee's purpose is to ensure the unity of strategic planning within the Romanian development co-operation system and to serve as a forum to identify, in a consensual manner across the government, geographical and thematic priorities for Romania's development co-operation and humanitarian assistance (see also the Overview section). It provides advisory opinions on the Multiannual Strategic Programme and the annual plans and monitors the implementation and alignment of activities with the Strategic Programme's objectives. The Advisory

Committee is composed of representatives from nine central ministries and institutions⁴⁰ and decisions are made by consensus. It meets annually in ordinary meetings and whenever necessary in extraordinary meetings at the request of any member of the Committee addressed to the Technical Secretariat (RoAid). In practice, the Committee meets around three to four times per year. Conclusions and decisions of meetings are documented and distributed to members of the Advisory Committee.

51. **The Advisory Committee could consider how to further engage with external partners, notably Civil Society, to enhance the quality and relevance of the Committee's deliberations.** Additional representatives can be invited to attend the meetings of the Committee upon the proposal of any member of the Committee. Civil society organisations have expressed strong regrets that they have not been invited to participate over the last years and have not received regular summaries of the meetings. Broader engagement with academia, civil society and international organisations could enhance the quality and relevance of Romania's Development Cooperation as well as opening opportunities to leverage these actors to achieve development cooperation goals in a more efficient way.

52. **A total of 42 full-time staff work on development co-operation, and additional part-time staff in line ministries and other government institutions.** In addition to the core staff in the MFA and the Agency, staff working partially on development co-operation are distributed across a range of government bodies, diplomatic representations and public universities (see Table 1). This provides specialised expertise dedicated to Romania's priorities and sets a basis for a whole-of-government approach. Further recruitments of technical experts (e.g. in RoAid) are being considered to strengthen Romania's expertise in certain areas based on project needs.

⁴⁰ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RoAid, the Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Finances, the Ministry of Justice, and the Department for the Relation with the Romanians Abroad.

TABLE 1. STAFF IN THE ROMANIAN DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION SYSTEM IN 2025

INSTITUTION	Number of staff
	Full time
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (departments, divisions, including Embassies and diplomatic representations)	18
Development Co-operation Agency (RoAid)	30 ⁽¹⁾ / 24 ⁽²⁾
Total core staff	48 / 42
	Part-time
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (other divisions, including Embassies and diplomatic representations in New York, Brussels, and Paris)	47
Ministry of Finance	3
Ministry of Internal Affairs	7
Ministry of Education and Research	10
Ministry of Justice	3
Ministry of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity	4
Ministry for Development, Public Works and Administration	3
Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests	1
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1
Ministry of Health	1
Ministry of National Defence	1
Ministry of Culture	1
Ministry of Economy, Digitalisation, Entrepreneurship and Tourism	1
Department for the Relation with the Republic of Moldova	1
Other institutions from the central administration	12
Local authorities from Romania	4
Public Universities from Romania	6
Total part-time staff	106

Note: (1) Staff foreseen in the organizational chart; (2) Staff actually employed.

Source: Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (July 2025)

53. **Romania is working towards enhancing transparency and coordination of its development co-operation.** In an effort to improve transparency to the public and interinstitutional coordination, the MFA is developing an online platform bringing together programmatic and financial information about Romania engagements in Development Cooperation. The platform has both a public interface and a private back-end segment (accessible through usernames and passwords). The purpose of the public interface is to increase transparency on Romania's commitments to development cooperation and humanitarian aid, including sections on legal frameworks, reports and statistics, the Advisory Committee, educational materials and a database of experts in the field of development co-operation. The private platform aims to serve as a comprehensive tool for stakeholders - ranging from government bodies to NGOs and the private sector - covering all stages of official development assistance (ODA), from planning and implementation to evaluation and reporting. It includes specialised user accounts and integrates closely with the public platform to ensure consistent and accessible information sharing.

2.1.6. *Development Effectiveness*

54. **Romania adhered to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness [OECD/LEGAL/5017] in 2005 at the time of adoption.** Romania also endorsed the [Accra Agenda for Action](#) in 2008, and the [Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation](#) in 2011. In 2022, Romania participated in the [Effective Development Co-operation Summit](#). Romania has reported in the 2014 and 2016 monitoring rounds of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) although only in one partner country (Moldova).

55. **Romania’s approach towards Development Effectiveness remains nascent.** Romania’s development co-operation policy was developed in an inclusive manner with national stakeholders. However, the strict timeline of project implementation limits the potential for inclusive partnerships (including with CSOs) – see the Bilateral Co-operation and Organisation sections above.

56. **Romania makes use of its local embassies to identify projects with local actors,** but there is no specific guidance provided to local representations in terms of development effectiveness, in particular on how to facilitate increased ownership and alignment with national priorities.

57. **Romania’s efforts to collaborate with bilateral partners remain mostly ad-hoc⁴¹.** In addition to working through Team Europe Initiatives and Twinning, Romania also establishes partnerships with bilateral donors, but these remain mostly ad hoc, responding to local opportunities, without a clear strategy. Overall, going forward, Romania can benefit from reflecting on how to implement effectiveness principles more systematically across its policies and operations.

2.1.7. *Monitoring and Evaluation System*

58. **Romania has a nascent monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.** The MFA is undertaking efforts to strengthen their monitoring and evaluation function. RoAid has M&E guidelines for the projects funded through the agency and the MFA is currently working at the development of an evaluation policy. To ensure the functionality of the M&E function, the policy should include roles and responsibilities, evaluation plans with dedicated budget, and human resources will be needed. The MFA could learn from existing good practices from other Ministries, especially how to strengthen the newly created evaluation role at the level of the Development and Humanitarian Policy Department.⁴² By joining the DAC as an Associate, Romania could benefit from the experience of other DAC members with comparable development cooperation systems and from the OECD’s technical support to establish M&E systems that meet OECD/DAC quality standards.

59. **Romania’s development co-operation system would benefit from a strengthened accountability framework that operates across multiple levels.** This means reinforcing accountability not only to partner countries and affected populations, but also to Romanian citizens, ensuring that development efforts remain transparent and responsive. In practice, this would require the establishment and piloting of structured feedback mechanisms that enable aid recipients to provide feedback on the assistance

⁴¹ See also the “Multilateral Co-operation Section” above in relation to Romania’s partnerships and contributions to multilateral institutions.

⁴²For instance, the Ministry of Education is working on a system to monitor and evaluate the results achieved through the ODA-funded scholarships programme.

received. Such mechanisms would enhance mutual accountability, foster trust, and help ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of Romania's development programming.

60. **Currently the Romanian Development Co-operation system does not have a systematic approach to risk management** (both fiduciary and programmatic). Bilaterally-funded projects through RoAid include an overall project risk assessment⁴³. For the Multiannual Strategic Programme, risk management is done on an ad hoc basis under the lead of the Advisory Committee that adjusts plans as priorities change or risks emerge during project implementation. A systematic approach to risk management across Governmental institutions, using a harmonised risk matrix (covering both programmatic and financial risks) and incorporating mitigation measures from the programme design stage, could improve quality, relevance, and effectiveness of development cooperation interventions.

2.1.8. Political Commitments in line with the DAC's mandate and international agreements

61. **An assessment of Romania's participation in the DAC and commitment to the DAC mandate was included in the background paper presented to the DAC in January 2025** [DCD/DAC(2025)6] as part of the discussion that led to the decision by the Committee to launch the review of Romania's readiness to join the DAC.

62. **Since January 2025, a noticeable development in Romanian politics is the formation of a new government in June 2025.**⁴⁴ The rapid formation of the government reflects a drive for stability following months of domestic political turmoil triggered by the controversial decision to re-run the presidential election in May.⁴⁵ A new government programme for the period 2025-28⁴⁶ was issued and new fiscal measures adopted in July 2025, in light of a persistent budget deficit. The impact of these fiscal measures on development co-operation remains unclear, especially on expected future levels of ODA, at the time of writing this report.

⁴³ RoAid risk assessment form could be improved by better integrating risk mitigation measures from the project planning stage.

⁴⁴ The new government comprises the centre-right National Liberal Party (PNL), the centre-left Social Democratic Party (PSD), the ethnic-based Hungarian Union of Democrats in Romania (UDMR) and the liberal Save Romania Union (USR). Extracted from the Economist Intelligence Unit on 18 August 2025: <https://viewpoint.eiu.com/analysis/geography/XG/RO/topic/Politics>.

⁴⁵ Reuters (2025), Centrist Dan wins Romanian presidency over hard-right pro-Trump rival, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/romanians-vote-presidential-run-off-that-could-widen-eu-rifts-2025-05-17/>.

⁴⁶ See the [2025-2028 Government Programme](#) (in Romanian).

2.1.9. Conclusion:

Romania can be assessed relatively favourably against this condition. Romania demonstrates a political commitment in line with the DAC's mandate and international agreements. Romania benefits from a well-structured policy with clear geographical and thematic priorities in support of the 2030 Agenda and partner countries and territories. The system, which has evolved over time, relies on a dedicated Agency, an Advisory Committee and staff across its national institutions to support development-co-operation. However, beyond the support to Moldova and Ukraine, allocations to countries/territories and regions do not fully follow stated priorities and thematic priorities remain broad making the analysis of sectoral allocations challenging. Further streamlining of these priorities would strengthen Romania's system. Further adjustments will be required to ensure i) multi-year projects and budgets to improve potential development impact, ii) further involvement and guidance for all stakeholders of the system in the area of development effectiveness and iii) the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework, as well as of a risk management system, clarifying roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved, thereby strengthening the overall development co-operation system of the country.

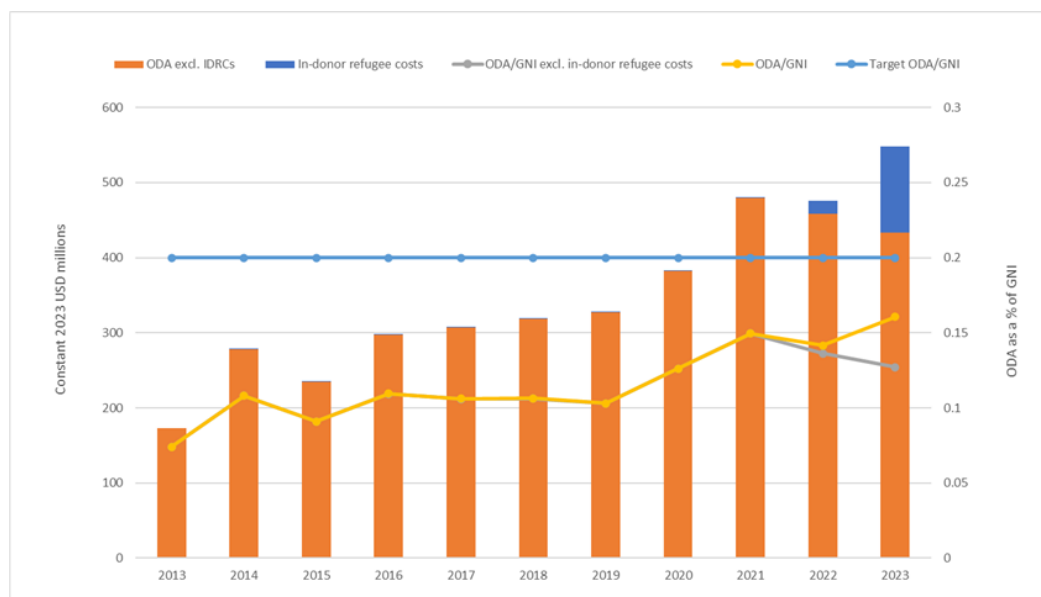
2.2. An accepted measure of effort in providing official development assistance, for example, an ODA/GNI ratio of over 0.20% or an ODA volume above USD 100 million, or a time-bound commitment to work towards such levels.

63. **Romania provided USD 587.2 million (preliminary data) of ODA in 2024 (USD 539.1 million in constant terms) representing 0.16% of GNI.** This was a decrease of 1.6% in real terms in volume and in the share of GNI from 2023.

64. **Romania's 2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme⁴⁷ affirms Romania's commitment to channel 0.33% of GNI as ODA by 2030 as part of the collective EU commitment to achieve a 0.7% ODA/GNI ratio by 2030.** However, Romania is not on track to meet this commitment. Romania would benefit from having clear annual ODA/GNI targets in its Strategic Programme to support its path towards its commitment to gradually increase its ODA/GNI ratios.

65. **All of Romania's ODA is disbursed as grants. ODA volumes have gradually increased over the past ten years (see Figure 2), but decreased from 2021 to 2023 in real terms if in-donor refugee costs are excluded.** Romania provided USD 547.9 million of ODA in 2023 (in constant 2023 terms), representing 0.16% of GNI. The increase of ODA of 15.09% compared to 2022 is mostly due to in-donor refugee costs, which represented 114.2 million in 2023 making up 54.5% of Romania's gross bilateral ODA. Excluding these costs, in 2023 total ODA was 433.7 USD million, representing 0.13% of GNI. In comparison, the 5 previous years Romania averaged a 0.13% of ODA/GNI ratio (2018-2022).

⁴⁷ [The 2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme of International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance.](#)

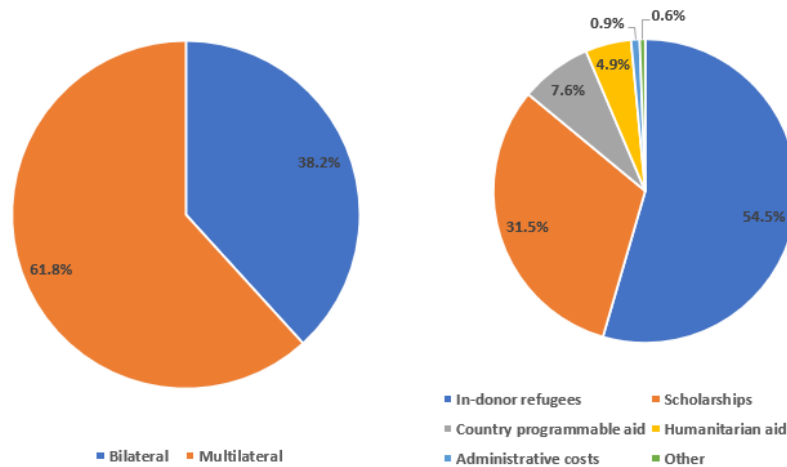
FIGURE 2. ROMANIA’S ODA VOLUME AND AS A SHARE OF GNI, 2013-2023

Note: The ‘‘target ODA/GNI’’ line refers to the condition for DAC Associate status of an ODA/GNI ratio of at least 0.20% or ODA volume above USD 100 million – the assessment criteria for an accepted measure of effort in providing official development assistance.

Source: OECD (2025), OECD International Development Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00061-en>.

66. **Prior to the spike in Romania’s ODA in 2023 mostly due to in-donor refugee costs, Romania provided a higher share of its ODA to the multilateral system.** Before 2023, Romania’s share of multilateral ODA generally remained over 75%. In 2023, Romania’s multilateral ODA represented 61.8% of total ODA and bilateral ODA represented 38.2% of total ODA. Most of bilateral ODA went to in-donor refugee costs at 54.5%, 31.5% was made up of scholarships and 7.6% was made up of country programmable aid. Humanitarian assistance made up 4.9% of Romania’s bilateral ODA (See Figure 3).

FIGURE 3. ROMANIA'S MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL ODA IN 2023



Source: OECD (2025), OECD International Development Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00061-en>.

67. Romania has adopted in the last few months a series of fiscal measures notably to reduce the country's record-high budget deficit and more fiscal reforms are expected in the coming months⁴⁸. While the direct implications of these reforms for development co-operation are unclear, the current context makes increases in ODA unlikely, with a potential risk of decrease in the coming years due to budget constraints.

2.2.1. Conclusion:

Romania can be assessed favourably against this condition. Romania's ODA has increased steadily over the last 10 years and has always been largely above the USD 100 million amount considered by the DAC as an accepted level of effort during this time period. 2024 preliminary ODA stood at USD 587.2 million, representing 0.16% of GNI, which is currently below the 0.2% measure of effort. Romania has stated a commitment to reach 0.33 % of ODA to GNI. However, Romania should be encouraged to continue its efforts as ODA has been slightly declining from 2023 to 2024 (based on preliminary data) and it is currently unlikely that the country will meet its ODA/GNI target by 2030, especially in light of current fiscal constraints.

2.3. Provision of information on its alignment with the OECD legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC, including information on all relevant laws, policies, practices, and future plans to implement.

68. Romania has provided information, including a self-assessment, on its alignment with the OECD legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC in its Memorandum [DCD/DAC(2025)5].

⁴⁸ For example, an increase in the VAT standard rate, the dividend Tax, among others.

69. Annex B outlines the status of Romania's adherence and/or alignment with the legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC, as well as efforts and future plans to implement them.

2.3.1. Conclusion:

Romania can be assessed favourably against this condition. Out of the 14 OECD legal instruments in force under the responsibility of the DAC, Romania is already an Adherent to three out of the four OECD Recommendations (adopted by Council), and is also Adherent to one of the three Declarations under the responsibility of the DAC - the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness [[OECD/LEGAL/5017](#)].

70. *Romania is not yet an Adherent to the 7 DAC Recommendations, nor to the Declaration on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation [[OECD/LEGAL/0343](#)] and the OECD DAC Declaration on a new approach to align development co-operation with the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change [[OECD/LEGAL/0466](#)]. Romania is also not an Adherent yet to the OECD Recommendation on Environmental Assessment of Development Assistance Projects and Programmes [[OECD/LEGAL/0458](#)]. Overall, Romania is aware of the existence of these legal instruments, is demonstrating that it is in the process of aligning with some of the legal instruments it has not adhered to and/or has expressed commitment to pursuing such alignment going forward. Areas of particular attention in the implementation of legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC should be gender, CSOs and development effectiveness.*

2.4. Provision of information on its development co-operation efforts, including annual statistics on ODA flows at activity level for at least two years ahead of accession.

71. Romania has reported its development finance statistics to the OECD since 2008 and at activity level since 2015 on 2014 figures. Romania reports a wide range of bilateral activities from a large number of Romanian public institutions, as well as core and earmarked contributions to a variety of multilateral institutions. It reports ODA information and beyond (Other Official Flows). It also reports additional activities to TOSSD. Beyond the OECD, Romania reports and promotes its development co-operation activities at the national, EU and international level.

2.4.1. Conclusion:

Romania can be assessed favourably against this condition, having reported its development co-operation statistics to the OECD for more than fifteen years and at activity level for ten years.

2.5. Regular participation in DAC meetings as well as in meetings of subsidiary bodies of mutual interest as a Participant for at least two years.

72. Romania has been a Participant in the DAC since 2018. It participated in the DAC Global Provider's meeting in February 2023. It regularly participates in DAC Senior-and High-Level meetings (including the DAC High Level Meeting in March 2025) and in meetings of some of the DAC subsidiary bodies, such as WP-Stat, INCAF and Gendernet.

2.5.1. Conclusion:

73. Romania can be assessed favourably against this condition, having shown a commitment to the DAC at all levels including in high-level meetings, regular DAC meetings and several subsidiary bodies' meetings. Going forward, Romania would benefit from participating in more subsidiary bodies, as appropriate.

3. Capacity to fulfil the obligations of the DAC membership

3.1. Adherence to all the legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC

74. Annex A outlines the status of Romania's adherence and implementation of or alignment with and commitment to adhere to the legal instrument currently in force under the responsibility of the DAC.

75. Romania confirmed during the Secretariat (DCD) review visit to Bucharest its intention and capacity to adhere to all legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC at the time of its accession to the DAC.

3.2. Engaging with the DAC

3.2.1. Participating in the DAC and subsidiary bodies' meetings

76. Romania has increased its engagement with the DAC since becoming a Participant in the Committee in 2018. It regularly participates in DAC Senior-and High-Level meetings, and in some of its subsidiary bodies, such as WP-Stat, INCAF and Gendernet. It also participated in the DAC Global Provider's meeting in February 2023 and in the DAC High Level Meeting (HLM) in March 2025.

77. Additionally, since 2022, Romania has worked with the Secretariat on a Roadmap of collaboration on policy reform activities focusing on strategic planning, programming and communications (2022), programming specific to humanitarian assistance and crisis response (2023), private sector and civil society partnerships with stakeholders in development co-operation and humanitarian assistance (2023), reporting on development finance statistics (2024) and monitoring and evaluation (2024).

3.2.2. Participating in DAC Peer Review and Related Processes

78. Romania is ready to participate in a mid-term review within two years of accession to the DAC and a Peer Review covering the full analytical framework within five years undertaken by the DAC and the OECD Secretariat, as well as to serve as an examiner in reviewing other DAC members' programmes.

3.2.3. Statistics

79. Romania has reported its development finance statistics to the OECD since 2008 and at activity level since 2015 on 2014 figures. The country is committed to continuing and expanding its reporting to the DAC.

3.2.4 Providing information for the Development Co-operation Report

80. Romania provides regular information on its development co-operation activities to the OECD and its country profile is included in the annual Development Co-operation Profiles Report. Together with other providers, a full-fledged profile is available since 2017. Before this date, Romania's information on development finance was also made available together with that of other providers as part of the publication of the OECD Development Co-operation Report.

4. Assessment

81. On the basis of its assessment of Romania's development co-operation, the Secretariat findings can be summarised as follows with regards to the conditions for DAC Associate status and DAC membership obligations:

- Romania has appropriate laws, policy guidelines, plans and institutional frameworks to deliver a development co-operation programme.
- Romania has surpassed an accepted measure of effort (the USD 100 million benchmark) for more than 10 years with ODA standing at USD 587.2 million in 2024 representing 0.16% of GNI (preliminary data), below the 0.2% measure of effort. However, Romania should be encouraged to continue its efforts as ODA has been slightly declining from 2023 to 2024 (based on preliminary data) and it is currently unlikely that the country will meet its ODA/GNI target by 2030, especially in light of current fiscal constraints.
- Romania has provided information, including a self-assessment, on its alignment with the OECD legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC in its Memorandum [DCD/DAC(2025)5]. Romania confirmed its readiness to adhere to all the legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC and has committed in its policy documents to ensure a gradual adoption of the OECD DAC standards and good practices.
- Romania has been a Participant in the DAC since 2018 (therefore more than the two years required), has regularly participated in DAC meetings in recent years and confirmed its intention to continue participating in all meetings of the DAC and several subsidiary bodies. Romania is ready to participate in a mid-term review within two years of accession and to submit a Peer Review of its development co-operation undertaken by the DAC and the OECD Secretariat, as well as to serve as an examiner in reviewing other DAC members' programmes.
- Romania has reported its development finance statistics to the OECD at activity-level for more than two years (since 2008 and at activity level since 2015 on 2014 figures). Romania will continue to submit annual statistics to the DAC and expand its efforts to meet all DAC requirements.
- Romania will continue to provide summary information to be included in the Development Co-operation Report and is ready to provide more information upon request.
- Areas of particular improvement going forward would include:
 - Ensuring sustained levels of ODA and levels of efforts towards its commitments to channel 0.33% of GNI as ODA by 2030 as part of the collective EU commitment to achieve a 0.7% ODA/GNI ratio by 2030.

- Streamlining geographic and thematic priorities and fully realigning allocations to these priorities.
- Ensuring that adequate human and financial resource are allocated to the MFA and Agency in order to fulfil their mission.
- Revising policies and regulations to allow for multi-year projects and budgets.
- Strengthening the accountability system towards partner countries, affected populations and Romanian citizens (e.g. involvement of CSOs in the Advisory Committee, feedback mechanisms for partners on funded programmes).
- Deepening knowledge and guidance on development effectiveness across the system and establish a full-fledged monitoring and evaluation system.

82. Overall, Romania can be assessed positively against the assessment conditions for joining the DAC as an Associate and can be expected to fulfil the obligations of the DAC membership.

5. Proposed action

83. The Committee is invited to consider the invitation of Romania to become an Associate in the Committee.

84. If the Committee agrees, the proposal will be transmitted to Council, via the External Relations Committee, for approval. Subject to Council approval, Romania's Associate status in the Committee will be formalised through an exchange of letters setting out the terms and conditions of this status. This status would enter into effect at the date of receipt of Romania's affirmative reply.

Annex A. Forms of Partnerships

TABLE A. FORMS OF PARTNERSHIPS

INVITEES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may be invited, at the body's discretion, to participate in individual meetings. • have no standing right to attend meetings. Rather, listing a non-Member as an Invitee merely allows the committee to invite that non-Member to meetings or specific agenda items on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis at its discretion (i.e. without the need for Council approval). • Thus, the number of non-Members on the Invitee list in a PP has no direct impact on non-Member participation in meetings, this being determined by which and how many of those listed as Invitee the committee decides to invite to any specific meeting.
PARTICIPANTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are invited to attend all meetings for an open-ended period. • have the right to attend non-confidential parts of meetings, propose agenda items, and intervene in discussions. • cannot serve on bureaux or take part in the body's decision-making process. • pay fees.
ASSOCIATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are invited to attend all meetings for an open-ended period. • have the right to attend meetings, incl. confidential items (except agenda items regarding accession or legal instruments to which they have not adhered). • take part in the decision-making process. • may have a representative elected to bureaux. • pay fees (at levels higher than Participants).

Annex B. Alignment with, and commitment to adhere to legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC

1. Upon joining the DAC, new DAC members (including Associates) pledge to fulfil the obligations of DAC membership, notably to adhere, at the time of their accession, to all the legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC.⁴⁹ This Annex provides an assessment of current alignment of Romania's development co-operation with the legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC. It should be read in conjunction with Romania's Memorandum [DCD/DAC(2025)5]. In addition, Romania's "[2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme of International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance](#)" refers⁵⁰ to the commitment to align "with the legal instruments managed by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, which includes their implementation in the national practice in the field of international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance".

2. Two of the ten legal instruments Romania will be have to adhere to at the time of its accession to the DAC are under the joint responsibility of the DAC and the Environment Policy Committee (EPOC): the OECD Recommendation on Environmental Assessment of Development Assistance Projects and Programmes [[OECD/LEGAL/0458](#)] and the Declaration on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation [[OECD/LEGAL/0343](#)]. In line with established practice, EPOC was consulted on Romania's potential adherence to those two OECD legal instruments [ENV/EPOC(2025)19]. No comments were received from EPOC delegates by the deadline of 29 August 2025.

DAC Recommendations (adopted by the DAC)

- **Recommendation on the Terms and Conditions of Aid** [[OECD/LEGAL/5006](#)]
3. Romania is not an Adherent to the Recommendation on Terms and Conditions of Aid but is de facto aligned with this Recommendation as all ODA is provided by grants only.
- **DAC Recommendation on Untying Official Development Assistance** [[OECD/LEGAL/5015](#)]
4. Romania applies the national legislation on public procurement ([Law 98/2016](#)) to ODA projects, which has transparency as one of its guiding principles, in line with the DAC Recommendation. As a non-DAC donor, Romania was not required to adhere to the DAC Recommendation on Untying Official Development Assistance and to the associated reporting requirements - including on the tying status of ODA in the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and on the transparency provisions (ex ante and ex post reporting on the procurement process). However, Romania confirmed its commitment to fulfil these two requirements upon joining the DAC. The Secretariat stands ready to support Romania in

⁴⁹ The [online Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments](#) provides an updated list of the OECD legal instruments under the DAC's responsibility. Please refer to the [OECD Legal Instruments webpage](#) for more information on OECD legal instruments.

⁵⁰ In Section 3.2 of this Strategic Programme.

implementing the DAC Recommendation, notably by ensuring that aid is untied both “de jure” and “de facto”.

- **DAC Recommendation on Good Pledging Practice** [[OECD/LEGAL/5018](#)]

5. Romania is not an Adherent to the DAC Recommendation on Good Pledging Practice. However, Romania is committed to adhering to and implementing this DAC Recommendation.

- **DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus** [[OECD/LEGAL/5019](#)]

6. Romania is not an Adherent to the DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, and as such, was not considered in the recent Report on the implementation of the DAC Recommendation (“implementation Report”), approved by INCAF and declassified by the DAC in 2024.⁵¹ However, Romania indicates in its Multiannual Strategic Programme 2024-2027 that it supports strengthening the linkage of the instruments for humanitarian assistance, peace-building and development cooperation according to the DAC Recommendation, supporting a resilience and prevention based approach. The focus on resilience and prevention is positive and an indication of Romania’s willingness to align its development co-operation with the DAC Recommendation. Going forward, as Romania’s development co-operation evolves, the conflict prevention objective of development co-operation – a core element of the DAC Recommendation – can be strengthened. It will require some work on conflict sensitivity of RoAid programmes, including on infrastructure, as many of Romania’s partner countries display elements of fragility across multiple dimensions.

- **DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance: Key Pillars of Prevention and Response** [[OECD/LEGAL/5020](#)]

7. Romania is not yet an Adherent to the DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance: Key Pillars of Prevention and Response, and as such, was not considered in the 2024 implementation Report.⁵² The Law No. 213/2016⁵³ indicates that humanitarian assistance shall be carried out in compliance with the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, being granted without regard to citizenship, religion, gender, ethnic group or political affiliation. The “Code of Conduct, Ethics and Integrity” of RoAid also has stipulated under Article 9 that staff have the obligation not to engage in any form of sexual or moral harassment. Implementing this DAC Recommendation remains an area of future improvement for Romania.

- **DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance** [[OECD/LEGAL/5021](#)]

8. Romania is not Adherent to the DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance. This DAC Recommendation is however set as a reference in the Multiannual Strategic Programme 2024-2027⁵⁴.

⁵¹ See [[DCD/DAC/INCAF\(2023\)1/FINAL](#)].

⁵² See [[DCD/DAC\(2024\)33/FINAL](#)].

⁵³ See the [Law No. 213/2016](#).

⁵⁴ See page 15 in the [2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme of International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance](#).

Implementing this recommendation will be a critical area of future improvement for Romania for example through further involvement of civil society in the Advisory Committee, or by ensuring more long term and predictable processes for funding for Civil Society, especially in light of the discontinuation of calls for proposals.

- **DAC Recommendation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance** [[OECD/LEGAL/5022](#)]

9. Romania is not yet an Adherent to the DAC Recommendation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance. Still, Romania shows a commitment to the topic of this DAC Recommendation, as it highlights gender equality as being one of its development co-operation cross-cutting priorities. Additionally, Romania's Law No. 213/2016 specifies that Romania's activities in humanitarian assistance are granted "without regard to citizenship, religion, gender, ethnic group or political affiliation". Implementing this DAC Recommendation remains an area of future work for Romania.

Other legal instruments under the responsibility of the DAC

- **Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness** [[OECD/LEGAL/5017](#)]

10. Romania adhered to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005. See also the section on Development Effectiveness in this report.

- **Declaration on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation** [[OECD/LEGAL/0343](#)]

11. Romania is not an Adherent to the Declaration on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation. Still, Romania shows commitment to the Declaration as the "green transition, environment, and climate change" is one of its development co-operation thematic priorities.⁵⁵ Additionally, the environmental impact assessment of development co-operation projects is considered a cross-cutting theme for Romania's development co-operation in its 2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme.

- **OECD DAC Declaration on a new approach to align development co-operation with the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change** [[OECD/LEGAL/0466](#)]

12. Romania is not an Adherent to the OECD DAC Declaration on a new approach to align development co-operation with the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Still, Romania shows commitment towards the topic of the Declaration as the "green transition, environment, and climate change" is one of its development co-operation priorities.

- **OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development** [[OECD/LEGAL/0381](#)]

13. Romania has been an Adherent to the OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development since 2020. It is the only non-OECD Member Adherent, signalling a commitment to this instrument.

⁵⁵ See page 8 in the [2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme of International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance](#).

14. The [2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme](#) includes policy coherence for sustainable development as one of Romania's principles of development co-operation. It notably outlines that policy coherence efforts of the Programme are informed by the 2030 National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Romania, and that Romania "will focus on ensuring policy coherence for development, in the sense of including the objectives of international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance in the elaboration of policies that may have an impact on partner states with the aim of limiting or even eliminating any negative effects on their development". The National Strategy is coordinated at the national level by the [Department for Sustainable Development](#) (DSD), located within the Prime Minister's Chancellery. The mandate of the DSD does not explicitly include the analysis of transboundary impacts of national policies.

15. According to the *2024 Progress Report to the OECD Council on the Implementation of the OECD Recommendation on PCSD* [C(2024)92], Romania indicated in the questionnaire used to prepare the implementation Report that it uses "impact assessment tools to assess the positive and negative impacts of policies on sustainable development"⁵⁶. However, the review has not been able to determine whether Romania uses impact assessment tools to explicitly assess the transboundary impacts of policies on sustainable development.

16. Romania's [Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development for Public Administration](#) enables Romania to engage with stakeholders on policy coherence for sustainable development. Going forward, the linkages between the Centre and development co-operation should be strengthened, to better capitalise on the Centre's expertise for Romania's development co-operation.

- **OECD Recommendation on Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas** [[OECD/LEGAL/0386](#)].

17. Romania adhered to the OECD Recommendation on Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas as a non-OECD Member on 25 May 2011. In the 2022 implementation Report to Council covering the implementation period of 2016 to 2020,⁵⁷ Romania confirmed to have included the Guidance in relevant legal frameworks or other government issued guidance.⁵⁸ In the questionnaire shared with Adherents to support the development of the implementation Report, Romania was however not among the nine Respondents who indicated that they disseminated and promoted implementation of the Guidance through ODA.

- **OECD Recommendation for Development Co-operation Actors on Managing the Risk of Corruption** [[OECD/LEGAL/0431](#)]

⁵⁶ OECD (2024), Report on the Implementation of the OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, OECD Publishing, Paris, Figure 3.8 [C(2024)92].

⁵⁷ OECD (2022), Report on the Implementation of the OECD Recommendation on Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, OECD Publishing, Paris [C(2022)98].

⁵⁸ In its Memorandum submitted to the DAC, Romania indicated that it has implemented this recommendation through [Directive \(EU\) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) laying down supply chain due diligence obligations for large enterprises.

18. Romania adhered to the OECD Recommendation for Development Co-operation Actors on Managing the Risk of Corruption as a non-OECD Member in May 2023. This complements Romania's adherence to the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions [[OECD/LEGAL/0293](#)], which entered into force for Romania in September 2023.

19. The "Code of Conduct, Ethics and Integrity" of RoAid contains, as a preventive tool, provisions in line with the Recommendation. Under Article 7, staff and beneficiaries should "refrain from engaging in any form of corruption, whether it involves offering, promising, requesting or accepting any undue benefit". Article 35 specifies that staff or any person harmed by a violation of ethical standards may make a report under the applicable whistleblower legislation. Article 45 of the code outlines corruption as constituting a disciplinary and administrative offence for staff. Violations are punishable by various sanctions including termination, demotion, or a loss of salary.

20. Romania's Multiannual Strategic Programme on international development co-operation and humanitarian assistance for the period 2024-2027⁵⁹ signals Romania's expertise in the fight against corruption. Whilst anti-corruption was a priority in the 2020-2023 Multiannual Strategic Programme, it no longer features as a priority or cross-cutting theme. Romania would benefit from more explicitly targeting anti-corruption in its programming. Enhancing the focus of RoAid's risk management framework on both fiduciary and non-fiduciary corruption risks would also enable a better understanding and management of corruption and integrity risks in internal systems as well as in partner countries.

21. The 2024 [Implementing the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention Phase 2 Report: Romania](#) welcomed Romania's efforts to strengthen the anti-corruption clauses and principles contained in its ODA contracts but encouraged Romania to finalise the relevant revisions. The implementation Report also recommended following up on Romania's awareness-raising activities among RoAid staff and beneficiaries to prevent, detect, report, and sanction foreign bribery.

22. In this same vein, RoAid would benefit from reinforcing the monitoring, detection, reporting and sanctioning of other corruption risks or incidents of corruption in the development assistance context.

- **OECD Recommendation on Environmental Assessment of Development Assistance Projects and Programmes** [[OECD/LEGAL/0458](#)]

23. Romania is not an Adherent to the OECD Recommendation on Environmental Assessment of Development Assistance Projects and Programmes. Romania has as one of its development co-operation priorities the "green transition, environment, and climate change".

24. Additionally, the environmental impact assessment of development co-operation projects is considered a cross-cutting theme for Romania's development co-operation in its 2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme⁶⁰.

⁵⁹ See the [2024-2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme of International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance](#).

⁶⁰ See the [2024 – 2027 Multiannual Strategic Programme of International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance](#).

25. In the context of its accession process to the OECD, Romania is undergoing a thorough review of its willingness and ability to implement the instruments notwithstanding any prior adherence. In June 2024, as part of Romania's action plan for EPOC's accession review, Romania modified Government Decision 690/2017 on the implementation of international development co-operation by Decision 613/2024 to align it with Recommendation [OECD/LEGAL/0458](#). Government Decision 613/2024 includes a clear requirement for environmental impact assessment (EIA) of development assistance projects, including an environmental impact checklist. In implementing this Government Decision, the Romanian Agency for International Development (RoAid) adopted in July 2024 an internal operational procedure for assessing the need for EIA for international co-operation projects outside Romania.

26. Once an Adherent, Romania will be invited to participate in follow-up activities of the Recommendation, in particular the development of a Report to Council on the implementation, dissemination and continued relevance of the Recommendation currently scheduled for 2026.

Annex C. List of departments and institutions met during the review mission

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Policy Department (DPDU).
 - Regional and Geographical departments:
 - Western Balkans and Regional Cooperation Directorate.
 - Relations with the Republic of Moldova Directorate.
 - Middle East and Africa Directorate.
 - UN Organisations Directorate.
- Ministry of Finance.
- Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- Ministry of National Defense.
- Ministry of Environment.
- Ministry for Development, Public Works and Administration.
- Ministry of Labor, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity.
- Ministry of Justice.
- Ministry of Education and Research.
- Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests.
- Romanian Development Co-operation Agency (RoAid).
- Department of Sustainable Development (DSD).
- Chamber of Commerce.
- Timiș County Council.
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs):
 - Romanian Federation of non-Governmental Development Organisations (FOND).
 - Save the Children.
 - Association "FDP-Protagoniști în educație".
- Academia:
 - Transilvania Brașov University.
 - The National Institute for Research and Development on Marine Geology and Geo-ecology (GeoEcoMar).
 - National School of Political and Administrative Studies.