



Summary of key findings

Official statistical definition of homelessness (Table 1.ROU)

In Romania, people experiencing homelessness are defined as: single persons or families who, for single or cumulative reasons of social, medical, financial, legal or legal order due to *force majeure* situations, live in the street, temporarily live with friends or acquaintances, are unable to support a home on a rental basis or are at risk of evacuation, are in institutions or penitentiaries where they are to be discharged within 2 months, respectively issued and have no domicile or residence.

Latest national estimates of homelessness (Table 2.ROU)

- 8 436 individuals, representing 0.038% of the total population (2022)
- Flow count, based on Reports from Local Authorities
- ETHOS Light groups included:
 - ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces
 - ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters)
 - ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women's refuges)
 - ETHOS 4: People in institutions
 - ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents)
 - ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)

Legal framework to collect data on homelessness (Table 3.ROU)

Romania uses the Commission Regulation (EC) n. 1201/2009 of 30 November 2009 as a legal basis for the collection of homelessness data in the census. Also, administrative data on homeless people is collected based on Social assistance Law no. 292/2011, Law no. 116/2002 on the prevention and combating of social marginalization, with subsequent amendments and additions, and the methodological norms for the application of Law no. 116/2002 on the prevention and combating of social marginalization, approved by Government Decision no. 1149/2002.

National homelessness strategy (Table 4.ROU)

[National Strategy on the Social Inclusion of the Homeless for the period 2022 - 2027](#)

Approaches to collect data on homelessness (Table 5.ROU)

- Report from social services providers: Social services providers annually report data regarding the activity of social services to the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity (Table 5.1.ROU).
- Report from Local Authorities: Local authorities report service usage data to the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity (Table 5.2.ROU).
- Population and Housing Census: Enumerators perform face to face interviews with people experiencing homelessness (Table 5.3.ROU).

This project was funded by the European Union. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of the OECD member countries or the European Union.



Table 1.ROU. Official statistical definition of homelessness

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Homelessness | <p>In Romania, the definition of homelessness, provided in Law no. 292/2011, with subsequent amendments, covers all categories of ETHOS Light, except for people living in unconventional housing due to lack of housing, which are not explicitly defined as homeless people, although they could be covered by the wide category of those incapable of paying rent. The definition used in the Romanian legislation explicitly includes: people living in miserable conditions (operational category 1 ETHOS Light), people in emergency shelters and people in centers for the homeless (categories 2 and 3 ETHOS Light), people from institutions / prisons (category 4 ETHOS Light), people who temporarily live in conventional housing with family or friends (category 6 ETHOS Light). People in unconventional housing (category 5 ETHOS Light), not covered by the existing definition in the Romanian legislation, but the persons who cannot bear the costs of rent or who are exposed to the risk of eviction are defined by law as homeless people.</p> <p>According to Law no.292/2011, with subsequent amendments, republished, homeless people are defined as "a social category made up of single persons or families who, for singular or cumulative reasons of social, medical, financial-economic, legal nature or due to force majeure situations, live in the street, temporarily live with friends or acquaintances, are unable to support a dwelling under rental regime or are at risk of eviction, are in institutions or penitentiaries from where they are to be discharged within 2 months, respectively be liberated and they have no dwelling.</p> <p>The target group which is taken into consideration by the National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of the Homeless for the period 2022-2027 refers to, in line with the ETHOS LIGHT taxonomy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people living in miserable conditions • people in emergency shelters • people in centres for homeless people in different institutions • people living in non-conventional housing due to lack of housing • homeless people who temporarily live in conventional dwellings belonging to family members or friends due to the lack of their own housing. <p>National Institute of Statistics: The 2011 Population and Housing Census measured the number of homeless people according to the definition included in the Commission Regulation (EC) no 1201/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses as regards the technical specifications of the topics and of their breakdowns:</p> <p>'Primary homeless persons' are persons living in the streets without a shelter that would fall within the scope of living quarters as defined in the technical specifications for the topic 'Type of living quarters'.</p> |
|---------------------|---|

Table 2.ROU. Data on people experiencing homelessness

National data, presented according to [ETHOS Light Typology](#)

| Headline estimate of homelessness (Individuals) | % of total population | ETHOS 1 People living rough | ETHOS 2 People in emergency accommodation | ETHOS 3 People in accommodation for the homeless | ETHOS 4 People living in institutions | ETHOS 5 People living in unconventional dwellings | ETHOS 6 People staying with family/friends |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| 8 436 | 0.038% | Not included | Included in headline estimate but not specified | Included in headline estimate but not specified | Not included | Not included | Not included |

Type of count: Point-in-time Flow

Year: 2022

Included in headline estimate: Children (<18)

Temporary accommodation for: Asylum seekers Refugees Victims/survivors of domestic violence

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable Housing (QuASH), 2023; Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity (2023), Reports from Local Authorities; Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity (2023), Reports from social services providers.



Table 3.ROU. Legal framework to collect data on homelessness

| | |
|---|---|
| Law that governs data collection on homelessness | Commission Regulation (EC) no 1201/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses as regards the technical specifications of the topics and of their breakdowns |
| Legal obligations | Romania uses the Commission Regulation as a basis for homelessness data collection in the Census. Other data collection methods are not covered by this legal document. Administrative data on homeless people is collected based on Social assistance Law no. 292/2011, Law no. 116/2002 on the prevention and combating of social marginalization, with subsequent amendments and additions, and the methodological norms for the application of Law no. 116/2002 on the prevention and combating of social marginalization, approved by Government Decision no. 1149/2002. |

Table 4.ROU. National homelessness strategy

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|--|---|
| National homelessness strategy in place | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: National Strategy on the Social Inclusion of the Homeless for the period 2022 - 2027 <input type="checkbox"/> No, but regional and/or local strategies exist <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|--|---|



Table 5.ROU. Approaches to collect data on homelessness

| 5.1.ROU. Report from social services providers | |
|--|--|
| Description | |
| <p>The Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity collects yearly data on social services activity, according to the Law no.292/2011, based on social services providers' reports. The social services providers report to the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity the number of unique beneficiaries, according to their own records. A number of 82 residential social services for homeless people (including street children) reported data for 2022.</p> | |
| Type of count generated <input type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow (period) | Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service-based method |
| Lead authority(ies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity | Source(s) of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social services providers report data to the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity. |
| Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National level | Depth of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enumeration |
| Frequency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual | |
| ETHOS Light groups included <input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women's refuges) <input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 4: People in institutions <input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents) <input type="checkbox"/> ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing) | |
| <p>Note: Each ETHOS Light group includes one or more sub-categories of living situations. ETHOS Light groups are considered as "included" in the data collection approach if at least one of the sub-categories is counted.</p> | |
| Notes Reports on social inclusion (mmuncii.ro) | |

**5.2.ROU. Report from Local Authorities****Description**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity collects yearly data on persons at risk of marginalization, according to the Law no.116/2002, based on local authorities' reports. The local authorities report to the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity the number of people experiencing homelessness, according to their own records or those of social services for people experiencing homelessness or police authorities. About 90% of local authorities responded to the request from the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity regarding statistical data for the year 2022.

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|---|--|
| Type of count generated <input type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow (period) | Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service-based method |
| Lead authority(ies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity | Source(s) of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities report data to the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity. |
| Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level | Depth of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enumeration |
| Frequency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual | |

ETHOS Light groups included

- ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces
- ETHOS 2: Emergency accommodation (e.g., shelters)
- ETHOS 3: Accommodation for the homeless (e.g., hostels and women's refuges)
- ETHOS 4: People in institutions
- ETHOS 5: People in non-conventional dwellings (e.g., caravans, cars or tents)
- ETHOS 6: Living temporarily with others in conventional housing (e.g., sofa-surfing)

Note: Each ETHOS Light group includes one or more sub-categories of living situations. ETHOS Light groups are considered as "included" in the data collection approach if at least one of the sub-categories is counted.

Notes

[Reports on social inclusion \(mmuncii.ro\)](https://mmuncii.ro)

**5.3.ROU. Population and Housing Census****Description**

All persons with usual residence inside Romania for at least 12 months before the census or having the intention to stay in Romania for at least 12 months were enumerated using face-to-face interviews with enumerators (including people experiencing homelessness, people living in other housing units and people in institutions).

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|---|--|
| Type of count generated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point-in-time <input type="checkbox"/> Flow (period) | Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population census |
| Lead authority(ies) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Institute for Statistics | Source(s) of information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population provides information through the questionnaire directly to the National Institute for Statistics |
| Scope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National level | Depth of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key demographic characteristics |
| Frequency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every 10 years. | |

ETHOS Light groups included

- ETHOS 1: Living on the streets, in public spaces
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Note: Each ETHOS Light group includes one or more sub-categories of living situations. ETHOS Light groups are considered as "included" in the data collection approach if at least one of the sub-categories is counted.

Notes

[chestionar-martor_RPL2021_engleza.pdf \(recensamantromania.ro\)](#)