

Conclusion of Refugee Policy in Romania  
Presentation of results and conclusions



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### *1.1 Background of the Study*

Global migration increased due to globalisation and geopolitical shifts, encouraging governments to rethink refugee and asylum policies as the 2015–2016 refugee crisis in Europe forced states to implement legislative frameworks and border controls (Kelemen and McNamara, 2022), under which Romania that is historically open to migrants also tried to meet global norms therefore Romania welcomed 1,785 asylum seekers demonstrating its commitment and limits (Mészáros, 2019; Stel, 2020) while proactive refugee support from Turkey is also a key benchmark. The demographics of Romania are transforming due to a constant increase in third-country nationals (TCNs) and EU migrants, requiring stronger integration policies (Mayo, 2023; Balsam, 2023) however, Mareci et al. (2023) reported that the government currently collaborates with NGOs and state organisations to integrate legal, administrative and social services but the access to healthcare, education and housing remains difficult (Koehler & Schneider, 2019; Velez, 2023) while the cultural and language limitations prevent comprehensive integration (Nicolaci, 2022).

Romania complies with international refugee legislation by ratifying the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol (Goga, 2019) while the Romanian Committee for Migration Problems (RCMP) with four essential ministries, coordinates refugee policy since 1991 (Vincze et al., 2021) however, according to Vasile and Androniceanu (2018) and Baya (2020) the UNHCR has shaped Romania's approach from asylum to integration but the legal support and public awareness still need improvement (Porumbescu, 2019; Marinescu and Balica, 2021). Additionally the migration strategy of Romania prioritises education, employment and healthcare (Mareci et al., 2023; National Migration strategy, 2022) while Dumitrache et al. (2022) further added that the regulatory agencies protect asylum rights and aid displaced people with UNHCR support. According to Unicef.org (2022) Females and children are prioritised due to gender-based violence and economic exploitation but the economic hardship, religious and cultural discrimination and political instability including the Ukraine-Russia war significantly increased the refugee flows (Manafi and Roman, 2022; Murphy, 2021; UNHCR, 2024). Romania has received over 140,000 Ukrainian refugees, necessitating emergency and protection measures (Unesco.org, 2022; Iom.int, 2023) however these efforts demonstrated developing position of Romania in the international refugee framework by focussing on urgent humanitarian assistance and long-term integration.

### *1.2 Immigration Policy and Asylum Framework in Romania*

A nationwide strategy to integrate and legally help migrants necessitates within the immigration policy of Romania (Jianu, 2019) as the 2015–2018 and 2021–2025 National Strategies for Immigration, currently under revision as they lacked a refugee integration policy (Maes and Debusscher, 2022). Authorities monitor migrant situations and enhance social care using evaluation reports and surveys (Croitoru, 2021) while the Migration Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) evaluates these policies (Neureiter, 2022) but Romania currently lacked legislative frameworks despite adopting the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol (Njoku, 2023; Danisi et al., 2021). The process of asylum registration and temporary housing legal, health and security inspections are handled by the National Agency for Refugee and

Migration (World Health Organisation, 2021) as non-EU migrants need residence permits for stays above 90 days (Çetin, 2020) but the government priorities included hiring talented non-European migrants (Hack-Polay et al., 2022) hence as the economic and political instability promotes migration over 130,000 Ukrainian refugees seeking asylum in Romania (Földes, 2020; Aydın, 2021; Bharti and Bista, 2023; Besoiu, 2022). According to Hoff and de Volder (2021), Deal et al. (2021) and Plümmer (2022) borders are secure with document inspections, trained staff and interviews while the Romania issues visas to 85 countries, including war zones (Preda, 2020; Niemann and Zaun, 2023). However, the legal migration and international relations improve with 15-country cooperation (Cimpoeru et al., 2023; Nicolaci, 2022) while the asylum seekers are assisted through interviews and document verification (Grassi, 2021; Marinescu and Balica, 2021) but the General Inspectorate is in charge of immigration therefore Romania stays safe despite UNHCR's limited engagement and immigration issues (Porumbescu, 2019; Vasile and Androniceanu, 2018).

Moreover, Romania follows the 1951 Refugee Convention and Dublin III Regulation on asylum (Vasile and Androniceanu, 2018) as <sup>3</sup> the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) promotes equitable asylum policies while Romania's system follows Law No. 122/2006 (Gotsova, 2019; Łysienia, 2022) under which at police or immigration offices, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) processes applications using EURODAC biometric equipment (Aus, 2006). Additionally the refugee status, subsidiary protection and temporary protection exist (Refworld, 2022) but Romania passed various emergency ordinances (Nos. 15, 20, 336, 337) and educational support in 2022 owing to the Ukraine situation under which around 101,076 Ukrainians were temporarily protected (Dogaru, 2021; WHO, 2023; Dumitrache et al., 2022) because the Ukrainian nationals, stateless people and legal residents unable to return home qualify for the asylum (Bulakh, 2020; Khayitovich et al., 2022). However, the majority of 9,591 asylum petitions in 2021 were from Afghanistan and Somalia but only 11.58% accepted while 73.91% rejected (Bejan, 2021; Botină, 2021; Goga, 2019) therefore Romania was criticised for border pushbacks (Morariu, 2022; Chetail, 2021) and inconsistent reception conditions (Roguski and Cygańczuk, 2023; Simonovic, 2022; Majcher et al., 2020) because the IGI-DAI, under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, oversees procedures with trained staff and UNHCR and NGO support followed by legal protection, housing and integration improvements (Rezaee, 2019; Borrelli, 2021; Miulescu and Ruth, 2021; Kuhlmann et al., 2023 )

### 1.3 Policy Evaluation

The asylum policy of Romania requires six months of interviews, background investigations and health exams (Baggaley et al., 2023; Cooper, 2021; WHO, 2023) but the appeal denials are often unfair due to language and legal aid issues however the applications can be submitted at borders or detention centres, although delays and translator shortages hinder accuracy (Sanz, 2022; Gyollai and Korkut, 2019) while IGI-DAI documents asylum petitions in 3–6 days. The first-instance procedure comprises fingerprints, interviewing and status determination with a 30-day timeframe under which special safeguards are given to vulnerable groups (Barbero, 2021; Cimpoeru, 2023; Jahn, 2022) but the unfounded or security-risk cases are accelerated to 3–7 days (Pannia, 2021; Pope, 2020; Dumbrava, 2021) therefore the border regulations now allow 7-day appeals at entrance sites (Crooke, 2023).  
Readmission agreements

received 831 migrants in 2021 but the unlawful admissions resulted in five-year bans (Zavadska, 2022; STOIAN, 2022; Wilmer, 2023; Csanyi, 2020; Orsili, 2023) however the Syrian refugees from Turkey and Jordan were resettled after Decision No.1596/2008 (Iannone, 2020; Şafak-Ayvazoğlu et al., 2021; Santen, 2022; Bohnet and Rieger, 2021).

Moreover the irregular migration from Afghanistan, Syria and India increased from 2,048 in 2019 to 9,053 in 2021, affecting Romanian border security therefore in 2020, 13,409 pushbacks to Serbia were documented typically including border police brutality (Ilie et al., 2022; Dogaru, 2021; Sudheer & Banerjee, 2021; Im, 2021) while the physical abuse and asylum refusal were reported by PRAB and BVMN (Perkowska and Gutauskas, 2023; Edyburn and Meek, 2021; Lorenz and Etzold, 2022). However the border interpretation was difficult due to language while the distribution of multilingual leaflets also caused confusion since police used Google Translate due to translator shortages (Woods, 2019; Kourtis-kazoullis et al., 2021), similarly the UNHCR-IGPF agreements enabled 51 monitoring visits and border employee training in 2021 (Marinescu and Bogdan, 2020; Judit, 2021; Skran, 2020) but as per Rasche (2022) the majority of 12,684 entrance refusals in 2020 were from Moldova and Ukraine. IGI-DAI prioritised asylum processing, distributed PPE, enforced distancing and vaccinated 400 asylum seekers during COVID-19 but to safeguard personnel and refugees, daily medical checks, hygiene and disinfection were conducted (Avram, 2023; Novacescu et al., 2022). The asylum system of Romania processes applications in 30 days while difficult cases or huge quantities would take 6–9 months but bureaucratic inefficiencies and poor communication cause delays, particularly for Afghan and Iranian nationals (Tazzioli, 2022; Samari et al., 2023; Tengilimoğlu, 2021) however the priority is given to vulnerable applicants and unaccompanied children (Siarova and van der Graaf, 2022; Golriz, 2021; Mencütek et al., 2021).

#### *1.4 National Agency for Refugees*

The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) founded in 1998 to provide legal help, counselling and training to vulnerable asylum seekers (Cnrr.ro, 2024; Asylum Information

Database, 2024; SDGs and Migration Portal, 2021) while <sup>1</sup> the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol require the National Agency for Refugees (NAR) to handle asylum and preserve refugee rights (Mica et al., 2020; Nguyen and Phu, 2021; Vosyliute and Brumat, 2023). However the NAR struggles with budget restrictions, bureaucratic delays, and social integration despite promoting integration and advocacy (Bogia et al., 2023) but NAR protects refugee rights under EU directives and Romanian asylum legislation (Koch, 2022; Khairiah et al., 2021; Kaufmann, 2021) therefore local regulator coordination improves service delivery and anti-discrimination (Balaban et al., 2021; Mititelu, 2021) while NAR uses culturally responsive programming to foster long-term integration and national development (Fontanari, 2022; Cantat, 2020; Molinero-Gerbeau et al., 2021). Furthermore, the National Agency for Refugees (NAR) also raises awareness for refugee rights (Ferris, 2020; Burlacu et al., 2020; Flanigan, 2022) as it works with NGOs and international organisations to help refugees (Meehan et al., 2021; Dumitrescu and Constantin, 2022; Nedelcu and Soysüren, 2022; Fratsea and Papadopoulos, 2020). NAR collaborates with government and civic society to promote social inclusion (Le Espiritu et al., 2022; Gherghina, 2023) while the worldwide stature and economic development of Romania

improve with integration (Thouez, 2020; Saksena & McMorro, 2021; Mareci et al., 2023) and 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol compliance.

### 1.5 UNHCR

Over 20 million refugees get legal, social, and ethical help from the UNHCR to avoid violence and persecution (Bejan, 2021; Moldovan, 2022; Innes, 2021) as UNHCR works with NGOs and governments to provide asylum, mainly in Romania since 1951 (UNHCR, 2019; Goedhart et al., 2020). Six NGO partners in Romania provide legal and social care under UNHCR direction and European Refugee Funding (sdgs.un.org, 2020; UNHCR Romania, 2024) these NGOs must provide fair asylum processes and ethical practices while addressing Romania's civil society issues as it is overseen by the EU (Cone and Panayotatos, 2023).

### 1.6 Domestic refugee legislation in Romania and the 1951 refugee convention

The Romanian government aligns its refugee laws with the 1951 Refugee Convention and EU policies to safeguard asylum seekers (Ilie Goga, 2019; Pop, 2022; Aygün, 2022) however Romania violates EU laws by accepting few refugees and providing substandard asylum facilities (Ultan, 2023; Kaytaz, 2021; Ozmen et al., 2021). Therefore the EU requirements like CEAS and Dublin Regulation are enforced by the National Agency for Refugees while the AMIF EU money supported the refugee economic integration (Münch, 2022; Rosenberg, 2019).

### 1.7 Research Aim

The primary objective of this study is to investigate the degree to which Romania's immigration policy lives up to its international obligations, particularly regarding and refugees.

### 1.8 Research Objectives

- To determine how the Romanian government assists refugees and those seeking asylum who reside inside its borders with navigating the legal system.
- To determine how well the new immigration policy mechanism Romania implemented in 2015 has been operating since then.
- From a legal, social, moral, and economic perspective, examine the complete spectrum of assistance the Romanian government provides to immigrants, including and refugees.

### 1.9 Research Question

- How does the Romanian government provide legal support to refugees within the state?
- How effective is the immigration policy structure practised in Romania between 2015 till now?
- How, i.e., legal, social, ethical, and economic support, is provided by the Romanian government to immigrants, i.e., asylum seekers and refugees?

### 1.10 Research Significance

This report highlighted information on the immigrant rights policy of Romanian government as it assess how well the immigration policy system protects asylum seekers

and

refugees by understanding how the UNHCR and NAR safeguard immigrant rights. The government's role is to protect rights of migrants by identifying the extent of opportunities, such as education, health, employment and others hence the study evaluates social growth, ethical stability, and economic contribution of the immigrant facilities.

## 2 Literature Review

### 2.1 *An Overview of Romania's Immigration Policy*

According to Goga (2020) globalisation, political instability and social change have impacted migratory patterns, requiring Romania to create comprehensive immigration policies as the 2015–2016 European refugee crisis changed border and asylum policies across Europe, including Romania. Mocanu et al. (2020) added that countries assessed their ability to provide legal recognition, protection and basic services to combat refugees however Romania accepted 1,785 asylum applicants, fulfilling its humanitarian commitments (Popovici, 2021). The globalisation also impacted the immigration and international cooperation in Romania third-country nationals (TCNs) increased between 2013 and 2020 because more EU citizens moved to Romania (Haider and Olimy, 2019), thus the Romanian government supported legal and administrative integration and addressed socioeconomic issues of refugees however De Graauw and Bloemraad (2017) recommended a collaborative multi-stakeholder strategy combining government, NGOs and local communities for successful integration. Additionally the expanding immigrant population has caused problems as Alcaraz et al. (2020) stressed over expanding healthcare and education needs while Ragnarsdóttir et al. (2023) advocated for linguistic and cultural education programs for immigrants in Romania but despite these efforts, cultural and language challenges remain complicating the assimilation. Therefore the immigration policies of Romania must comply with international responsibilities under which the future studies must examine legislative frameworks, policy execution and integration techniques to improve and strengthen immigration management strategy of Romania.

### 2.2 *Assistance provided to refugees in Europe*

Haider and Olimy (2019) highlighted that the 2015–2016 refugee crisis changed European history, requiring organised and humane support as Turkey became a crucial refugee support player because its response included medical treatment which is essential for public health in overcrowded refugee camps thus Turkey established healthcare structures and policies to protect refugees and avert crises (Parsanoglou, 2020). Jeannet et al. (2021) reported that Turkey prioritises food and shelter together with medical treatment as the refugee camps were formed with NGOs and international entities to satisfy the acute needs of newly arriving migrants without financial stability however the strategy of Turkey relies on legislative frameworks to arrange refugee registration, protection and legal status recognition in accordance with international law while these laws protect rights and services of refugees. In compliance the Turkey prioritised international collaboration to share global burdens as the country promoted shared responsibility in refugee crises by working with the UNHCR and sought worldwide funding (Meer et al., 2021) but despite these great efforts, the crisis has stretched national resources and infrastructure indicating that living standards and key services need improvement (Parsanoglou, 2020). However Jeannet et al. (2021) affirmed that support case from Turkey



highlighted the pros and cons of national refugee responses and the necessity for European humanitarian collaboration.

### 2.3 *Fluctuations in the Population of Romania Over a Certain Period*

The demographics of Romania transformed significantly due to the rising number of Third-Country Nationals (TCNs), the people without citizenship in Romania or any EU member state (Moldovan et al., 2023) while the employment, family reunion and humanitarian needs are driving migratory hub status of Romania however the TCNs increased significantly from 2013 to 2020, indicating socioeconomic and political developments in the nation (Marchand et al., 2019). Radulescu et al. (2020) stressed over the necessity to study TCN migration reasons and integration issues while Nakase (2022) and Petrișor et al. (2020) predicted that more EU and Trans-Carpathian residents moving to Romania but these developments require the assessment of mobility push and pull factors and their socio-economic and policy ramifications. Additionally the policymakers in Romania must create inclusive laws that encourage diversity, integration and rights for TCNs arrival as the cultural and linguistic diversity allows cross-cultural contact but also mandates social cohesiveness (Rowe et al., 2019) however the TCNs bring economic development, innovation and competitiveness via their talents and viewpoints. Collectively the sustainable development requires recognising and resolving demographic shifts in Romania under which the future policy must reflect diversity and include inclusive social harmony and economic resiliency methods.

### 2.4 *Efforts for integration in Romania*

The factors of labour shortages and geopolitics have driven immigration to Romania over the past decade (Matei et al., 2020) as the EU citizens and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) are arriving due to demand for skilled workers and National Immigration Strategy of Romania, which regulates admission, residency and labour participation (migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu, 2022). The structured action plans and foreign labour quotas in the National Strategy on Immigration (2021–2024) aim to integrate disadvantaged migrants and alleviate workforce gap in Romania (Chivu et al., 2020) as the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) and Ministry of Internal Affairs manage these processes however, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted migration reducing employment and complicated regulation (NNDKP, 2024). Romania lacks an integration plan despite immigration efforts despite the fact that immigration policies emphasise on integration via language instruction, cultural orientation and employment facilitation while the “*Integration Act*” in Romania grants refugees and people under the international protection legal rights to work, housing, education and healthcare (Open Government Partnership, 2023). Similarly the vulnerable migrants can participate in IGI's Integration Program for one year, receiving financial help, housing and public services (European Website on Integration, 2021) and to further enable thorough integration, the initiative encourages governmental institutions and NGOs to collaborate (Ewers-Peters and Baciu, 2022).

However contrary to these strategies, certain barriers remain persisted as the language and cultural barriers restrict service access while labour market discrimination and credential recognition hampered economic integration followed by uneven health and education leading to social marginalisation and administrative barriers experience for the immigrants (Visan et al.,

2022). Additionally the Romania scored 49/100 on the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), indicating modest improvement in legislative frameworks but not complete implementation (www.mipex.eu, 2020) hence Romania has made progress in migrant integration through regulatory changes and institutional collaboration but more focused policies are needed to overcome socio-economic and legal hurdles and promote inclusive long-term integration.

## 2.5 National Refugee Laws

Krause and Schmidt (2020) cited that refugees that are unable to return home due to political or ethical challenges are laws like the “1951 Refugee

Convention” and its “1967 Protocols,” as the Europeans displaced by World War II received early relief under the “1948 Displaced Persons Act” (Kraly, 2019) hence these legal frameworks affected global refugee policies, including legal documentation and ethical resettlement.

Similarly also crucial within the refugee

rights because it supports with health examinations, documentation and travel before settlement (Fine and Walters, 2022) while IOM works with Public Health England and the Home Office to create health procedures in the UK to ensure refugees receive proper care under local authority monitoring hence these initiatives encompass refugee protection from international law to national implementation and health services.

## 2.6 Refugee Policies in Different Continents

Refugee policies vary by location due to socioeconomic, legal and geopolitical factors as the conflict, poverty and human rights violations drive **African** displacement therefore the regional refugee policy is based on the African Union (AU) and the; “1951 UN Refugee Convention, 1967 Protocol, and 1969 OAU Refugee Convention” (Palacios-Arapiles, 2021). Molobe et al. (2020) cited that about 30 million Africans are forcefully displaced, mostly in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Sudan but due to resource constraints, many African governments struggle to execute open-border policies however refugee rights are protected in Uganda and Ethiopia (Dawa, 2022) while the “1998 Refugees Act” in South Africa established the Refugee Appeals Authority (Ziegler, 2020).

The factors like ethnic conflicts particularly among Rohingya and Afghan refugees, drive **Southeast Asian** refugee migrations as the ASEAN member states have accepted the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and aligned with important international frameworks, although enforcement is variable (Rachminawati and Kebinjin, 2023). However only Philippines and Cambodia signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol therefore Philippine laws like “Executive Order No. 163” protect refugees while “Sub-Decree No. 224” in Cambodia also governs them (Htun, 2022) but Lego (2020) cited that Malaysia and Indonesia treat refugees as unauthorised migrants with no legal protection because UNHCR handles Refugee Status Determination (RSD) with little state engagement, resulting in extended asylum processing timelines and legal uncertainty. Similarly, Pakistan has a substantial unregistered Afghan refugee community in South and Central Asia, generating national security issues (Barlas, 2022) and despite various constitutional provisions protect refugee rights, the lack of a comprehensive refugee statute leads to ad hoc measures.

Moreover, the political cycles and Central and South American migratory pressures have shaped refugee policy in the **Americas** as the Trump administration prioritised border security and reduce refugee admissions (Darrow and Scholl, 2020) but the poverty, conflict and inequality encourage regional migration. According to Dedios and Ruiz (2022) Temporary Protection Statute of Colombia and open-door policy of Brazil for Venezuelans are progressive instances of intra-continental migration encouraged by regional accords like MERCOSUR while the humanitarian stance of Canada allowed Ukrainians to work and live in Canada temporarily using the Canada–Ukraine Authorisation for Emergency Travel (CUAET) (Vosko et al., 2022). Collectively the international agreements provide refugee protection but their interpretation and implementation is different across continents because economic capability, national security and political will affect how governments handle refugee crises thus the progress towards harmonised regional procedures is encouraging but implementation gaps underline the need for better coordination and legal responsibility.

### 2.7 *European Refugee Policy*

European refugee policy is based on international asylum commitments and legal agreements as the “1951 Geneva Convention” established refugee rights and state obligations, protecting the escaping persecution and significant damage (Rikhof and Geerts, 2019) while the European Union (EU) shares asylum management and processing obligations as a human right (Ekstedt, 2022). Similarly, the European Asylum System (CEAS) provides legal consistency and quality as it protects asylum seekers via fair processes, effective monitoring and transparency (Mouzourakis, 2020) however the regular immigration and mobility, irregular immigration, international protection and asylum with economic effect of migration are EU immigration policy focuses (Kaufmann, 2021).

Furthermore, Damir-Geilsdorf and Pelican (2019) reported that regular immigration is legal for economic or humanitarian grounds as migrants cross EU borders for improved living circumstances or jobs but in contrary the irregular immigration involves unauthorised border crossings due to insecurity, political instability or economic difficulties in origin nations hence migrants are typically considered unlawful regardless of their valid intentions (Walsh, 2020) According to the International Human Rights Charter, the asylum and protection policy of EU supports human rights as the structured legal mechanisms help vulnerable persons in becoming refugees (Kang, 2021) thus at present, 28 EU countries coordinate asylum and integration because refugee policies affect host economies greatly as majority of the refugees contributed via work, compelling host nations to invest in vocational training to support their integration (Freeman and Lewis, 2021).

### 2.8 *European Union on Migration and Asylum*

The European Union (EU) implemented major migration changes after the 2015 migration crisis to improve management and treat asylum seekers as Pteroni (2021) cited that the European Council and Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF) develop relationships of member states with non-EU countries and fund legal migration arrangements. Similarly the “2023 Asylum Procedure Regulation (APR)” and “Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR)” modernise asylum protocols and compel responsibility-sharing because the APR simplifies

border procedures and establishes timetables like six months for asylum or return determinations while focussing on national security threats however Tsourdi and De Bruycker (2022) cited that AMMR replaces Dublin Regulation redefining which member state processes asylum requests, lowering uneven obligations hence it allows member states to coordinate migration (min. 30,000 applications) or financial contributions (€20,000 per relocation) (Pellegata and Visconti, 2022). Nogales and Lang (2020) further added that AMMR holds the initial nation of entry liable for two years to discourage secondary movements, unauthorized transfers between member states followed by relocation without consent would transfer duty after three years thus the law changes in EU aim to regulate migration efficiently and transparently while preserving international protection standards and burden-sharing among member states.

### 2.9 European countries that Permit Asylum

Many European nations including Germany, France, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Italy, Greece and the Netherlands, respect asylum rights “1951 Refugee Convention,” its

1967 Protocol and UNHCR guidelines therefore the European Union recorded 881,220 asylum applicants in 2022, a 64% increase over 2021 however Germany had the most applications (24.7%), followed by France (15.6% or 137,510), Spain (13.2% or 116,135) and Austria (12.1% or 106,380) (Grupp et al., 2019) hence these countries are among the most popular asylum destinations, but Statista (2022) also reported significant refusal rates. Additionally Mouzourakis

(2020) highlighted that EU protection was granted to 384,245 applicants in 2022 as 44% acquired thus the

EU's tiered protection scheme gives applicants different rights based on their status while the statistics revealed continuous asylum processing and protection in Europe despite variable application rates and state capacity.

### 2.10 Refugee and Asylum Structure in Romania

Romania developed an EU and UNHCR compliant refugee and asylum system from a post-communist transit country to a destination for Middle Eastern, African and Asian refugees (Mareci et al., 2023) because historically Romania opened migration after the 1989 revolution but lacked asylum claim management capabilities which led to the “1991 Committee for Migration Issues” and “1951 Geneva Convention membership” of Romania (Cimpoeru et al., 2023). However the EU integration inspired changes including the National Office for Refugees (2000), General Inspectorate for Immigration (2012) and national immigration policies (Mourad and Norman, 2020) under which Romania relocated Uzbek and Burmese refugees despite the low quotas (Shakya, 2021).

According to Nicolescu (2019) only 1,120 of 9,591 asylum petitions from Afghanistan and Syria were granted in 2021 while only 2% of their population is foreign-born mostly workers, students and family members (Besoiu, 2022) because Popa (2022) reported that political and logistical issues prevented Romania from accepting more than 750 of the almost 5,000 EU-relocated migrants. Similarly, over 2.4 million Ukrainians entered Romania by 2022 with 104,000 receiving temporary protection (Reynolds and Vacatello, 2019) as the Integrated Border Management System prioritises border security.

Furthermore despite having fewer asylum applications than other EU nations, Romania supported the Balkan route in its refugee integration strategy while the illegal migration from Afghanistan and Syria increased in 2020 with over 45,000 stopped or arrested at the border (Scazzieri, 2021) however poor data and uneven policy execution make integration comprehension difficult (Triandafyllidou et al., 2019). Additionally, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) and border and local police administer asylum processes under national legislation, specifically legislation 122/2006 (Polese et al., 2022) thus IGI also manages integration centres that provide language instruction, housing, healthcare and legal assistance but Moraru and Nica (2020) argued that Romania lacked a diversified civil society strategy, restricting integration attempts.

The NGOs financed by the EU's Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF) help in closing this gap (Voicu and Croitoru, 2023) but generally Romanian integration policies favour economic migrants and skilled professionals, marginalising asylum seekers and denying them long-term stay. However the Bucharest and Giurgiu reception facilities help accepted and rejected asylum seekers but capacity is limited and bureaucratic issues such as undocumented identities delay progress (Dumitrescu and Constantin, 2022) thus despite EU alignment the asylum system in Romania is inflexible, centralised and moulded by post-communist government.

### 2.11 Research hypotheses

H1: "There is an overwhelming negative opinion of respondents on the reception of refugees and migrants in Romania. They believe that refugees come with no benefits for the country".

H2: "There is a positive response to the reception of refugees and migrants in Romania. They believe that arrival of refugees in their country is helpful for the development of a country".

### 2.12 Theoretical Framework

Multiple theoretical frameworks affected migration and asylum studies by providing organised perspectives for understanding human movement according to Stoica and Voina (2023), the "Push-Pull" paradigm describes migration as motivated by bad conditions in the origin nation (conflict, economic crises) and appealing possibilities in the host country like safety, work opportunities. Another important theoretical paradigm is "transnationalism," which emphasises on cross-border economic, social and cultural ties among migrants under which Duan et al. (2021) stressed on how migrants contribute to host and origin nations while preserving multiple identities however the Spiegel (2022) discusses "Network Theory" and how social networks facilitate migration through shared knowledge, employment linkages and community support. Similarly, the "Human Rights Theory" focuses on legal and ethical responsibility of nations towards asylum seekers under international agreements as Cantor et al. (2022) assess legal compliance of governments and obstacles for the asylum seekers using this methodology hence these theoretical models explain worldwide migration and asylum dynamics, reasons and rights.

### 2.13 Comparative Analysis

Key trends and differences in migration and refugee experiences are highlighted by comparative research as the conflict, economic instability and political stability with safety are

universal migration motives (Heilbrunn and Iannone, 2020) by providing employment and resources, family and community relationships to support the integration of migrants. However the legal frameworks serve as the critical points of comparison as majority of the nations follow the 1951 Refugee Convention; however Mareci et al. (2023) found variations in legal safeguards. Some states provide strong support, while others have enforcement or resource issues. Therefore Ilie et al. (2022) recommended more intergovernmental coordination due to such variance while Snyder et al. (2023) illustrated that national policies, capability and support systems affect migrants' experiences despite similar causes and frameworks hence the policymakers increasingly use these comparisons to create inclusive and successful global migration and refugee responses.

#### 2.14 Research Gap

Migration and asylum studies still have significant gaps, despite the abundance of literature because the socio-economic evolution of refugees and asylum seekers is seldom studied but initial integration obstacles are well-documented while there is minimal little study on overlapping identities however Taha (2019) emphasised over intersectional methods that incorporate gender, ethnicity and age. Similarly, the comparative policy research across host nations is lacking, limiting insight into successful migrant assistance programs because according to Vasile (2023) the rising link between climate change and migration demands urgent research to understand displacement patterns and inspire adaptive policy responses. Additionally the function of Digital technology in migration, networking and information exchange is understudied as the methodological restrictions like ethics and access hindered the contemporary research however innovative, multidisciplinary solutions are needed to solve these problems and fill knowledge gaps.

### 3 Research Methodology

#### 3.1 Research Philosophy

Research philosophy shapes the methodology of the research and how the researcher interprets knowledge (Tamminen and Poucher, 2020) while this research of Romania's refugee policy uses interpretivism philosophy because it prioritises human experiences, views, and social constructions over numerical facts (Sanchez et al., 2023). This philosophical method allows the examination of subjective impressions of refugee inflows revealing cultural, historical and social influences on public opinion because according to Zahle (2021) interpretivism emphasised over qualitative methods like interviews and surveys to reveal nuanced meanings from individual replies. Additionally the interpretivism presents policymakers with meaningful and impactful data by focussing on human interactions and lived experiences hence this method provides comprehensive subjective data on Romanian refugee policy perception and experience (Burdine et al., 2021).

#### 3.2 Research Approach

According to Ustun and Tracey (2020) the research approach describes how a study addresses while the deductive approach starts with theories and develops hypotheses to test using actual facts (Pandey, 2019) hence the deductive reasoning works well for research that analyse correlations between variables such as how refugee influx affect Romanian society.  
Hypothesis

testing employing statistical approaches allowed researchers accept or reject hypotheses based on objective data analysis under which the deductive approach ensures theoretical grounding by using political science and sociology literature (Gilgun, 2019). Similarly, as per Avotra et al. (2021) deduction improves dependability and delivers evidence-based policy recommendations therefore deductive approach is better for testing assumptions and drawing generalizable insights than inductive approach which is suitable only for exploratory research (Tuthill et al., 2020).

### 3.3 *Research Design*

According to Hodge (2020) quantitative design allowed statistical analysis of observable variables to identify trends, patterns, and causal links under which views of Romanians about refugees are objectively examined in this quantitative study. The study tested demographic and attitudinal assumptions using numerical data as quotas are the main data collection mechanism and the organised methodology provides dependability and replicability hence this design allowed the researcher to learn from many participants, making the final insights more generalizable (Duckett, 2021). Quantitative research tested hypotheses and provided empirical information to understand public opinion on refugee integration (Cloutier and Ravasi, 2021) while data-driven insights always inform integration and refugee support policies (Süsser et al., 2021) thus qualitative design are interpretive while quantitative methods are clear, structured and scalable, making them suited for complex social analysis.

### 3.4 *Sampling Process*

A purposive sample technique identified Romanians with relevant refugee inflow viewpoints because this non-probability strategy selects participants based on residence status and willingness to debate refugee presence in Romania (Sileyew, 2019) thus purposive sampling ensured data relevance and applicability by targeting most informed or impacted population. This sampling process supported the interpretation of real-world feelings in this research study as it included various demographic groups, providing the analysis with unique perspectives (Golzar et al., 2022) while the Structured online questionnaires and private interviews made it comfortable for participants to provide honest ideas (Memon et al., 2024). However the purposive sampling also worked effectively in exploratory research where insight trumps statistical representativeness because according to Buchner (2023) it ensured that experts contribute significantly to data quality and outcome interpretation.

### 3.5 *Data Collection*

Data collection for this research took four weeks, starting with survey instrument completion and pilot testing then distribution with accumulation however 45-minute individual interviews conducted for over six weeks hence this online surveys and interviews provided primary data under which ethics and data security ensured by including informed permission, data encryption, and participant anonymity. A closed-ended online questionnaire and qualitative interviews used for primary data collection from Romanian individuals under which 100 individuals with potential awareness of refugee and migration policies selected using a convenient random sample procedure thus this strategy allowed for the collection of varied viewpoints needed to understand Romanian refugee policy. In compliance to Doyle et al. (2020) primary data is collected to answer research problems that secondary data cannot, such as public

perspective on migration and human rights however on a dynamic socio-political scene this primary data provides real-time context-specific insights (Wang et al., 2021).

### 3.6 Data Analysis

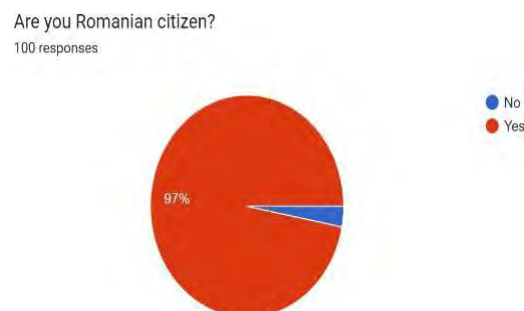
The type of the data determined the data analysis procedure because for descriptive and inferential statistical analysis of online survey quantitative data the SPSS is employed which involves frequency distributions and multivariate analysis to find public perception trends as Wu et al. (2021) affirmed that SPSS efficiently handles massive datasets and improves data accuracy, visualisation and replicability. Therefore the technologically sound methodological approach via SPSS analysis improves reliability and depth because each approach aligns the data type for cohesive interpretation and accurate conclusions.

### 3.7 Ethical Consideration

- Ethical considerations are important to this research, with a particular emphasis on gaining informed permission from all participants while ensuring their understanding of the study's objective and use of their replies however participants can remove their data at any time, boosting autonomy and confidence (Suri, 2020)
- Data is saved on password-protected computers and encrypted USB drive to preserve participant privacy, preventing unauthorised access however all raw data is deleted after the study to maintain confidentiality and ethical responsibility, especially for sensitive issues like refugee impressions (Eaton, 2020)
- Private rooms are used for qualitative interviews to ensure participant comfort and anonymity while to correctly collect open-ended replies, 45-minute one-on-one interviews are audio/video recorded ethically with consent (Grey et al., 2020)
- Only peer-reviewed, English publications from reliable sites like Google Scholar published within the previous five years are included to maintain relevance and academic integrity hence this strengthens secondary data sources and follows ethical research practises (Jiang et al., 2019)

## 4 Survey Findings and Analysis

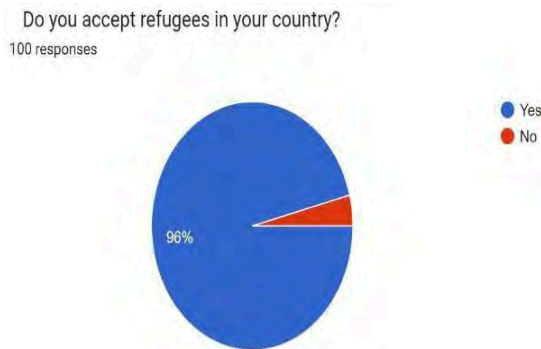
### 4.1 Quantitative Analysis



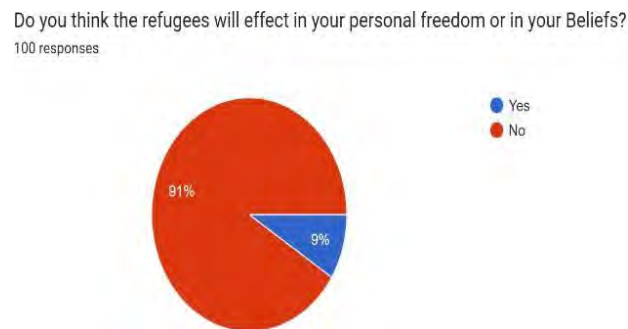
- The pie chart above highlighted how Romanian citizenship status of respondents was determined, as 97% of respondents are Romanian nationals who answered “Yes”; the



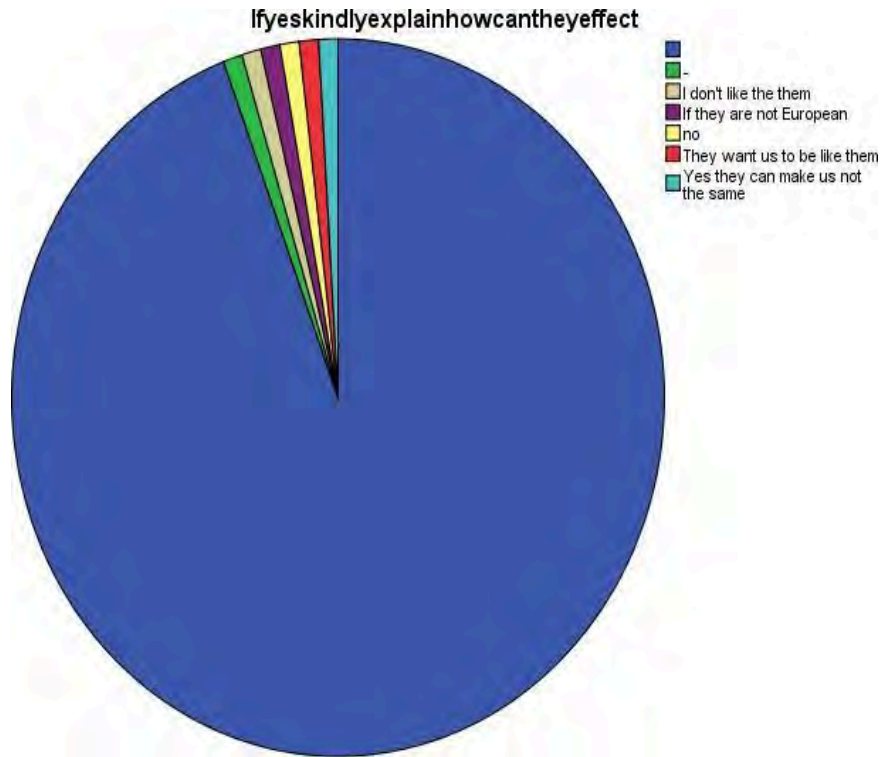
other three answered “No”, indicating refugees or migrants from other European or non-European countries.



- On another survey question about whether Romanians accept refugees, 96% said “Yes” and 4 said “No,” showing that the majority of the population has positive views about migrants and priorities different refugees in their country



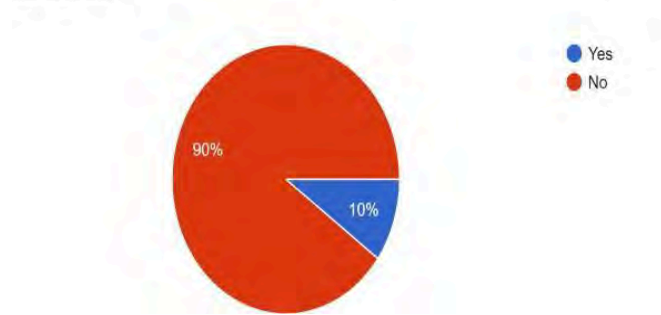
- When asked if refugee communities will affect their personal freedom or belief, 91% of participants said “no,” indicating that government policies related to refugee arrival and provision of essential rights contribute to maintaining ethical boundaries however, 9% said “yes,” indicating their attitude of migrants and refugees in the nation.



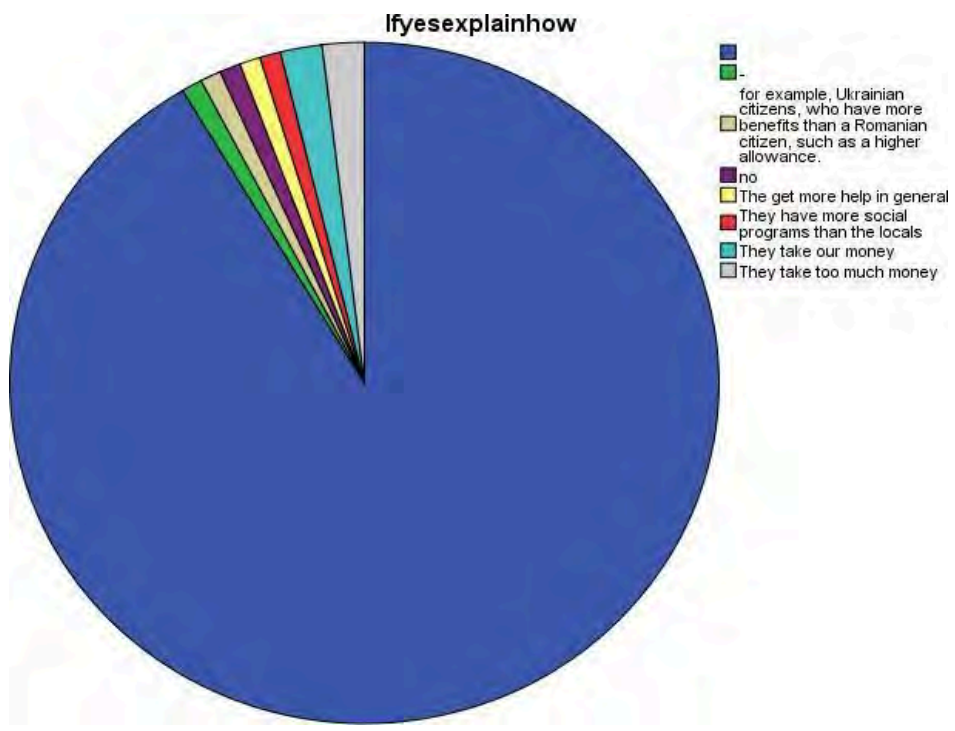
- After six participants replied “yes” to a closed-ended question, the insights highlighted several refugee acceptance problems in Romania as one participant said, “*I don't like them,*” mentioning significant poverty, inflation and 5.6% unemployment that develops the concern that migrants would strain scarce resources (tradingeconomics.com, 2025). Another participant said, “*If they are not European,*” implying hesitation towards non-European refugees especially Muslim or culturally distinct ones who would undermine Christian Orthodox majority and societal harmony at Romania. Similarly the third participant replied, “*Yes, they can make us not the same,*” expressing concerns that significant migration from Afghanistan and Syria (12.5 million migrants; data.unhcr.org, 2024) could dilute Romanian identity while national security concerns were raised by the 2023 deportation of 1,222 illegal immigrants and asylum seekers (Sanderson, 2025). Besides this, another statement; “*They want us to be like them,*” raised concerns about cultural impact, language hurdles and integration while these comments indicated that language and cultural barriers persisted while as per Rao (2019) language programs and cultural orientation improve mutual understanding and social cohesiveness.

Do you think the refugees in Romania have more benefits than Romanians citizens?

100 responses

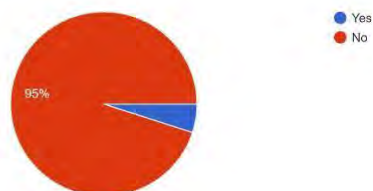


- In response to the survey question "*How do you perceive that refugees are provided with more benefits than citizens,*" 90% of respondents said "no," highlighting that Romania treats citizens and refugees equally in terms of human rights however, 10% said "yes," suggesting citizen rights vulnerability due to Romanian government involvement with UNHCR on refugee welfare. Cultural misunderstandings and refugee under-representation often lead to rights abuses as Romanians potentially be given priority over refugees for jobs, preventing sustainable employment and increasing the danger of discrimination and social marginalisation however regulatory authorities must provide fair access and safeguard the rights while UNHCR should work with Romanian institutions to monitor rights adherence and allocate necessary resources for refugee integration (Hamberger, 2025).

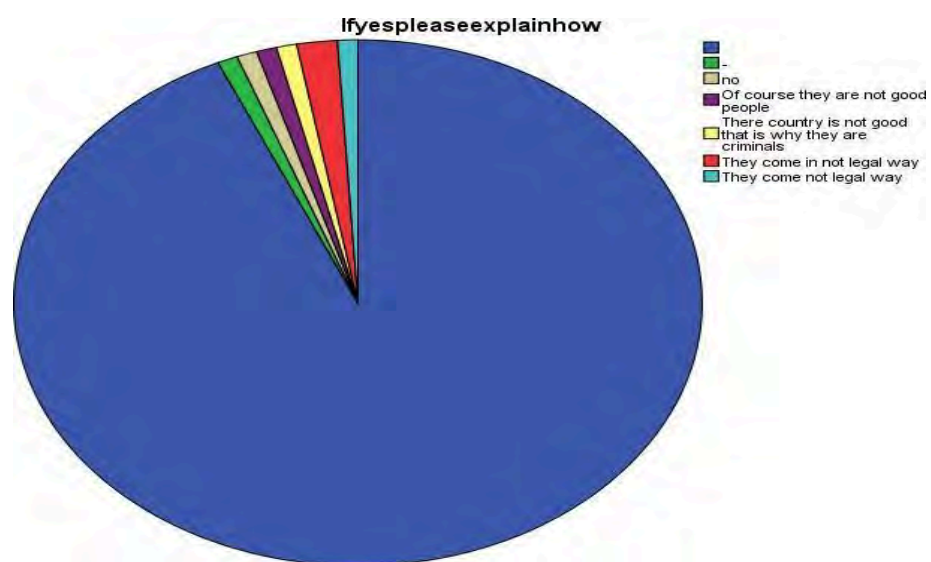


- Survey response indicated varying attitudes on refugee advantages in Romania as 2 individuals did not answer but others highlighted government refugee programs as Integration Program and Rom-Expo provide legal counselling, language training, healthcare, education and job help (UNHCR Romania, 2024). Similarly, the monetary support and cultural orientation program protect rights of refugees but due to the violence, Ukrainian refugees get temporary protection services such accommodation, transportation, medical treatment and language education (UNHCR Romania, 2024) however participants also emphasised on vocational training and psychological support programs for skill development and well-being (Ifrc.org, 2024). Additionally, some respondents complained that refugees “take too much money” and get state-funded benefits including the 50/20 housing and food allowance and unemployment benefits (Visitukraine.today, 2024) however these advantages often cause civic friction while promoting integration.

Do you think most of the refugees are criminal?  
100 responses

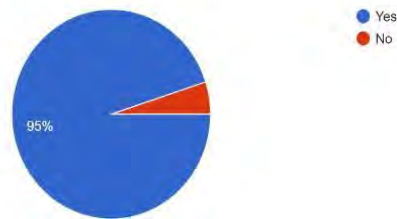


- In response to the survey question “Do you think most refugees are criminals?” 95% of respondents said “no,” reflecting popular faith in refugees, but 5% voiced anxiety about non-European migrants from South Asia, Africa and the Arab world, fearing security dangers (Vlad, 2021). However the Romanian authorities maintain tight security standards as the Department of State, IRC, and Resettlement Support Centres (RSC) evaluate refugees for security issues while the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) and Romanian Border Police also perform extensive checks to avoid crime (UNHCR, 2024).

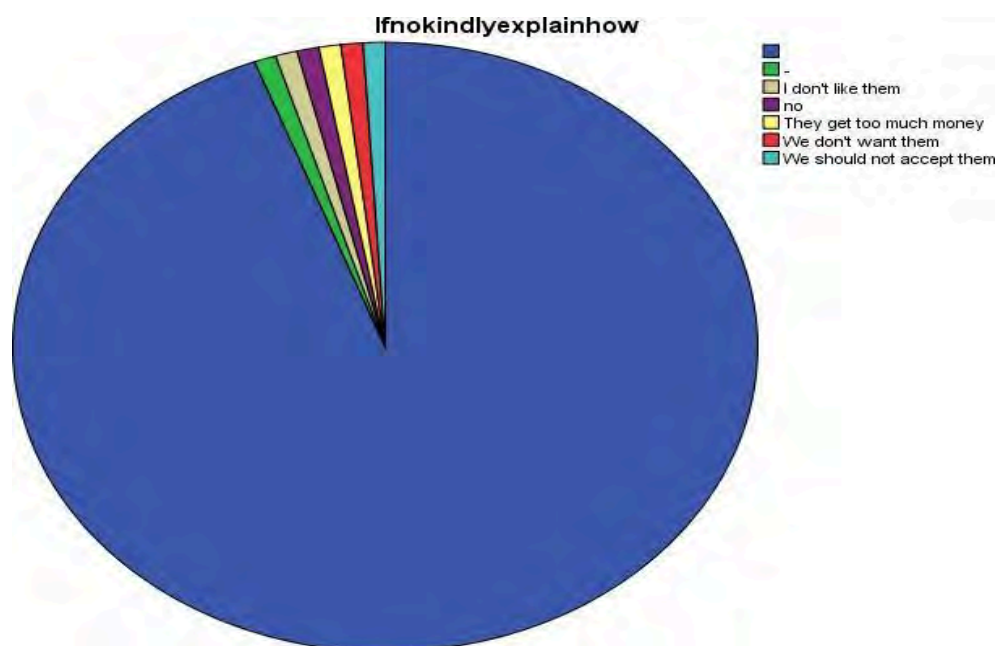


- Seven of 100 survey respondents said “yes” to “Do you think most refugees are criminals?” while three of the five thought migrants were criminals for illegally entering Romania, threatening national security however the Inter-ministerial Council, National Border Police, and Law No. 15/1996 to monitor and punish irregular migration were cited as reasons to follow legal immigration protocols (Global Detention Project, 2022). One participant said refugees “are not good people,” equating them with political instability, terrorism and conflict in non-European countries while another participant related crime to refugees' home countries, such as Middle Eastern and South Asian areas citing extreme groups and terrorist acts that tarnish impressions, demonstrating that negative prejudices and national stereotypes strongly impact how some Romanians see migrants, despite immigration screening and national security procedures.

Do you accept the policy of refugees in Romania?  
100 responses



- In response to “Do you accept refugee policies in Romania?” 95% of participants said “yes,” demonstrating broad acceptance because asylum seekers have access to healthcare, education, employment and legal aid under these laws, including the 2022 Temporary Protection Directive (UNHCR, 2024). The supplies like rent subsidies, food, clothes and specific medical assistance are supplied as needed but violators can appeal sanctions with NGO help hence these initiatives represent rights-based refugee protection and integration strategy in Romania.

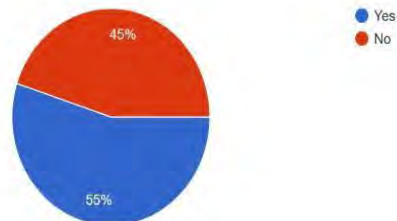


- The 6% of survey respondents who opposed Romania's refugee policies gave four reasons as one participant said, “We don't want them,” citing national security concerns and the belief that non-European refugees are dangerous owing to their origins while another responder criticised the degree of refugee help stating that the 50/20 aid plan unfairly favours migrants with food, shelter, and healthcare. Additionally the third added “I don't like them,” reflected personal bias rather than policy concerns about migrants while another group of person said “we should not accept them,” expressing hostility to

refugee intake despite legal and official backing thus collectively these responses represented a minority position characterised by national security concerns, economic resentment and personal prejudice, which contrasts with Romania's systematic attempts to integrate migrants through legal and humanitarian channels.

Do you know all the policy of the refugees in Romania and in Europe in general?

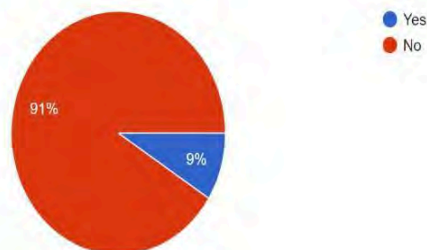
100 responses



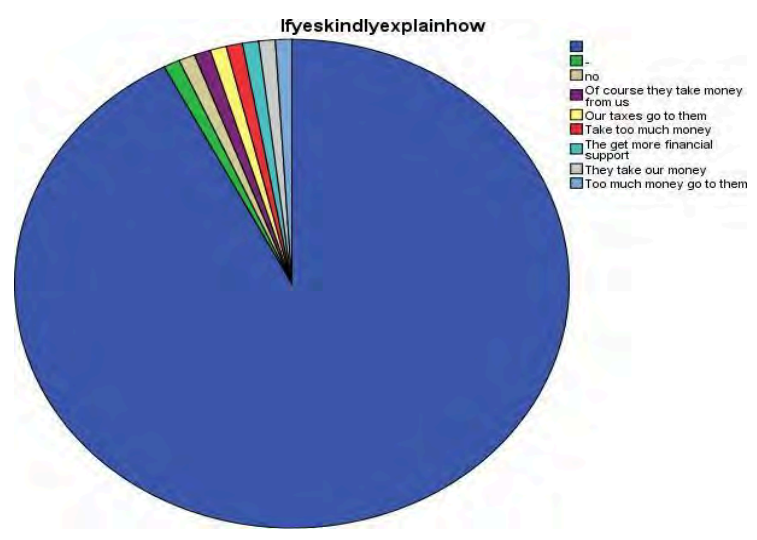
- In another survey question, “*Rather do you familiar with all the policies of refugees being practised currently in Romania and within other European member states,*” 55% of 100 participants answered “yes,” indicating that they are interested in political and national affairs however, 45% of respondents said “no,” indicating they were unfamiliar with refugee policy in the country thus, diverse replies illustrated that various residents would favour or oppose migration in the region

Do you think the refugees have better rights than Romanians citizens?

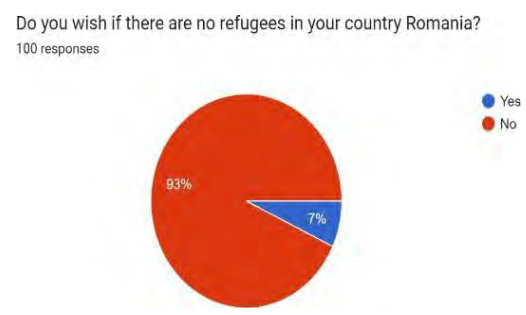
100 responses



- On the survey question, “*What do you think refugees have better rights comparatively to Romanian citizens?*” Out of 100 participants 91% said “no,” showing that citizens have better rights than migrants because the national laws prioritise citizen rights however, 9% of participants said “yes,” indicating that many refugees living as permanent or temporary residents of the state have better work, medical treatment and housing facilities.

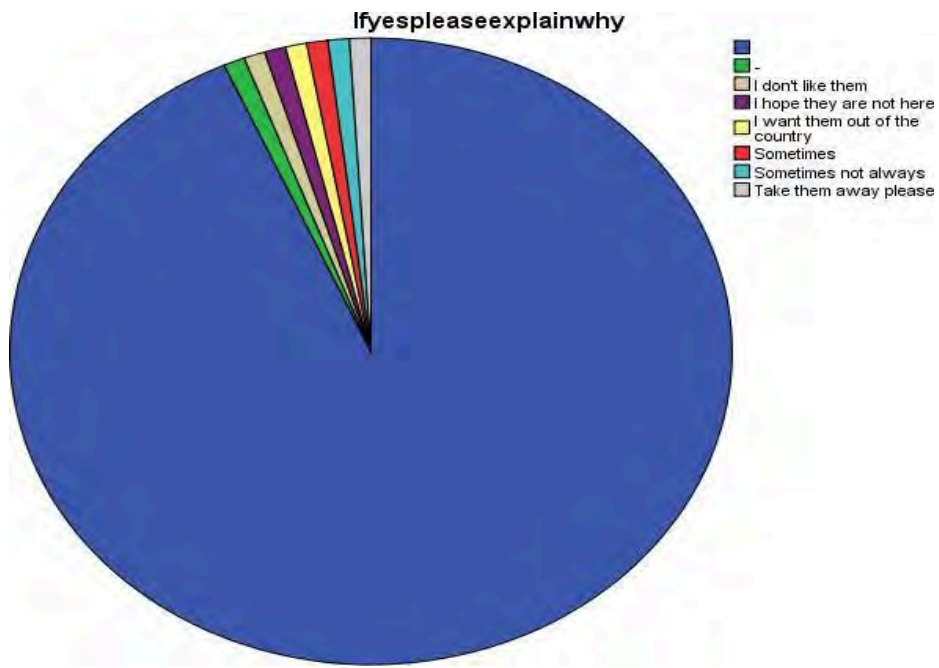


- In response to the survey question on refugee rights, 8% said yes with 6 justifying it but 4 respondents said that refugee groups get considerable financial support, including vocational training programs to improve employment and integration as the Romania's larger goal to empower displaced people and boost economic growth includes several projects (UNHCR, 2024). Another participant said that refugees receive greater financial aid than residents due to asylum seekers' strong welfare and humanitarian support, particularly the 50/20 financial aid programme hence these replies showed that some residents believe refugees receive greater government advantages than natives.

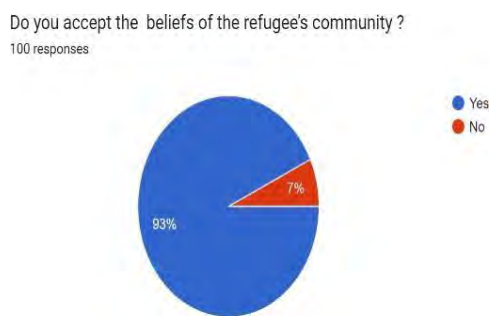


- On the survey question; “Do you wish that there should be no refugees within your country?”: 93% of 100 participants answered “no”, illustrating that many citizens of the country promote refugee policy structure however, 7% said “yes,” not wanting refugees in the nation as majority of them concerned that their entrance would exacerbate security threats and political instability that would harm long-time permanent citizens.



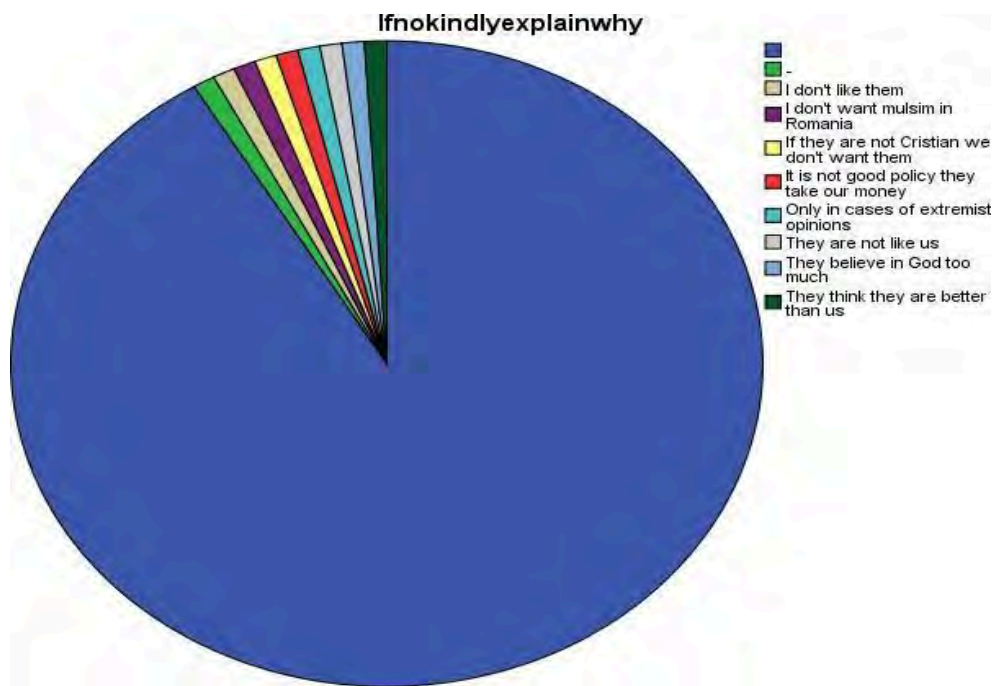


- In response to the survey question, 7% of respondents said they wished Romania had no more refugees while the six justifiers expressed personal dislike and economic concerns as one participant said, “I hope that they are not here,” because that migrants obtain citizen-like advantages diminishing local prospects while some respondents said, “I want them out of the country,” expressing anger of refugees. Similarly another pair of participants remarked, “I sometimes wish there could be no refugees,” referring to Romania's socioeconomic challenges where 4.5 million people live in poverty and fear restricted economic chances (UNHCR, 2024) while another respondent added, “I don't like them,” opposing inclusive European refugee policies and Romania's legislative frameworks that help asylum seekers.



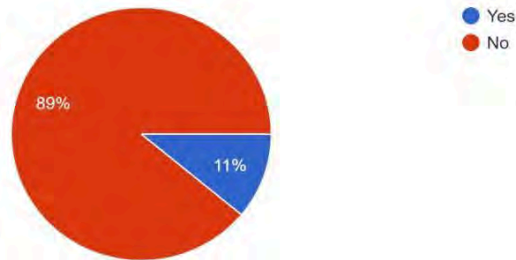
- In a vital survey question concerning acceptance of refugee views, 93% of 100 participants said “yes”, suggesting that many individuals prioritise their religious beliefs and cultural customs to foster cultural diversity however, 7% of responders said “no,”

indicating they are unable to tolerate other religions establishing that many Romanians dislike Muslims and other religious minorities.\

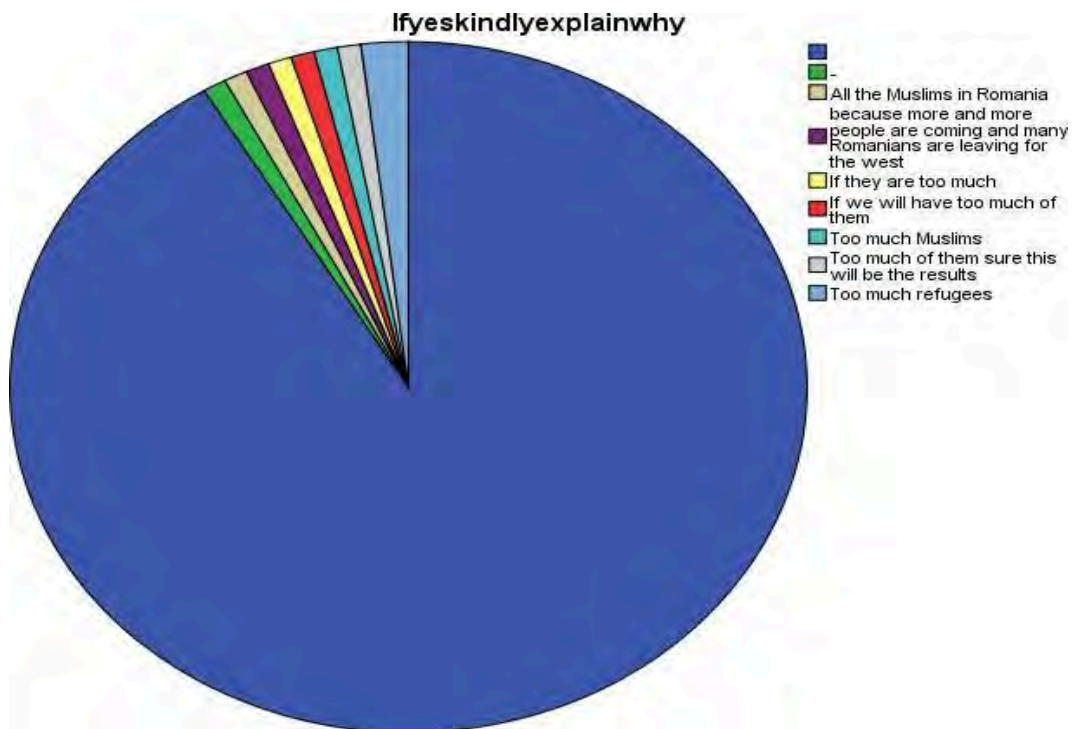


- In response to the survey question on religious acceptance of refugee groups, 9% said “no,” offering 8 different religious and cultural prejudices as one participant said “*only in cases of extremist opinions,*” citing security and human rights concerns while another said, “*they are not like us,*” about cultural and religious differences especially from non-European countries. Similarly the replies like “*If they are not Christian, we don't want them*” and “*I don't want Muslims in Romania*” showed religious exclusion favouring Christianity that is the major faith in Romania (UNHCR, 2024) while some respondents resented refugees for reducing economic possibilities and overusing government resources hence these opinions highlighted that certain citizens are prejudiced and intolerant of religious and cultural diversity.

Do you think Romania after few years will be full of refugees and the Romanians citizens will be strangers in Romania?  
100 responses



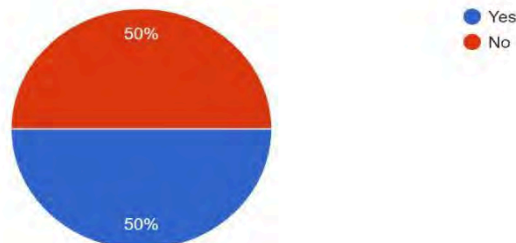
- On another question, “Romania will be full of refugees and Romanian citizens will be strangers in the country”, 89% of 100 participants said “no” indicating a disagreement because national policies and governance practices implemented in the state are crucial to maintaining ethical and legal laws thus a rise in immigration cannot affect the rights of citizens however, 11% of participants said “yes,” demonstrating that the current policy structure of Romania for supporting refugees' needs and human rights can improve in future.



- In response to “Romanians will become strangers in their own country,” 11% agreed while 8 of them explained the rationale as one participant said “Romania's UNHCR-aligned refugee-friendly policies have encouraged migration and Romanians fleeing for

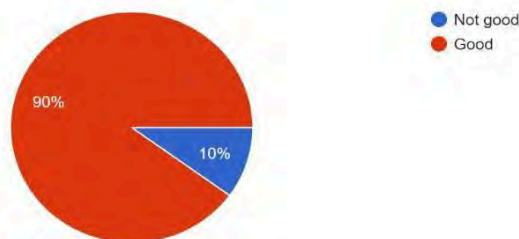
the West” while three others concerned over “*too many refugees,*” fearing demographic disruptions however two respondents attributed Christian decline to increased non-European migration due to “Muslim migration,” that will transform the country's demographics.

Do you have friend / relative or college in somehow is refugee in Romania?  
100 responses

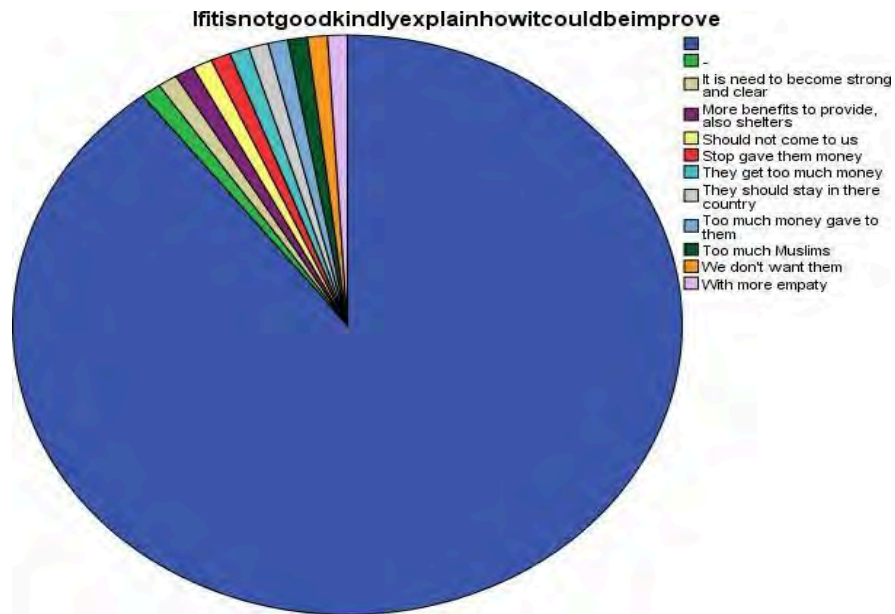


- On question regarding, the refugee friends in Romania 50% said "yes" and 50% said "no," demonstrating that the country is absorbing more refugees because now significant population have friends or relatives who belong to the refugee community

How do you think as Romanian citizen about the government policy for refugees?  
100 responses



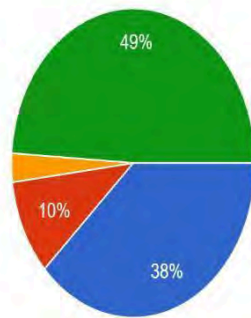
- When the question asked about the refugee policy institutions in Romania, 90% said they are effective because they give strategic assistance to refugee groups seeking asylum while the national government's strategic alignment with UNHCR to contribute to the worldwide refugee policy system also improved awareness among nations but 10% of the respondents said that programs to help refugees are not enough since they diminish rights of the citizens



- 11 people shared their views on improving the refugee policies at Romania as according to the respondent empathy in policy design aligns with social care and corporate social responsibility while another suggested expanding shelter and integrating facilities with two participants provided financial and vocational training for migrants to gain employment skills. However, one respondent opposed boosting benefit by stating less help would better serve Romanians while another advocated favouring European migrants over Muslim-majority immigration (Refworld, 2023). Additionally two participants simply stated “We don't want refugees” and one advocated for refugees to stay home to preserve culture however, a participant suggested tougher legal frameworks for monitoring and accepting migrants based on documented legal procedures to improve governance and eligibility screening hence these replies illustrated different views on improving Romania's refugee policy.

Which one do you accept in your community?

100 responses

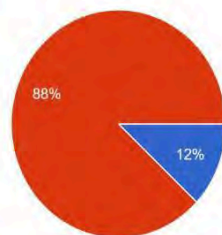


- Ukrainian refugees
- Others nationalities
- I don't accept refugees at all in Romania
- I accept all refugees

- Out of 100 survey respondents, 49% said they accept both European and non-European refugee communities in the country while 38% of participants preferred to admit Ukrainian refugees in the nation due to the Russia-Ukraine war but 10% of 100 respondents preferred to accept foreigners however only 3% of locals said they do not accept refugees because they reduce chances for long-time residents

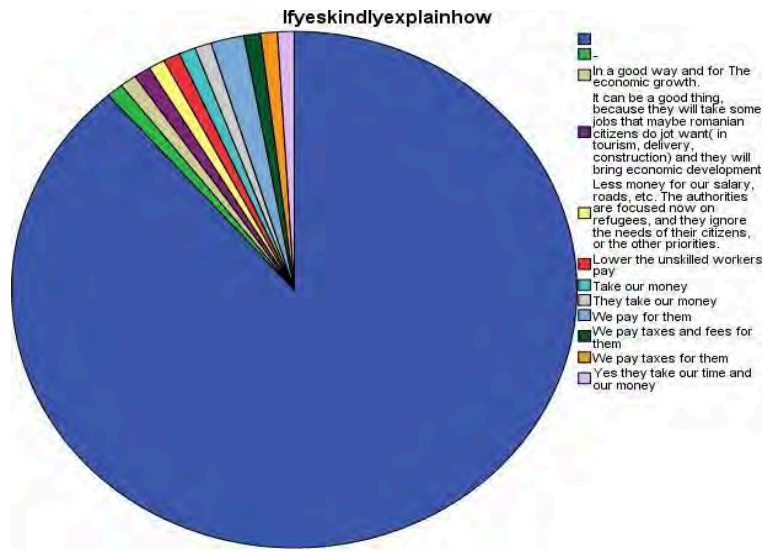
Do you think having refugees can effect in the country economic?

100 responses



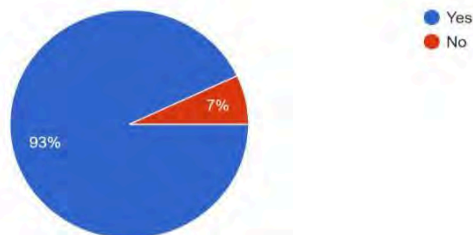
- Yes
- No

- On the question focused on “*how refugee groups affect economic stability?*” 88% of 100 respondents stated that prioritising asylum seekers and refugees will not elevate economic growth however 12% agreed that providing migration chances for refugee will harm economic growth.

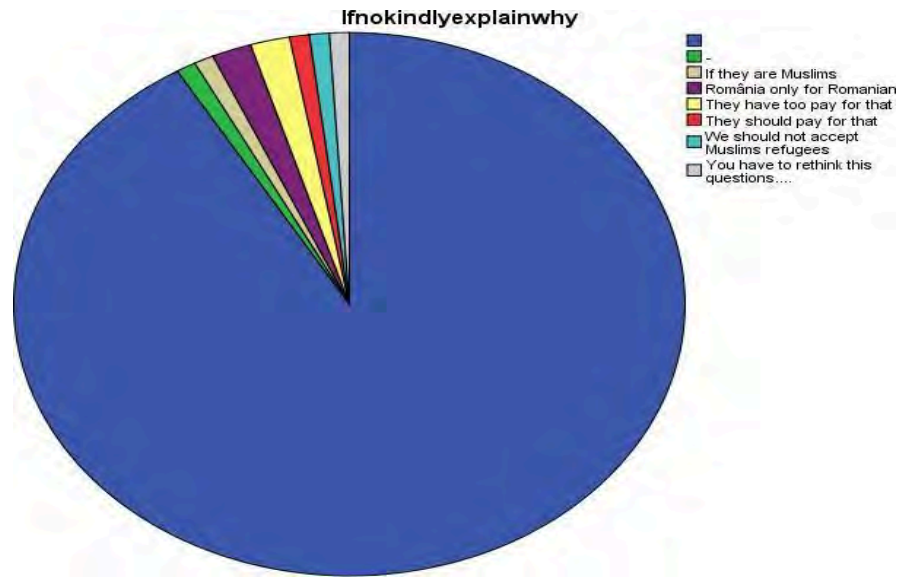


- In response to the survey question regarding how refugee intakes affect economic growth, 12% of respondents agreed as 11 of them provided rationalised arguments as some respondents concerned that prioritising refugee welfare limits Romanian economic gains by diverting spending from housing and infrastructure to vocational training (UNHCR, 2024). One participant added that refugees fill low-skilled construction and tourist jobs, which boost GDP while another said that unskilled refugees impaired corporate profitability and economic performance therefore a participant advocated for vocational training to elevate the contribution of refugees within the economy but at the same time participants complained that refugees “take our money and time,” as government subsidies subsidise their housing and work (Refworld, 2023).

Do you accept the refugees take the citizenship of Romania after that they pass all the procedure and the exams that the government put it for them?  
100 responses



- A survey question questioned “if they would accept refugee groups' citizenship once they passed the national government's formal procedures and exams” on which 93% of respondents said “yes”, characterising it as a lawful mechanism to accommodate immigration however, 7% said “no”



- In response to the question of whether refugees should be allowed if they follow legal processes, 9% of the participant disagreed by stating certain key reasons under which two individuals said “Romania is only for Romanians,” expressing national identity issues amid the 989,357 Ukrainian refugees in 2022 compared to the 19 million people (UNHCR, 2024). Similarly, one respondent argued that legal and regulatory asylum processes are inefficient, and generally reject petitions while three respondents said, “they have to pay for that,” disapproving of economic and security threats of unauthorised migrants however two respondents also opposed Muslim refugees, implying prejudices against non-European groups linked with unlawful behaviour and national security issues thus all participants prioritised national security, cultural identity, and economic effect over humanitarian commitments and legal refugee rights.

#### 4.2 Summary of Analysis

1. **People's Sentiments on Refugees:** Over 96% of Romanians were eager to receive migrants, showing empathy and sympathy for asylum seekers while many responders support equitable policy implementation to provide refugees with housing, education, and healthcare however Romania's adherence to UNHCR accords is also recognised thus cultural sensitivity and common humanity motivate Romanians to accept European and non-European migrants.

2. **Effects on Personal Freedom and Values:** The majority of 91% of respondents said refugee presence did not affect their personal freedoms or values, expressing faith in Romania's protective policies hence the findings indicated that Romanian policies protect citizen and asylum seeker rights however participants highlighted the possibility of inequity if migrants are favoured in jobs or services, emphasising the necessity for balanced government assistance to minimise burden on public resources.

3. **Positive Enrichment with Refugees' Arrival:** In post-migration dynamics respondents emphasised on their cultural and economic benefits, including social cohesiveness, diversity and



skill-sharing as refugees bring new traditions, tastes and habits to Romania therefore some participants saw refugees as important vocational educators and mentors, promoting inclusive development however the language and employment training would better help migrants integrate into Romania's economy and community hence this optimistic view illustrated that host communities and refugees often benefitted from each other.

4. **Scepticism Reasons:** Only 9% of respondents said refugees affected their liberties, yet their concerns are substantial as the fear of limited local jobs and cultural conflict, especially with non-European newcomers were major difficulties while scepticism was also enhanced by cultural differences and national identity concerns. Respondents want more inclusive, balanced government policies therefore policies that promote integration and preserve citizen rights are stressed as the employment fairness and cultural integration would reduce scepticism, promote social cohesiveness and reduce host-refugee conflict.

5. **Individuals' Views on Refugee Benefits:** Majority of respondents (90%) believed refugees and citizens were treated equally under present national rules however, 10% said social services, EU subsidies and financial aid support refugees from Ukraine. However still, 95% did not see refugees as a criminal threat, confirming favourable views as most Romanians believe they are treated fairly but economic concerns implied over the need of policy openness and balance

6. **Causes of Bad Judgments:** Unauthorised immigration and political instability in refugees' home countries make some people view them as criminals and security threat hence these judgements are often based on misunderstandings however the Romania's asylum measures, including stringent anti-illegal immigration laws must be transparent while public awareness campaigns must emphasise over the legitimacy and fairness of asylum procedure.

7. **Socio-Economic Inclusion Matters:** In Romania, the UNHCR helps refugees integrate via education, job and language training as Romania provides migrants with socio-economic resources to become self-sufficient through government and non-governmental collaborations however these behaviours also promote cooperation and eliminate dependence thus, socio-economic integration is essential for stable, inclusive communities where refugees can live with dignity and contribute to Romanian society.

8. **Supporting Refugee Admission and Integration Policies:** Romanians favour refugee admittance and integration policies up to 95%, as citizens appreciate the government's transparent asylum processes and access to education, healthcare and housing while the Romania's organised strategy promotes cooperation and balances humanitarian and national security therefore the public trust highlights the efficacy of these initiatives and the need for ethical and inclusive refugee administration.

#### 4.3 *Aspects of Refugee Admission*

Romanian refugee admission is regulated to ensure ethical and legal entrance as the asylum seekers must first request for protection through UNHCR or Romanian authorities, citing persecution fears in their native country. These applications are examined according to international and national legislation under which authorities assess persecution believability and proof before awarding refugee status hence the refugees get legal rights to reside and work in

Romania after approval however to ease integration, relocation covers shelter, healthcare, food and housing immediately.

#### 4.4 *Aspects of Refugee Integration*

The refugee integration requires host community adaption because both groups should participate in social and economic activities that foster national growth as refugees are required to respect the host country's culture while maintaining their identity while the local acceptance and recognition build a sense of belonging throughout integration hence this two-way process promotes peaceful, stable and inclusive society.

#### 4.5 *Factors Impacting Refugee Integration*

Refugee integration is influenced by regulatory policies, community views and individual abilities as supportive legislation and hospitable host communities aid integration while impediments inhibit it however individual characteristics including earlier experiences, talents, and education help refugees contribute meaningfully to their new community. Additionally the active engagement in economic, social, cultural and political life demands skill and language development for successful integration thus to support refugees in becoming self-sufficient and contribute to society, these initiatives require time, resources and persistent assistance.

## 5 Conclusion

1. **Romania's Compliance with International Law:** The study examines the compliance of Romania's immigration policies during the 2015 European refugee crisis with the 1951 Refugee

Convention and 1967 Protocol because Romania has robust asylum and refugee laws, demonstrating its human rights commitment. The National Agency for Refugees (NAR) leads integration activities while the EU directives and UNHCR cooperation allow Romania to operate an asylum system that provides legal aid, protection and humane treatment, helping it in satisfying the international refugee protection requirements.

2. **Refugee Integration and Support:** The refugee integration efforts in Romania are effective in legal, economic and social areas as the language training, cultural orientation, healthcare, employment and anti-discrimination are important because it shows the desire of country to help refugees contribute to society. Additionally refugee education, housing and social involvement are improved by programs backed by both government and non-government organisations while the Romanian laws encourage fairness and protect disadvantaged groups, especially the refugees that displaced by the Russia-Ukraine war by helping them in finding stability and purpose in their new surrounding but despite that integration is a slow process.

3. **Public Attitude and Policy Impact Analysis:** The study quantitatively examined Romanians' refugee acceptance and integration views using SPSS under which majority of the respondents acknowledged the increased number of European and non-European refugees and backed government social inclusion measures. However, frequency distributions showed positive opinions towards refugee absorption and restricted cultural prejudice due to Romania's human rights and ethical legal requirements while citizens view refugee admissions as socially good with sufficient support hence these findings demonstrated that humanitarian and immigration policies at Romania are policy-driven and widely supported.

4. **UNHCR and International Collaboration:** UNHCR has helped Romania in promoting asylum and defend rights of refugees as the UNHCR works with Romanian authorities to provide legal compliance, emergency aid and relocation to displaced populations hence this alliance promotes refugee dignity and success. The worldwide expertise of UNHCR in over 120 countries helped Romania in handling emergencies while offering international-standard protection thus their work targets persecution, legal invisibility and displaced population vulnerabilities, ensuring Romania meets its humanitarian obligations.

5. **Challenges, Opportunities and Future Directions:** Language, cultural and resource constraints hinder refugee integration despite progress however, Romania's changing legal and policy environment provides improved chances but the effective immigration policies require legal clarity, political involvement and social inclusion. Migration also demands flexible government and international collaboration therefore Romania's proactive approach would balance morality and national interests hence the research supports inclusive refugee rights, integration and community resilience strategies that requires a world collaboration.

6. **Romanians' Attitude towards Refugees:** Survey findings showed that many Romanians do not feel threatened by refugee populations but European migrants are preferred as România has implemented UNHCR's standards for refugee equality but cultural and security issues remain persisted for non-European asylum applicants.

7. **Integration Support and Government Policies:** In line with UNHCR and EU guidelines, Romania has adopted refugee rights and integration measure as healthcare, housing and education are included under which initiatives like integration centres and recreation facilities help migrants integrate into Romanian society. The government works with NGOs and civil society to provide legal and socioeconomic help but despite these efforts, many native people worry about the financial burden of helping migrants with government money and the probable degradation of national culture and resources.

8. **Economic Impact of Vocational Training:** Romania offers vocational training and job placement to support migrants in becoming self-sufficient because these initiatives target economically disadvantaged South Asian and Middle Eastern migrants. Participants in the survey also valued these initiatives for social inclusion and inequality reduction but some individuals believe that prioritising migrants in job programs would diminish chances for locals, especially in a nation where a large section of the population is poor.

9. **Economic Issues and Cultural Conflict:** Romania supports cultural variety and acceptance, yet many participants were uncomfortable with non-European migrants' socioeconomic and religious disparities because different cultural norms and behaviours of non-European migrants would impair societal cohesiveness. Similarly, other respondents connected illegal immigration to growing crime and insecurity however a well-managed migration, especially when refugees assimilate legally and economically would benefit society.

10. **Policy Success and Future Outlook:** Participants had conflicting opinions on Romania's refugee policies because despite legal and ethical frameworks backed by European and international organisations, fairness, resource allocation and integration outcomes remain

challenging. Many locals want a more sympathetic and socially responsible approach to refugee welfare that respects native concerns hence the policy's viability is based on balancing refugee rights with concerns of local people about employment rivalry and cultural purity therefore the government should promote lawful migration.