

Country Profile: Romania



Romania, located at the intersection of central and southeastern Europe, is the European Union's eastern border. The population of the country is more than 21 million. The workforce in 2012 was 58.5% (>12.2m), greater than in Spain, Malta, Italy, Hungary and Greece. The workforce structure is: 8.6% working in agriculture, 28.8% in industry, 26.3% in private services and 16.3% in public services (such as education, culture, health, public administration). (For more information visit http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-SF-12-040)

Legislation

The main OSH legislative enactments are the:

- Health and Safety at Work Law no. 319 /2006, which implements the European OHS Framework Directive(https://osha.europa.eu/fop/romania/ro/legislation/legea_securitatii_si_sanatatii_in_munca_nr_319_2006.shtml).
- Health and Safety at Work Law no. 319 /2006 General Application – HG (GD) no. 1425/ 2006. (<http://www.mmuncii.ro/pub/imagemanager/images/file/Legislatie/HOTARARI-DE-GUVERN/HG1425-2006.pdf>)
- Several Government decisions transpose into Romanian legislation a number of EU Directives, such as those on construction sites, chemical substances, workplaces, work equipment, PPE, noise, explosive atmospheres, and asbestos.

(For further information click on the following link

https://osha.europa.eu/fop/romania/ro/legislation/hotarari_guvern.shtml)

Health and Safety Authority

The OHS legislative authority is the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly (<http://www.mmuncii.ro/nou/index.php/en/#>).

Work Inspection is the public authority that enforces the OHS legislation. Work Inspection is represented in every Romanian county and in Bucharest by Labour Territorial Inspectorates. The main functions of Work Inspection (through Labour Territorial Inspectorates) are to:

- Enforce the labour, health and safety and market surveillance legislation;
- Offer consultancy for employees and employers for implementing the legislation;

- Inform the competent authorities about deficiencies and abuses regarding the law application;
- Propose to Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly improvements in legislation.



The public insurer for work accidents and professional illness is National House for Pensions and Social Insurances.

Voluntary OHS organizations

There are a number of voluntary OSH organisations. These include the:

- Romanian Association for Occupational Health and Safety (ARSSM). ARSSM is the first non-governmental OHS organization in Romania. It has over 53 members; most of them are OHS external service companies from all major Romanian cities, work doctors and OHS specialists. The ARSSM's main objectives are to offer a networking platform for its members, to develop good practice guides on various OHS domains of interest, organize OHS training programs for middle and senior level management and to develop programs for implementing OHS management systems. The association is based in Bucharest and has two branches, one in Craiova and one in Braila. (For more information click on the following link www.arssm.ro)
- Institute of Risk Management and Occupational Health & Safety ('IMRSS) is a non profit and non government organization for health and safety professionals in Romania and Eastern Europe. IMRSS aims to set the health and safety standards, support, develop and connect members with resources, guidance events and training in Romania and Eastern Europe. IMRSS is the voice of the health and safety, risk management profession, and campaigns on issues that affect millions of people in Romania and Eastern Europe. (For more information click on the following link http://www.imrss.ro/docs/IMRSS_flyer_en.pdf)
- Professional Association for Occupational Health and Safety of Timisoara (APSSMT) is an organization based in Timisoara and is focused on trainings and workshops on OHS, fire safety and environmental protection.

Useful tips

- Romanian legislation includes 33 mandatory prevention and protection activities for companies, regardless of size and activity. Companies with more than 50 employees must have an internal OHS technician and those over 250 employees an internal OHS manager.
- Legal requirements for OHS technician: technical or technological high school studies, and an 80 hours OHS training course.

- Legal requirements for OHS manager: degree in engineering, an 80 hours OHS training course (same as technician), and postgraduate 180 hours training course.
- External services are certified by Labour Territorial Inspectorates and they need at least one full time OHS manager employed.
- Most Romanian organizations (public and private) have an OHS external service to undertake prevention and protection activities.
- Every Labour Territorial Inspectorate has a slightly different way of implementing OHS legislation. They have the authority to do this.
- Work inspectors place emphasis on personnel's OHS periodical training books. In Romania periodical (monthly/quarterly/ half-yearly) OHS training is mandatory. Safety culture in Romania is quite low but is in permanent improvement being empowered by multinational companies that operates in Romania. (Contributor, Catalin Crisan, Romanian Association for Occupational Health and Safety (ARSSM); e-mail: office@arssm.ro; website: www.arssm.ro (only in Romanian))