

THE EUROPEAN POLICIES OF ROMANIA

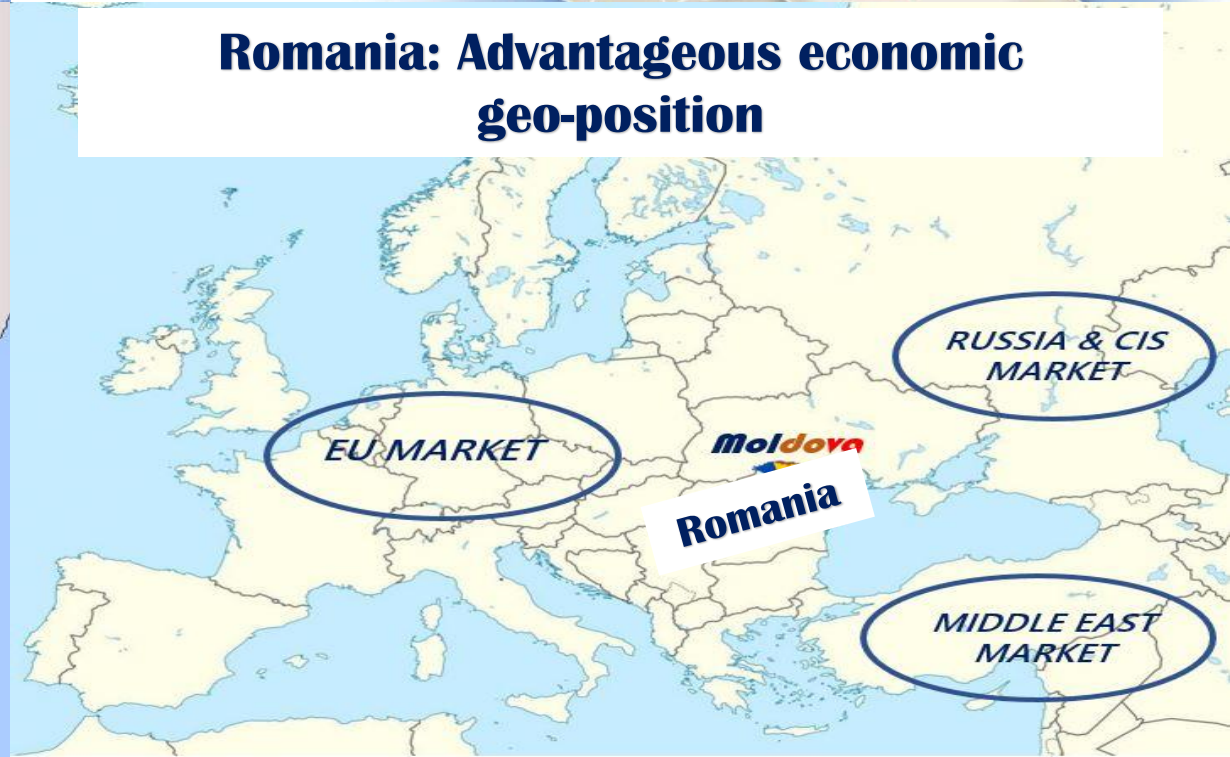


Romania: An independent state since December 25, 1989



Located in the South-East of Central Europe

- ***6th largest in terms of population <19.1 mil & 4,3% of EU population***
- ***12th largest in terms of geographical size <238.398km²***

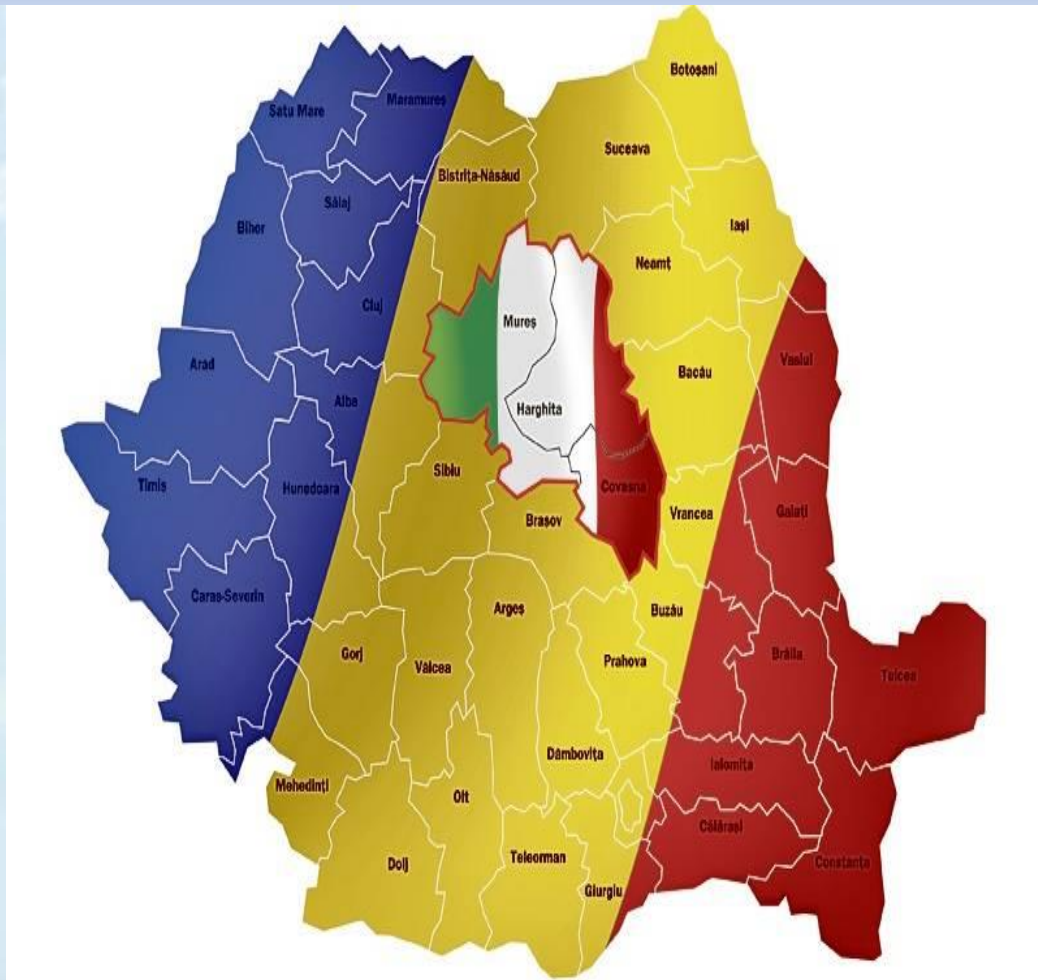


HISTORY(WW2-1989)

- ❖ **On November 23, 1940 Ion Antonescu signs the Tripartite Pact joining officially the Axis despite the fact that Romania lost territory three times with German Agreement.**
- ❖ **On August 23, 1944 General Antonescu declares war on Germans, as Soviet armies marched into Romania.**
- ❖ **In 1947, Romania regains Transylvania under peace treaty but loses territory to the Soviet Union; King Michael is forced to abdicate and Soviet style people's republic is formed.**
- ❖ **In 1965, Nicolae Ceausescu becomes Communist Leader and pursues a foreign policy that often runs counter to Moscow's lead, while increasing repressive rule and personality cult at home.**
- ❖ **In 1989 Ceausescu and his wife Elena, which was also Deputy Prime Minister, were captured, tried and then executed on Christmas Day <Downfall of the Communist regime**



Relations with Hungary



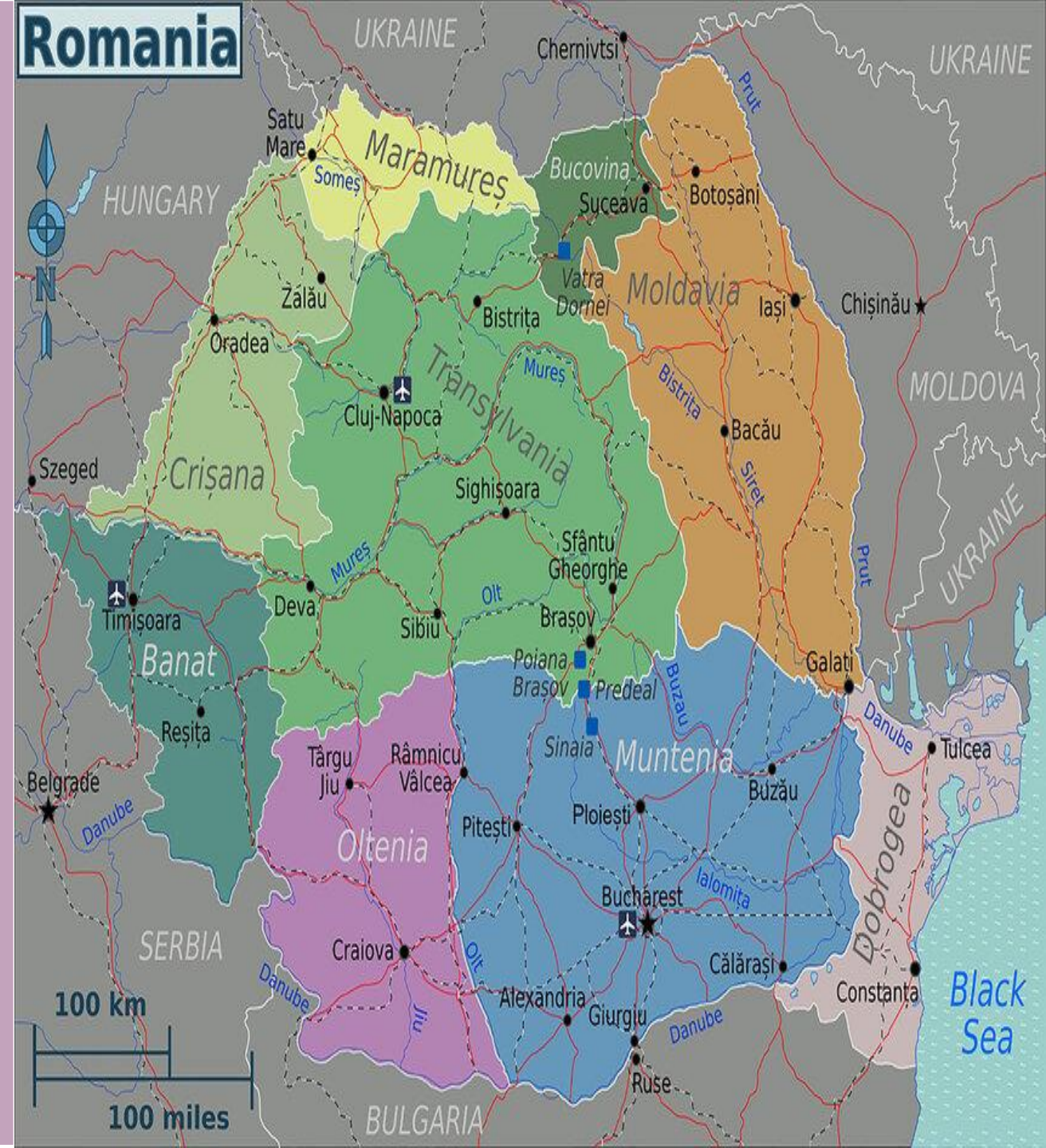
-> Since the 1st free elections in 1990, three political groups have been representing Hungarian minority interests with the most important being the DAHR (Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania)

->1996 Treaty of understanding, cooperation and good neighborliness signed ,marks the start of bilateral relations

-> INTERREG ROHU PROGRAMME (Vision of a greener, resilient and more cohesive cross border region towards Agenda 2030)

->Hungary through time supported Romania's implementation in the Schengen zone

-> Conflicts may arise over territorial, ethnicity and minority issues mainly focused on the region of Transylvania and the Szekely's land



Relations with the Republic of Moldova

- In 1991 Moldova declared its independence from USSR and reestablished its cultural and historical ties with Romania.***
- Romania provides financial and technical support → to become eligible for EU integration***
- Supplies gas and electricity after declaring a 60-day state of Emergency***
- Issues Romanian passports granting dual citizenship***
- Conflicts may occur: a) PRO-Russian VS PRO-EU population & b) due to the region of Transnistria***





MOLDOVA

UKRAINE

TRANSNISTRIA

Chisinau

Tiraspol

ROMANIA

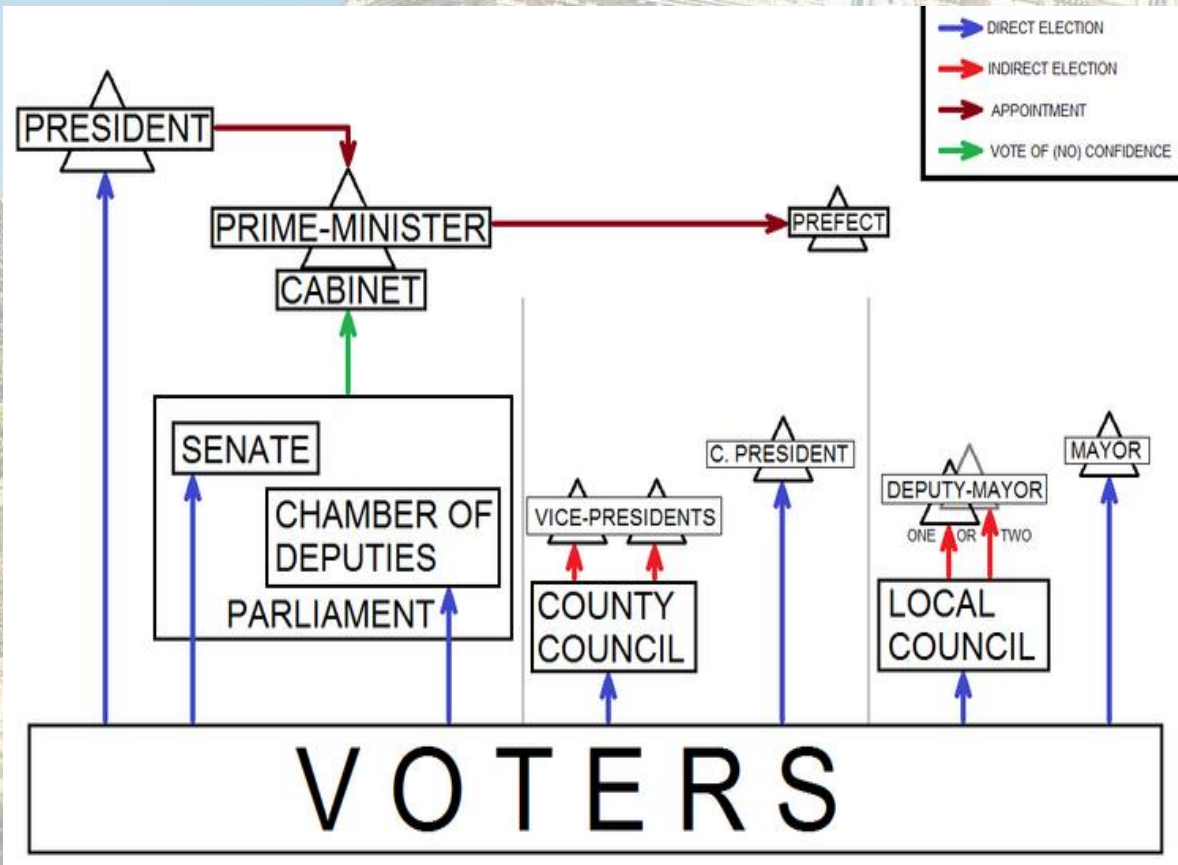
Black Sea

Separatist region, self-declared statehood dependent economically, politically and military by Russia but part of the Moldavian territory

ECONOMY

- ***Romania's GDP per capita is estimated to be 30,000 which ranks below the EU average of 37,600 and accounts for 1,9% of EU's total GDP***
- ***20th in terms of GDP per capita in PPS, below EU average at 80% in 2023***
- ***12th in Europe by total nominal GDP near at 332,2 billion euros (2023) VS 172,32 billion (2007) ranking 19th***
- ***7th by purchasing power (The country with the highest energy independence in the EU, (28% dependent on energy imports compared to the EU average of 57%).***
- ***Agriculture employs about 26% of the Romanian population (one of the highest rates in Europe) and subsequently contributes about 4,3% of GDP.***
- ***Romanian Diaspora ->The biggest contributor in Romania's economy, 2023 6,5 billion Euros contributed , accounts for 2% of total GDP and slightly exceeds the total value of foreign direct investment***

DOMESTIC POLITICS-ELECTORAL MECHANISM



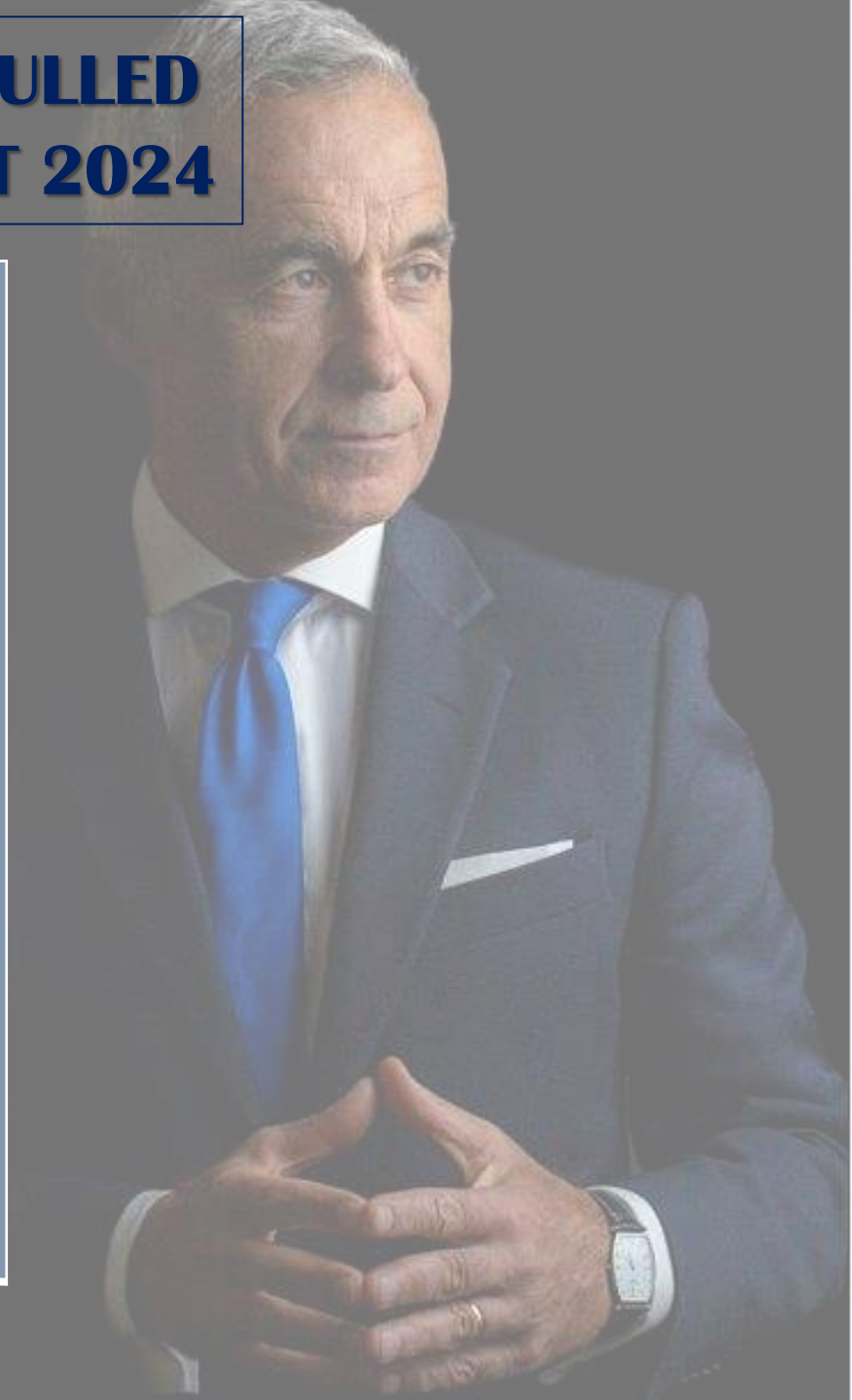
- **Semi-Presidential Republic with the President being the head of the State and the Prime Minister the head of the government**
- **Bicameral parliamentary system**
 - **SENATE /136 seats**
 - **CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES /334**
 - 18 of which are reserved for ethnic minority representatives.**
- **Proportional electoral system (5% threshold)**
- **Current Prime Minister: Marcel Ciolacu (PSD)**
- **Current President: Klaus Iohannis (since 2014, prolonged his mandate-2024 elections scandal)**

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ANNULLED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT 2024

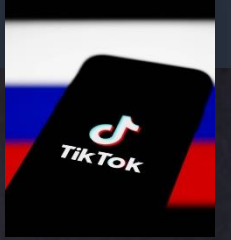
**ELENA LASCONI PRESIDENT OF USR
PARTY (SAVE ROMANIA UNION)**

VS

**CALIN GEORGESCU (FAR-RIGHT
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE)
ANTI-EU, ANTI-NATO, PRO-RUSSIA,
CONSPIRACY THEORIST**



Social Media Propaganda & Allegations of Russian Interference

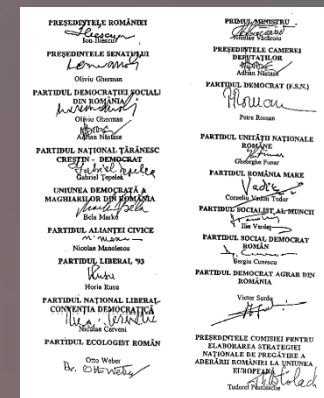


"SCLAVUL PERFECT
ESTE CEL CARE
SE CREDE **LIBER**"
NU
GEO RGESCU ÎN
TURUL DOI!

DEMOCRATIE
NU
FASCISM

THE TIMELINE OF EU INTEGRATION

- February 1st, 1993 Romania signs an Association Agreement with the EU.
- June 21, 1995 representatives of all political parties, the Unions, the Academy and the Church took part in the signing of the Snagov declaration, the official application for EU membership.
- Till 1999, Romania hadn't made significant progress towards EU integration until the Kosovo Crisis.
- December 1999, The European Council in Helsinki decides to open accession negotiations with Romania.
- May 29th, 2004 becomes a NATO member.
- December, 2004 the Brussels European Council confirmed the conclusion of accession negotiations reaffirming the accession.
- January 1st, 2007 Romania becomes officially a full-fledged member of the European Union.



EU FUNDING

- I. EU Funds since pre-accession through the so-called PHARE program***
- II. Being the 2nd poorest country in the time of EU accession after Bulgaria, Romania becomes a net beneficiary receiving 3,2% of the EU budget.***
- III. “Almost 16 years after accession, Romania has contributed around €21 billion to the EU budget and, in parallel, received €62 billion. So a positive balance of at least 41 billion,” ((Ana-Maria Icatoiu, expert on access to EU funds and Vice-President of the UGIR Women Entrepreneurs’ Organization (OFA), 2023))***
- IV. 2007-2013 lost 4 billion in allocated funds.***
- V. 2014-2020 1) sent the most unrealistic estimates to the Commission
2) Till 2017 spent less than 1% of the EU allocated budget***

EU INTEGRATION

WHY DID IT WANT TO ENTER THE EUROPEAN PROJECT

VS

WHY IT ENTERED IN REALITY





Sosiri
Arrivals




Transfer
Schengen

- **From March 31, 2024 internal air and sea border controls have been lifted**
- **In 2022 Austria stressing over illegal immigration and border security applied veto to the lifting of land border controls -> partial implementation**
- **Romania revokes its ambassador from Vienna but repositioned him immediately to show its openness to dialogue**
- **On December 9TH, 2024 Austria lifted its veto and consequently, full accession was granted as of January 1st, 2025**

NOT IN THE EUROZONE, COMMITTED TO ENTER



Romania: In support of further EU Enlargement

A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a dark suit jacket and a light-colored striped shirt, pointing upwards with the index finger. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame. The background is a blurred image of the European Union flag, featuring a grid of yellow stars on a blue field.

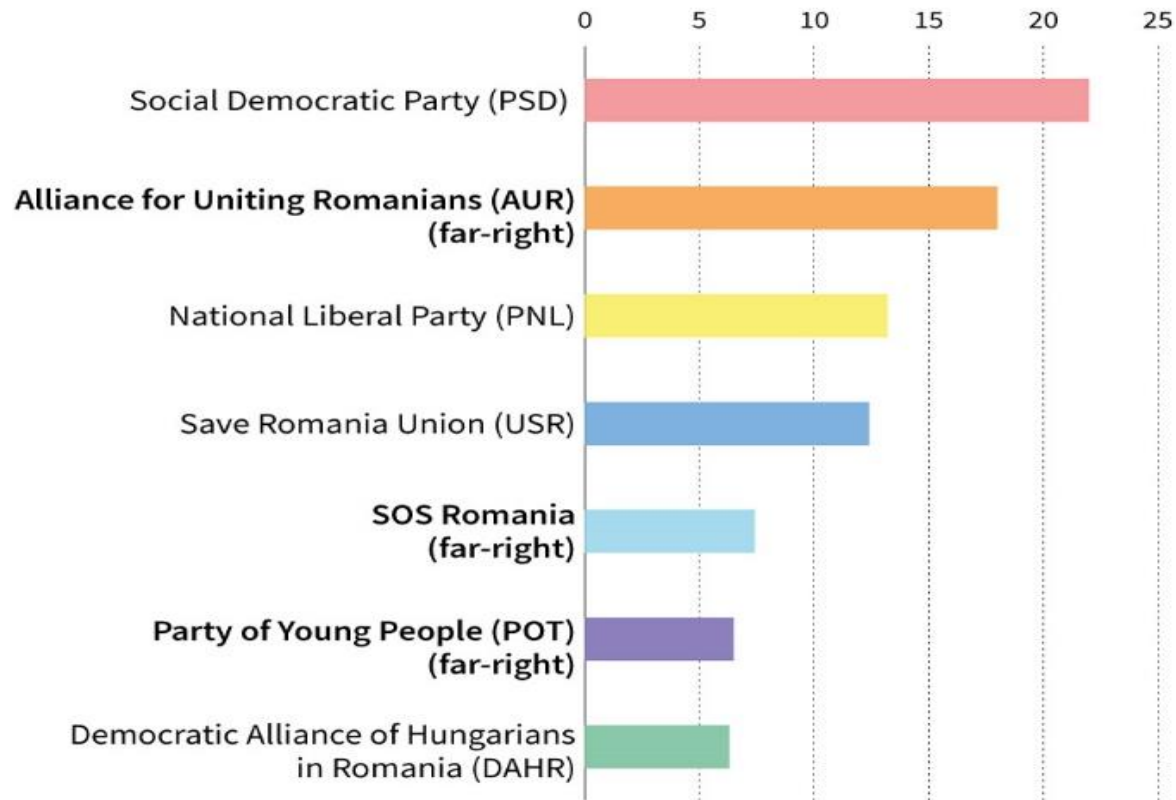
“The Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia are an integral part of the European Union and their future lies within the European Union. So does the future of the Western Balkans. Our partners have made incredible progress. The citizens of these countries believe in the European Union and wish to be part of the European family, therefore we should not let them down.” (Klaus Iohannis, 2024. *Speech at the European People’s Party in Bucharest, 7/03/2024*) .

EUROSCEPTICISM

Romanian legislative election results

Far-right makes big gains

In percentage of vote for major parties in Dec 1 election



Source: Romanian parliament

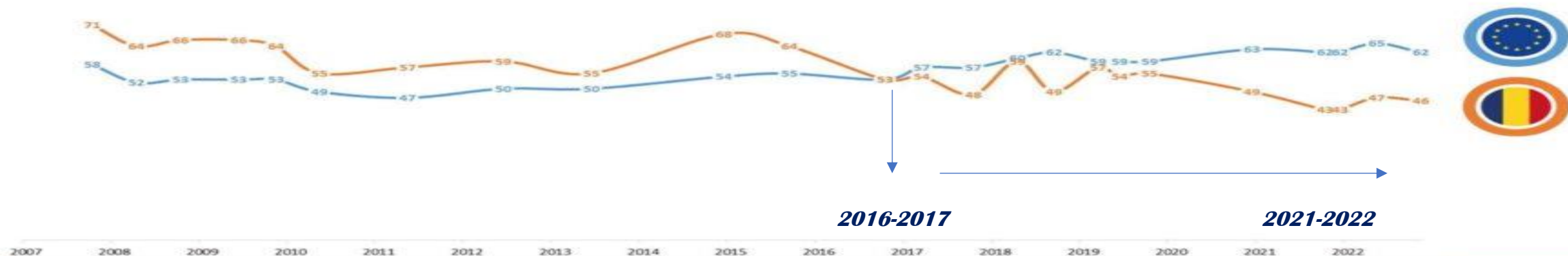
AFP

PSD → SOFT EUROSCEPTICISM, NOT ANTI-EU BUT ANTI-EU'S CURRENT DIRECTION, POPULIST, REFORMED COMMUNIST PARTY

ALL FAR-RIGHT PARTIES → HARD EUROSCEPTICISM, ULTRANASIONALISTS, SOVEREIGNTY, LESS INTEGRATION WITHIN EU INSTITUTIONS, RE-EVALUATION OF ROMANIA'S CURRENT POSITION WITHIN EU FRAMEWORK

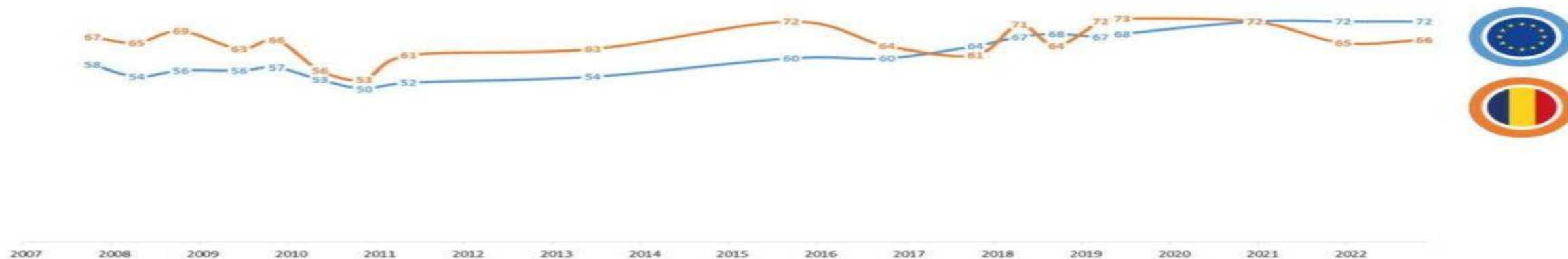
Differences between the EU and Romania

European Union membership



Differences between the EU and Romania

Benefited from the EU membership



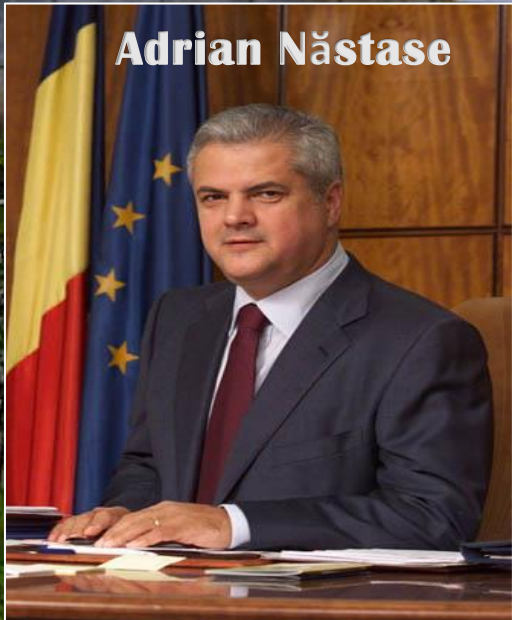
THE RULE OF LAW CRISIS

National Anticorruption Prosecutor Office



Train Băsescu

National Anticorruption Directorate



Adrian Năstase



'Look! We caught the big corrupt ones'



The War in Ukraine

- ***Received unmanned aerial vehicle debris due to Moscow attacking Ukrainian ports facing the borders with the Danube River.***
- ***Has sent patriot missile battery to Kiev as NATO's frontier***
- ***Handled properly, with speed and generosity the unprecedented arrival of thousands of refugees***
- ***Supports Ukraine's integration in the European Union***

A nighttime photograph of a city square, likely in Bucharest, Romania, during a fireworks display. The central focus is the illuminated Carol I Monument, a tall, dark, columnar structure with a statue at the top. The square is filled with a large crowd of people. In the background, the Romanian Parliament Building is visible, illuminated with warm lights. The sky is dark, and a large, bright firework display is in progress, featuring a grid of blue and yellow lights forming a star-like pattern. Several large, colorful firework bursts (purple, white, and red) are exploding in the sky. A large Romanian flag is visible on the left side of the image. The overall atmosphere is festive and celebratory.

Thank you for your attention!