

Romania

Ethnicity in Romania

Group selection

The **Romanians, Germans, Hungarians, and Roma** are politically relevant ethnic groups in Romania. A census was held in 2011, the numbers of which are included in the coding from 2013 on (³⁷¹⁷).

³⁷¹⁷ [Vasile Dobre, 2015]

Power relations

1946-1956

The Romanians are the demographic and politically dominant majority. The Hungarians are the largest minority in Romania and dominate in some smaller cities. Tension between Hungarians and Romanians started after the integration of Transylvania in 1920. After the integration of Romania into the Soviet Bloc in 1945, ethnic tensions diminished because of the communist ideology. The Hungarian minority was allowed to create an autonomous region in Transylvania, which officially existed until the fall of communism. However, “after the Hungarian revolution in 1956, this tolerance disappeared“ (³⁷¹⁸, 68). Thus, Hungarians are coded as “powerless” but possessing regional autonomy until 1956.

³⁷¹⁸ [Dragoman, 2008]

1957-1988

Although the process was gradual, 1957 is coded as the first year of the nationalist communist regime which abandoned local autonomy for Hungarians and started to discriminate ethnic minorities. In particular, the communist regime systematically discriminated Roma people, mostly because of their lifestyle.

1989-1995

The fall of communism intensified the conflict for a few first years leading to ethnic clashes in some cities in Transylvania (³⁷¹⁹). Despite these clashes, the situation was not discriminatory or separatist. After the fall of the Soviet bloc, official policies towards the Roma on the top level have changed, however widespread social discrimination persists. Roma have poor access to public services, are discriminated in the educational system and often target of public violence. Conflicts between Roma and Hungarians are common (³⁷²⁰).

³⁷¹⁹ [Andersen, 2005]

³⁷²⁰ [US Department of State, 2009]

1996-2008

There was a major improvement for Hungarians in 1996 when a basic treaty between Romania and Hungary was signed and the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania was included in the governing coalition (³⁷²¹, 69).

³⁷²¹ [Dragoman, 2008]

2009

Since 1996, the Hungarian party has been represented in all governments with the only exception of the year 2009. (This government had to step down at the end of 2009 and the Hungarian party came back to the cabinet (³⁷²²; ³⁷²³; ³⁷²⁴) Thus, the year 2009 is coded here separately with the Hungarians listed as “powerless”.

³⁷²² [Stan Zaharia, 2009]

³⁷²³ [Stan, 2010]

³⁷²⁴ [Stan, 2012]

2010-2012

A new government had to be formed again in September 2010. The Hungarian party remained in the government. Roma are under-represented in the political area due to their low participation and the lack of ID cards. In 2010, Roma were represented by only one member of parliament (³⁷²⁵). Roma are considered “powerless” throughout.

³⁷²⁵ [Freedom House, 2012]

The Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania has a strong position at the local level in Transylvania (see website of the party for more details: ³⁷²⁶) but still has to be considered as politically powerless throughout.

³⁷²⁶ [Demokratisches Forum der Deutschen in Rum"anien]

2013-2014

At the end of 2012, parliamentary elections took place and the Hungarian party has not been included in the new government (³⁷²⁷), so that in 2013 the Hungarians again are powerless and Romanians are dominant.

³⁷²⁷ [Stan, 2013]

2015-2017

After the formation of a new government in March 2014, the Hungarian Party was included in the coalition. However, this coalition only lasted until December 2014, when the Hungarian representatives resigned and the prime minister formed a new coalition only with Romanian representatives. Therefore, the Hungarians are powerless during the years of 2015-2017.

However, in 2014, an ethnic German was elected president of the Republic (³⁷²⁸). This implies that since then, the executive power is shared between the Romanians and the Germans, with the Romanians being senior partner and the Germans being junior partner.

³⁷²⁸ [Romania Insider, 2014]

In November 2015, a new government was formed that consisted only deputies without any party affiliation, however mostly consisting of ethnic Romanians (³⁷²⁹; ³⁷³⁰). This government of technocrats

³⁷²⁹ [The Guardian, 2015]

³⁷³⁰ [Reuters, 2015]

lasted until January 2017.

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Political status of ethnic groups in Romania

From 1946 until 1956

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Romanians	0.895	DOMINANT
Hungarians	0.066	POWERLESS
Roma	0.025	IRRELEVANT
Germans	0.002	IRRELEVANT

From 1957 until 1988

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Romanians	0.895	DOMINANT
Hungarians	0.066	DISCRIMINATED
Roma	0.025	DISCRIMINATED
Germans	0.002	DISCRIMINATED

From 1989 until 1995

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Romanians	0.895	DOMINANT
Hungarians	0.066	POWERLESS
Roma	0.025	POWERLESS
Germans	0.002	POWERLESS

From 1996 until 2008

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Romanians	0.895	SENIOR PARTNER
Hungarians	0.066	JUNIOR PARTNER
Roma	0.025	POWERLESS
Germans	0.002	POWERLESS



Figure 736: Political status of ethnic groups in Romania during 1946-1956.



Figure 737: Political status of ethnic groups in Romania during 1957-1988.



Figure 738: Political status of ethnic groups in Romania during 1989-1995.



From 2009 until 2009

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Romanians	0.895	DOMINANT
Hungarians	0.066	POWERLESS
Roma	0.025	POWERLESS
Germans	0.002	POWERLESS

From 2010 until 2012

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Romanians	0.895	SENIOR PARTNER
Hungarians	0.066	JUNIOR PARTNER
Roma	0.025	POWERLESS
Germans	0.002	POWERLESS

From 2013 until 2014

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Romanians	0.835	DOMINANT
Hungarians	0.061	POWERLESS
Roma	0.031	POWERLESS
Germans	0.002	POWERLESS

From 2015 until 2017

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Romanians	0.835	SENIOR PARTNER
Hungarians	0.061	POWERLESS
Roma	0.031	POWERLESS
Germans	0.002	JUNIOR PARTNER



Figure 740: Political status of ethnic groups in Romania during 2009-2009.



Figure 741: Political status of ethnic groups in Romania during 2010-2012.



Figure 742: Political status of ethnic groups in Romania during 2013-2014.



Figure 743: Political status of ethnic groups in Romania during 2015-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Romania

From 1946 until 1956

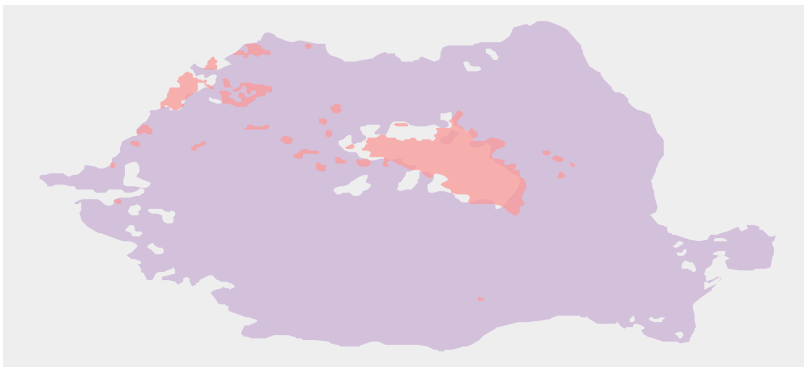


Figure 744: Map of ethnic groups in Romania during 1946-1956.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Romanians	216 243	Regionally based
■ Hungarians	15 425	Regionally based

Table 250: List of ethnic groups in Romania during 1946-1956.

From 1957 until 2017

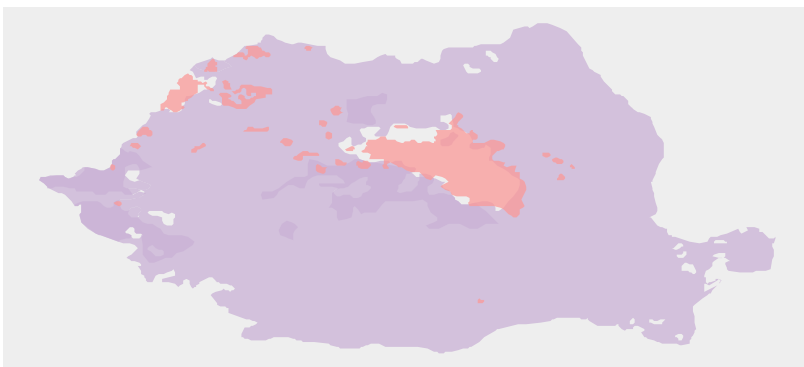


Figure 745: Map of ethnic groups in Romania during 1957-2017.

	Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■	Romanians	216 243	Regionally based
■	Germans	21 406	Regionally based
■	Hungarians	15 425	Regionally based
	Roma		Dispersed

Table 251: List of ethnic groups in Romania during 1957-2017.

Conflicts in Romania

Starting on 1989-12-16

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Rumania	NSF	Romanians	1989-12-16	No	Yes, from EGIP	Split
Government of Rumania	Military faction (forces of Nicolae Ceausescu)		1989-12-22			