AN INTRODUCTION TO ROMANIA

A Cultural Insight

Report by-

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INTRODUCTION

Location: Romania is a country located at the crossroads of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. It borders on the black sea to the southeast, and with Bulgaria to the South, Ukraine to the North, Hungary to the West, Serbia to the Southwest and Moldova to the East. Its capital and largest city is Bucharest. Other major urban areas include Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara, Iasi, Constanta, Craiova, Brasov and Galati.

Climate: Owing to Romania’s distance from open sea and its position on the southeastern portion of European continent, it has a predominantly temperate-continental climate, with four distinct seasons. The average annual temperature is 11°C in the South and 8°C in the North. In winter, the average maximum temperature is below 2°C. There are some regional differences: in western sections, such as Banat, the climate is milder and has some Mediterranean influences; the eastern part of the country has a more pronounced continental climate.

Geography: With an area of 238,397 square kilometres, Romania is the largest country in Southeastern Europe and the twelfth-largest in Europe. It lies between latitudes 43° and 49° N and longitudes 20° and 30° E. The Carpathian Mountains dominate the entre of Romania, with 14 mountain ranges...
reaching above 2000 meters. The highest peak is Moldoveanu Peak. Natural and Semi-Natural ecosystems cover about 47% of the country’s land surface area. The Danube river forms a large part of the border with Serbia and Bulgaria, and flows into the Black Sea, forming the Danube Delta, which is the second-largest and best-preserved delta in Europe, and a biosphere reserve and a biodiversity World Heritage Site. Romania has one of the largest areas of undisturbed forest in Europe, covering almost 27% of its territory.

![Map of Romania](image)

**Administrative Divisions and Important Cities.**

**Population And Development Status:** Having twenty million three hundred and forty-six thousand five hundred and seventy three inhabitants according to the population survey of 2018, Romania is the 6th most populous country in Europe.

Romania ranks 52nd in the Human Development Index, and is a developing country. It has the world’s 62th largest economy by nominal GDP, with an annual economic growth rate of 3.5% as of 2020.[16] Following rapid economic growth in the early 2000s, Romania has an economy based predominantly on services and is a producer and net exporter of machines and electric energy, featuring companies like Automobile Dacia and OMV Petrom.

**RELIGION:** Romania is a secular state, and it has no state religion. Romania is the most religious out of 34 European countries, and a majority of the country’s citizens are Christian. The Romanian state officially recognizes 18 religions and denominations. 81.04% of the country’s stable population identified as part of the Eastern Orthodox Church in the 2011 census (see also: History of Christianity in Romania). Other Christian denominations include the Catholic Church (both Latin Catholicism (4.33%) and Greek Catholicism (0.75%–3.3%), Calvinism (2.99%), and Pentecostal denominations (1.80%). This amounts to approximately 92% of the population identifying as Christian. Romania also has a small but historically significant Muslim minority, concentrated in Northern Dobruja, who are mostly of Crimean Tatar and Turkish ethnicity and number around 44,000 people. According to the 2011 census data, there are also approximately 3,500
Jews, around 21,000 atheists and about 19,000 people not identifying with any religion. The 2011 census numbers are based on a stable population of 20,121,641 people and exclude a portion of about 6% due to unavailable data.

**Etymology:** Romania derives from the Latin *romanus* meaning “citizen of Rome”. The first known use appellation was attested to in the 16th century by Italian humanists travelling in Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia.

Oldest Letter written in Old Romanian in 1521 referring to the country as ‘Romanian Land’.

The use of the name Romania to refer to the common homeland of all Romanians—its modern-day meaning—was first documented in the early 19th century. The name has been in use officially since 11 December 1861.

**HISTORY**

**Middle Ages:**

The Mongols destroyed large territories during their invasion of Eastern and Central Europe in 1241 and 1242. The Mongols' Golden Horde emerged as the dominant power of Eastern Europe, but Béla IV of Hungary's land grant to the Knights Hospitallers in Oltenia and Muntenia shows that the local Vlach rulers were subject to the king's authority in 1247. Basarab I of Wallachia united the Romanian polities between the southern Carpathians and the Lower Danube in the 1310s. He defeated the Hungarian royal army in the Battle of Posada and secured the independence of Wallachia in 1330. The second Romanian principality, Moldavia, achieved full autonomy during the reign of Bogdan I around 1360. A local dynasty ruled the Despotate of Dobruja in the second half of the 14th century, but the Ottoman Empire took possession of the territory after 1388.

Princes Mircea I and Vlad III of Wallachia, and Stephen III of Moldavia defended their countries' independence against the Ottomans. Most Wallachian and Moldavian princes paid a regular tribute to the Ottoman sultans from 1417 and 1456, respectively. A military commander of Romanian origin, John Hunyadi, organised the defence of the Kingdom of
Hungary until his death in 1456. Increasing taxes outraged the Transylvanian peasants, and they rose up in an open rebellion in 1437, but the Hungarian nobles and the heads of the Saxon and Székely communities jointly suppressed their revolt. The formal alliance of the Hungarian, Saxon, and Székely leaders, known as the Union of the Three Nations, became an important element of the self-government of Transylvania. The Orthodox Romanian knezes ("chiefs") were excluded from the Union.

Vlad III of Wallachia, he gave rise to stories of Dracula.

Modern Past: Modern Romania was formed in 1859 through a personal union of the Danubian Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. The new state, officially named Romania since 1866, gained independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1877. Following World War I, after declaring its neutrality in 1914, Romania fought on the side of the Allied powers beginning in 1916. Afterwards Bukovina, Bessarabia, Transylvania as well as parts of Banat, Crișana, and Maramureș became part of the sovereign Kingdom of Romania. In June–August 1940, as a consequence of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact and Second Vienna Award, Romania was compelled to cede Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina to the Soviet Union, and Northern Transylvania to Hungary. In November 1940, Romania signed the Tripartite Pact and, consequently, in June 1941 entered World War II on the Axis side, fighting against the Soviet Union until August 1944, when it joined the Allies and recovered Northern Transylvania. Following the war, under the occupation of the Red Army's forces, Romania became a socialist republic and a member of the Warsaw Pact. After the 1989 Revolution, Romania began a transition towards democracy and a market economy.

It has been a member of the United Nations since 1955, part of NATO since 2004, and part of the European Union since 2007. An overwhelming majority of the population identifies as Eastern Orthodox Christian and are native speakers of Romanian, a Romance language.

**Governance:** The country is governed on the basis of a multi-party democratic system and the separation of power between the legislative, executive and judiciary powers. It is a semi-presidential republic where executive functions are held by both government and
the president. The latter is elected by popular vote for a maximum of two terms of five years and appoints the prime minister who in turn appoints the council of ministers. The legislative branch of government, collectively known as the Parliament (residing at the Palace of The Parliament), Consists of two chambers (Senate and the Chamber of deputies) whose members are elected every four years by simple plurality.

The justice system is independent of the other branches of government and is made up of hierarchical system of courts with the High Court of Cassation and Justice being the supreme court of Romania. There are also courts of appeal and county courts and local courts. The Constitutional Court is responsible for judging the compliance of laws and other state regulations with the constitution, which is the fundamental law of the country and can only be amended through a public referendum. Romania's 2007 entry into the EU has been a significant influence on its domestic policy, and including judicial reforms, increased judicial cooperation with other member states, and measures to combat corruption.

**Administrative Divisions:** Romania is divided into 41 counties and the municipality of Bucharest. Each county is administered by a county council, responsible for local affairs, as well as a prefect responsible for the administration of national affairs at the county level. The prefect is appointed by the central government but cannot be a member of any political party. Each county is subdivided further into cities and communes, which have their own mayor and local council. There are a total of 320 cities and 2,861 communes in Romania. A total of 103 of the larger cities have municipality status, which gives them greater administrative power over local affairs. The municipality of Bucharest is a special case, as it enjoys a status on par to that of a county. It is further divided into six sectors and has a prefect, a general mayor (primar), and a general city council.

**Tourism:** Most popular skiing resorts are along the Valea Prahovei and in Poiana Brașov. Castles, fortifications, or strongholds, as well as well preserved medieval Transylvanian cities or towns such as Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu, Brașov, Bistrița, Mediaș, Cisnădie, or Sighișoara, also attract a large number of tourists. Bran Castle, near Brașov, is one of the most famous attractions in Romania, drawing hundreds of thousands of tourists every year as it is often advertised as being Dracula's Castle. Hunedoara Castle is another famous structure.

Rural tourism, focusing on folklore and traditions, has become an important alternative and is targeted to promote such sites as Bran and its Dracula's Castle, the painted churches of northern Moldavia, and the wooden churches of Maramureș, or the villages with fortified churches in Transylvania. Other attractions include the Danube Delta or the Sculptural Ensemble of Constantin Brâncuși at Târgu Jiu.
In 2014, Romania had 32,500 companies active in the hotel and restaurant industry, with a total turnover of €2.6 billion. More than 1.9 million foreign tourists visited Romania in 2014, 12% more than in 2013. According to the country’s National Statistics Institute, some 77% came from Europe (particularly from Germany, Italy, and France), 12% from Asia, and less than 7% from North America.

**UNIQUE FEATURES**

Romania was occupied by Soviet troops in 1944 and became a satellite of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) in 1948. The country was under communist rule from 1948 until 1989, when the regime of Romanian leader Nicolae Ceaușescu was overthrown.
Hence, we see that much of the culture and practices recently have been influenced by the Soviet Union.

**Romanian Society & Culture**

Romanians much like Indians are a hierarchical society where age and position in the household really matter, older people are viewed to have more experience and as wiser. They have high power distance and the elders are expected to make decisions, titles command respect and people aren't casual with one another until specifically specified. Much like India, the families there are patriarchal and the father is the head of the family.

**Language**

Romanian is a Romance language, like French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese; however, due to the country's geographical position in Eastern Europe, surrounded by Slavic-speaking countries, people think that Romanian is part of the Slavic family. The language does have Slavic roots, but they represent only 10% of the vocabulary. With words originating from ancient Slavic and other words coming from Bulgarian, German and Turkish, Romanian is a unique Romance language. They are called "Romance languages" because they originate from Latin, the language spoken by the Western Roman Empire.

Romanian started forming at the beginning of the second century when the Romans conquered the territory of Dacia, located in the territory that would become Romania. Roman culture and language influenced the Dacian community, which eventually started using Roman as their language.

Romanian is easy to read or speak. Being a phonetic language, all the words are pronounced exactly as they are spelt.

**Wedding Customs:**

One of the fun facts about Romania is that in Romanian culture, marriage celebrations include kidnapping the bride during the wedding ceremony. Romanian traditions dictate that a few of the guests steal the bride for a ransom of candy or booze or in exchange for small gifts.

Mock abductions of brides are part of marriage ceremonies across the former Soviet Union. Most guests end up taking the bride to a popular club or pub to dance for a short while. A few friends of the newlywed stake the bride while the groom is not paying attention and take her somewhere else, usually to a club. The groom is then forced to negotiate the bride's price and to redeem it, but not until the "criminals" show evidence of having the bride (a shoe, her necklace, etc.). Usually, the "thieves" ask for a beverage. They then take the bride back to the wedding and as a punishment, they are forced to dance the waltz with the bride lifted up.
Basic Etiquette

▪ It is impolite to yawn without covering your mouth.
▪ When a person sneezes, Romanians often respond with ‘Sanatate ’ (Good health) or ‘Noroc ‘ (Good luck).
▪ It is polite to offer one’s seat to an elderly person. Romanians may offer their hand to help an elderly person get out of their seat, offer an arm for them to walk, and hold or open doors for them.
▪ Many Romanian men are taught to show chivalry to women (e.g. opening doors and allowing them to enter). Older men may also kiss their women’s hands during greetings, although this is becoming outdated.
▪ Remove your hats before entering buildings.
▪ It is impolite to chew gum or keep your hands in your pockets while speaking to someone of a higher status.
▪ People are expected to dress neatly in a professional setting to show respect for the person they are meeting. Older Romanians may dress more conservatively, ensuring their legs and shoulders are covered.
▪ It is common (and even polite) to fight over paying the bill.
▪ There is a large tipping culture in Romania. People are expected to tip all service people and even professionals, such as doctors.

Socializing

Most Romanians tend to be honest and open about themselves, freely sharing private information, even with acquaintances. Their reaction to criticism or hostile opinions is quite varied – it can be ignored or taken very seriously. When talking to people, it is a good rule of thumb to maintain direct eye contact. Looking in another direction while someone is talking to you could be construed as you ignoring them.

It is acceptable to be drunk or to smoke in public, up to a certain point. Being excessively drunk will undoubtedly bring ridicule, as Romanians can be very judgmental. As of 2016, it is illegal to smoke indoors.

Privacy- Formal and reserved, Romanians have a strong need and sense of privacy. They are generally shy and quiet and admire modesty and humility in others they interacting with. Although always polite, they seldom move to a first-name basis with people outside their extended family or very close friends.

Gifting and Dining

When invited to a dinner, it is polite to bring a gift, though not expected. Romanians are
fiercely protective of their home, and being uncourteous when in someone’s house is seen as a grave offence. Gifts of alcohol and flowers are usually the most common, and you can never go wrong with those. However, make sure to check that the flowers are odd-numbered – even numbers are reserved for the dead. If you do bring a gift, make sure it is wrapped. Nine times out of ten, the gift will be opened as soon as it is received. In Romanian society, it is most polite to deny the gift you are offered. While reactions can vary, some will refuse the gift altogether, while some will offer to pay you for it. Nevertheless, most will be deeply moved by the act. In Romania, it’s the thought that counts. You should dress formally unless invited to dress in a more casual manner, and should be told where to be seated, though this is no longer the case in the southern part of the country, where you can choose your seat. In almost all Romanian households you are expected to take off your shoes when entering. Table manners are continental. Keep your wrists on the table, leave the napkin there too, and hold the fork in your left hand while the knife is in your right. As usual, do not rest your elbows on the table. After finishing eating, expect to be offered a second helping. Refusals are not taken seriously, as Romanians feel obliged to be a good host. If you do not want to eat a second helping, you should insist you’re full. Do not forget to be courteous and complement the food. Even if your soup is hot, do not blow on it. Let it cool by itself. While sopping up leftover sauce with your bread and eating it is acceptable around friends or family, it is ill-mannered around people you do not know as well. It is considered impolite to not finish what is on your plate, though an apology will address the issue.

**Traditions and Folklore**

Romanian culture sets itself apart from others in the Eastern European region just as it shares some elements with them. For example, the legend of Dracula and the Dacian history is unique to Romania.

On the other hand, Romania’s Easter egg traditions and folk costumes bear some similarities to those of nearby countries. Folk costumes are not entirely just for celebrations; while most of the residents of cities dress in modern-day Western attire, many in rural areas still wear traditional dress.

**Romanian Folklore**
The legendary vampire, Dracula, created by author Bram Stoker in his 1897 novel of the same name, has inspired countless horror movies, television shows and other bloodcurdling tales of vampires. Some say that Transylvania sits on one of Earth's strongest magnetic fields and its people have extra-sensory perception. Vampires are believed to hang around crossroads on St. George's Day, April 23, and the eve of St. Andrew, November 29. The area is also home to Bram Stoker's Dracula, and it's easy to get caught up in the tale while driving along winding roads through dense, dark, ancient forests and over mountain passes. Dracula is literally translated in Gaelic as Drac Ullah meaning bad blood.

Tales of the supernatural had been circulating in Romanian folklore for centuries when Irish. To research his immortal tale, Stoker immersed himself in the history, lore and legends of Transylvania, which he called a "whirlpool for the imagination."

Though Dracula is a purely fictional creation, Stoker named his infamous character after a real person who happened to have a taste for blood: Vlad III, or — as he is better known — Vlad the Impaler from Transylvania, Romania. Vlad was the second of four brothers born into the noble family of Vlad II Dracul. His sobriquet Dracula meaning “son of Dracul” was derived from the Latin draco meaning “Dragon” after his father's induction into the Order of the Dragon. Vlad’s dissenting guests were stabbed to death and their still-twitching bodies impaled on spikes hence, earning him his name. Bran Castle located in Transylvania, Romania commonly known outside Romania as Dracula’s Castle was Stoker's supposed inspiration for his character of Dracula.

**Folk & Roma Music**

Traditional folk instruments include the bucium (alphorn), the cimpoi (bagpipes), the cobză (a pear-shaped lute) and the nai (a pan-pipe of about 20 cane tubes). Many kinds of flute are used, including the ocarina (a ceramic flute) and the tilinca (a flute without finger holes).
Folk music can take many forms. A doină is a solo, improvised love song, a sort of Romanian blues with a social or romantic theme sung in a number of contexts (at home, at work or during wakes). The doină was added to the Unesco World Heritage list of intangible cultural elements in 2009. Another common form, the baladă (ballad), is a collective narrative song steeped with feeling.

Couples may dance in a circle, a semicircle or a line. In the sârbă, males and females dance quickly in a closed circle with their hands on each other’s shoulders. The hora is another fast circle dance. In the brâu (belt dance), dancers form a chain by grasping their neighbour’s belt.

FUN FACT: The largest population of brown bears in Europe lives in Romania

**Arts & Folk Culture**

The country’s peasant roots have given rise to thriving folk culture, and traditional arts and crafts, such as weaving, pottery and woodworking, are still important aspects of the country’s identity. Roma music belongs to this legacy. Traditional Roma music is still played in the countryside, and more modern forms, such as manele, are popular among urban youth. Contributions to international arts include the early-20th-century sculptures of Constantin Brâncuși and, more recently, the films of the ‘Romanian New Wave’.

**Arts and Crafts**

**Painted Eggs**

![Painted Eggs](image)

The most readily recognizable examples of Romanian art are the famed painted eggs, especially prominent around Easter time. Painting of real hollowed-out eggs was an integral part of preparations for this festival of renewal. Women and children gathered in
someone’s home and spent a day painting and gossiping. Intricate patterns were actually secret languages known only to residents of the regions where they were painted. The oldest known were painted with aqua fortis (nitric acid) on a traditional red background. They're available in nearly all shops and street markets.

Glass

![Glass image]

The oldest preserved Romanian glass dates to the Roman Empire. Currently, there is a renewed passion for creating art in blown glass and several contemporary Romanian glass artists enjoy world renown. Most of the professional glass artists are clustered in the northeast, near Botosani. Glass artisans are also employed in factories located in Avrig, Turda and Buzau, turning out molded, hand-carved and hand-blown pieces, many of which are museum quality.

Masks

![Masks image]

Masks are linked to folk festivals held predominantly in Maramures and Moldavia. Typically made from the hides of sheep, goats or cows, the masks are adorned with fabric, hats, pompoms, metallic bits, feathers, beans, straw and animal horns to represent bears and goats, they're traditionally worn to welcome in the New Year during a couple weeks in December and early January.
Festivals

The famous Maiden’s Fair, in Romania is known as a major folk festival that takes place at the Mount of Gaina in Transylvania, Romania. It is particularly a fair that arranges marriages of young guys and girls that are unmarried. A gathering is assembled in which families gather together and celebrate along with music and celebrations, and the boys choose their future wives in the festival. Not only marriage, the fair gives an opportunity to let people show their talent such as handicrafts, singing folk songs or dancing on them, designing costumes etc. Thousands of people gather in this fair as marriage is a ritual and they also have a chance to display their talent too. As an old tradition, the Mount Gaina Maidens Fair, in Romania started when on a Saturday evening, boys and men gathered. The young people use to spend the whole night singing songs and drinking brandy. In the morning, the wives and daughters appeared and the whole gathering then moves to Mount Gaina, the girls use to dance for boy’s entertainment and proves that they are worth getting married to.

Superstition in Romania

Few peoples cherish their old-world folk tales as do Romanians, with a colourful panoply of witches, giants, ghosts, heroes, fairies and Nosferatu to keep them awake at night. Given that much of Romania is rural and remote it's not surprising that some of these superstitions and tales survive to this day. It's said, for example, that one in five people in Maramureș still believe in witchcraft.

Some traditions are relatively innocuous, like a tree strung with pots and pans in the front garden, advertising that there’s a daughter in the household who’s free to marry.
However, in certain remote areas, there are more disturbing beliefs. Garlic and crosses are still wielded, and bodies are exhumed and a stake driven through their hearts to stop them haunting, as in the case of Marotinul-de-Sus village (west of Bucharest) in 2004. During a total eclipse in 1999, some people around the country lit bonfires and rang church bells to ward off vampires, werewolves and evil spirits (all of which are associated with the lunar phenomenon).

CULTURAL DIMENSIONS

HOFSTEDE DIMENSIONS

Power Distance
It is defined as the extent to which the less powerful people of the society or organisation accept the unequal distribution of power. Romania shows high power distance as people accept a hierarchical order in which people at higher positions have more power and authority. Romanians would rather have no interference with those in power and tend to obey to orders taken from the top. According to Geert Hofstede, the high power distance index of Romania is a tribute to our common inheritance of the Roman Empire. Most countries that have been occupied by the Romans at the turn of our era inherited a higher distance to authority because of the style of leadership Romans had.

![High power distance vs Low power distance](image-url)
**Individualism-Collectivism**
This dimension focuses on the level of interdependence the people in the society or organisation in the country show.
Romania shows a collectivistic nature and follows more of ‘we’ culture rather than ‘I’. Loyalty in a collectivist culture is paramount and over-rides most other societal rules and regulations. The society fosters strong relationships where everyone takes responsibility for fellow members of their group. In collectivist societies offence leads to shame and loss of face.

![Individualism-Collectivism Diagram]

**Uncertainty Avoidance**
This dimension focuses on how the society plans to deal with the future which is not known; what is the degree of anxiety among the members. It is the extent to which the members feel threatened by the unknown future and make rules have beliefs to avoid these.
Romania shows a very high degree of uncertainty avoidance. Romanians have difficulties in dealing with ambiguous situations and with different opinions of others - people would tend to reject a minority opinion and would feel more comfortable in a consensus group. Countries exhibiting high Uncertainty Avoidance maintain rigid codes of belief and behaviour and are intolerant of unorthodox behaviour and ideas. people have an inner urge to be busy and work hard, precision and punctuality are the norm, innovation may be resisted, security is an important element in individual motivation.
Long Term-Short Term orientation
This dimension describes how every society has to maintain some links with its own past while dealing with the challenges of the present and future, and societies prioritise these two existential goals differently.
Romania shows a short term orientation. Romanians will find it difficult to plan for a longer period of time and would prefer to refer to past experience as an indication of how they could do things in the present. The short term orientation also accounts for the lack of strategic planning and ability to foresee the future strategically, which may impact the way companies may plan (or rather not plan) for the future.

Masculinity
In a society with high masculinity (Masculine), the people are motivated towards success, achievement and competition. In such a case, success is an important measure. Whereas in a society with low masculinity (Feminine) have people who put caring nature and quality of life as important values. Romania is a relatively feminine society and managers strive for consensus, people value equality, solidarity and quality in their working lives. Conflicts are resolved by compromise and negotiation. The well-being of people is more focussed on.

**Indulgence**
It may be defined as the extent to which the people try to control their desires and impulses, based on the way they were raised. Relatively weak control is called indulgence and relatively strong control is called restrained. Romanian culture shows characteristics of Restrained. It does not put much emphasis on leisure time and control the fulfilment of one’s desires. Their actions are restrained by social norms.

**Hall’s Dimensions**

**Context**
Romania is a country where people like to think they are mainly of Western culture, therefore a low context culture. However, the research mentioned in the Valahian Journal of Economic Studies proves that Romanian culture is one of high context, even though quite a lot of people disagree.

Romanians are oratorical by nature and are proud of their sophistication in discourse. They rarely answer questions with “yes” or “no”. It is better to hint at what you want and then be prepared to read between the lines. Their answers are in any case long and complex and may to some extent reflect what you want to hear. Their delicacy is Italian
in nature, as is their capacity for flexible truth when questioned aggressively. So Romanians are related to the high-context culture.

They are attentive but suspicious listeners, who may interrupt you if anything you say seems contradictory. They are used to lengthy presentations and arguments, so if you are too brief you will not make much impact. It is important to establish parameters at the outset of any business discussion, fixing procedures, limits and ultimate positions. Romanians will not be deterred from attempting to gain an advantage, but once they have understood your position, they can behave in a constructive, creative and charming manner.

At meetings, extensive small talk is a necessary preamble. When the Romanians get down to business, their statements must be taken with a pinch of salt. If you disagree with them, show this obliquely, as they hate being snubbed in any way.

*Time*

Coming to the next cultural factor i.e. Time. Romania, given its Latin character and strong ties to France, is definitely polychronic. They traditionally exhibit a much more lax sense of time and commitment to worldly values such as material possessions.
Their culture favours the following values:

- Flexible scheduling, doing several things at once
- Distrust of state authority, a hidden desire not to conform, reluctance to be hemmed in by non-negotiable rules
- Flexibility in behaviour and thought, extreme dislike for dogmatism and rigidity
- Creativity, innovation and improvisation
- People part more easily with money and objects, sharing is encouraged from a young age
- Formal communication based on politeness but also moves relatively quickly to familiarity and friendliness
- Understanding things approximately is considered enough, the rest is left to the future as it proceeds

**Space**

In the aspect of physical space, Romanians have closer interactions and nearer distances. A 2017 study by The University Of Warwick found that personal space preference with respect to strangers is more than 120 cm (approx. 4 feet) in Romania.
Romanians tend to be comfortable with less than arm’s length of personal space during conversations, probably about 12-18 inches.

The closer the relationship between the people, the physical closeness increases.

For a new acquaintance or business colleagues, there is generally no touching when speaking.

Between friends, it is common for each to groom the other, fixing collars, removing lint, touching hair and putting arms around each other.

Female friends link arms or hold hands when walking together in public and often touch. Male friends may also put arms around each other and touch a lot, especially when drinking.

Do’s and Don’ts

Do's

- Try to accept any food or drink offered in a social setting. Romanians are usually very generous and proud of their food. They generally appreciate it when others enjoy their traditional cuisine.
- It is important to spend some time building familiarity and trust with your Romanian counterpart. People are unlikely to open up until a personal relationship has been established. Expect to be treated with some reservedness and formality when first meeting someone.
- Be as truthful as possible (whilst still being courteous) when asked your opinion on matters. Honesty is very important to Romanians, and crucial to showing one’s trustworthiness. Similarly, expect people to be quite straightforward and honest about their opinions. Romanians are known for being quite opinionated and ‘telling you how it is’.
- Address any issues or mistakes directly, but politely and privately.
- Be on time for meetings and take your time in establishing personal relationships with potential partners.
• Romanians greet each other extensively and every time they meet (sometimes more times a day) by shaking hands and when friends by kissing on the cheek; when meeting a woman wait for her to extend to her hand first.

• Romanian names often have extensions like “escu” (meaning “son of”; Ionescu = son of Ion) or “eanu” (meaning “from a certain place”; Constantineanu = from Constantin).

• Uphold your status as an important business person by staying in internationally prestigious hotels; cheaper hotels will degrade your position.

• Be sensitive to good manners when meeting with the Romanian elite; they are often educated in Paris and have adopted certain etiquette.

• Be very patient with regard to bureaucracy and paperwork, such as licenses.

• Be lenient when conversations take an unexpected turn; tolerance and humour will be of more help than trying to stick to your position.

• Be prepared for business lunches; they take at least two hours and include alcohol.

• Gift giving is important; gifts from your home country are a good choice, as are “giveaways” such as pens and lighters (with a small company logo). During singing ceremonies or holidays, more substantial gifts are appropriate.

• When going to Romania, remember first that the nature of people is, in essence, to be funny, warm and welcoming. So don’t be afraid to step up to someone and ask any question.

• Romani is not the criminal state some other countries make it out to be. Do use regular traveller’s common sense like not taking all your money with you or putting expensive jewellery on display, but you should be able to walk around Romania in the same safety you would expect from any other city.

• Do enjoy yourself. Romania isn’t an expensive country so you can shop till you drop. In doing so, you are sponsoring the fragile economy of a budding country. Do also make sure you enjoy the beauty of the people in Romania.

• Do make sure you have plenty of mosquito repellent with you. Romania, like any other developing country, seems to be a real breeding ground for the pesky insects.

**Don’ts**

• Do not make strong statements or criticisms about communism. People are not necessarily uncomfortable discussing the country’s communist past. However, many opinions circulate and foreign criticism can be unappreciated. It is worth approaching the topic in a sensitive, non-judgmental way and let your counterpart guide the tone of the discussion.

• Avoid criticizing the Romanian culture, people or nation. Some individuals openly complain about their country or how it is being ‘ruined’ by current politicians. However, remember that they are still very proud of their homeland and foreign criticism is unlikely to be appreciated.

• Avoid confusing Romania with surrounding Eastern European countries or presuming their cultures are the same. Romania was not part of former Yugoslavia, nor is it a Slavic country.
• Do not over-emphasize the corruption in Romania. While it exists, many Romanians are disappointed at the way their country is portrayed in the news media. Some feel such stereotypes are due to the actions of Roma ‘ gypsy’ communities in other European countries.

• Avoid mentioning the sensitive relationship between ethnic Romanians and the Roma. Furthermore, avoid confusing ethnic Romanians (Români) with Roma (Romä). These are two separate ethnic identities within the Romanian nation.

• An old saying says that you shouldn’t discuss politics or religion. Romanians don’t have a problem with politics, they quite enjoy venturing in this type of discussions, but religion is a sensitive topic for most of them. Romanians are mostly Orthodox and while they are tolerant with other religions, it’s probably best to avoid this topic.

• One of the most common mistakes foreigners do when visiting Romania is to talk a lot about Dracula and ask locals if they believe in vampires. The answer is they don’t, at least no since the Middle Age.

GREETING ETIQUETTES

• Initial greetings are formal and reserved. Some older Romanians are used to kiss a woman’s hand when meeting them, as part of showing their courtesy. However, foreign men are NOT expected to do the same when meeting local women.

• Romanians usually adopt the European custom of kissing someone on both cheeks when they greet each other. Keep in mind, that you shouldn’t be the one who initiates a kiss on the cheek and it’s something that you should let your Romanian friends decide if they show this kind of affection.

WHEN VISITING SOMEONE

• If you’re invited to someone’s house for a visit or to have a meal, proper etiquette requires you to bring a small gift, like flowers, chocolate or a bottle of liquor, but it’s not mandatory. When offering flowers, usually to women, make sure that you don’t offer an even number of flowers. Bouquets with even number of flowers are used for funerals.

• When your Romanian friends offer you some gifts, the polite thing to do is to open them in front of your friends and thank them. Romanians don’t use to send thank you cards for gifts or for invitations to certain events. They like to express their gratitude in person.

• Romanians have a special relationship with food. It accompanies all Romanian holidays and it’s common to organize a special meal when having guests over. Therefore, you shouldn’t be surprised if your hosts offer you second or even third helpings. It’s considered very impolite not to make sure that your guests are satisfied with the meal, so you shouldn’t be surprised if the host may come off as persistent. In this case, just refuse politely.
CONCLUSION

Political Comparison
Romania’s political framework is a semi-presidential representative democratic republic where the Prime Minister is the head of government while the President represents the country internationally, signs some decrees, approves laws promulgated by parliament and nominations as head of state. Whereas, India is a federal parliamentary democratic republic in which the President of India is the head of state and the Prime Minister of India is the head of government. Presidency in Romania is independent of legislature and ministry is subjected to parliamentary confidence whereas in India only the latter holds. Head of State in Romania is Executive while it is Ceremonial in India.

Social Comparison
The majority of the population (70%) in Romania is Christian Orthodox, with the rest divided among other religions. In India 79.8% of the population of India practices Hinduism, 14.2% adheres to Islam, 2.3% adheres to Christianity, 1.7% adheres to Sikhism, 0.7% adheres to Buddhism and 0.37% adheres to Jainism. The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) which is measure of discrimination against women in social institutions is low in Romania as compared to India. Gender discrimination in family, workplace and society is more in India than Romania. Romania similar to India is a Collectivistic society and a Secular Country.

We can use Hall’s dimensions to compare the two countries on certain dimensions.

On the basis of context, while India is a high context society. There exist many contextual elements that assist people to undertake things and a lot is taken for granted. Non-verbal communication is very common and expression of reaction is mostly reserved. Romania, on the other side, is a low context society and messages are direct, simple and clear. Verbal communication is more focused on rather than body language, and expression of reaction is external and visible.
On the basis of time, both societies are rather similar and show polychronic action. Multitasking is common in both societies, and people might be distracted from the work at hand. Human interaction is valued over time and materialistic things.

On the basis of space, both show traits of low territoriality. Private and personal places are not so clearly district and touching may be common in greetings and while talking.

On the other hand, using Hofstede's dimensions, one can observe other similarities and differences in both societies.

Both the countries have high power distance and a hierarchical, top-down structure. While, with a score of 90, the head in a Romanian organisation may be autocratic, in India, centralisation of power may not always be apparent but it exists. Immediate seniors are more accessible in an Indian organisation than people in the above tiers.

Indian societies show both collectivistic and individualistic characteristics, whereas Romania is a rather collectivistic society. In Romania, the society believes in maintaining strong relations among a group and taking responsibility for the group or family. In India as well, the people believe in the concept of 'WE' and fosters bonding between group members. However, society also shows individualism due to the religious beliefs which inculcate the idea that one's actions define one's future.

Romanian society is relatively feminine while Indian society is relatively masculine. In Romania, the well-being of people is more important than the show of their status. People believe in equality, solidarity and quality of life is an important measure. Whereas in India, people do believe in the display of power and success, and the status symbol matters. However, due to the humility values and appreciation of modesty in society, its score of Masculinity is less than most countries.

While studying uncertainty avoidance in both countries, it is observed that Romania shows very high degree uncertainty avoidance whereas India's score is relatively low. Indian societies show acceptance of the unplanned and have tolerance towards uncertainty. The tendency to adjust in a situation is shown by the people of the country and solutions to problems are sought. On the other hand, Romanian societies become anxious if things do not go as planned. They have rigid rules and ways of working. People are intolerant towards unorthodox idea and behaviour, and innovation is resisted.
The score in long term orientation is more or less the same for both the countries. Both societies believe in maintaining links with the past while doing the work of the present and future.

Similarly, both societies also show similar degrees of Indulgence. They have low scores and thus are societies that show Restraint. In both societies, leisure time is not emphasised upon and desires could be controlled. Social norms guide the actions of people.

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