

## The Deaf People of Romania Romanian Sign Language Community



The deaf population in Romania is between twenty and thirty thousand people, according to the European Union of the Deaf. Major population centers include Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca. Association meetings, sports events, and other social gatherings are some of the reasons that deaf people come together regularly.

Limbajul Semenelor Romanesc (Romanian Sign Language, abbreviated LSR) is used in their homes, at work and in places of worship. There is some variation in LSR in the following three regions: Transylvania (northwest), Moldavia (northeast), and Wallachia (south).

Deaf education is highly valued by the deaf community; however, there is very little opportunity for this to occur. Teachers in deaf schools are often hearing and teach in a combination of Romanian Sign Language and spoken or written Romanian. Most deaf children; however, are integrated into the hearing school system with a limited number of deaf students in one classroom. An increase in professional interpreters is needed.

The Asociatia Nationala a Surzilor din Romania, the National Association of the Deaf in Romania (ANSR) is the leading deaf organization in Romania. Their primary purpose is to increase opportunities for deaf people to flourish in their deaf culture through education and as a result see an increase in the quality of life.

A few materials have been produced in LSR such as: dictionaries, school materials, and DVD's (The Jesus Film). Deaf people in Romania have indicated that the two largest needs for materials are LSR educational materials and an LSR Bible translation.

**Primary Religion:**

Christianity

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

Less than 0.1%

**Churches:**

Fewer than 20

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

None

**Population (date):**

25,000 (2013)



## The Deaf People of Romania

### Have They Heard the Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian	99%
Believe In Jesus As God And Only Savior	1%
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son	Less than 10%
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion	99%
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is Comment (Pastors)	Greater than 90% Less than 3%
Number Of Missionaries Working	15
Response To The Gospel	Church growth for the deaf community in Romania experienced a large growth after the fall of communism when an evangelistic group worked with the deaf people of Romania. Today the growth has leveled off and the deaf people of Romania feel a need for more scripture to be produced in their language so they can continue to grow in their Christian faith and evangelize other deaf people.
Number Of Churches	20 to 50 with 10 to 20 that use primarily sign language in their services
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No
Any Hindrance To Scripture Distribution?	No Romanian Sign Language Bible exists. The Jesus Film was produced with a Romanian Sign Language interpreter signing the entire film. Several small deaf churches exist under the umbrella of hearing churches. These churches have expressed the need for the Bible in Romanian Sign Language. A few churches offer interpretation for deaf people in attendance. The deaf population of Romania has a lower literacy rate than the hearing population in general.
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available	Deaf Missions is working on the Romanian translation but nothing has been mass produced yet.
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Cross-cultural missionaries are needed for church planting, church growth, literacy & education, and pastoral training.

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## Group Description

### **Countries Where People Group Live**

Country Name Romania

### Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage Less than 1%

### Primary Language of Wider

Communication, Trade Language Romanian [ron]

### Bilingualism

The Deaf population uses Romanian Sign Language (LSR) and Romanian every day. A small percentage of the Deaf population also knows another signed language such as Hungarian Sign Language.

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### Status of Christianity

#### Religion & Response

Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive
Items For Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Understanding of the Gospel</li><li>- More personnel who are trained in Chronological Bible Storying (CBS)..</li><li>- For training of national pastors and lay leaders.</li><li>- Bible translation program to be successful.</li><li>- Growth in their Christian Walk, and training for national leaders</li><li>- Harvest among the Deaf</li><li>- More workers to work with the Deaf</li></ul>

#### Scripture

Recordings	No
Literature	No
Films/videos Comment	Yes The Jesus film is translated into Romanian Sign Language
Radio	No

#### Missions and Churches

Organization Name Comment (Main Ministry) Comment	International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Church Planting Total local workers:15 Total expatriate missionaries: 5 Total National Missionaries: 10
Organization Name Comment (Main Ministry)	Deaf Missions Church Planting
Organization Name Comment (Main Ministry)	DOOR Church Planting. Also, a DOOR Center in Budapest is training Deaf in Chronological Bible Storying (CBS).