



Annual Activity Report

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europol
CENTRE OF EUROPEAN EXPERTISE



Introduction

European and national context in 2025

- The year 2025 was an inflection point for Romania and the European Union. At the European level, the beginning of the 2024-2029 institutional cycle brought many themes to the forefront:
- consolidation of democracy in the context of populism's growth
- defining strategic priorities for EU competitiveness;
- the intense negotiations about the future of the **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034**;
- acceleration of green and digital transition;
- adapting the EU to the new global dynamics;

For Romania, 2025 was the year of its **European coming of age**: 18 years of European Union membership. This symbolic moment generated a new discussion framework about Romania's role in the European project, its responsibilities, strategic outlook and the evolution of its civic culture at the national level. In this context, Europuls consolidated its position as a bridge between citizens and institutions through informing the public, educating the youth and connecting citizens with European institutions.

Europuls' Mission in 2025

Misiunea Europuls rămâne aceea de a aduce Uniunea Europeană mai aproape de cetățeni de a promova o cultură democratică solidă și de a dezvolta capacitatea tinerilor de a participa activ la viața comunității.

In 2025, this meant:

- developing large scale educational programmes;
 - enhancing the quality of public information through articles, analyses and themed European projects;
 - organizing debates and events at the national and European level;
 - cultivating a community of young leaders, full of civic and European spirit.
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Key Figures



Throughout this year, Europuls:

Education and trainings

- organized over **30 educational sessions** for youth;
- instructed over **1500 participants** from both urban and rural areas;
- introduced new participatory methods (simulations, debates, educational games).

International Projects

- coordinated the Romanian implementation of the **EU4Global** project, with mobilities in Malta, Athens and Copenhagen;
- consolidated Romania's presence in European civic dialogue networks;
- through the **COHERO4EU** project, Europuls positioned itself as one of the most relevant actors in whole of civil society when it comes to explaining and analyzing the EU's cohesion policy. In 2025, Europuls carried out one of the most consistent communication campaign dedicated to this field, putting together accessible analyses, thematic articles, interviews with experts and visual materials which clarified the way in which EU funds work and their impact on regional development to the wider public. The substantial size of the content produced, alongside the *Be a COHERO* event, consolidated Europuls' status as a think tank capable to offer rigorous expertise, to combat misinformation and to contribute to the making of a public culture informed about the cohesion policy and the future European budget.

Informing the Public

- as part of the COHERO4EU project, published **10 articles, 4 interviews and 5 quizzes**, all published as **26 posts**;
- organized meetings with European MPs, national policymakers and experts.

Strategic Events

- organized **EUROSFAT 2025**, with over **330 participants**;
- organized the **EUROLEAD** event in the European Parliament, with **100 participants**;
- organized the *Dialogue with Roxana Mînzatu* talk with the Executive Vicepresident of the European Commission, during an event dedicated to the youth and future of the European Union.

30

Projects and Events

**1500**

Participants

**3.26M**

Total Social Media Impact



The Structure of the report



CHAPTER 1 – Introduction and European Context

Presents the general framework in which the activities were implemented and their relevance for 2025.

CHAPTER 2 – The Strategic Pillars of Europuls

Describes the fundamental directions of action and the way in which these guided our yearly activity.

CHAPTER 3 – Informing Citizens

Includes:

- COHERO4EU — extended section (8+ pages);
- articles, analyses, interviews;
- online campaigns;
- public consultations.

CHAPTER 4 – Educating Youth

Includes:

- CTLE 2025 in detail (4 day schedule, impact, testimonies);
- national and international trainings;
- simulations, workshops and educational events.

CHAPTER 5 – European Projects

Includes:

- EU4Global;
- mobilities;
- conclusions;
- recommendations at the European level.

CHAPTER 6 – Connecting Policymakers to Citizens

Includes:

- EUROSFAT 2025;
- EUROLEAD 2025;
- national debates;
- dialogue with public institutions.

CHAPTER 7 – Online Impact and Communication

Includes the analysis of social media performance and the community's growth.



THE PILLARS OF EUROPULS

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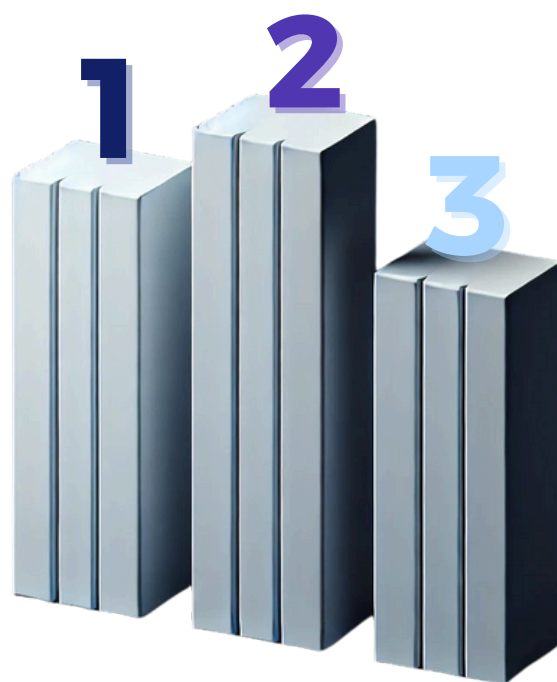
Informing citizens

2

Educating Youth

3

Connecting policymakers to citizens' needs



Pillar I — Informing citizens

This pillar seeks to provide the public with clear, accurate and up-to-date information about the European Union through:

- articles and analyses;
- educational project;
- online campaigns;
- public debates;
- initiatives for countering misinformation.

Pillar II — Educating Youth

Aims at forming a generation of young civic activists, through:

- trainings
- simulations of EU institutions;
- debates;
- international mobilities;
- leadership programs.

Pillar III — Connecting policymakers to citizens

This pillar consolidates the role of Europuls as a dialogue platform:

- organizing EUROSFAT;
- organizing **two EUROLEAD sessions in Brussels**, in February and October, dedicated to the future Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2028–2034);
- national roundtables;
- thematic meetings with European MPs;
- Romania's involvement in civic dialogue networks.



COHERO4EU

COHERO4EU was the main information project conducted by Europuls in 2025, with the goal of increasing the level of understanding of the cohesion policy and its impact on Romania's development. Despite being one of the most important investments of the EU, this policy is still misunderstood in Romania, being often joined by confusion, mistrust and myths.

COHERO4EU was the Europuls answer to this issue: a youth-oriented, digital, modern, accessible project which explains in simple terms the cohesion policy's concrete benefits. Through a visual, education campaign, the project made the cohesion policy clearer and more relevant to a wider public through explanatory articles, expert interviews, gamified quizzes, the Be a COHERO event in Constanța and by forming a dedicated online community.



Distinct posts

26

Articles

10



The Importance of COHERO4EU

The year 2025 was marked by discussions on the future of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028–2034, with direct implications for the structure of European funds. Romania faces major challenges: regional disparities, administrative difficulties, limited access of young people to information, lack of project culture.

In this context COHERO4EU sought:

- reducing the distance between the citizen and European institutions;
- increasing the ability of young people to understand the budgetary process and EU investments;
- creation of a communication bridge between the European and local levels;
- explaining the way in which the cohesion policy contributes to community development in Romania.

**education, transport,
infrastructure,
digitalization, agriculture,
environmental economics;**

**Romania's regions and
the disparities between
them;**

**the way in which funds
reach local communities;**

**the role of local
authorities in their
implementation;**

Online Campaign

The online campaign was built around a coherent visual strategy, focused on young people. Distinctive elements:

A. Educational Infographics

These explained what European funds are, what is the difference between FEDR, FSE+ and Just Transition Fund, what does the cohesion policy mean for Romania and gave examples of projects which were financed with the help of these mechanisms.

B. Five Gamified Quizzes

These tested the public's knowledge, stimulating active involvement. The most popular questions were the ones about EU investment priorities, differences between the different types of funds, and regional allocations.

C. Social Media Posts (26 distinct posts)

The posts were meant to popularize the articles, interviews and the project's results and to create an interactive environment for quizzes. The project's posts had a crucial role in making the European Union's cohesion policy better known.

Articles and Interviews

COHERO4EU produced:

- **10 thematic articles**, focused on EU funds impact analysis;
- **4 expert interviews**, who brought a practical, institutional and political perspective.

Article topics included:

- the role of EU funds in green energy;
- the development of small towns through EU funds;
- education and professional training;
- EU investments in infrastructure;
- regional competition.

The interviews published on Europuls' online platforms, covered topics such as:

- fund absorption in Romania;
- project management;

the European view on cohesion.





The „Be a COHERO” Event – Constanța

The event brought together **40 young people** interested in the EU’s role in regional development.

Event structure:

1. **Introductory session:** about how do European funds work.
2. **Budget allocation at the European level simulation:** participants played the role of European institutions and negotiated the future EU budget and its priorities.
3. **Final debate:** priorities for a region such as the South-Eastern one.





European consultations and involvement in decision-making processes

In 2025, Europuls implemented a series of thematic consultations which connected citizens, civil society and institutional actors with European legislative processes.

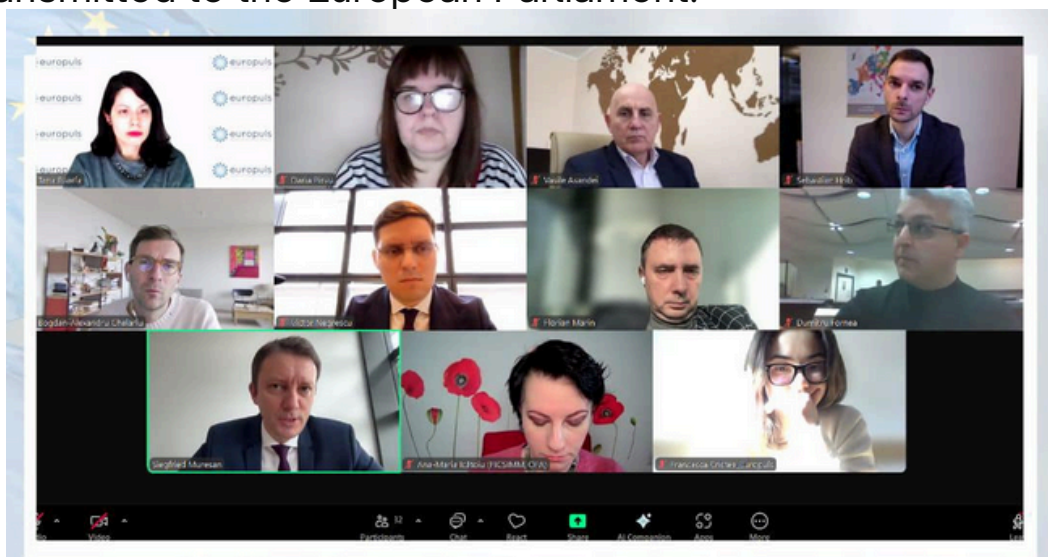
Consultation on the implementation of PNRR (11th of February)

This online consultation, conducted with the European MPs Siegfried Mureșan and Victor Negrescu, brought together over 30 representatives of trade unions, employer associations, non-governmental organizations and public institutions.

Topics discussed:

- the progress of PNRR implementation;
- learned lessons;
- the need for project simplification;
- future directions for the new European budgetary framework.

The consultation led to the formulation of recommendations which were transmitted to the European Parliament.





Thematic roundtables

Europuls established itself in 2025 as a **reference actor in organizing public consultations** on European topics, being the first organization in Romania to initiate and coordinate a series of in-depth debates on **the future of the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework**. In total, Europuls organized three consultations dedicated to MFF, bringing together experts, representatives of public administration, the academic field and civil society, and their conclusions were integrated in a public report ("Romania at the blackboard: What do we want from the post-2027"), which became a reference point in the national dialogue about the budgetary priorities of the EU.

At the same time, Europuls was **the first and sole actor of civil society** which organized two consultations dedicated to minors' safety in the online medium in 2025 (11th of September and the 14th of October), addressing an emerging topic with major social and legislative implications. These roundtables brought together decision makers, specialized organizations experts in digital law and social media platforms representatives, contributing to the formulation of a common direction for minors' protection. Through these initiatives, Europuls connected national institutions directly to European priorities, positioning itself as an **essential provider** of public speech on critical themes for the next decade.





The Community of Young European Leaders



About the Project

“Community of Young European Leaders” (CTLE) is the most extensive civic and European leadership program dedicated to Romanian high schoolers. In 2025, the program took place between the 6th and 9th of February and brought together 60 participants from five counties and had as goals the development of leadership competencies, knowledge about the EU, abilities of argumentation and negotiation, as well as the level of civic involvement. The program included community building activities, a visit to Romania’s Parliament and talks with MPs, etiquette and European institutions training, a legislative simulation about the right to vote at 16 and the presentation of community projects proposed by the participants.

Results

Days
4
Counties
5
Participants
60



Trainings

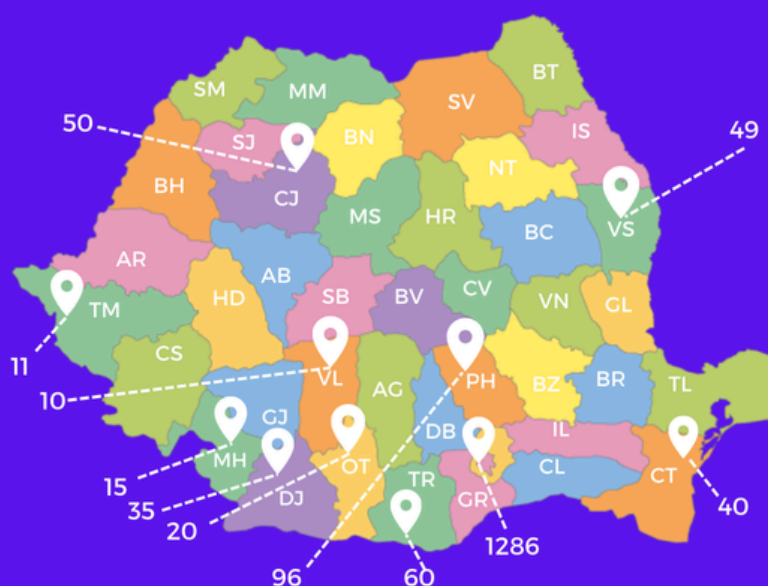
Participants



Settlements reached



Volunteers involved



International: 160
(Haga+Bruxelles)
Online: 120
Total: 1934

Trainings

This year, we held training sessions in **11 counties**, as well as in The Hague and Brussels, at both high school and university level, as well as online. We were also present at training sessions at several established events, such as the Youth Summit, and through collaborations with important organizations for young people and Romanian civil society, such as the National Council of Students. Our activities have taken us to Ploiești, Bucharest, Timișoara, Cluj, Craiova, Mehedinți (online), Constanța, and Vaslui. Topics included the introduction to the EU, European values, legislative process, combating misinformation and negotiation abilities.



The “Future of Europe” Bootcamp – 12th of April

The “Future of Europe” Bootcamp brought together young people with a growing interest for the way in which European institutions work and for the career opportunities offered by the European Union. The event, held both online and offline, involved 30 participants in dynamic activities, from a workshop about fake news and discussions about the benefits of Romania’s EU membership, to the interactive training *TheEUandYou* and a session dedicated to discovering educational and professional opportunities at an European level. By mixing formats, the Bootcamp offered access to a large number of young people, contributing to the development of an informed and connected generation, motivated to explore careers in the field of European affairs.



EU4Global

In 2025, EU4Global was one of the most important initiatives through which Europuls connected young people, experts, and public institutions to a European conversation about democracy, the role of the European Union in the world, and migration management. The project involved eight partner countries and sought to consult citizens on three major areas: democratic participation, the EU's position in geopolitics and diplomacy, as well as balanced models of integration and solidarity in the context of migration. Europuls played a strategic role, organizing consultations in Romania, participating in transnational mobility, and contributing to the final European recommendations. Regarding international mobilities, the Europuls team took part in debates about minors' representation in Malta, discussions about democracy and migration in Athens and sessions dedicated to green transition and civic involvement in Copenhagen. These exchanges generated relevant contributions at the European level, such as recommendations about electoral transparency, inclusion of vulnerable groups, eodemocracy and climate security



EU4Global



La nivel național, proiectul a inclus evenimentul „Our Role in the EU”, care a reunit decidenți, profesori, elevi și reprezentanți ai societății civile în jurul unor teme precum combaterea dezinformării, participarea tinerilor la procesele decizionale și rolul României în UE. De asemenea, trainingul organizat în cadrul Republicii Tinerilor la Ploiești a contribuit la dezvoltarea unei perspective critice și mature a tinerilor asupra Uniunii Europene și a proceselor democratice.

The impact of EU4Global in 2025 resulted in 3 international mobility programs, 4 national events, over 200 direct participants and 8 sets of pending European recommendations. In terms of quality, the project consolidated Romania's voice in the European dialogue, facilitated young people's access to transnational debates and contributed to the formation of a generation capable to understand and influence the future of the European Union



EUROSFAT 2025

EUROSFAT 2025 marked a symbolic moment: 18 years from Romania's accession to the European Union, having as a central theme "Romania's Coming of Age in the EU: responsibility, ambition, direction". This year's edition distinguished itself through a record number of high level speakers and through a complex agenda, addressing the most important current European topics and consolidating EUROSFAT as the most influential European affairs forum in Eastern Europe.

During the opening session there were 330 guests, reflecting the increased interests for European topics in a decisive year for the future of the EU.



EUROSFAT 2025

The plenary sessions was dedicated to Romania's road to accession to the OECD, analyzing the economic benefits, public administration modernization and the role of this goal in repositioning Romania on the world stage. The thematic panels explored essential topics: public transport infrastructure and TEN-T corridors, the future European budget (MFF 2028-2034) as it relates to security and the green transition, education and democratic literacy, the progress and challenges of PNRR, equitable transition in the context of ETS2 & PSC, as well as the protection of journalists against abusive practices. The edition's full report is available here: <https://europuls.ro/eurosfat-2025-majoratul-romaniei-in-ue-raport>. Organizing EUROSFAT 2025 necessitated an ample logistical effort, with over 50 volunteers, coordination between 12 institutions, activities taking place in three locations and solid partnerships with universities, embassies and think tanks, thus proving Europuls' capacity to deliver a strategic event to international standards.



Dialogue with Roxana Mînzatu

During EUROSFAT 2025, Europuls organized the most extensive public dialogue ever conducted with an European Commissioner, held on the 21st of November in the Aula Magna of the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest. The event had Roxana Mînzatu, the Executive Vicepresident of the European Commission for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness, who coordinates the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU initiatives involving education, training, inclusion and the just transition. The dialogue, structured in four thematic sessions, addressed Romania's relationship with the EU, competitiveness and the future of work, education's role in democracy and the outlook of the new Multiannual Financial Framework.





Impact of EUROSFAT 2025

EUROSFAT 2025's impact was significant from a quantitative point of view, bringing together over 1000 participants, 8 panels, over 40 speakers and generating hundreds of thousands of online views. Qualitatively, the event consolidated Romania's role in the European debate, converged the academic, political and civic fields and integrated young people in strategic dialogues.



Participants



Panels



Speakers



Volunteers involved



EUROLEAD

The EUROLEAD event took place in the European Parliament and brought together over 100 participants, among which European MPs, representatives of the European Commission, administrative leaders, European funds experts and members of civil society.

The talks focused on negotiations for MFF 2028-2034, Romania's priorities, the role of development regions and the European Union's competitiveness.

The main conclusion of the event was that Romania must go from the position of beneficiary to the one of strategic contributor in the EU's budget architecture.



România în UE
AȘTEPTĂRI ȘI PRIORITĂȚI PENTRU URMĂTORUL CADRU FINANCIAR MULTIANUAL 2028-2034

 Oana Toiu Ministrul Afacerilor Externe	 Dragoș Benea Europarlamentar S&D, Președinte al Comisiei REGI	 Siegfried Mureșan Negociator-șef al Parlamentului European, pentru viitorul CFM, europarlamentar PPE	 Nicu Ștefănuță Vicepreședinte al Parlamentului European, Grupul Verzilor	 Șerban Dimitrie Sturdza Europarlamentar ECR, Vice-coordonator al grupului ECR în comisia REGI
 Miron Podgorean Membru al cabinetului Roxanei Minzatu, Vicepreședinta Executivă a Comisiei Europene	 Raluca Painter Șef de unitate, DG EMPL	 Vasile Asandei Director General ADR Nord-Est	 Elena Calistru Membră a Comitetului Economic și Social European	 Moderator: Tana Foaia Director Executiv Europuls

National Debates: „Minors’ Safety in the Online Space”

On the 11th of September, Europol hosted a roundtable discussion entitled "Minors in the Digital Age: Rights and Obligations," which brought together experts, civil society representatives, private sector specialists, and legal advisors to address the risks associated with minors' safety on the internet, such as cyberbullying, problematic content, and mental health issues. Participants proposed the establishment of a minimum age for accessing social media and the introduction of consistent programs for digital education, taking into account urban-rural differences, emphasizing the active role of public institutions.

The second debate, which took place on the 14th of October alongside the Education Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, deepened these solutions, highlighting the need for a private-public partnership, clarification of the legislative framework and of better institutional cooperation. The event also contributed to harmonizing three bills that were debated by the Parliament.

The two editions addressed topics such as social media platform dependency, algorithms, minimum age for social media, digital literacy and social media platform responsibility.



7 years of EU budget – what does Romania want?

The Debate brought together the Minister of Investments and European Projects, Dragoș Pîslaru, representatives of various ministries, of regional development agencies, of the National Bank of Romania, alongside economic experts and students. The talks emphasized three main outlooks: the need of EU fund prioritization for growing competitiveness, simplification of administrative processes and the maintaining of firm support for the cohesion policy



Digital Impact and Communication in 2025

The year 2025 represented a stage of digital consolidation for Europol. In an online environment characterized by polarisation, increasing misinformation and informational overload, Europol managed to maintain their relevance through believable, visually modern and public education-oriented content.

As such, this year we made approximately 600 posts on all social media networks, which together generated the following results:

- 1.1M unique users that read our posts;
- 3.26M views;
- 102K interactions;
- 7.5K shares.

All these helped us convince an additional 2.34K people to follow us.





Follow us in the future!



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