

Comparative Study of Electoral Systems Module 4: Macro Report

Country: Romania
Date of Election: December 9, 2012

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Date of Preparation: December 30, 2016

NOTES TO COLLABORATORS:

- The information provided in this report contributes to an important part of the CSES project. The information may be filled out by yourself, or by an expert or experts of your choice. Your efforts in providing these data are greatly appreciated! Any supplementary documents that you can provide (e.g., electoral legislation, party manifestos, electoral commission reports, media reports) are also appreciated, and may be made available on the CSES website.
- Answers should be as of the date of the election being studied.
- Where brackets [] appear, collaborators should answer by placing an “X” within the appropriate bracket or brackets. For example: [X]
- If more space is needed to answer any question, please lengthen the document as necessary.

Data Pertinent to the Election at which the Module was Administered

1a. Type of Election

- Parliamentary/Legislative
 Parliamentary/Legislative and Presidential
 Presidential
 Other; please specify: _____

1b. If the type of election in Question 1a included Parliamentary/Legislative, was the election for the Upper House, Lower House, or both?

- Upper House
 Lower House
 Both
 Other; please specify: _____

2a. What was the party of the president *prior* to the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was presidential?

Democratic Liberal Party (PDL)
Partidul Democrat Liberal

Note: From a legal point of view, the president is not allowed to be a member of a political party during his term in office. However, he/she may be publically endorsed by a specific party. Traian Băsescu run for his second term (in 2009) with the endorsement of the Democrat-Liberal Party (PD-L), as he had been the head of the party (at that time Democratic Party - PD) before his first term in office.

2b. What was the party of the Prime Minister *prior* to the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was parliamentary?

Social Democratic Party (PSD)
Partidul Social Democrat

2c. Report the number of cabinet ministers of each party or parties in cabinet, *prior* to the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all".) Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights. List also cabinet members that are 'independent'. If known, specify if the 'independents' are affiliated or close to certain parties.

<u>Name of Political Party</u>	<u>Number of Cabinet Ministers</u>
<i>Social Democratic Party (PSD)</i> <i>Partidul Social Democrat</i>	7
<i>National Liberal Party (PNL)</i> <i>Partidul Național Liberal</i>	8
<i>Conservative Party (PC)</i> <i>Partidul Conservator</i>	1
<i>Independents</i>	5

2d. What was the size of the cabinet *prior* to the election (total number of cabinet ministers detailed in 2c)? Please include only full ministers and the prime minister in the count. Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights.

3a. What was the party of the president *after* the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was presidential? (see note to 2a)

Democratic Liberal Party (PDL)
Partidul Democrat-Liberal

3b. What was the party of the Prime Minister *after* the most recent election, regardless of whether the election was parliamentary?

Social Democratic Party (PSD)
Partidul Social Democrat

3c. Report the number of cabinet ministers of each party or parties in cabinet, *after* the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write “all”). Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights. List also cabinet members that are ‘independent’. If known, specify if the ‘independents’ are affiliated or close to certain parties.

<u>Name of Political Party</u>	<u>Number of Cabinet Ministers</u>
<i>Social Democratic Party (PSD)</i> <i>Partidul Social Democrat</i>	14
<i>National Liberal Party (PNL)</i> <i>Partidul Național Liberal</i>	10
<i>Conservative Party (PC)</i> <i>Partidul Conservator</i>	2
<i>National Union for Romania’s Progress (UNPR)</i> <i>Uniunea Națională pentru Progresul României</i>	1
<i>Independents</i>	1

3d. What was the size of the cabinet *after* the election (total number of cabinet ministers detailed in 3c)? Please include only full ministers and the prime minister in the count. Ministers are considered those members of government who are members of the Cabinet and who have Cabinet voting rights.

4a. How many political parties received votes in the election? In this answer, we want political parties, not merely alliances or coalitions of political parties. Please include all parties that received votes, but do not include independents. Where coalitions are present, please count all member parties separately – for instance, a coalition of three parties would count as three parties in your answer, not as one party. Please provide separate information for elections held contemporaneously (e.g., legislative and presidential voting), when voters cast separate ballots.

Chamber of Deputies:

17 parties, including the Hungarian Democratic Union (UDMR), which received more than 5% of the total vote, thus entering Parliament as a “regular” political party;
35 parties, if we also include the 18 associations of ethnic minorities, other than UDMR, which entered the Chamber of Deputies via the special threshold (much lower) for ethnic minorities

Senate: 17 parties

4b. Please provide a source of data and link to a website with official, detailed election results (votes and seats) for all parties participating in the election. If the data is not available electronically, please provide the information in paper format if possible.

Central Electoral Bureau (Biroul Electoral Central)

<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/rezultate.html>>

<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/rezultate%20finale.html>>

Chamber of Deputies:

<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/A-DOCUMENTE/rezultate%20finale/Anexa%208A.pdf>>

Senate:

<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/A-DOCUMENTE/rezultate%20finale/Anexa%208B.pdf>>

4c. Please list all parties who received at least 1% of the vote nationally, and the applicable electoral results for each, in the following table. Please indicate the source (even if the same as in Question 4b), and add additional rows to the table as necessary. Please provide party names both in English and in the original language, if applicable.

Lower Chamber: Chamber of Deputies (Camera Deputaților)

Party Name	Number of Votes	% of Vote	Number of Seats	% of Seats
Social Liberal Union (Uniunea Social Liberală)	4,344,288	58.72		
Social Democratic Party (Partidul Social Democrat)			150	36.41
National Liberal Party (Partidul Național Liberal)			100	24.27
Conservative Party (Partidul Conservator)			13	3.16
National Union for Romania's Progress (Uniunea Națională pentru Progresul României)			10	2.42
The Alliance for a Just Romania (Alianța România Dreaptă)	1,223,189	16.54		
Liberal Democratic Party (Partidul Democrat Liberal)			52	13.62
Civic Force (Forța Civică)			3	0.73
Christian Democratic National Peasant Party (Partidul Național Țărănesc Creștin Democrat)			1	0.24
People's Party – Dan Diaconescu (Partidul Poporului – Dan Diaconescu)	1,036,730	14.02	47	11.41
Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania (Uniunea Democrată Maghiară din România)	380,656	5.13	18	4.37
Greater Romania Party (Partidul România Mare)	92,382	1.25	0	0
*Eighteen organizations representing ethnic minorities received one seat each (they received between 39,175 and 5,265 votes)	211,166	2.85	18	4.37
Total	7,397,237		412	

Source (Chamber): <<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/A-DOCUMENTE/rezultate%20finale/Anexa%208A.pdf>>

Upper Chamber: Senate (Senat)

Party Name	Number of Votes	% of Vote	Number of Seats	% of Seats
Social Liberal Union (Uniunea Social Liberală)	4,457,526	60.01		
Social Democratic Party (Partidul Social Democrat)			59	33.52
National Liberal Party (Partidul Național Liberal)			50	28.41
Conservative Party (Partidul Conservator)			8	4.55
National Union for Romania's Progress (Uniunea Națională pentru Progresul României)			5	2.84
The Alliance for a Just Romania (Alianța România Dreaptă)	1,239,318	16.71		
Liberal Democratic Party (Partidul Democrat Liberal)			22	12.50
Civic Force (Forța Civică)			1	0.57
Christian Democratic National Peasant Party (Partidul Național Țărănesc Creștin Democrat)			1	0.57
People's Party – Dan Diaconescu (Partidul Poporului – Dan Diaconescu)	1,086,822	14.65	21	11.93
Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania (Uniunea Democrată Maghiară din România)	380,656	5.23	9	5.11
Greater Romania Party (Partidul România Mare)	92,382	1.47	0	0
Total	7,415,900		176	

Source (Senate): <<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/A-DOCUMENTE/rezultate%20finale/Anexa%208B.pdf>>

4d. What was the voter turnout in the election? Please also provide an official Internet address (preferably) or other official source where this information is available.

41.68% (7,693,279 of 18,423,066)

Central Electoral Bureau (Biroul Electoral Central),
<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/A-DOCUMENTE/Rezultate%20intermediare/anexa%203F.pdf>>

4e. Please provide the following six statistics for the country at the time of the election studied, so that we may calculate voter turnout in various ways. Some definitions, where provided, are based on those developed by International IDEA. Please also provide an official Internet address (preferably) or other official source where this information is available.

▪ Total Population: 20,095,996

Definition: The total population includes all inhabitants, of all ages, both citizens and non-citizens (including illegal aliens).

Eurostat, "Population on 1 January – Persons",
<<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00001&plugin=1>>

▪ Total Number of Voting Age Citizens: 15,940,144

Definition: This number is meant to approximate the eligible voting population.

Eurostat, "Population by age group",
<<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=tps00010&language=en>>

▪ Total Vote:

Chamber of Deputies: 7,693,279

Central Electoral Bureau,
<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/A-DOCUMENTE/Rezultate%20intermediare/anexa%203E.pdf>>

Senate: 7,693,576

Central Electoral Bureau,
<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/A-DOCUMENTE/Rezultate%20intermediare/anexa%203F.pdf>>

Definition: The total number of votes cast in the relevant election. Total vote includes valid and invalid votes, as well as blank votes in cases where these are separated from invalid votes.

▪ Total Number of Invalid and Blank Votes:

Chamber of Deputies:

Invalid votes: 212,289

Blank votes: 71,364

Central Electoral Bureau,

<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/A-DOCUMENTE/Rezultate%20intermediare/anexa%203E.pdf>>

Senate:

Invalid votes: 185,980

Blank votes: 90,968

Central Electoral Bureau,

<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/A-DOCUMENTE/Rezultate%20intermediare/anexa%203F.pdf>>

- Voting Age Population: 15,940,144

Note: This measure is expected to cover poorly the Romanian citizens living and working abroad.

Definition: Includes all persons above the legal voting age.

Eurostat, "Population by age group",

<<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/refreshTableAction.do?tab=table&plugin=1&pcode=tps00010&language=en>>

- Number of Registered Voters: 18,423,066

Definition: The figure represents the number of names on the voters' register at the time that the registration process closes, as reported by the electoral management body.

Central Electoral Bureau,

<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/A-DOCUMENTE/Rezultate%20intermediare/anexa%203E.pdf>>

5. Ideological family of political parties. For this question, please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 4 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

Party Name	Ideological Family
A. Social Liberal Union (Uniunea Social Liberală, USL) – an alliance of four parties:	
Social Democratic Party (Partidul Social Democrat, PSD)	D (Social Democratic Parties)
National Liberal Party (Partidul Național Liberal, PNL)	G (Liberal Parties)
Conservative Party (Partidul Conservator, PC)	E (Conservative Parties)
National Union for Romania's Progress (Uniunea Națională pentru Progresul României, UNPR)	D (Social Democratic Parties)
B. The Alliance for a Just Romania (Alianța România Dreaptă, ARD) – an alliance of three parties:	
Liberal Democratic Party (Partidul Democrat Liberal, PDL)	I (Christian Democratic Parties)
Civic Force (Forța Civică, FC)	I (Christian Democratic Parties)
Christian Democratic National Peasant Party (Partidul Național Țărănesc Creștin Democrat, PNȚCD)	I (Christian Democratic Parties)
C. People's Party – Dan Diaconescu (Partidul Poporului – Dan Diaconescu)	O (Other): Populist Left
D. Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania (Uniunea Democrată Maghiară din România, UDMR)	M (Ethnic Parties)
E. Greater Romania Party (Partidul România Mare, PRM)	O (Other): Nationalist Left
F. Social Democratic Party (Partidul Social Democrat, PSD) * First dominant party of USL alliance (A)	D (Social Democratic Parties)
G. National Liberal Party (Partidul Național Liberal, PNL) * Second dominant party of USL alliance (A)	G (Liberal Parties)
H. Liberal Democratic Party (Partidul Democrat Liberal, PDL) * Dominant party of ARD alliance (B)	I (Christian Democratic Parties)

Ideological Party Families: (These are suggestions only. If a party does not fit well into this classification scheme, please provide an alternative and some explanation.)

(A) Ecology Parties
(B) Communist Parties
(C) Socialist Parties
(D) Social Democratic Parties
(E) Conservative Parties

(F) Left Liberal Parties
(G) Liberal Parties
(H) Right Liberal Parties
(I) Christian Democratic Parties
(J) National Parties

(K) Independents
(L) Agrarian Parties
(M) Ethnic Parties
(N) Regional Parties
(O) Other Parties

6a. Ideological Positions of Parties:

Please indicate party positions on a left-right dimension (in the expert judgment of the CSES Collaborator). Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 4 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

Party Name	Left										Right	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A. Social Liberal Union (Uniunea Social Liberală, USL)						X						
B. The Alliance for a Just Romania (Alianța România Dreaptă, ARD)									X			
C. People's Party – Dan Diaconescu (Partidul Poporului – Dan Diaconescu)		X										
D. Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania (Uniunea Democrată Maghiară din România, UDMR)						X						
E. Greater Romania Party (Partidul România Mare, PRM)				X								
F. Social Democratic Party (Partidul Social Democrat, PSD) * First dominant party of USL alliance (A)					X							
G. National Liberal Party (Partidul Național Liberal, PNL) * Second dominant party of USL alliance (A)							X					
H. Liberal Democratic Party (Partidul Democrat Liberal, PDL) * Dominant party of ARD alliance (B)									X			

6b. If you have asked respondents to rank political parties on an alternative dimension, other than the left-right dimension, please also provide your own rankings of the parties on this dimension. Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 4 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I).

7. In your view, what are the five most salient factors that affected the outcome of the election (e.g. major scandals; economic events; the presence of an independent actor; specific issues)? Rank them according to their salience (1 = most salient).

1. *The President. Traian Băsescu was very unpopular, turning not just the election itself, but also the events preceding it throughout 2012, largely into a referendum on him.*

2. *Referendum. In the summer of 2012, a newly formed parliamentary majority (PSD, PNL, and a few smaller parties) suspended President Băsescu, but this political decision was not confirmed in a subsequent referendum, due to low turnout (even though the vast majority of those who voted did so in favor of the suspension).*

3. *Street protests. The year 2012 started with street protests against the President and the government (for the first half of 2012, the government was formed by the PD-L and was backed by Băsescu). The protests, which eventually led to the fall of the government (which was replaced, in a first instance, by a more technocratic government, and a few months later by a government formed by the former opposition – PSD, PNL and their allies), started because of popular discontent with a proposal to privatize the health emergency response system, but they were also a symptom of a much larger, discontent with the incumbent government, particularly President Băsescu.*

4. *Plagiarism. Several members of the new government formed by PSD and PNL in the summer of 2012 – most notably, the Prime Minister and leader of the PSD, Victor Ponta – were accused of plagiarism. In Victor Ponta's case, the Minister of Education in his government made changes at the very last moment in organizations dealing with plagiarism in order to avoid a verdict against Ponta. Critics of the new government argued that this was just an example of how the new government was changing the rules of the democratic game in its favor (e.g., changing the Ombudsman overnight with a person close to them, or an unsuccessful attempt to change the electoral law to an SMD plurality system).*

5. *Economy/austerity. The austerity measures taken in the years following the economic crisis of 2008-2009 have affected quite dramatically the population, especially low-income Romanians (public employees, pensioners).*

8. Party Leaders and Presidential Candidates:

In the table below, report the leader(s) of each party. Please use the same parties that were used in the CSES Module 4 respondent questionnaire, and label them the same way (A-I). If candidates were endorsed by more than one party, please indicate this.

Party Name	Name of Party Leader	Name of Presidential Candidate, if appropriate
A. Social Liberal Union (Uniunea Social Liberală, USL)	<i>It is an alliance of four parties, with two co-presidents:</i> - Victor PONTA (head of the Social Democratic Party, PSD) – <i>measured as Leader F</i> - Crin ANTONESCU (head of the National Liberal Party, PNL) – <i>measured as Leader G</i>	
B. The Alliance for a Just Romania (Alianța România Dreaptă, ARD)	<i>It is an alliance of three parties.</i> <i>The dominant party was the Liberal Democratic Party, PDL, headed by Vasile BLAGA – measured as Leader H.</i> <i>The informal leader was the acting President of Romania, Traian Băsescu – measured as Leader I.</i>	
C. People’s Party – Dan Diaconescu (Partidul Poporului – Dan Diaconescu)	Dan DIACONESCU (Leader C)	
D. Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania (Uniunea Democrată Maghiară din România, UDMR)	KELEMEN Hunor (Leader D)	
E. Greater Romania Party (Partidul România Mare, PRM)	Corneliu Vadim TUDOR (Leader E)	
F. Social Democratic Party (Partidul Social Democrat, PSD)	Victor PONTA (Leader F)	

* First dominant party of USL alliance (A)		
<i>G. National Liberal Party (Partidul Național Liberal, PNL)</i> * Second dominant party of USL alliance (A)	Crin ANTONESCU (Leader G)	
<i>H. Liberal Democratic Party (Partidul Democrat Liberal, PDL)</i> * Dominant party of ARD alliance (B)	Vasile BLAGA (Leader H)	
	Traian BĂSESCU (Leader I)	

9a. Fairness of the Election

How impartial was the body that administered the election law?

- Very impartial
- Mostly impartial
- Not very impartial
- Not impartial at all

9b. Was there a formal complaint against the national level results?

- Yes
- No

9c. Were there irregularities reported by international election observers?

- Yes
- No
- No international election observers

9d. On what date was the election originally scheduled to be held?

December 9, 2012

9e. On what date was the election actually held? If different from 9d, please explain why.

December 9, 2012

10a. Election Violence

To what extent was there violence and voter or candidate intimidation during the election campaign and the election day?

- No violence at all
- Sporadic violence on the part of the government

- Sporadic violence on the part of opposition groups
- Sporadic violence on all sides
- Significant violence on the part of the government
- Significant violence on the part of opposition groups
- Significant violence of all sides

10b. If there was violence, was it geographically concentrated or national?

- Geographically concentrated
- National

10c. Post-Election (and election-related) Violence

To what extent was there violence following the election?

- No violence at all
- Sporadic violence on the part of the government
- Sporadic violence on the part of opposition groups
- Sporadic violence on all sides
- Significant violence on the part of the government
- Significant violence on the part of opposition groups
- Significant violence of all sides

10d. Post-Election (and election-related) Protest

To what extent was there protest following the election?

- No protest at all
- Sporadic protest
- Significant protest

Questions about the Possibilities of Electoral Alliance

Definitions: A joint list refers to one on which candidates of different parties run together. Apparentement refers to a legal agreement between two or more lists to pool their votes for the purposes of an initial seat allocation, with seats initially allocated to the alliance then reallocated to the lists in the alliance.

11. Joint Lists/Candidates

There are multiple types of electoral alliances/coalitions, but we are explicitly interested in those involving joint lists or candidates - i.e. those where parties compete as a unit during the election.

Is this type of electoral coalition legally allowable?

- Yes
 No

Is this type of electoral coalition used in practice, even if not legally allowable?

- Yes
 No

If “Yes” was answered to either of the above questions, then please complete the following table for the election at which the Module was administered. Please mention only alliances that received at least 1% of the vote nationally. Add additional lines to the table as necessary.

Alliance Name	Participating Parties (please indicate dominant members with an “*”)
Alliance 1: Social Liberal Union (Uniunea Social Liberală)	*Social Democratic Party (Partidul Social Democrat, PSD); *National Liberal Party (Partidul Național Liberal, PNL); Conservative Party (Partidul Conservator); National Union for Romania’s Progress (Uniunea Națională pentru Progresul României)
Alliance 2: The Alliance for a Just Romania (Alianța România Dreaptă)	*Liberal-Democratic Party (Partidul Democrat Liberal); Civic Force (Forța Civică); Christian Democratic National Peasant Party (Partidul Național Țărănesc Creștin Democrat)

12. If joint lists are possible, are they subject to different regulations than single-party lists? For example, higher thresholds, different numbers of candidates that may appear on the list, etc. (please mark all applicable responses)

- Yes, joint party lists must satisfy higher thresholds
- Yes, joint party lists may present different numbers of candidates
- Yes, joint party lists are subject to other regulations that are different from the regulations governing independent parties; please specify: _____
- No, joint parties are governed by the same rules as the other parties
- Not applicable; no joint party lists are allowed

The threshold for political parties (both Chamber and Senate) is 5% (valid votes)
An electoral alliance of two parties is subject to an 8% threshold; a three-party alliance to a 9% threshold; an alliance of four or more parties to a 10% threshold.

13a. Is there apparentement or linking of lists?

- Yes
- No

13b. If apparentement is possible, what lists can participate in such agreements:

- lists of the same party in the same constituency
- lists of the same party from different constituencies
- lists of different parties in the same constituency

14a. Can candidates run with the endorsement of more than one party?

- Yes
- No

14b. If candidates can run with the endorsement of more than one party, is this reflected on the ballot?

- No
- No party endorsements are indicated on the ballot paper
- Yes, candidate's name appears once, together with the names of all supporting parties
- Yes, candidate's name appears as many times as there are different parties endorsing him/her, each time with the name of the endorsing party
- Yes, other; please explain: _____

Data on Electoral Institutions

If possible, please supplement this section with copies of the electoral law, voters' handbooks, electoral commission reports, and/or any other relevant materials.

Questions 15a through 21d must be repeated for each electoral tier (segment) of each directly elected house of the legislature.

Electoral Tier (Segment) and House

15a. In your answers for questions 15a through 21d, which electoral tier (segment) is being referred to? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

15b. In your answers for questions 15a through 21d, which house is being referred to (lower or upper)? (Note: Countries with only one tier may skip this question.)

Questions about Voting

16a. How many votes do voters cast or can cast? In systems where voters rank order the candidates, if there are 10 candidates (for example), the response to this question should be 10.

Lower Chamber (Chamber of Deputies): one vote

Upper Chamber (Senate): one vote

16b. Do they vote for candidates (not party lists) or party lists? (Note: Collaborators may select multiple answers, if appropriate.)

(Definition: Party bloc voting is used in multi-member districts where voters cast a single party-centered vote for their party of choice; the party with the most votes wins all of the district seats.)

Chamber of Deputies:

Candidates

Party Lists

Party Bloc Voting

Other; please explain: _____

Senate:

Candidates

Party Lists

Party Bloc Voting

Other; please explain: _____

16c. How many rounds of voting are there?

Chamber: one round

Senate: one round

16d. If there are lists, are they closed, open, flexible, or is there party bloc voting?

Closed (order of candidates elected is determined by the party and voters are unable to express preference for a particular candidate)

Open (voters can indicate their preferred party and their favored candidate within that party)

Flexible (voters can allocate votes to candidates either within a single party list or across different party lists as they see fit)

Chamber:

There are no lists (single-member districts)

Senate:

There are no lists (single-member districts)

17. Are the votes transferable?

(Definition: In systems with preferential voting, a voter can express a list of preferences. E.g., votes can be cast by putting a '1' in the column next to the voter's preferred candidate, a '2' beside their second favorite candidate and so on. Votes are counted according to the first preferences and any candidates who have achieved the predetermined quota are elected. To decide which of the remaining candidates are elected the votes are *transferred* from candidates who have more than the necessary number to achieve the quota and from the candidate with the least number of votes. An example of this is the election in Ireland in 2002.)

Chamber:

Yes

No

Senate:

Yes

No

18. If more than one vote can be cast, can they be cumulated?

(Definition: Cumulative voting refers to systems in which voters are allowed to cast more than one vote for a single candidate.)

Yes

No

19. Is voting compulsory?

(Definition: Voting is compulsory if the law states that all those who have the right to vote are obliged to exercise that right.)

Chamber of Deputies:

- Yes; Strictly Enforced Sanctions
- Yes; Weakly Enforced Sanctions
- Yes; Without Sanction for Violation
- No

Senate:

- Yes; Strictly Enforced Sanctions
- Yes; Weakly Enforced Sanctions
- Yes; Without Sanction for Violation
- No

20. Please list and describe any other features of voting that should be noted.

For both Chamber and Senate elections, the country is divided into single-member districts (“colegii”). There are 41 counties plus Bucharest, each has a number of deputies and senators proportional to its population (but at least four deputies and two senators).

Any candidate receiving a majority (50%+1) of votes in his/her SMD is directly elected.

All parties/alliances receiving more than the threshold (5% of valid votes nationwide for parties, 8% to 10% for alliances) are entitled to representation. The total national vote for each party or alliance entitled to representation is used to compute how many seats it is entitled to (using d’Hondt formula). From this number, the number of seats won directly via majority vote in SMD is subtracted (overhanged seats are possible). There are additional steps which will then decide, first, in which counties each party/alliance will receive its additional seats it is entitled to (if any), and then, within those counties, in which specific SMD(s).

Thus, the electoral system has three tiers: (1) local (SMD), (2) “regional” (county-level), and (3) national.

For a more detailed description, see Marian & King 2010 and/or Gherghina & Jigla 2012 (these articles refer to the 2008 elections, when the electoral system in use was essentially the same).

The 2012 Electoral Law (Romanian):

<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/legislatie.html>>

<[http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/DOCUMENTE/Legislatie/legea%2035%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/DOCUMENTE/Legislatie/legea%2035%20(1).pdf)>

Questions about Converting Votes into Seats

21a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed before it is eligible to receive seats?

Yes

No

21b. If YES in Question 21a, what is the threshold?

Chamber and/or Senate:

i) There is a 5% threshold for both the Chamber and Deputies and the Senate (e.g., if a party gets more than 5% of the votes for the Chamber, but less than 5% for the Senate, it will only get represented in the Chamber).

This threshold is higher for electoral alliances (8% for a two-party alliance, 9% for a three-party alliance, and 10% for alliances of four parties or more).

Chamber and Senate (concurrent):

ii) There is an alternative threshold of at least three single-member districts won directly (by majority vote, 50%+1) in the Senate *and* at least six single-member districts won directly by majority vote in the Chamber; both conditions must be fulfilled by a party to get representation via this alternative threshold.

Chamber:

iii) There is yet another alternative threshold, much lower, for organizations representing ethnic groups (this provision applies only for the Chamber). This represents 10% (0.1) of the “national quota” (“coeficientul electoral national”), which is obtained by dividing the total number of valid votes (in 2012, this figure was 7,397,237) by the number of single-member districts in the Chamber (315). Thus, “national quota” = $7,397,237/315 = 23,483$. Any organization representing an ethnic group which received more than 2,348 votes gained representation (one seat each). In 2012, there were 18 such organizations (in addition to the Hungarian Democratic Union/UDMR, which received more than 5% of the valid votes, thus gaining representation like a “regular” political party).

21c. If YES in Question 21a, what is the unit for the threshold mentioned in Question 21b?

Percent of total votes

Percent of valid votes

Percent of the total electorate

Other; please explain: _____

21d. If YES in Question 21a, please specify to what House/Electoral Tier (Segment) the threshold(s) apply.

- (i) applies to both Chamber and Senate, at the national level;
- (ii) applies *concurrently* to the Chamber and the Senate, at constituency (single-member district) level;
- (iii) applies only for the Chamber at the national level.

Please repeat questions 15a through 21d for each electoral tier (segment) of each directly elected house of the legislature. Countries with only one tier should proceed to Question 22.

References

22. Please provide an official source for district-level election results. English language sources are especially helpful. Include website links or contact information if applicable.

Central Electoral Bureau (Biroul Electoral Central), "[Alegeri pentru Camera Deputatilor și Senat 9 Decembrie 2012: Rezultate](http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/rezultate%20la%20nivel%20de%20circusmcriptii%20electorale.html),"
<<http://www.becparlamentare2012.ro/rezultate%20la%20nivel%20de%20circusmcriptii%20electorale.html>>

Contact:

The Romanian Electoral Authority (Autoritatea Electorală Permanentă)

<<http://www.roaep.ro/prezentare/contact-sediul-central/>>

E-mail: office.sg@roaep.ro & comunicare@roaep.ro

23. Please list any resources that were consulted in the preparation of this report, or that the CSES community may find especially helpful in understanding the political system described. Include website links if applicable.

A useful general overview of the year 2012 in Romanian politics:

Stan, Lavinia. 2013. "Romania," *European Journal of Political Research Political Data Yearbook* 52: 196–207. doi: 10.1111/2047-8852.12028.

Two very good descriptions of the Romanian electoral system used in 2008 and 2012 and its consequences for the Romanian party system and politics:

Gherghina, Sergiu, and George Jigla. 2012. "Where does the Mechanism Collapse? Understanding the 2008 Romanian Electoral System". *Representation* 48, 4: 445-459.
<<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00344893.2012.720889>>

Marian, Cosmin Gabriel, and Ronald F. King. 2010. "Plus ça change: Electoral law reform and the 2008 Romanian parliamentary elections". *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 43, 1: 7-18. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.postcomstud.2010.01.004>>