

## ROMANIA

*Population:* 22,4 Mio

*Area:* 238.391 km<sup>2</sup>

### Part 1: Laws concerning Homosexuality

*Forbidden by law:* No

*Age of consent:* Equal

*Registered partnership/marriage:* No

*Differences to heterosexual marriages:* There is no recognition of lesbian/gay relationships, therefore persons in a same-sex couple are treated like individuals; consequently, there are difficulties encountered when living together, starting from registering their address to the local registration office, gaining a proper updated ID card ranging to inheritance problems, problems related to adoption, or raised taxes paid as individuals though the couple lives as a couple.

*Anti-discrimination law, protecting lesbians/gays (L/G) against discrimination:* Yes. The anti-discrimination law was enacted in 2001, after many years of lesbian/gay activism.

*At work:* Yes

*On the housing market:* No

*In other areas:* Yes/No

*Other groups in the society protected through such a law:* Yes

The same Romanian law prohibits discrimination on the grounds of age, social status, religion, ethnic grounds, handicap, race, colour and wealth.

*Incidents that briefly describe the situation of L/G in society:*

On the International Human Rights Day in Romania, Bucharest, December 10th 2002, Florin [REDACTED], the Executive Director of ACCEPT (the first Romanian non-governmental organisation that defends and promotes the rights of LGBT at the national level) stated the following in a Communiqué:

“Minorities' rights are human rights that the Romanian authorities should not only invoke, proclaim and festively celebrate, but also observe. The Romanian Police has recently used disproportionate force against an entire Roma community; it has also abused and harassed lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons on several occasions. On the other hand, within the Romanian medical system HIV-positive people (whether children, teenagers, or homosexual and heterosexual women and men) have a precarious status, the treatment of some of them being either inadequate or interrupted. All these are worrying facts that flagrantly violate human rights.

On the International Human Rights Day, ACCEPT asks the Romanian Government and the National Council against Discrimination to prepare and adopt without delay a National Action Plan from 2003-2004, including concrete measures to prevent and combat discrimination, in collaboration with the organizations whose members and beneficiaries are victims of human rights violations.“

### Part 2: Situation in the Church(es)

*Open L/G welcome to*

*Eucharist:* No

*Comments:* All churches are openly exclusive toward lesbians and gays.

Only the recently founded Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), inclusive towards lesbians and gays, is frequented mostly by gay men, in weekly ceremonies and Eucharist celebrations of God.

*Do volunteer work:* Yes, when gays and lesbians are closeted or in the MCC.

*Work as ordained ministers:* No

*Comments:* Only in the MCC

*Other employment in church(es):* No. Only in the MCC, but as a small church they have no other types of employment inside the church

*Partnership blessing possible:* No

*Incidents/outspoken attitudes that briefly describe the situation of L/G in the churches:*

The Romanian Orthodox Church considers homosexuality to be a sin. Thus, lesbians and gays do not live their sexual identity openly in Church or risk to get excluded.

### Part 3: Christian Lesbian/Gay Networks

*Network name:* Metropolitan Community Churches

*Number of members:* approx. 10

*Year of foundation:* 2002

*Web page/contact address:* [accept@fx.ro](mailto:accept@fx.ro)

*Questionnaire filled in by Luminita [REDACTED]*