



# IN2 Romania

## Date: flexible



### What team will I be joining?

Wycliffe Bible Translators International is an association of member organizations that have agreed to work with each other and with partners around the world, promoting and participating in Bible translation movements worldwide. Today about 200 million people do not have the Bible in their own language. Wycliffe's vision is to see the Bible accessible to all people in the language they understand best. To make this vision a reality, Wycliffe also focuses on literacy development, community development and church partnerships.

### Where will I be going?

The SIL team in Romania live in Central Transylvania. Anna and Evelyne live in Târgu Mureș, a medium sized town where half the population are Hungarian speakers and the other half Romanian. David and Sari live in a village about half an hour away. This village is about 85% Hungarian and 15% Roma. Anna and Evelyne are working on finishing a survey of the Romani dialects in Romania. Anna is also working as a volunteer with a local Christian NGO. David and Sari are helping Roma people have access to the Scriptures in the language they understand best.

Romania is a very Christian country. In spite of a long Communist period, most people believe in God, they go to church at least twice a year, and trust the church more than their government. But for many, Christianity is a collection of customs and rituals, they do not actually know Christ as their Saviour. The Roma (Gypsies) that the SIL team are working with, usually follow the majority religion where they live, be that Romanian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Hungarian Reformed or even Islam. However, in the last 20 years, there has been a revival amongst them. Pentecostal and Baptist churches have sprung up and gained even hundreds of converts in some places. This revival has brought tremendous changes in the life of the Roma and more respect from the Romanian and Hungarian communities that otherwise barely tolerate them. More recently some churches have suffered loss of members as many Romanian citizens have gone to Italy or Spain in search of work.

Travelers' cheques are almost entirely unknown and not many shops accept card payment, but there are plenty of bank machines (in cities). Before coming, please find out from your bank how much it will cost to make withdrawals to avoid unpleasant surprises. There are some banks that charge a lot to make an overseas withdrawal, others (eg. Nationwide in England) don't charge at all. You might want to open an account with one of these.

## What will I be doing?

There are several things that might be going on. We can't promise anything until we know when you are coming. But here are some possibilities: There might be a survey trip at the time to the South of Romania. You could join Evelyne or Anna on this trip, see different Roma communities, experience their hospitality, visit a Roma church or two and encourage them by giving your testimony. Or David and Sari might be visiting Florian, a Roma Bible translator, also in the South of Romania. You could join them, see how hospitable this family is. Eat some genuine Roma food, use an outhouse, wash in a basin and do laundry by hand. They might be checking the translation Florian has prepared. Listen in to see how exegetical and cultural issues are addressed. Or Florian might be visiting David and Sari. In that case you could stay in the comfort of their home and observe how they teach Florian the principles of Bible translation. For light relief, you could always help with the garden or the children, thus giving very valuable practical help to this missionary couple.

In the village where David and Sari live, most people belong to the Hungarian Reformed church. There is a children's program and if you are there at the right time, you could help out with a day camp. The church would love to hear from you on a Sunday - a testimony or song.

Anna could take you along to an orphanage to help the children with their English or any other activity she is doing with the NGO she is working with (camps in the summer, coming along and getting feedback to materials which have been passed out to Roma people in their language, visiting Roma villages and coming alongside partner organizations in the work they are doing). You can also choose to take a Romanian class here where you will be able to learn some basic Romanian to help you communicate with the local people while you are here. There is fee of 25 RON an hour. but you will also be helping out the local economy as well as a pastor's family or another Romanian.

The sooner they know that you are coming, the sooner they can start arranging something you are especially interested in doing. There are many various possibilities to be involved with even long term if you decide you like Romania enough to come live and work here.

## Who can join?

Come if you are interested in minority peoples, languages, the Roma or Bible translation. Most Roma in Romania. besides their own Romani language, also speak either Hungarian or Romanian. A knowledge of one of these languages would be a bonus, but is not essential for you to be able to participate meaningfully in this trip

## Where will I be sleeping and eating?

You will be staying with David and Sari and/or with Anna and Evelyne. David and Sari have a house in a village about half an hour from Targu Mures. This house will have been extended by the time you come to have guest rooms and more facilities, so your stay should be very comfortable. You will be eating with the family, a mixture of Hungarian and English dishes (David is English, Sari is Hungarian). Their three children (between 8 and 3) will provide continuous entertainment and make sure that you don't get bored. Evelyne and Anna rent an apartment in Targu Mures. While staying with them you will probably cook for yourself using ingredients from the local markets or the big supermarkets where you may be able to find some of the foods you are used to. You can also venture out and try some restaurants. Evelyne and Anna can advise you about where you can find the best sarmale or for the more adventurous, tripe soup.

### How do I get there?

There are flights to Targu Mures from Budapest, by Malev and Wizz Air. Wizz Air is cheaper but less reliable - more cancelled flights, time changes and worse customer service. There are also train and coach connections from European cities. You will be picked up when you arrive.

### Do I need a visa?

If coming from an EU country, you won't need a visa. If not, please check with the Romanian embassy in your country.

### What are the exact dates?

Flexible from our side.

### How much will it cost?

You will need to pay your own travel. With David and Sari food and lodging will cost 10 Euros a day. With Anna and Evelyne just lodging (you will be self-catering) will cost 5 Euros a day. Be prepared to pay for public transport, food and other expenses. Also make sure you have proper health insurance (from the EU, bring a health insurance card).

### When do I need to apply?

The earlier the better, so we can best plan for your individual interests, but at the latest 3 weeks before you plan to arrive.

### How do I apply?

You need to apply through the mission-net website:

<http://www.mission-net.org/>

First register for the Congress and then for your IN2 team option. Go to the 2009 section and click on REGISTER NOW

### Any questions?

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