

**Report CSS**  
**Set of proposals for Romania**  
**(May 2020)**

**Bizdrigheanu Bianca-Tania, Vasile Crețu, Frățilă Ecaterina, Tănase Valentina**

<b>Economy</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Public administration</b>	<b>Crises management</b>	<b>Education and training</b>	<b>Critical infrastructure and emerging technologies<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Social<sup>2</sup></b>
<p><b>1. Creation of a support fund for SMEs</b> that would offer:            -government grants for investments and support for economic sectors with growing potential for job creation;            - state guaranteed loans;</p>	<p><b>1.Increased funding for to the Ministry of Health</b> in order to:            - ensure the proper functioning of healthcare facilities;            - mitigate the overload of the public system;            - avoid the "brain-drain" phenomenon in the medical sector (during and/or after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic).</p>	<p><b>1. Enhanced digital transformation of public services</b> by:            - updating and perfecting the national information infrastructure, as well as the interconnection of public databases;</p>	<p><b>1. Restructuring the National Emergency Management System (SNMSU)</b> by creating the National Emergency Situations Center. This Center would facilitate the coordination of the SNMSU at the national level</p>	<p><b>1. Digital transformation of the education system</b> by creating a platform dedicated to remote learning (this would also require proper training for teachers so they would use this resource efficiently).</p>	<p><b>1. Cyber-security.</b> During the pandemic, when a large part of the activities moved to the online environment, the incidence of cyber-attacks also increased, which requires a prompt response (without one, digital activity –</p>	<p><b>1. Creation of a social protection mechanism, which would also have to stimulate employment:</b>            - reduction of social security contributions owed by companies for a limited period of time,</p>

<sup>1</sup> While new and emerging technologies have become paramount in today's state and society, the associated risks must be assessed, including in the field of critical infrastructure. New technologies have become part of the critical infrastructure and need a proper approach. Romania needs an updated legal framework that includes new and emerging technologies, to ensure that they are used in accordance with the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens.

<sup>2</sup> The economic crisis that will most likely follow after the end of the health crisis will most severely affect the most vulnerable social groups and will increase inequalities.

<p>- financial support for SMEs undergoing restructuring and / or relocating production chains from Asia to Europe; - tax incentives for companies that employ a minimum number of employees (the incentive would contribute to increasing productivity as well as to reducing unemployment rate).</p>		<p>-simplifying and streamlining the steps necessary for citizens to gain secure online access to their personal official documents (such as tax forms).</p>	<p>by placing it under the direct subordination of the Prime Minister and by placing the Romanian General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations in its subordination. Furthermore, the county public health departments could be reformed and redesigned to be more involved in the management of emergency situations in the medical field.</p>	<p>The authorities need to take further measures to reduce the digital gap between rural and urban areas, as well as between pupils and students from vulnerable social groups and the other categories. Romania can access European funds made available for this purpose.</p>	<p>now vital to everyday life - can be compromised).</p>	<p>in order to avoid mass layoffs; - financial compensations (in addition to the unemployment benefit) for persons laid off as a result of the crisis generated by COVID-19.</p>
<p><b>2. Massive public investment in infrastructure</b> (after the US / New Deal model or Germany after the Great Depression).</p>	<p><b>2. Investments/financing /support to increase the production of medical equipment.</b></p>	<p><b>2. Making local transportation more efficient in the context of social distancing</b> by: - acquiring more public</p>	<p><b>2. Establishment of an early warning system</b> based on a national risk register and an agreed upon set of indicators at</p>	<p><b>2. Professional reconversion</b> with a strong emphasis on training and retraining courses. The shock caused by</p>	<p><b>2. Acquiring access to technological innovation.</b> For example, it is estimated that in the next 12 months, quantum</p>	<p><b>2. Granting bonuses to private entities</b> that employ people who have recently become</p>

<p>This would decrease unemployment and contribute to integrating into the local labour market some of those who have returned to Romania during this pandemic.</p>		<p>transportation vehicles and keeping them sanitized, -promoting greener alternatives for city commute.</p>	<p>interinstitutional level.</p>	<p>the COVID-19 pandemic and the related crisis will lead to substantial shifts in the demand side of the labor market.</p>	<p>computers will begin to solve routine problems that cannot be achieved through current technology, with extensive applications including in the medical field. Romania should ensure access to this technology through diplomacy, investment and qualified personnel.</p>	<p>unemployed or for those who have returned from abroad and want to be integrated into the local economy.</p>
<p><b>3. Investing in agriculture and stimulating production</b> by: -financing irrigation systems; -creating better fit-for-purpose processing chains; - support domestic production by facilitating access of micro-farms</p>	<p><b>3. Creating stocks of medical supplies essential in a crisis situation, while also diversifying import sources.</b></p>	<p><b>3. Increasing the transparency and efficiency of competitions held for public management positions, especially in the health system.</b> In this way, the recurrence of serious errors committed during</p>	<p><b>3. Develop an emergency response strategy and action plan,</b> which would also include situations with low probability and major impact (<i>black swan type events</i>).</p>	<p><b>3. Supporting research and innovation</b> by increasing investments, by modernizing research centers and through continual efforts to avoid even further “<i>brain-drain</i>”, especially in the</p>		<p><b>3. Creating volunteer centers</b> where highly skilled personnel (e.g. psychologists, nurses, teachers, legal advisers, economists, social workers, etc.) can enroll to provide</p>

<p>and small food factories to large retail chains;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-creating a program to internationally promote traditional products, local brands, etc.</li> <li>-encouraging local consumption (VAT reductions can be considered for units selling products within a certain radius and for those who sell their products in agri-food markets);</li> <li>-supporting farmers to grow organic crops, thus following the latest consumer trends.</li> </ul>		<p>the crisis by the management of some hospitals or by the management of some Public Health Directorates will be avoided.</p>		<p>health sector (competitive wages, access to modern technologies, etc.).</p>	<p>support to Romanian citizens that have difficulties receiving assistance otherwise. Given that there are already many entities that have initiated volunteer projects to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, their efforts could be supported by creating a platform that could facilitate communication between the entities, as well as with the Romanian authorities (for serious and urgent situations that</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--

						require intervention).
<p><b>4. Fiscal facilities for the hospitality industry</b>, such as the exemption for the payment of taxes / social contributions during the state of emergency or state of alert.</p> <p>Also, the promotion of domestic tourism is desirable to cut some of the loses in the industry (state-sponsored advertising, discounts for domestic railway transportation, etc.).</p>	<p><b>4. Creating a unique and integrated system of health records.</b> This measure could also aim to improve the current system of health insurance cards.</p>	<p><b>4. Adoption of simplified and transparent procurement procedures in the healthcare sector.</b></p>	<p><b>4. Creating a new mechanism to fight against fake news</b> (online, television, print media). To achieve this goal, effective inter-institutional cooperation is needed (between the legislative and the executive branches, with the European institutions, as well as with national intelligence agencies). A reform of the National Audiovisual Council is also needed so that it can be better equipped for the</p>	<p><b>4. Improving digital literacy</b> by organizing courses for the staff employed in the local and central administration to improve their digital skills.</p>	<p><b>4. Increase efforts to prevent and report cases of domestic violence</b> by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- updating the current legal framework;</li> <li>- giving increased powers to the police in cases of domestic violence;</li> <li>- creating fit-for-purpose centers to support system for victims of domestic violence.</li> </ul>	

			current challenges.			
<p><b>5. Creating a state-funded network of consultants to support European funds applications by entrepreneurs and SMEs.</b> Many of them are discouraged by long bureaucratic processes and some do not have the budget to independently contract a consultant.</p>	<p><b>5. Increasing the testing capacity for COVID-19 detection.</b> Even if vaccine distribution starts in early 2021, the road to herd immunity is still long as, most likely, the doses will be disbursed in multiple installments.</p>	<p><b>5. Increasing trust in public authorities.</b> Achieving this goal requires an effective and coordinated communication strategy, transparency, clarity and cohesion between national authorities.</p>				<p><b>5. Intensifying efforts to better protect the most vulnerable population from COVID-19</b> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- special information campaigns in sign languages (a practice adopted at the start of the pandemic, but mostly abandoned shortly after);</li> <li>- diversification of the tools used in disseminating information (also by involving local authorities in rural areas that are relatively</li> </ul>

						<p>disconnected from the mainstream media);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assuring access to free protective equipment (masks and hygiene products) for all who cannot afford it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Reducing dependency in key production sectors.</b></p> <p>The EU has repeatedly pointed out that it is too economically dependent on Asia and stressed the need for self-sufficiency in what concerns medical equipment, so a (partial) relocation of production capacity in Europe is to be expected.</p>	<p><b>6. Implementing digital healthcare tools,</b> such as telemedicine. As long as the access of non-covid patients in hospital units is still restricted, the digitalization of medical services is a necessity.</p>					

Romania should offer enough incentives to become a potential relocation area by: -reducing dependencies at the national level by increasing and diversifying domestic production; -diversifying exports of high value-added products and avoiding the export of raw materials;						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--