



THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY

***DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVITY OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY
2023-2027***



CONTENTS

1. INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT – THE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY	Error! Bookmark not defined.
1.1. The mission of the ROMANIAN ACADEMY	Error! Bookmark not defined.
1.2. International visibility of the ROMANIAN ACADEMY	4
2. STRATEGIC VISION CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY	Error! Bookmark not defined.
2.1. Strategic instruments	10
2.2. Strategic goals.....	11
3. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING	12
4. CONCLUSIONS.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

1. INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT – THE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE RA

1.1. The Mission of the RA

The RA (RA) is a national public interest institution for research in fundamental fields of science, autonomous, functioning with legal personality and under public law. As a symbol of national spirituality, the highest forum of cultural and scientific consecration, as well as research, gathering top scientific personalities with outstanding achievements from Romania and abroad, the RA has a long tradition of nearly 160 years along which its fundamental cultural and scientific goals have broadened their area of comprehension and enriched their complexity.



Following its mission, the RA exerts the subsequent functions:

- consecration forum of the country, by admission amongst its members the most prominent national elite scientists in the fields of science and culture;
- high forum of fundamental scientific research through the activity of its scientific sections, branches and network of research institutes;
- formation of young researchers through doctorate and post-doctorate studies by the Advanced Studies School of the Romanian Academy (in Romanian, SCOSAAR);
- archiving/information/documentation/publication through the activity of research support institutions – the Library of the Romanian Academy and the Romanian Academy Publishing House;
- an active participant in the life of the Romanian society through debates, taking positions and counselling on issues of high scientific interest at a national and international level;
- partner in the frame of cooperation with other academies and through involvement in international scientific projects and programs.

In pursuing the completion of its mission and vocation, the RA affirms itself as a promoter and guarantor of the autonomy of thought and freedom of expression. The General Assembly of the Romanian Academy, a unique forum in Romania that reunites eminent personalities in all cultural and scientific areas at the national level, has proved to be a genuine space of values, debate and consensus during decisive moments for the country's destiny.



By its organisational structure, the RA provides a distinctive environment favouring fundamental research, a vast range of research fields and a space for fostering inter- and transdisciplinarity.

The RA is organised into 14 scientific sections and has territorial branches in Cluj-Napoca (North-West region), Iași (North-East region) and Timișoara (West region). The scientific activity of the RA is conducted by its scientific section, research centres and institutes network, as well as the national committees, specialised commissions and consultative working committees formed by members of the RA and other personalities in the fields of science and culture.

The scientific sections in the structure of the RA are Philology and Literature; Historical Sciences and Archaeology; Mathematic Sciences; Physics Sciences; Chemical Sciences; Biological Sciences; Geonomic Sciences; Technical Sciences; Agricultural and Forestry Sciences; Medical Sciences; Economic, Legal and Sociology Sciences; Philosophy, Theology, Psychology and Pedagogy; Arts, Architecture and Audiovisual; Information Science and Technology.

The fundamental research system of the RA comprises 57 research institutes with legal personality and 11 units subordinated to territorial branches.

1.2. International visibility of the RA

Through its activities, performances and exceptional achievements, the RA makes an important contribution to enhancing the international visibility of the country and the Romanian research outcomes. The RA international activity follows multiple directions:

- 1.2.1.** inter-academic international relations;
- 1.2.2.** cooperation programs with international academic institutions for the financing inter-academic exchanges and joint research projects;
- 1.2.3.** awarding researchers from the country and abroad, with scientific results and impact at national and international levels;
- 1.2.4.** dissemination of the results obtained by the researchers of the RA in books published by prestigious international publishing houses, in recognised international journals, at international conferences, as well as by completing inter-academic exchange research programs;
- 1.2.5.** international mobility programs for doctoral and post-doctoral students.

1.2.1. International inter-academic relations represent one of the essential directions in the activity of the RA, with particular attention towards the collaboration with similar institutions around the globe, the participation in actions of inter-academic bodies and involvement in joint research programs. The RA aims at creating and nurturing a fertile collaborative environment, ensuring the fulfilment of its obligations derived from agreements concluded by Romania and other states, inter-academic agreements for multilateral and bilateral scientific collaboration, and affiliation to professional and scientific organizations, societies and

associations. In this regard, the RA is entirely open to identifying opportunities for collaboration and permanent support of research and international cooperation.

The RA is a full member of European representative associations: All European Academies (ALLEA)¹, European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)², InterAcademic Partnership (IAP)³, European Federation of National Institutions for Language (EFNIL)⁴, The International Academic Union and is affiliated to over 30 scientific and professional international organizations.



The RA has concluded agreements and programs for scientific and cultural cooperation with over 50 academies and scientific organizations in Europe, Asia, and America, in the frame of which researchers from the research centres and institutes network of the RA participate in renowned international scientific manifestations, conduct joint research programs with their partners abroad and attend documentation programs and internships in academies and universities.



¹ ALLEA (founded in 1994) currently reunites more than 50 academies in over 40 states. The member academies function as professional associations, think tanks and organizations that conduct research activities. They are autonomous communities of scientific research leaders in all areas of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. The organization provides access to a human resource of outstanding intellectual excellence, experience and knowledge.

² EASAC is an organism formed by representatives of the national academies in the member states of the European Union, Norway and Switzerland, as well as Academia Europaea and ALLEA. The Science Advisory Council of the European Academies is a mechanism of collective expression for European science. Through EASAC, the academies collaborate to provide evidence-based independent counselling concerning scientific aspects of European policies.

³ The IAP is a global network of over 140 national, regional and global academies of science, medicine and engineering (officially launched in March 2016), joining three previously existing global academic networks. Within IAP, academies collaborate to support the particular role of science and efforts to identify solutions to the world's most stringent concerns. Specifically, IAP uses the expertise of leaders in the fields of science, medicine and engineering in the world to promote appropriate policies, improve public health, promote excellence in science education and achieve other development goals.

⁴ EFNIL, an independent federation (founded in 2003), reunites over 40 members in 30 states, representatives of major academic organizations, and other national bodies from European Union member states and countries linguistically associated, with the role of overseeing the language monitoring, as well as providing consultancy concerning the use of languages or the development of language policies. The Federation contributes to facilitating the data exchange concerning the activity of these institutions, tracing collection and publication of information concerning the use of languages or the development of the European Union language policies, aiming to protect linguistic diversity as a tool for promoting the European cultural heritage and developing the sense of apurtenance to a shared European identity. As of 2022, EFNIL is an advisory body for the European Commission.



A distinctive component of international relations developed by the RA is the election within its academic forum of numerous personalities from abroad. Since 1869, the RA has had the privilege to count among its honorary members prominent scholars, fellows of academies and top universities around the globe, Nobel Prize laureates, collaborators of Romanian researchers or scientists with outstanding achievements from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

Correspondingly, numerous members of the RA have been elected in renowned international bodies around the world: *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*, *Académie des Sciences* in Paris, *Academia Europaea*, *Accademia dei Lincei*, the New York Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Arts in Berlin,

Accademia Liguria, *Académie de Médecine* in Paris, the Science Academy in Moscow, the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, *Royal Society* in London, as well as in international societies and associations in all fields sciences, letters and arts.

The development of international relationships of the RA has been notably sustained by the two Romanian Schools in Paris and Rome, founded in 1920 under the patronage of the academy, as well as by the participation of RA members in international scientific manifestations.



Another essential component in the international relations of the RA is represented by the meetings of the RA representatives with delegates of international academic institutions and other public and private international bodies. In the past years, the RA has hosted multiple working visits of distinguished representatives of international organisations. Similarly, members of the RA have made working visits to international academic and public institutions.

During the last five years, around 1013 members and researchers of the RA have participated in inter-academic exchanges with scientific institutions abroad, while 1126 academics and scientists from partner academies have made research visits at the RA.

1.2.2. The cooperation programs with international academic institutions for financing inter-academic exchanges and research projects constitute a strong pillar of the internationalization activity in the RA.

The RA has signed bilateral agreements, protocols and scientific cooperation memoranda with more than 50 scientific institutions as a frame for joint research projects, inter-academic exchanges and scientific events. For maintaining, reinforcing and developing its relations at an international level, as well as permanently supporting research in all the fields represented by its 14 scientific sections, the RA ensures the conclusion of new agreements and protocols of cooperation, approval and transmission of documentation required by the procedures of inter-academic research programs, validation of the annual list of inter-academic exchanges and their specific conditions, support of inter-academic communication.

The RA also launched multiple calls for the financing of joint scientific projects of Romanian researchers and their foreign partners. Only in the last five years, 30 RA institutes have implemented projects in collaboration with the Fund for Scientific Research – Belgium and Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI), the Czech Academy of Sciences, the National Council of Research – Italy, the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, covering a vast area of research topics, in various fields as chemistry, geography, archaeology and history of art, ethnography, folklore, linguistic, biochemistry or physics.

1.2.3. Recognition of the Romanian and foreign researchers, with results and impact at a

national and international level, has sought to sustain high-value original papers, with individual or collective authorship, highlighting authors' creativity and significantly contributing to the progress of culture since the foundation of the RA. Each year, the RA has awarded both paperworks that brought an original contribution to the development of the Romanian culture and works with a significant impact on the international community.

1.2.4. Dissemination of the results obtained by RA researchers in books published by internationally recognized editors, prestigious international journals and conferences or presented on other occasions is another basic component of the RA international activity.

Through his mission and functions, the RA has encouraged and supported that all the results dissemination actions are conducted within the international scientific flow. The performances and exceptional achievements of its reserachers from the perspective of the number of scientific publications and their quality have led the RA to first place in the 2022 Scimago Ranking. This profile is completed by individual performances of RA institutes and centres, in specific research areas.

RA institutes and centres for scientific research have concluded multiple agreements for international collaborations, are actively involved in international projects and organise or participate as co-organisers in various international scientific events. Based on the agreements for inter-academic exchanges, the researchers in the RA scientific structures benefit from important opportunities such as participation at major international scientific manifestations, implementation of joint research projects with their partners abroad, hosting visiting professors or scientific researchers from partner institutions, organisation of conferences and workshops in Romania with international participation.

1.2.5. The international mobility programs for doctoral and post-doctoral students registered at the School for Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy (SCOSAAR) are a central component in the internationalization process of the RA scientific activity.

Over the last three decades, the RA has been an organiser institution of university studies for doctorate (in Romanian, IOSUD) through its School for Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy (SCOSAAR). The fundamental goal of the organisation and development of university studies for doctorate in the frame of SCOSAAR is the formation of highly qualified elite specialists in academic scientific research for university-level education as well as in the field of administration and management.



SCOSAAR (nationally accredited by ARACIS in 2021) comprises 10 Doctoral Schools, as follows: Mathematics and Information Sciences Doctoral School; Chemical Sciences Doctoral School; Geonomic Sciences Doctoral School; Life Sciences Doctoral School; Philology and Cultural Studies Doctoral School; History and Archaeology Doctoral School; Philosophy and Psychology Doctoral School; Economic Sciences Doctoral School; Sociology and Legal Sciences Doctoral School; Engineering, Mechanics and Computer Sciences Doctoral School.

SCOSAAR has strongly emphasized the international activity of students in its entire program. Through its actions and regulations, it encouraged and supported the dissemination of the results of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors in the international scientific flow, i.e., books published by international publishing houses, articles published in prestigious international journals, and participation in international conferences.

The RA, as well as its subordinated institutes and centres, have won by competition and implemented projects of doctoral and post-doctoral research in the frame of the Human Resources Development Operational Program (in Romanian, POSDRU) and Human Capital Development Operational Program (in Romanian, POCU), respectively, financed by the European Social Fund (ESF). These programs enabled students to benefit from logistic and financial support for participation in mobility programs in the EU member states or at international scientific manifestations.

The RA institutes and centres have also won project competitions and developed **ERASMUS+ projects/Key Action 2 – Cooperation between organizations and institutions**, in partnership with universities from the country and abroad, following such goals as increasing quality education and training, youth employment in Europe and beyond; combining high levels of excellence and attractiveness with increased opportunities for all; education, training and youth systems better adapted to the needs and opportunities offered by the labour market and in closer relations with the business environment and the community; providing and improving the assessment of basic and transversal skills, in particular entrepreneurship, social, civic, intercultural and linguistic skills, critical thinking, digital skills and media literacy.

2. STRATEGIC VISION CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY

The Romanian Academy is committed to continuing its international activity, developing and strengthening the international perception towards the complexity and high standard of the opportunities offered by its partnership in the area of scientific collaboration and elite researchers formation.

Thus, the RA international activity represents a basic component of **Strategic Goal 3**, out of the 9, from the **Management Program of the Romanian Academy Praesidium Bureau**, entitled “The Romanian Academy – A new stage of development. Goals and actions for 2022-2026”.

The vision of the RA management team is that the following elements are essential for increasing the level of international activity: a) the development of partnerships with academies and universities from the country and abroad, with a wide range of research topics; b) the activity efficiency analysis and the active involvement of the Romanian Academy as a member in various international professional and scientific associations or organisations, and the promotion of appropriate measures for better exploitation of the opportunities offered by this framework; c) streamlining the system of inter-academic exchanges by increasing the responsibility of the RA scientific sections and research institutes; d) expanding collaboration programs with academies from Australia, Korea, India, Japan, USA, Vietnam.

Apart from approaching the internationalization process as a primary objective, all its derived actions can generate significant benefits, both at an individual and an institutional level, as well as that of the community in the proximity of which RA structures conduct their activity.



2.1. Strategic instruments

To increase the level of international activity as well as the visibility of its activity in general, the RA envisages a set of strategic instruments for the following period:

1) The development and reinforcement of the position and international label of the Romanian Academy and its School for Advanced Studies (SCOSAAR).

2) Raising awareness concerning the importance of the RA international activity, intercultural cooperation and mobility programs for RA members, scientific researchers, doctoral and post-doctoral students through the reinforcement of an organizational culture conducive to the internalization of the activity and gathering all the targeted actors in the of strategy improvement process, including periodic assessments of feedback as a base for future SWOT analyses.

3) Institutional valorization of the partnership between the Romanian Academy and the Romanian Cultural Institute (in Romanian, ICR), in respect of the essential role of both institutions in promoting culture, education and research, as well as the main objective of promoting Romanian culture at an international level.

The RA-ICR partnership highly values multidisciplinary scientific research by exploring and engaging the creative potential of young generations. The main objectives are:

Among the main objectives, RA counts the establishment of cooperation networks, inside and outside the country's borders, to ensure the development of cultural and research-development activities; supporting the participation of researchers in varied forms of multidisciplinary training; the academic training of young people from Romania and areas abroad with a Romanian population, as well as facilitating their access to high-level scientific training and education programs.

An important direction of action expected in this partnership is the development of cultural-scientific projects aimed at improving the visibility of Romanian spiritual values, including the development of a plan of translations from Romanian historiographical literature designed to increase the international circulation of scientific information and promote Romania's visions in the world in their joint efforts, the two signatories aim to raise awareness of decision-makers towards supporting actions and projects envisioned by this partnership.

In that regard, an innovating resource with a relevant impact on the development strategy for the RA international activity is expected to be the opening of new RA branches abroad (by the model of Academia di Romania, Rome, Italy), in the frame of future cooperation agreements with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, following the ICR external structures, as well as establishing the institution of an "academic attaché for science and technology" at the Romanian diplomatic missions outside the country and/or the external ICR network.

4) Actions to appoint RA members and experienced scientific researchers as observers within

Romanian missions at the European and global organizations (FAO, OCDE, ONU, UE, UNESCO).

5) Permanent improvement of the level of training for educators and scientific researchers, the scientific research strategies and doctoral and postdoctoral preparation programs, along with their adaptation to the latest trends in specific areas of knowledge.

6) Strengthening international knowledge sharing, exchange of good practices and innovative solutions through interacademic exchange, incoming and outgoing mobility programs, transnational scientific manifestations, and joint research projects.

7) Training and appointing RA honorary members abroad, as honorary ambassadors, in initiating and conducting actions to promote international values derived from outstanding scientific results of the RA full members in the country, researchers, doctoral and postdoctoral students.

8) Development and promotion of innovative structures for international mobility programs, comprising the use of cutting-edge digital tools.

9) Digitalization of the RA scientific publications, particularly those edited before the 1990s, with significant historical value and their **inscription** in international databases.

10) Involvement of the RA in the process of supporting young researchers from the diaspora who intend to return to Romania, as well as in organizing events dedicated to the knowledge sharing and exchanges between researchers from the RA institute and centres and researchers from the diaspora.

11) Varying forms of international promotion of the RA image, as well as the image of RA institutes/centres and researchers, through the organization of cultural events, summer schools, international alumni network etc.

2.2. Strategic goals

1) The development of the international activity of the Romanian Activity through academic mobility programs – facilitating a suitable environment favourable to mobilities for academics, scientific researchers, doctoral and post-doctoral students, including through establishing partnerships and participating in HORIZON, ERASMUS și POCU, Social European Fund, etc.

2) The development of the international activity of the Romanian Activity through academic curricula – adopting and using the international qualification frame, as well as undertaking all necessary actions for international accreditation, international certifications for researchers and international accreditations for institutes and centres from the RA network, including in the area of quality management aimed at granting a high level of trust in the quality of all actions taken.

3) The development of the international activity of the RA R through research-development-innovation – scientific results of outstanding level are highly conducive factors for international cooperation opportunities by elaboration of joint research works, setting and implementation of research projects, exchanges of good practices, organization of international scientific events, etc.

4) The development of the international activity of the RA through partnerships and benefiting from the opportunities derived from the membership in prominent European and international organizations, strengthening RA participation in actions organized by academic associations where affiliated and revising bilateral agreements with other academies in the sense of diversification and intensification of joint supervision forms of cooperation.

5) The development of the international movement of the RA through joint doctoral and post-doctoral research and training programs within an international environment opened to learning and

exchange of experience and good practice.

6) Inviting widely recognized scientific personalities to present lectures at the doctoral schools and the international events organized by the Romanian Academy and its network of institutes and centres.

7) Establishing RA prizes/distinctions for outstanding contributions in the process of developing the RA international activity, especially through scientific cooperation.

8) International marketing founded on an adapted knowledge of all elements with added value in the international exchanges and relations; identification of good practice in the area of marketing strategies.

9) Enhancing the speed of dissemination for outstanding results; permanent updating and distribution of materials promoting activities and remarkable results of RA and its network of institutes and centres (including those attesting their place in prestigious international rankings), comprising the perspective of internationalization, in foreign languages, both online, in digital format on RA and institutes' webpages, and print, at the international events, research visits/mobility programs for academy members or scientific researchers.

10) Optimal usage of the valuable book fund/publications and cultural heritage inventory of the RA and the institutes and centres in its network, including through digitization and financial support of the editing/publishing/dissemination of the RA journals based on quality criteria.

11) Optimal benefit from the opportunities for conducting joint research in laboratories with international-level equipment within the research departments in the institutes and centres of the Romanian Academy network, as well as **the accommodation opportunities** offered by the facilities belonging to the heritage of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest and around the country.

12) Supporting activities for the exchange of good practices, in the frame of mobility programs and interacademic visits.

13) Developing a platform for digital uploading and managing, on the European model, for any type of application, including requests for inter-academic exchange and submission of bilateral projects.

3. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

1) The first essential step as an expression of the RA's new vision for internationalization, its strategic orientations, proposed objectives and firm commitment to increasing activities aimed at internationalization is the adaptation of the Development strategy for the international activity of the Romanian Academy by the RA Praesidium and the management team of the School for Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy.

2) A crucial role in the implementation and monitoring of the strategy belongs to the identification and assignment of specific tasks to the formal promoters of internationalization within the Romanian Academy:

- President of the Romanian Academy;
- The Vice-Presidents and Secretary General of the Romanian Academy;
- Presidents of the Sections and Branches of the Romanian Academy;
- The director of SCOSAAR and the directors of the doctoral schools;
- Chancellery and Foreign Relations Department;
- Directors of institutes and centres in the RA network.

3) The translation to an action plan regarding the establishment of connections to the scientific institutions abroad and sustaining optimal communication must be executed under the coordination of the Foreign Relations Department in RA, with the support of an RA Commission for International Activity

Development, subordinated to SCOSAAR and coordinator of an **Erasmus Office**. In this respect, actions are necessary to reinforce and develop competencies for the Foreign Relations Department and members of the **RA Commission for International Activity Development** as per the most recent standards and requirements in this complex area.

4) The success in the implementation of the Development strategy for the international activity of the Romanian Academy fundamentally depends on the creation of a sustainable institutional culture favourable to activity internationalization and the involvement of all the targeted actors in the process of implementing and improving strategies, including through periodic assessments of their feedback aimed for SWOT analyses.

5) The efforts for assigning dedicated human resources in the implementation of the RA strategy for the development of international activity must be doubled by an adequate and predictable budget that supports the action plan with precise deadlines and indicators for **ex-ante, ongoing and ex-post monitoring and evaluation of the results**, as well as an **infrastructure and material resources related** to the set goals and the implementation of actions to accomplish them.

The strategic vision focuses on the development and consolidation of the international perception concerning the complexity and high level of opportunity provided by the partnership with the RA in the field of scientific collaboration and training elite researchers, starting from:

a) a realistic approach of all necessary steps to identify, enhance and benefit from the qualities and priority strategic components for the development of the RA international activity by the RA system of values and adequate to the complexity of the international context, as well as an increasingly difficult to predict future;

b) an improved understanding of the extent to which international partners identify, perceive and promote these opportunities as viable and generating added value, as well as the way they relate to them from the perspective of their systems of values and strategies, including in relation with the process of developing the international activity of the Romanian Academy.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The Romanian Academy represents the highest forum of cultural and scientific research at a national level. Ever since its foundation, the development of international activity has been one of the main objectives of the RA. Therefore, the RA has disseminated and internationally promoted the results of Romanian scientific research, developed joint research projects with academic institutions abroad and supported the organization of research visits at international academic institutions. The RA is also privileged to count numerous personalities among its honorary members, fellows of academies and top universities around the globe, and Nobel Prize laureates. Thus, the performances and exceptional achievements of RA researchers from the perspective of the number of scientific publications and their quality have led the RA to first place in the 2022 Scimago Ranking.

In the following years, the Romanian Academy aims to accelerate the process of developing its international activity. More explicitly, the RA sets as its main objectives to increase the speed in promoting outstanding results of scientific research in Romania, national cultural values, strengthen cooperation with prestigious academic institutions abroad in the frame of joint research projects, increase the doctoral mobility programs, including prominent personalities from the international scientific community among its members, digitalization of publications and results achieved by the RA researchers with an international database, establishing prizes/distinctions pentru internationalization (scientific cooperations), as well as involving the RA in the process of supporting young researchers in diaspora who intend to return to Romania.