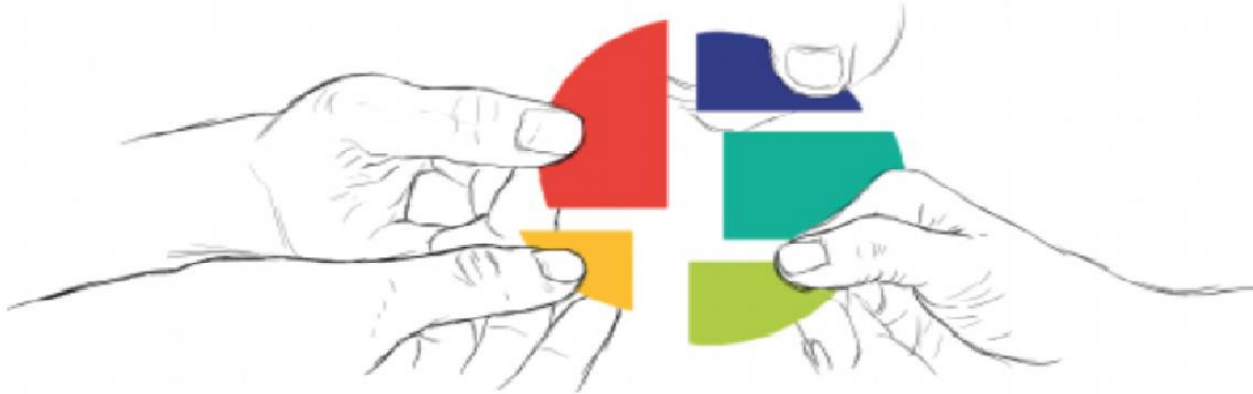


# Young migrants' life in Romania



Bucharest, October 2022





This album reveals the perspectives of a group of young immigrants in Romania on their migration journeys, including their difficulties, resources and opportunities to adapt to a new life.

It was prepared and edited by the Romanian team from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies within the MIMY research project. MIMY (EMpowerment through liquid Integration of Migrant Youth in vulnerable conditions) is an EU-funded project aiming to improve the situation of young migrants throughout Europe.

The Romanian research team consists of Monica Roman (team leader), Smaranda Cimpoeru, Elena Prada, Vlad I. Roşca, Ioana Manafi, Laura Mureşan, and Dorel Paraschiv.

We would like to express our gratitude for their contribution to this album to the following photo authors:

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## New beginnings



Current house (the photo) vs. old bedroom in Lebanon (the drawing)

“The life left behind in Lebanon and memories from my early childhood seem now far away.”

Old notebooks...



...and old friendships

SARA ( 22 years, Romanian with Lebanese origins)



## Golden opportunity

The Open Doors



“In my perspective, no one in the world is content to leave their country, people, and society. We do it to achieve our goals in life and to take the chances that are not obtainable in our countries.

Although not all doors we encounter are open doors, there will always be one, and that’s the golden opportunity we run towards. This golden opportunity might be a new job, new position, new home... mine was migration.”

**ZEINA (22 years, from Lebanon)**



## Searching for myself in exile

Mariam in Palestine



"After 21 years, for the first time, I boarded a plane. When I saw it, it was so close to the people that they did not seem to be afraid of it, but I was overwhelmed with awe and astonishment. The planes I saw from my childhood were military planes loaded with missiles to kill us."

Plane at Bucharest Airport



MARIAM (23 years, from Palestine)





## Exposed to a racist situation

"I didn't pay attention to those around me, but the first time I tried it, about a year after my arrival in Romania, I was drawn to that look directed at me with hatred."

People in the metro



Lights in the dark

"And then I was exposed to a racist situation, a man pushed me on the stairs of the metro. I was afraid, I didn't approach people on the street. But I didn't stay long in this state, perhaps because of my love for life and discovery."



The transformation

**MARIAM (23 years, from Palestine)**



## Sometimes...



" Sometimes I imagined myself as an immigrant without a home, how would I be? Will I be a bookseller on the streets ..."

"...or an old man musician..."



"...or perhaps a lady selling flowers to make some money!"

**MARIAM (23 years, from Palestine)**





## Sometimes...

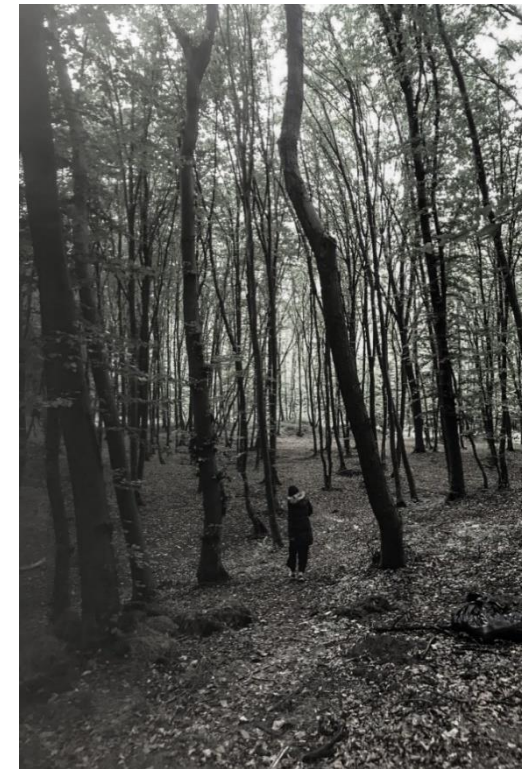


"Sometimes I imagined myself that I would live a miserable life without a lover or friends!"

"Sometimes I run away from everyone because of my fears ..."



but "...sometimes I come back to discover and search, I'm still on that."



**MARIAM (23 years, from Palestine)**





## Lost in thoughts...

Lost Between the Nameless Faces



"We get *Lost Between the Nameless Faces* trying to survive this tiring life."

"Sadly, in most scenarios, we end up with a *Stolen Happiness* after being buried in the quotidian life, just like a forgotten playlist on repeat."

Stolen Happiness



SORINA (20 years, Romanian native)



## Stumbling block

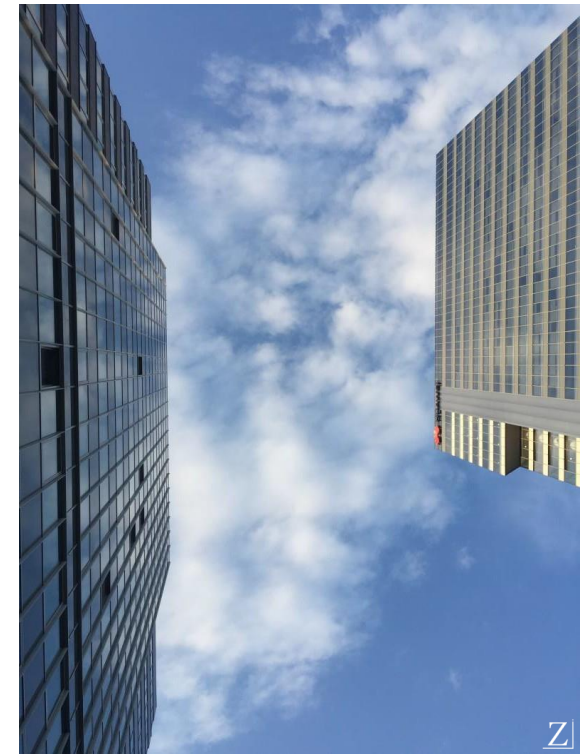
The Violinist



"Music is a language and not everybody understands that language. In my case, music was the Romanian language. A new language is the main barrier a migrant might face. As for a difficulty I faced as a migrant is loneliness. Being away from my family members and loved ones, especially on certain occasions, made me feel lonely and homesick."

"I decided to portray the workplace with those two skyscrapers. Although they look huge and can unite many people, there wasn't a place for me, and maybe many others as young migrants starting their life and careers."

The Skyscrapers



**ZEINA (22 years, from Lebanon)**



## Vie sociale assurée en Roumanie!

”La population roumaine est d’une grande chaleur humaine: très accueillants, toujours disponibles pour aider qui que ce soit. Ils sont très ouverts et amicaux. Avec les étrangers, Ils font l’effort de communiquer même si la langue fait obstacle. Cela est plutôt un peu restreint avec les gens âgés, obstacle que j’ai rencontré quand je suis arrivée et avant d’apprendre la langue roumaine. Aussi la sécurité est le point principale qui encourage la rencontre, les sorties, etc. il m’arrive d’aller me balader avec des amis et retourner à 2h du matin sans jamais m’être rapproché de qui que ce soit, chose qui est rare dans les autres pays.”

Friends in Sibiu



LAMIA (29 years, from Algeria)





## Student life in Romania

Field trip with colleagues



"My interactions with Romanian people. Joining ASE was a great decision to make friends with natives. All the members greeted and accepted me without any problems and I found out how welcoming, hardworking, and socially active Romanians can be."

"The life of a young migrant student in Romania. It's a photo from my college dorm room. It was actually taken during online studying. So sometimes it was hard to get to know Romania or get acclimated while only sitting in my room."

The pandemic



ALIONA (20 years, from Moldova)



## Arabic Cultural Festival, Sibiu, 2-4 September 2022

Pictures from the Arabic Cultural Festival organized by Fawzia



"I arrived in Sibiu as a result of the war in Syria. Soon after, I enrolled in college and got to know the city and its people. I immediately realized that most of my Romanian colleagues and friends understood the Arab world in terms of bombs, shawarma, desert and camels."



"By establishing the Arab Cultural Center in Sibiu, I proposed to make at least some of these aspects of the culture and civilization of the Arab peoples known in Romania."



**FAWZIA (32 years, from Syria)**



## Music brings people together

Pop music at the festival



" A festival that I like to participate in brought on stage a musical battle between Romanian and Moldovan musicians. A music festival represents a core activity done by either local or immigrant young people. How so? The music has always succeeded in bringing people from different areas of interest, or social classes together."

LAURENȚIU (21 years, Romanian native)



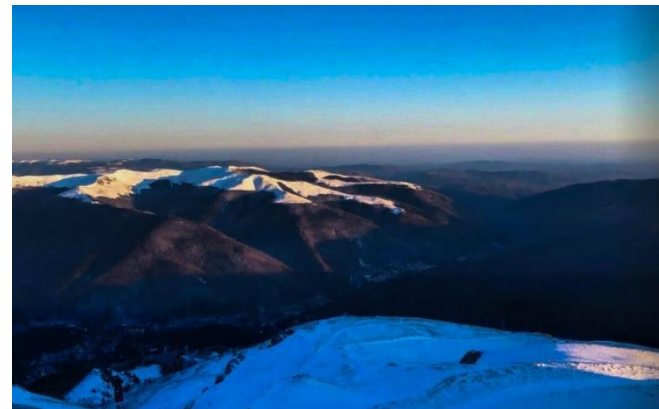


## Looking for what I love from nature, discovering and experiencing



"I was really different from those around me, I just started looking for what I love from nature, discovering and experiencing that first feeling that I've been waiting for 21 years."

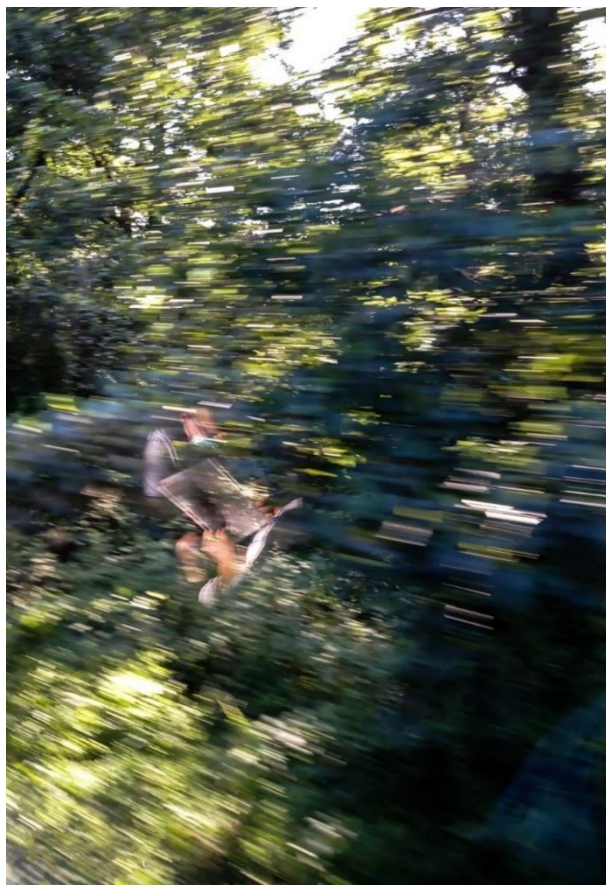
Landscapes from Bucharest and Romanian mountains



MARIAM (23 years, from Palestine)



## Looking for what I love from nature, discovering and experiencing



"I was walking at the speed of the train, although around me was as steady as a man reading the newspaper on the train and sitting quietly in his chair."



Train trip to Sinaia

**MARIAM (23 years, from Palestine)**





## Life is like a train-journey

"What I consider to be the strength of Romania - its fields and nature in general. The photo was taken in the village Batoș in Transylvania where you can find a lot of vineyards. "

The beauty of the countryside



The train

"What I like the most in Romania - traveling by train. As a student and migrant, I find it very important and joyful to take breaks and explore Romania. And doing it by train feels more romantic for me."

**ALIONA (20 years, from Moldova)**



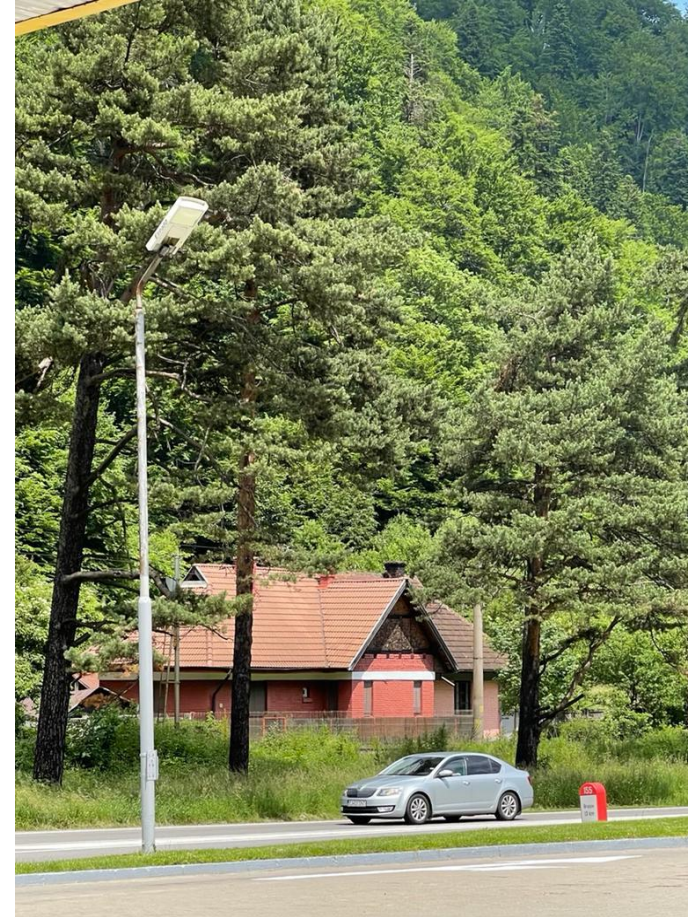
## Les paysages ensorcelants de la Roumanie



Autumn in Bucharest

Summer in the mountains

”Le premier critère qui attire un étranger c’est le paysage roumain ensorcelant : montagnes, mer, forêts, parc, etc. C’est un pays où on peut encore respirer sans sentir la pollution nous étouffer. Pour ceux qui sont amoureux de la nature, ils sont gâtés ici tout comme moi !!”



## Places of Romania

Presenting at the National Bank of Romania



“Romania is the country where I developed professionally and where I always discover the most amazing landscapes”



A weekend at Bălea Lake, Transfăgărășan

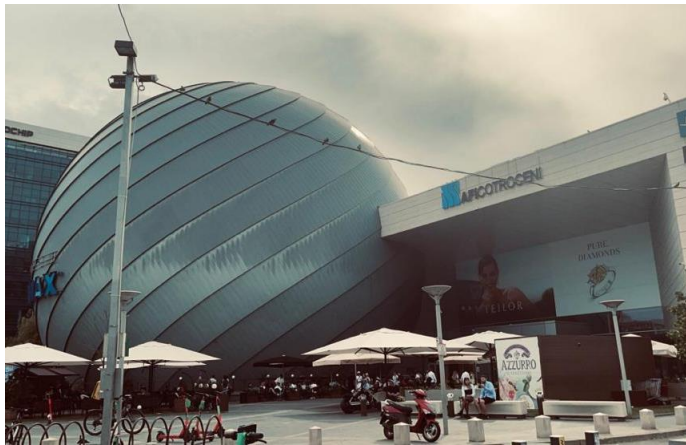
**VALERIA (22 years, from Moldova)**





## Mariage architectural extraordinaire

”Tous les styles architecturaux s’interposent en Roumanie. Du vernaculaire au moderne. En se baladant dans les rues on peut facilement voyager dans le temps à travers les variétés architecturales des bâtiments. Comment ne pas se plaire dans ce beau pays une fois appris la langue! ”



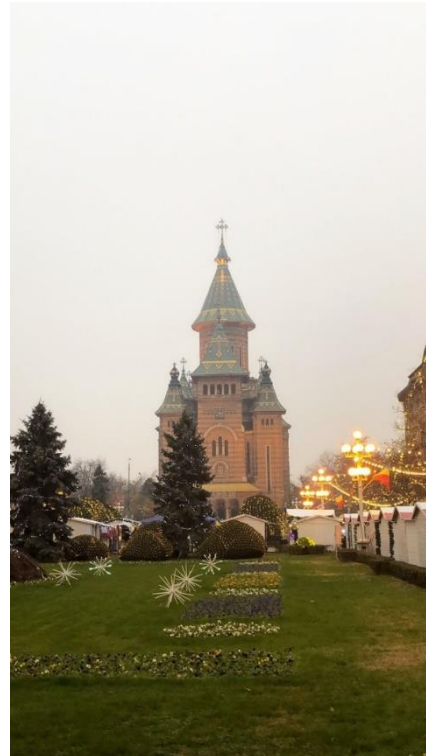
LAMIA (29 years, from Algeria)





## Visiting Romania

Braşov City-Center



Christmas market, Timişoara

Constanța Casino



AMIRA (25 years, from Lebanon)



## Simple things

Walking in Bucharest



Bucharest is more than this building



"Those birds I used to feed them weekly near the faculty..."

Weekly meetings



HIBA (25 years, from Syria)



## Education

The Powerful Weapon



" I photographed the Central University Library to show the things I like most about Romania, Bucharest. The thing I like most here and I am thankful for is access to education. (...) In Bucharest, I had access to education and pursued my dream degree. Here, I acquired the Powerful Weapon."

ZEINA (22 years, from Lebanon)





## Self improvement

Good, Better, Best



"This building shows what it is like to be a migrant. Being a migrant is not easy, especially if the country your are migrating to has a totally different culture. Building myself from the sources and opportunities I had was a difficult task. And being consistent is even harder. But it is possible, just like how this building changed from good to better to best."

**ZEINA (22 years, from Lebanon)**





**EMpowerment through liquid Integration of  
Migrant Youth in vulnerable conditions**

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Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

