



# NEWSLETTER



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## **May 2007**

### **Road safety**

European action plan continues to deliver results – target of saving 25 000 lives on Europe's roads by 2010 is attainable

The Commission's European Road Safety Action Plan, launched in 2001, may reach its target on schedule. The aim is to halve the number of fatalities on Europe's roads over the period 2001-2010, reducing the total number of deaths from almost 50 000 to 25 000. The latest figures, released on the occasion of the first [European Road Safety Day](#), show clearly that this ambitious objective was justified: the last 12 months have seen an 8% reduction in fatalities. In 2006, nearly 12 000 lives were saved in the European Union in comparison with 2001.

### **Environment - Liability Directive ensures polluters pay**

Important EU legislation laying down liability rules for [damage to the environment](#) comes into force on 30 April. The groundbreaking new directive, the result of discussions which started in the late 1980s, is the first EU law specifically based on the "polluter pays principle" set out in the EC treaty. It will ensure that in future environmental damage in the EU is prevented or remedied, and that those who cause it are held responsible. Environmental damage includes damage to water resources, natural habitats, animals and plants as well as contamination of land which causes significant harm to human health. Member States are required to

## **Romania**

## **N.5**

transpose the directive into their national law by 30 April, but to date only Italy, Latvia and Lithuania have done so.

### **Welcome to Eurojust**

Eurojust is a new European Union body established in 2002 to enhance the effectiveness of the competent authorities within Member States when they are dealing with the investigation and prosecution of serious cross-border and organised crime, [click here to know more](#).

### **EU – US Summit - Washington, 30 April 2007**

EU and US leaders meet on Monday 30 April in Washington DC for their traditional [yearly summit](#).

Issues featuring on the agenda this year will include strengthening the transatlantic economy and a range of global and regional issues such as climate change, energy, the Middle East Peace Process, Kosovo and Iran.

In the margins of the Summit, the EU and the US will sign a historic first-stage Air Transport Agreement. Results of the Summit will soon be available online.

### **Spring Day 2007 at a glance**

[Spring Day for Europe](#) is an annual citizen-driven initiative aimed to encourage young people to debate, reflect, learn and make their voices heard on European issues. Spring Day, which has already proved to be a success over the past four years, is already a fully-integrated event in the European school calendar.

**This lună calendaristică is despre România** (this month is about Romania). Every month the United Euro Bridge will issue a newsletter customised to a different European Country. If you like to contribute with the editing, email us [admin@unitedeurobridge.org](mailto:admin@unitedeurobridge.org)

### **Român Oameni și Pământ** (Romanian People and Land)

According to the 2002 census, Romania has a population of 21,680,974 and, similarly to other countries in the region, is expected to gently decline in the coming years as a result of sub-replacement fertility rates. Romanians make up 89.5% of the population. The largest ethnic minorities are Hungarians, who make up 6.6% of the population and Roma, who make up 2.5% of the population. Population densities are naturally highest in the towns, with the plains (up to altitudes of some 700 feet) having the next highest density, especially in areas with intensive agriculture or a traditionally high birth rate. With a surface area of 238,391 km<sup>2</sup>, Romania is the largest country in southeastern Europe and the twelfth-largest in Europe. Click [here](#) to know more

### **Țară Dracula Legend...** (Count Dracula Legend...)



Some say that Transylvania sits on one of earth's strongest magnetic fields and its people have extra-sensory perceptions. Vampires are believed to hang around crossroads on St.

George's Day, April 23rd, and the eve of St. Andrew, November 29th. The area is also home to Bram Stoker's Dracula, and it's easy to get caught up in the tale while driving along winding roads through dense, dark, ancient forests and mountain passes. Count Dracula, a

fictional character in the Dracula novel, was inspired by one of the best-known figures of the Romanian history — Vlad Dracula, nicknamed Vlad Tepes (*Vlad the Impaler*) — who was a ruler of Wallachia (1456-1462).



Many "Dracula Tours" are being offered throughout Romania. They include the most important historical places related with Vlad Tepes, such as 14th Century town of Sighisoara —

Vlad's birthplace. The house in which Vlad Dracula was born has a small plaque on the door and now is a restaurant and small museum of medieval weapons.

Other Dracula sights are: the Snagov Monastery — where, according to legend, Vlad is said to have been buried after his assassination; Castle Bran (*Castle Dracula*); the Poenari fortress; the village of Arefu —



where many Dracula legends are still told; the city of Brasov — where Vlad led raids against the Saxons merchants; and, of course, Curtea Domneasca — Dracula's palace in Bucharest. Some tours also cover the folkloric aspects of the fictional Dracula. For instance, eating the meal Jonathan Harker ate at The Golden Crown in Bistrita, and sleeping at Castle Dracula Hotel — built



no so long ago on the Borgo Pass, approximately where the fictional castle of the Count is supposed to be. If you want to know more, [click here](#) and you'll see.

## Festivals & Seară

Throughout the year, Romanians celebrate their ancient heritage, changing seasons, religious holidays and life-cycle events, such as birth, marriage and death, with festivals that have remained unchanged for centuries. Some of Europe's most traditional folkways are meticulously preserved here, with young celebrants wearing the same costumes and dancing the same steps to tunes played on instruments traditional to their forefathers since time immemorial. Festivals provide wonderful opportunities for visitors to experience the amalgam of the people who make up this country? Whose Latin roots dating from the Roman Empire make it unique in East-Central Europe. Major festivals throughout the year include:



**Și acum pentru art.hot. palate...** (And now for the palate...)

Would you like to share some recipes to with us? We are really keen to publish your one if you are interested please email us to:

[admin@unitedeurobridge.org](mailto:admin@unitedeurobridge.org)

### "Salata de boeuf"

*4-5 potatoes, 1 carrot, 1 parsley root, 1 parsnip (optional), 1 large celery root, a handful of green peas, 2 pickles, 1/2*

*lb/250 g poultry breast or beef sirloin, 300g mayo, 1 tablespoon mustard, salt.*

You get the best beef salad by boiling the vegetables with the meat (soup). Cube the potatoes and all other vegetables. The same goes for the meat and pickles. Place all in a bowl, add the peas and salt. In a separate bowl, mix mayo and mustard. Add 3/4 of the mayo mixture to the meat and vegetables and mix well.



Arrange on a serving platter.

Smooth with a knife and then cover with the rest of the mayo mixture. Garnish with a few olives, hard boiled egg white, or egg slices, pickled red peppers, parsley, etc. Try to shape flowers, other designs.

### Romanian Walnut Panetone \* Cozonaci cu nuca

*Romanian Panetone dough: 2 lbs/1 kg flour, 10 oz/300 g sugar, 1 1/2 cups milk, 6 eggs, 2 oz/50 g yeast, 7 oz/200 g butter, 2 tablespoons oil, vanilla stick, salt, egg for washing the dough, grease for the pans.*



Make a starter from yeast and a teaspoon of sugar. Mix until the consistency of sour cream, add 2-3 tablespoons tepid milk, a little flour and mix well; sprinkle some flour on top, cover and let sit in a warm place to rise. Boil the milk with the vanilla stick (cut in very small pieces) and leave it on the

side of the range, covered, to keep warm. Mix the yolks with the sugar and salt, then slowly pour the tepid milk, stirring continuously. Place the risen starter in a large bowl and pour, stirring continuously, the yolk-milk mixture and some flour, a little at a time. Then add 3 whipped egg whites. When you finish this step, start kneading. Knead, adding melted butter combined with oil, a little at a time, until the dough starts to easily come off your palms. Cover with a cloth and then something thicker (like a blanket). Leave in a warm place to triple in bulk. If during kneading the dough seems too hard, you may add a little milk. If, on the contrary, the dough seems too soft, you may add a little flour.

*Filling: 10 oz/300 g ground walnuts, 1 cup milk, 3/4 cup sugar, 1/4 cup rum, vanilla*  
Melt the sugar in the warm milk with vanilla in a pot on the range. When the sugar is melted, add the walnuts and keep stirring. After a few minutes of boiling, and after the filling has thickened, remove from heat and add rum. When the filling is cold, roll a sheet of dough about one finger thick, uniformly spread the walnut filling on top and roll like a jelly roll.

Grease a bread pan, place the roll inside, let rise for a while. Wash with egg and bake at medium heat. Take out of the pan as soon as it is done, place on a cloth and let cool.

Narcisa Barnutiu (Buhusi, Bakau County)

[Click here](#) for more Romanian recipes.

### Holidays in Romania? [Click here](#)

An East **European** country offering a variety of wonderful delights and attractions! Highlights include the tranquil beauty of the [Carpathian Mountains](#) or the hustle and bustle of some [City life](#) on the way to the intriguing [Black Sea](#)!



The capital [Bucharest](#) is a vibrant city, an array of architecture and culture, parks and gardens, hotels, restaurants, nightclubs, cafés and much, much more... while [Brasov](#), Romania's second city and gateway to the Transylvanian plateau, nestled at the foot of the Mountains Tampa and Postavarul is a perfect location for [winter sports](#) or... try the Romanian therapeutic treatments to be pampered for a day or longer in a [spa](#)...



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**The information in this newsletter is, to our knowledge, correct at the time of issue.**