

Nuclear Latency (NL) Dataset
Country Coding Sheets

ROMANIA

COW COUNTRY CODE: 360

List of Country's Enrichment and Reprocessing (ENR) Facilities

1. Pitesti Nuclear Research Institute

Detailed Facility-Specific Information and Sources

1. Pitesti Nuclear Research Institute

- a. ENR type (diffusion, centrifuge, EMIS, chemical and ion exchange, aerodynamic isotope separation, reprocessing).*

Reprocessing.

- b. Facility size (laboratory, pilot, commercial).*

Laboratory.

- c. Is the facility under construction or in operation? If under construction, list the construction years. If in operation, list the years of operation.*

The exact construction year could not be identified. Sources suggest the start date was around 1981. Romania developed a secret nuclear weapons program. The facility operated from 1985 to 1989.¹ 100 milligrams of plutonium were separated at the Pitesti Nuclear Research Institute in hot laboratories.

- d. Was the facility developed covertly? If so, identify years that facility was covert.*

Yes, Romania's nuclear weapons program operated covertly. This facility produced 100 milligrams of plutonium in December 1985.

- e. Was the facility placed under IAEA safeguards? If so, identify the years that the facility was safeguarded.*

No. The Romanian government did not discover and report the separated plutonium until 1992. All Romanian facilities are now under IAEA safeguards.²

- f. Was the facility placed under regional safeguards? If so, identify the years that the facility was under regional safeguards.*

¹ The 1989 date is from Zentner et al (2005) and is corroborated by other sources.

² Safeguard agreements were signed in 1995 and the Additional Protocol in 2000.

No, although Romania became a member of Euratom later.

g. *Did the facility have a military purpose?*

Romania had a nuclear weapons program under Nicolae Ceausescu. This facility was likely a key part of its nascent bomb program.

h. *Was the facility multinational? If so, identify the other countries that were involved.*

No.

i. *Was the facility built with foreign assistance? If so, list the supplier(s) and what they provided.*

No evidence of foreign nuclear assistance found.

j. *Sources:*

Blanc, Alexis and Brad Roberts. 2008. "Nuclear Proliferation: A Historical Overview." Institute for Defense Analysis. <http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA482642>. Accessed 06/08/2015.

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Jones, Rodney W. & Mark G. McDonough. 1998. *Tracking Nuclear Proliferation: A Guide in Maps and Charts, 1998*. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Mozley, Robert Fred. 1998. "Romania." In *The Politics and Technology of Nuclear Proliferation*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press. 167-168.

MacLachlan, Ann. 1992. "Romania Separated Tiny Amount of Plutonium in Secret in 1985." *Nucleonics Week*. 33(6): 16.

PBS. 2005. "Tracking Nuclear Proliferation: Romania." http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/military/proliferation/countries/romania.html.

Zentner, M.D., G.L. Coles, and R.J. Talbert. 2005. "Nuclear Proliferation Technology Trends Analysis." Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Report 14480.