

Most Popular Stereotypes

We conducted a survey in order to discover some stereotypes considering our four countries.

ROMANIA

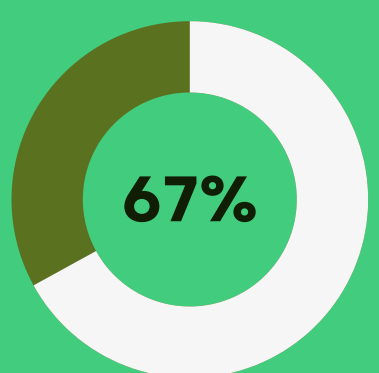
All Roumanian are gypsies!
Are they?



ITALY

Italians are loud!
Are they ?

Here are the most popular stereotypes. However they happen to be hugely exaggerated, especially by those who want to ridicule the image of our countries



ANSWERS

67% of the interviewers think that Croatia is a beautiful country and people are friendly

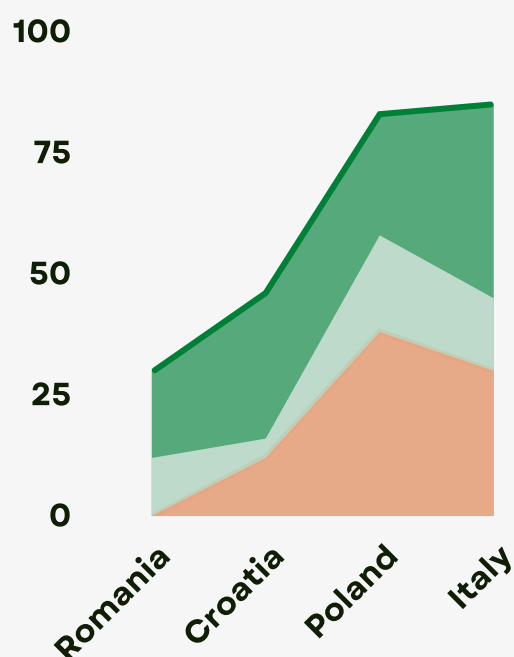
CROATIA

What your friends think about Croatia in general and Croatian people?



POLAND

What your friends think about Poland in general and Polish people?



Mary:

I've met a few people from Poland. They were intelligent and funny and had clear goals

Mihai:

Poles are funny. They have a great sense of humour. They get English jokes far more better than anybody else. I love it..

As open-minded as we wish to be, we all have a few stereotypes when it comes to other countries and nationalities. It's acceptable to consider the Polish as hard-workers, the Italians as passionate, or the Croatian like gossip. What's true and what's false when it comes to the image others have about this country?

The Survey was conducted by Erasmus students, under the "Bridges over opened minds" project

BRIDGES OVER OPENED MIND

ROMANIA

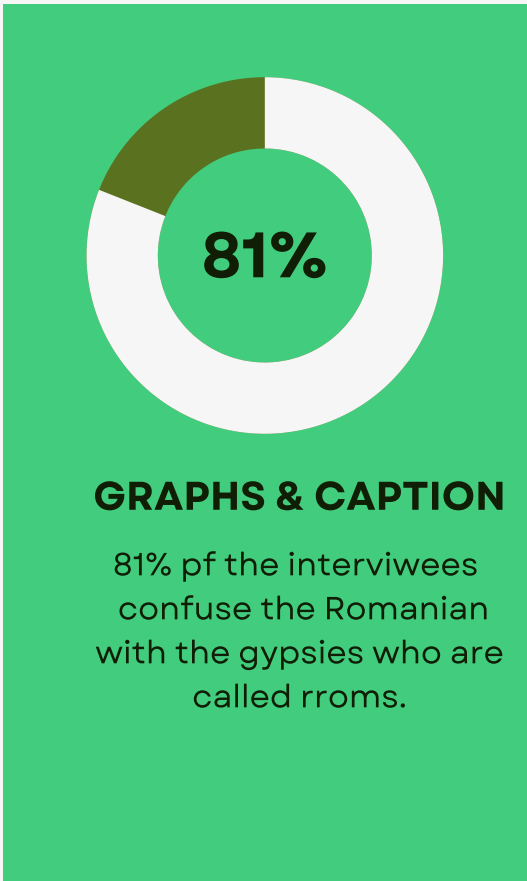
Here are the most popular stereotypes about Romania and Romania people

Stereotype 1
All Roumanian are gypsies

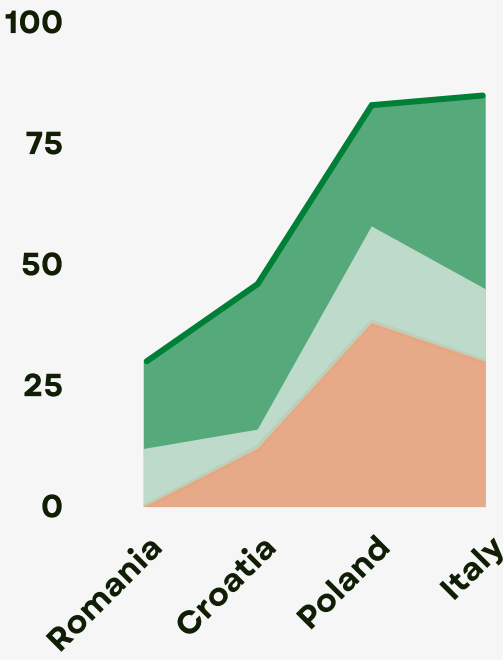


Stereotype 2
Budapest is the capital of Romania

Many persons confuse Budapest with Bucharest



Stereotype 3
Romania is Dracula's country



One of the most famous characters related to Romania isn't really linked with the country at all. Often associated with the historic personality of Vlad the Impaler, former ruler of Wallachia, Dracula is just a fictional character created by Irish writer Bram Stoker that doesn't have roots either in the Romanian folklore nor Romanian literature. And no, there aren't vampires everywhere.



BRIDGES OVER OPENED MIND

POLAND

Here are the most popular stereotypes. However they happen to be hugely exaggerated

Stereotype 1

Poles are intolerant

Poland used to be a multinational country where citizens generally learned how to accept and respect the beliefs of other people. Lots of foreigners used to immigrate to Poland because the country was named as a tolerant one. Nowadays, most of them come from poor African or Asian countries, former Yugoslavia and the Soviet bloc.

Stereotype 2

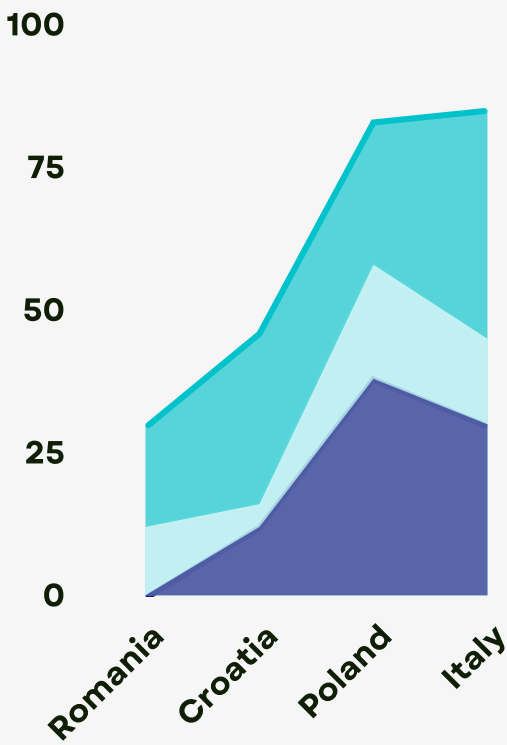
Polish people do not speak foreign languages

Some statistics say that only 8 percent of Poles speak fluently one foreign language. However, the situation is changing and the younger generations know the basics of English. Adults and elderly people speak a little Russian because it used to be the only foreign language at school in communist Poland



Stereotype 3

Poland is a small country somewhere in the East of Europe



Unfortunately, many people from outside Europe still do not know much about Poland especially about its location on the map of the world and its geographical features. Geographically, the center of Europe is in Poland, near Warsaw. Poland is situated in the very center of Europe, not in the East. Such an idea probably was born after the WW II when Poland was made to be one of the inferior countries to the Soviet Union. What is more Poland is one of the bigger countries in Europe, its size comparably as big as New Mexico state.

BRIDGES OVER OPENED MINDS

ITALY

It is not a secret that many of our ideas, about other country, especially if we haven't been there, are based on stereotypes.

At the beginning of our meeting, every participant answered the question: What is Italy for you?

Stereotype 1

Italians are loud

It depends. Not all Italians are loud. But some are .



Stereotype 2

Italians talk with hands

They do speak with their hands. There are lots of gestures and each one of them means something different. Sometimes, a gesture, if done at a different speed or different angle, means something different. It seems that this habit derives from the time when Italy was divided into various small states, dominated by different nations (Spain, Austria, France). So, in order to communicate, the gestures were created.

Stereotype 3

Italians always say Mamma mia

97%

MAMMA MIA

97% of the Italian people use this expression. When an Italian exclaims Mamma mia, he doesn't think about his mother at all. It is just a way to express surprise, joy, pain or disappointment

Stereotype 4

Italians eat pasta and pizza every day



Being Italian
An insight into Italian stereotypes

So what's true in the stereotype?

Stereotypes always tend to have some truth mixed in with a few generalizations and a bit of exaggeration. Let's see what's true in the Italian stereotype.

The most common Italian stereotypes include a love of pasta, expressive hand gestures, love of family, passion for football, that Italians have a passion for coffee, the opera, and Dante's Divine Comedy. While these are broad generalizations, many of them are based on certain aspects of Italian, and Italian American, culture.

BRIDGES OVER OPENED MIND

CROATIA

Croatia is a genuinely diverse country. The people of Croatia have throughout history often been ruled by different empires and foreign rulers, leaving traces of their own cultures, habits and language.

All of this has made the people of Croatia extremely diverse and different even among themselves. We are a mixed bag of different cultural influence, mentalities and habits. There is no need to explain that this is **a perfect soil for stereotypes and jokes.**

Stereotype 1

laugh, eat and have fun

Most of the traditions and celebrations are based around eating enormous amounts of food, drink extremely strong plum brandy and poke fun at someone, something and even themselves.

Stereotype 2

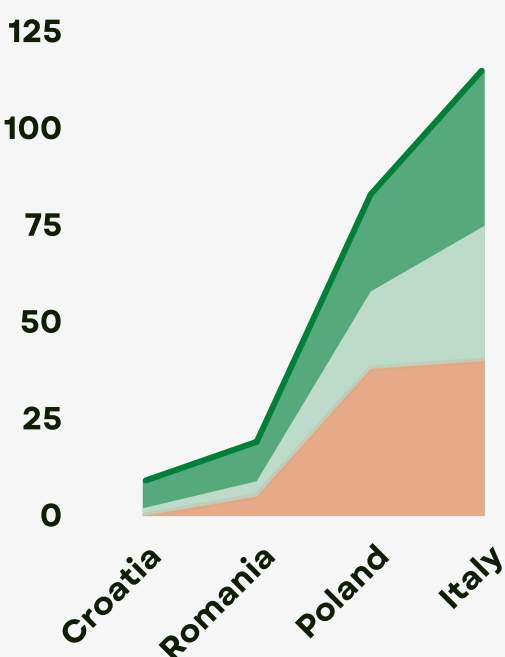
Family comes first

Family is everything in Croatia. An extremely high value is placed on family relations, and they can often act as the social centre of life in the country. Children often live with their parents until they are themselves married. Blood is most definitely thicker than water in Croatia, whether they like it or not.



Stereotype 3

Red-and-white checkered everything



If there is one thing that is synonymous with Croatia, it is the distinct red-and-white checkerboard design that is ubiquitous here. Whether it is adorning the jerseys of national sports teams, the faces of supporters or practically every flag in the country, there is nothing more Croatian than what the local people call the šahovnica (chessboard). The šahovnica has been the symbol of Croatia since the 10th century, although its use by the violently fascist Ustaše organisation in World War II means it is viewed with fear and suspicion by others in the region..

Culture is everything in the Balkans. Croatian culture gets drummed into young people from an early age, an obvious hangover of centuries of occupation and having to fight for national existence. There is plenty to love in the culture, however, especially if you're into red-and-white checkerboards