

**Question for written answer E-003715/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Billions of euros lost owing to the shortage of qualified workers

One of the greatest problems facing Romanian entrepreneurs is the lack of qualified staff. Over half of Romania's entrepreneurs have reported the shortage of qualified workers to be costing them money, to the tune of an estimated EUR 7.1 billion for the Romanian economy as a whole.

According to PwC's European Private Business Survey, most entrepreneurs are confronted with a dearth of candidates when recruiting technicians, administrative staff and sales specialists. One of the main reasons for this skills shortage is the exodus of qualified workers from Romania,

which has lost more of its population than any other Central or Eastern European country and has the greatest shortfall in these categories. 68% of entrepreneurs say they are finding it difficult to recruit technical and administrative staff. The total cost of this skills shortage across Central and Eastern Europe is estimated to be EUR 358 billion, which is more than the combined GDPs of Croatia, Hungary and Slovakia.

What tools does the Commission have at its disposal to tackle the shortage of qualified workers, especially in Central and Eastern Europe?