



Ioan Niculae (Profile)

Businessman & Entrepreneur

Until his recent bankruptcy, Niculae was one of the wealthiest businessmen in Romania. His rise to prominence was often tied to connections to the state, including established ties to the ruling political elite. There is widespread belief that he originally benefited from his position with the Romanian security services, particularly in the early 1990s when state-owned assets were first privatised. His subsequent personal enrichment has made him a target for political financing; arguably the interest shown in him by the political elite seeking to gain or maintain office has enabled Niculae to exert a certain degree of influence over strategic ministries for his companies. This influence, however, appears to be fading.

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Table of Contents

<u>IOAN NICULAE: BUSINESSMAN & ENTREPRENEUR</u>	<u>2</u>
BIOGRAPHY & RISE TO PROMINENCE	2
POLITICAL TIES AND EXPOSURE	3
SOURCE OF WEALTH AND MAIN ASSETS	3
INTEGRITY	4
MODUS OPERANDI	5