



OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Romania National Action Plan

July 2014 – June 2016

MID-TERM SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

30 September 2015

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1. Introduction

The Government of Romania joined the global Open Government Partnership initiative since its first year, asserting its commitment to opening the administration more by promoting governmental transparency, encouraging civic participation, using new technologies in administration and fighting corruption.

These objectives were reflected in the first National Action Plan (2012-2014), as well as in the second NAP (2014-2016), both being the result of public consultations and communication between the representatives of central government and of the civil society.

The efforts of the OGP team¹ from the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister - the Department for Online Services and Design, that is in charge, since 2013, with the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of OGP commitments, have been strengthened by the support received from the NGOs, particularly from the organisations that are part of the Open Data Coalition² project.

2. National Action Plan Development Process

A. Consultation during NAP development

The draft of the 2014-2016 National Action Plan was based on the proposals received from the central administration (ministries) and those received from the civil society, and followed the key steps and milestones outlined by the OGP representatives. The timeline was published by the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister on the ogp.gov.ro website prior to consultation, and was also presented during the first public consultation meeting that took place in February 2014.

During 7-31 May 2014, the public consultation on the final draft of the new National Action Plan took place, and the suggestions and comments received were taken into account in the final version of the Plan. Although the comments and recommendations were included in the NAP draft, we did not publish a detailed report on why it was decided to include some of the comments and some not. However, these decisions were explained and detailed during a

¹ <http://ogp.gov.ro/>

² <http://datedeschise.fundatia.ro/>

meeting with the representatives of the civil society that submitted the respective comments and recommendations.

The consultation period for the new Plan coincided with the Chancellery's decision to initiate the OGP Club. The Club acts as a host for monthly meetings in which stakeholders from the public administration, the civil society, the public and private sector or the academic sector are welcome to hold informal debates on open government issues.

B. Consultation during implementation

Starting July 2014, the consultations focused on specific themes of the NAP commitments and took place within the framework of the OGP Club (implementation of the provisions of the Directive on the re-use of public sector information; legislation, justice and open data; online communication for the public administration; open contracting data standard and others), online (public consultation on the ogp.gov.ro website on the Open Data Publication Guide) or by email.

With the support of the Open Data Coalition, collaboration between members of the OGP governmental team and the members of civil society went beyond the consultation stage and we are currently jointly implementing several of the NAP commitments. The Coalition endorsed the OGP related actions of the government and helped organise and participated in the information and training sessions, participated in the development of support-materials, promoted OGP efforts through social media.

C. Brief description of the consultation period for the Self-Assessment Report

The representatives of the Coalition and the OGP team agreed on the process of drafting the self-assessment report: first the implementation status of all commitments would be monitored and included in the report and, afterwards, the Report would be made public for the consultation period.

As such, during 2-15 September 2015, the draft of the Self-assessment Report has been published online for public consultation, and, on 28 September a public debate was organised on the subject of the final version of the Report as part of the monthly OGP Club meeting. 51 persons took part in the debate, from the leading agencies and NGOs involved in the NAP, as well as from other public institutions. Most of the comments received during the consultation period came from the OGP Club debate, and the proposals and observations on the NAP actions are included in this final version of the Report and published on the ogp.gov.ro website.

3. IRM Recommendations

For the development of the 2014-2016 National Action Plan, we capitalized on the lessons learned from the implementation of the previous plan, but also took into account the recommendations from the assessment report of the Independent Reporting Mechanism and the priorities agreed upon by both the representatives of the government and the civil society.

Thus, following public consultations, it was established that some of the prior uncompleted commitments will be reassessed and continued, while others will be abandoned. As such, the current plan includes some revised commitments from the previous plan as well as new, clear, succinct, and action-oriented measures that are to be implemented in the two-year period it covers (July 2014 - June 2016).

4. Implementation of National Action Plan commitments

The commitments are structured on four major topics:

- I. enhancing transparency and administrative efficiency;
- II. increasing the quality and quantity of open datasets published by the public institutions;
- III. training human resources in the field of open data;
- IV. disseminating information on the OGP principles and promoting the open data concept in an accessible manner.

I. ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY

| PUBLISHING THE PUBLIC INTEREST INFORMATION ON A SINGLE GOVERNMENT PORTAL: TRANSPARENȚA.GOV.RO | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lead Agency | | Chancellery of the Prime-Minister | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | Larisa Panait | | |
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| Phone | | +4021.314.34.00/1367 | | |
| Other involved actors | Government | Public institutions | | |
| | Civil society | Open Data Coalition | | |
| Main Objective | | Increasing the transparency of public administration | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | | Public institutions will upload on the gateway the information that is subject to compulsory disclosure according to Law no. 544/2001. | | |
| Relevance | | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation |
| | | | | |
| | | Promoting government transparency is one of the main objectives of the OGP. This project will confirm to this objective by facilitating the public's access to information of public interest on a single government gateway. | | |
| Ambition | | Improving public services by facilitating access to information regarding public institutions. | | |
| Completion level | | Not started | Limited | Substantial |
| | | | | |
| Description of the results | | | | |
| 1. The procedures for the upload of public interest information on the gateway, | | The website was completed, however, the procedures required for the upload of | | |

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| including the open data, will be established | information by the ministries have not been developed. |
| 2. Official launch of the portal, presenting to the public its intended purpose, functions and planned future steps for the increase of published information. | - |
| 3. Each ministry and subordinate agencies will publish the information that is subject to compulsory disclosure according to Law no. 544/2001 on the single gateway transparenta.gov.ro | - |
| 4. Updating the list comprising the public information that is subject to compulsory disclosure following consultations with public institutions, the civil society and private sector and analysis of court decisions. | - |
| 5. Amendment of Law no. 544/2001 to include the new list of public information that resulted following consultations and subsequent portal update. | - |
| End date | June 2016 |
| Additional information | The delays in the implementation of this commitment were caused by administrative issues: lack of adequate human resources and absence of a normative framework that would allow the ministries to upload and regularly update public information on the single gateway. |

| MAKING AN INVENTORY OF THE DATASETS PRODUCED BY THE MINISTRIES AND SUBORDINATE AGENCIES | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lead Agency | | Public institutions | | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | Angela Benga | | | |
| Title, Department | | Counsellor Department for Online Services and Design, Chancellery of the Prime-Minister | | | |
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| Phone | | +4021.314.34.00/1367 | | | |
| Other involved actors | Government | Chancellery of the Prime-Minister | | | |
| | Civil society | Open Data Coalition | | | |
| Main Objective | | Enhancing administrative transparency; Increasing the quality and quantity of open datasets published by the public institutions; | | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | | As a result of this commitment, the ministries and their subordinate agencies will create, publish and keep up to date inventories of the datasets they prepare, whether published or unpublished. | | | |
| Relevance | | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation | Technology and innovation |
| | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Improving transparency and efficiency in public administration | | | |
| Ambition | | Increasing public integrity and more effectively managing public resources | | | |
| Completion level | | Not started | Limited | Substantial | Completed |
| | | | ✓ | | |
| Description of the results | | | | | |
| 1. Develop the open data Guidelines (September 2014) | | The Department for Online Services and Design, in collaboration with members of the Open Data Coalition, developed the Guidelines for the publication of open data in February – | | | |

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| | <p>March 2015. The Guidelines were sent to the ministries for dissemination and is published on the home page of the ogp.gov.ro website.</p> <p>As the publishing of the final version of the Guidelines was delayed from the initial deadline, a new timeline was agreed upon. The ministries were officially informed on the new deadlines in April 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development and enforcement of the internal processes needed for the identification and publication of datasets: 31 May 2015; • creation of inventories of the datasets that may be published in an open format, generated at the central level (ministry) and also by subordinate agencies: 31 August 2015; • submission of the datasets inventories to the Department for Online Services and Design: 30 September 2015. |
| <p>2. The ministries and their subordinate agencies will be required to establish and enforce the internal processes needed for:</p> <p>a) identifying all the datasets they generate that could be published in an open format;</p> <p>b) regular assessment and update of the datasets</p> <p>(December 2014)</p> | <p>Status of the development of internal procedures by 31 August 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 ministries: process is completed • 11 ministries: process is on-going • 2 ministries: process was not started |
| <p>3. The ministries will create inventories of the datasets that may be published in an open format, whether published or unpublished. These lists will include both the datasets generated at the central level (ministry) and those generated by subordinate agencies.</p> <p>(April 2015)</p> | <p>Completion level by 31 August 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 ministry: completed • 14 ministries: limited • 2 ministries: not started |
| <p>4. The inventories will be gathered in a single database by the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister, and will include: the name of the dataset, the agency that owns it, the available format, the proposed date for publishing and the proposed updating frequency. The centralized inventory will</p> | <p>Due to delays in publishing the Guidelines, the new deadline was set for 30 September 2015.</p> |

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| <p>be published online on ogp.gov.ro and, based on requests and feedback received from the public through an online form, it should also facilitate the prioritization of the publication of particular datasets. (December 2015)</p> | |
| End date | December 2015 |
| Additional information | <p>An issue that affected the implementation was the continuity of people working on the open data inventories in public institutions.</p> <p>During the 28 September meeting, members of the Coalition for Open Data made a series of recommendations regarding the inventorying of datasets. These are included in a document published online, available at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x5S-1zIUQ35Dl1cxXS9pUzBQBxr9AQqz33QD5laZX-A/edit.</p> |

| ENSURING THE FREE ONLINE ACCESS TO NATIONAL LEGISLATION | | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lead Agency | Ministry of Justice | | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | Tiberiu Baraian | | | |
| Title, Department | Director, IT Department | | | |
| Email | tiberiu.baraian@just.ro | | | |
| Phone | +4 0372 04 11 79 | | | |
| Main Objective | Ensuring the free online access to national legislation | | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | Development of an electronic application to ensure the free access to up-to-date national legislation of both Romanian citizens and public and private entities and to those from the European Union, by interconnecting the Portal with the European legislative portal N-Lex. | | | |
| Relevance | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation | Technology and innovation |
| | ✓ | | | |
| | Ensuring the free online access to up-to-date national legislation | | | |
| Ambition | Improving public services | | | |
| Completion level | Not started | Limited | Substantial | Completed |
| | | | | ✓ |
| Description of the results | | | | |
| 1. The ministry will develop an electronic application to ensure the free access of citizens and other entities to the national legislative database (December 2014) | | On 12 November 2014, the Ministry of Justice launched the beta version of the national legislative Portal (legislatie.just.ro). The official version was launched on 23 January 2015. | | |
| 2. Testing of the developed electronic application (February 2015) | | Testing of the application was successful. | | |
| 3. The legislative electronic application will be interconnected with the European legislative portal N-Lex | | The national legislative database has been interconnected with the European portal N-Lex, and can be accessed at the following link: | | |

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| (February 2015) | http://eur-lex.europa.eu/nlex/legis_ro/rodb_form_en.htm The national legislative database can also be accessed through an API: http://legislatie.just.ro/ServiciulWebLegislatie.htm |
| End date | June 2015 |
| Next steps | Using data obtained through the API, the next steps should focus on the development of applications that are specific to different areas. |
| Additional information | Representatives of the civil society (Open Society Foundation, Association for Technology and Internet) mentioned a number of subjects that require further clarification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the status of the database of the Official Journal; • what are the plans for portal update and maintenance after the end of the current European funding; • how does the ministry plan to solve technical problems encountered by users of the portal. |

| AMENDING LAW 109/2007 ON THE RE-USE OF PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lead Agency | | Ministry of the Information Society | | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | Irina Jipa-Teodoros | | | |
| Title, Department | | Counsellor for European Affairs General Department for the Information Society | | | |
| Email | | irina.jipa@msinf.ro | | | |
| Phone | | +4 021 311 41 60 | | | |
| Other involved actors | Government | Ministry of Justice | | | |
| | Civil society | Association for Technology and Internet Open Society Foundation | | | |
| Main Objective | | Ensuring the optimal use of public sector information and improving interaction between government, citizens and the business sector | | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | | The objective of this commitment is to create the legal framework for the publication of public data in an open, re-usable format, by implementing the provisions of the new European legislation. | | | |
| Relevance | | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation | Technology and innovation |
| | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| | | Use of new technologies to improve governance and citizen participation, particularly by developing and implementing open data related policies. | | | |
| Ambition | | Improving public services: creation of new services and applications for citizens, public institutions and private sector. | | | |
| Completion level | | Not started | Limited | Substantial | Completed |
| | | | | ✓ | |
| Description of the results | | | | | |
| The agency will create a legal framework for the re-use of data and the publication of open datasets by implementing the provisions of Directive 2013/37/EU amending the | | In March 2015 the Ministry for the Information Society published online, for public consultation, the draft law amending Law 109/2007 regarding the re-use of public | | | |

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| <p>Directive 2003/98/CE on the Re-use of Public Sector Information, thus amending Law 109/2007.</p> <p>On the suggestion of civil society, proposals to create a legal framework for open data will also be taken into account.</p> <p>(June 2015)</p> | <p>information. On 6 March 2015 a public debate was held at the headquarters of the Ministry.</p> <p>On 28 July 2015, the Government approved the draft Law and it was sent to the Parliament for analysis and approval. It is estimated that the Law will be approved by the end of October 2015.</p> |
| <p>End date</p> | <p>June 2015</p> |
| <p>Additional information</p> | <p>Representatives of the civil society (Association for Technology and Internet, Open Society Foundation) asserted that the public consultation process for the draft Law should be given more consideration. They believe that the amended Law should include much more detailed procedures for the publishing of open data and proposed to continue the amending process through Parliament.</p> |

| OPENING DATA COLLECTED FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lead Agency | | Ministry of Health | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | Cristian Petcu | | |
| Title, Department | | Coordinator for the Integrity Compartment | | |
| Email | | cristian.petcu@ms.ro | | |
| Phone | | +4 021 307 25 41 | | |
| Other involved actors | Government | | | |
| | Civil society | Open Data Coalition | | |
| Main Objective | | Enhancing transparency in the national health system | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | | The Ministry of Health will develop the models for two information platforms: one monitoring the procurements of public health units and one monitoring the activity of the Ethical Councils in public health units. The available data will be published in an open format. | | |
| Relevance | | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation |
| | | | | |
| | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| | | The Ministry of Health has shown great interest in the OGP related activities, has taken part in discussions with the civil society and has published open datasets produced at the central level or by subordinate units. | | |
| Ambition | | Opening the data collected from the public health system represents an important step in enhancing transparency and fight against corruption, and last but not least, in improving public trust in the system. | | |
| Completion level | | Not started | Limited | Substantial |
| | | | ✓ | |
| Description of the results | | | | |
| A. Development of the legislative framework | | | | |
| The ministry will draft the legislative proposals for regulating the monitoring the | | The Order of the Minister of Health 1182/2014 was signed, approving the | | |

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| procurement in public health units and for monitoring the activity of Ethical Councils in public health units (December 2014) | implementation of the Patient Feedback Mechanism as a pilot in public health units. The Order of the Minister of Health 145/2015 was signed, approving the structure and competences of Ethical Councils in public health units. |
| Approval of the legislative proposals (December 2015) | |
| B. Development of the platforms | |
| The ministry will develop the models for two information platforms: one monitoring the procurements of public health units and one monitoring the activity of the Ethical Councils in public health units (December 2014) | The proposed model was developed. |
| The ministry will pilot the platforms, in collaboration with civil society, in order to improve their functionalities based on the results (December 2015) | So far, the training program for the staff of Public Health Departments and representatives of local authorities that manage public health units. Criteria and indicators have been identified for the collection and analysis of data gathered from hospitals. The Integrity Compartment is currently consulting AID experts in order to improve the developed platform and ensure its better usability, better data collection and output of analyses useful in drafting health system policies. |
| Completion of the two platforms (January 2016) | |
| Start implementation in all public health units (July 2016) | |
| C. Initiate the opening of collected data (July 2016) | |
| End date | 2016 |
| Additional information | Enhanced participation of the public and other stakeholders is necessary, focusing on the content of the platform and an assessment of possible risks. |

| OPENING DATA COLLECTED FROM THE MONITORING OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES AS PART OF THE NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION STRATEGY 2012-2015 | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lead Agency | Ministry of Health | | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | Cristian Petcu | | | |
| Title, Department | Coordinator for the Integrity Compartment | | | |
| Email | cristian.petcu@ms.ro | | | |
| Phone | +4 021 307 25 41 | | | |
| Main Objective | Increasing integrity in the decentralised public health units | | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | The ministry will develop the model information platform for monitoring the results of anticorruption preventive measures and the gathered data will be published in an open format. | | | |
| Relevance | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation | Technology and innovation |
| | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | Increase transparency | | | |
| Ambition | Ensures the stability of the institutional and legislative anticorruption framework and the adequate allocation of resources for the effectiveness of public institutions. | | | |
| Completion level | Not started | Limited | Substantial | Completed |
| | | ✓ | | |
| Description of the results | | | | |
| 1. The ministry will develop the model information platform for monitoring the results of anticorruption preventive measures (December 2014) | | The single monitoring platform for hospitals and county public health units was developed and launched in June. | | |
| 2. The ministry will pilot the platforms, in collaboration with civil society, in order to improve their functionalities based on the results (June 2015) | | <p>The platform is piloted, since June, in 5 important hospitals.</p> <p>The respective units filed into the database information regarding the patient feedback mechanism and data regarding received petitions.</p> <p>As a result of the pilot project, the representatives of the ministry and of the</p> | | |

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| | hospitals involved have identified ways to improve the platform. |
| 3. Completion of the platform (July 2015) | The procedures to implement the platform nationwide (350 hospitals) are almost complete. |
| 4. Initiate platform large-scale use (January 2016) | |
| 5. Opening collected data (July 2016) | |
| End date | 2016 |
| Additional information | <p>Better promotion of the project and enhanced participation of the public and other stakeholders are necessary, focusing on the content of the platform (NGOs, citizens, patient associations, academia, developers) and an assessment of possible risks.</p> <p>The representatives of the Ministry mentioned that there are issues with the medical personnel that is not used to providing reports through such platforms.</p> |

| OPEN CONTRACTING | | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lead Agency | | National Agency for Public Procurement (ANAP)* | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | Cristina Dumitrache | | |
| Title, Department | | Legal advisor | | |
| Email | | cristina.dumitrache@anrmap.ro | | |
| Phone | | +4 0755.07.8025 | | |
| Other involved actors | Government | Ministry of the Information Society (Digital Agenda for Romania Agency - AADR); Ministry of Public Finance; Ministry of European Funds | | |
| | Civil society | Funky Citizens Association; Open Society Foundation | | |
| Main Objective | | Increasing Public Integrity More Effectively Managing Public Resources | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | | This commitment aims to increase transparency and lead to a more efficient spending of public money by involving citizens in the public contracting process including tendering, performance and completion. | | |
| Relevance | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation | Technology and innovation |
| | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | Increase transparency and efficiency in public spending | | | |
| Ambition | | Involving citizens in the public contracting process including tendering, performance and completion. | | |
| Completion level | Not started | Limited | Substantial | Completed |
| | | ✓ | | |
| Description of the results | | | | |
| 1. The agencies will initiate consultations and explore the possibility of obtaining technical assistance from the World Bank (the coordinator of open contracting efforts worldwide) (July 2014) | | On 12 September 2014, the representatives of the Government (Chancellery of the Prime-Minister, ministries, agencies) and of the SCOs took part in a video-conference with World Bank experts on Open Contracting. | | |

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| <p>2. The agencies will consult all stakeholders in the Romanian procurement system – citizens, civil society, public institutions involved in the process and deliver a written Report. The report should include an assessment of the present context and issues, identify needs and required resources and next steps recommendations for the implementation of open contracting in Romania. (September 2014 - March 2015)</p> | <p>ANRMAP (ANAP) Due to changes in EU procurement legislation in 2014, Romania has to transpose the new provisions in national legislation. This constitutes a part of the process to develop the National Strategy for Public Procurement that aims to reform the public procurement system, starting from a list of identified problems and proposed solutions. Following the public consultation period that ended on 31 August 2015, the draft laws on public procurement and on remedies in the field of public procurement have been completed and are about to be submitted for government approval.</p> |
| | <p>AADR In November 2014, the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) was launched. The Standard will be implemented by the AADR – the administrator of the national procurement platform e-licitatie.ro – with the launch of the new version of the platform. This project is ongoing, its proposed deadline being December 2015. So far, the analysis phase was completed and the development phase has started. The datasets generated according to the OCDS are to be published on the national open data portal data.gov.ro.</p> |
| | <p>Chancellery of the Prime-Minister / Open Society Foundation With the support of the Open Society Foundation, Tim Davies, Electronics and Computer Science, Faculty of Physical Sciences Engineering, University of Southampton – UK, member of the team that developed the standards for open data from public procurement – the Open Contracting Data Standard – held a presentation on the OCDS subject. There have also been efforts to introduce the open contracting principles in the new procurement legislation that is due to</p> |

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| | Government approval. |
| <p>3. The agencies will carry out an open contracting pilot project to build on the findings and help adjust the international principles to the Romanian context. Representatives of the civil society will take part in development and monitoring of the pilot. (April – September 2015)</p> | <p>In February 2015, the representatives of the OGP Unit, of the Open Society Foundation and of Funky Citizens held talks at the AM-POCA (Management Authority for the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity), proposing that this would be the institution to implement the open contracting pilot. However, the busy schedule of the AM and the introduction of new legislative framework on public procurement prevented the materialization of this proposal.</p> |
| <p>4. Analysis and presentation of the pilot's results. The project evaluation report, developed in collaboration by the representatives of public administration and civil society, will be presented in a public conference. (October 2015)</p> | |
| <p>5. Depending on the conclusions of the assessment Report, draft the proposal to amend current legislation to allow implementation of open contracting. (November 2015)</p> | |
| End date | June 2016 |
| Additional information | <p>*The personnel and competences of the National Authority for Regulating and Monitoring Public Procurement (ANRMAP) were taken over by a new structure: the National Agency for Public Procurement, as by Government Decision 634/2015.</p> <p>The Romanian Academic Society submitted a series of observations related to the public procurement dataset published on data.gov.ro and a series of recommendations for the new public procurement system (SICAP). These comments have been submitted to the responsible institutions and will be published at: http://ogp.gov.ro/rapoarte/.</p> |

| OPEN ACCESS | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| OPENING UP DATA RESULTED FROM PUBLICLY-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS | | | | |
| Lead Agency | | Ministry of National Education, Minister Delegate for higher education, scientific research and technological development | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | 1. Bogdan Veleanu 2. Octavian Rusu | | |
| Title, Department | | 1. Counsellor for European Affairs - The National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (ANCSI) 2. Professor Doctor Engineer - The Agency for Administration of the National Network for Education and Research | | |
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| Phone | | 1. +4 021 318 30 65 2. +4 0744632339 | | |
| Other involved actors | | National Council of Rectors, National Trade Union Federation " <i>Alma Mater</i> " | | |
| | Civil society | Open Society Foundation; Transparency International; Kosson Initiative | | |
| Main Objective | | Enhancing the impact of publicly-funded scientific research | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | | The commitment refers to the publishing of studies and results of publicly-funded research, as well as the development of the framework that will allow the adoption on a national level of policies in accordance with the Commission Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information C(2012) 4890. | | |
| Relevance | | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation |
| | | ✓ | | |
| | | Increase transparency in public research spending | | |
| Ambition | | Results of publicly-funded research can be disseminated more broadly and faster, to the benefit of researchers, innovative industry and citizens. Open access can also boost the visibility of | | |

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|---|---|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | European research, and in particular offer small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access to the latest research for utilisation. | | | |
| Completion level | Not started | Limited | Substantial | Completed |
| | | ✓ | | |
| Description of the results | | | | |
| 1. The responsible institutions will monitor the implementation of open access principles in publicly-funded Romanian scientific research programmes (Ongoing) | Open Access principles are included in the 2014-2020 National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation, approved by government decision. The Government Decision 583/2015 for the approval of the National research, development and innovation plan includes the requirement for the authors of papers financed through the Plan to publish online the summaries of their published works. | | | |
| 2. The responsible institutions will issue recommendations for the development and use under open license of institutional databases and for their integration into a single national gateway (December 2015) | Support activities and recommendations for Open Access also took place and stemmed from workshops and training sessions organised by AnelisPlus in 2014-2015. One example is the event themed “National Deposit and Institutional Deposits – Specific problems”, in which the representatives of over 80 institutions took part. The organising / conversion and the check-up of the archives of the national deposit were completed, the database being now under testing. It will become available to the academia and research community starting 15 November 2015. Presently, there are operational institutional deposits at the Central University Library in Bucharest, Valahia University Brasov, and the SCIPPIO and ROMDOC editorial platforms. | | | |
| 3. Drawing up proposals for drafting public policies on open access. (December 2015) | In May 2015, Ovidiu Voicu (Open Society Foundation) submitted a proposal for the next steps in open access policies development. The proposal was accepted by the ANCSI representatives, granted financing sources are found to implement the proposed activities. | | | |
| End date | June 2016 | | | |
| Next steps | In September 2015, members of the OGP government team and of the Open Data Coalition met with representatives of ANCSI and AnelisPlus to discuss the next steps in drafting open access policies. The | | | |

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| | <p>following issues were agreed upon:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. establishing a timeline of events bringing together civil society and the research community on Open Access issues;2. the development by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research of a set of recommendations for the implementation of Open Access principles. |
| Additional information | <p>The Open Data Coalition partners consider it is necessary to maintain a direct and regular dialogue on actions included in the NAP commitment between the leading agency and the other stakeholders – from both the civil society and the government.</p> |

| II. INCREASING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF PUBLISHED OPEN DATA | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lead Agency | | Chancellery of the Prime-Minister | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | Andrei Nicoară | | |
| Title, Department | | Counsellor, Chancellery of the Prime-Minister | | |
| Email | | andrei.nicoara@gov.ro | | |
| Phone | | +4 021 314 34 00 / 1018 | | |
| Other involved actors | Government | Public institutions | | |
| | Civil society | Open Data Coalition; ActiveWatch; Association for Technology and Internet; Funky Citizens | | |
| Main Objective | | Increasing the quality and quantity of published open data | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | | Publishing on a single gateway, data.gov.ro, of an increased number of high quality data sets delivered by public institutions, particularly datasets that are considered priorities for citizens and the business sector. | | |
| Relevance | | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation |
| | | Technology and innovation | | |
| | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Increasing public integrity; More effectively managing public resources | | |
| Ambition | | The use of new technologies to improve governance: Opening an increasing number of datasets has become a standard of the modern public administration. However, it is important that the market is prepared for the innovative use of the data. Opening public data should become something that is actually used by citizens, the administration itself and the business sector. | | |
| Completion level | | Not started | Limited | Substantial |
| | | | ✓ | |
| Description of the results | | | | |
| 1. Creation, within the Department for Online Services and Design, Chancellery of | | Completed in 2014 | | |

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| <p>the Prime-Minister, of a dedicated unit that will provide technical support for the data.gov.ro gateway (2014)</p> | |
| <p>2. Development, online publication and dissemination of Open Data Guidelines. The document will be subject to revisions and amendments so as to meet the needs of the stakeholders (September 2014)</p> | <p>The Open Data Guidelines were published, with a significant delay, in March 2015.</p> |
| <p>3. The government of Romania has already published datasets that fall under the 14 high value areas as designated by the G8 Open Data Charter, and will continue its efforts to update and improve the quality of these datasets (Ongoing)</p> | <p>The Government of Romania continued its efforts to complete and update the datasets that fall under the 14 high value areas as designated by the G8 Open Data Charter: 302 datasets published by the end of September 2015 on data.gov.ro.</p> |
| <p>4. The ministries will release 111 new datasets by publishing them on the data.gov.ro gateway</p> | <p>100 out of the 111 proposed datasets have been published so far. 3 out of the 14 datasets not yet published are due for July 2016.</p> |
| <p>5. The publication of the datasets requested by the civil society will be monitored. The list comprising these datasets is currently published on the ogp.gov.ro website and will be updated regularly following written requests submitted to the Department for Online Services and Design. The status of the publication will also be regularly updated. The institution in charge of a specific dataset will inform the Department on the projected publication timeline and/or any challenges encountered. (Ongoing)</p> | <p>The Department for Online Services and Design did not receive additional written requests for specific datasets, except for those used in themed hackathons. Any such requests have been submitted to the competent authority. Non-written requests from stakeholders have also been submitted to the responsible institutions and, when necessary, the Chancellery organised joint meetings for further clarifications.</p> |
| <p>6. The mechanism required for the collection and storing of compulsory metadata as defined in DCAT-AP will be embedded in the national data.gov.ro portal (2015)</p> | <p>In August 2015, the mechanism was launched for public testing. Programmers have been informed and invited to test it on: http://data.gov.ro/catalog.ttl.</p> |
| <p>7. A mechanism that will automatically assess the comprehensiveness of any published dataset will be embedded in the national data.gov.ro portal (2015)</p> | |

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| 8. The national vocabularies will be developed and harmonised with the EU ones (2018) | |
| 9. All informatization / digitization programmes that are either being implemented or under development in public institutions will be assessed and will be adapted to include open data technical specifications, so that by the time implementation is completed each institution will be able to easily export open data from its system to the national gateway (2016) | |
| 10. A mechanism will be implemented allowing the public institutions to receive recommendations on the published datasets. The recommendations would be registered and would require an official answer from the institution within 30 days. (2015) | |
| End date | June 2016 |
| Additional information | <p>During the programming marathons organised by the Government in collaboration with the Open Data Coalition, the programmers identified a number of problems related to the quality of information in the datasets. Whenever such issues appeared the publishing institution was informed and the programmers' recommendations will be used to ensure higher datasets quality.</p> <p>As the opening of data is gradually expanding to the local level, such as cities, the Smart City Association suggested the Department should provide simpler open data publishing procedures, designed specifically for the local authorities.</p> |

| III. HUMAN RESOURCE TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF OPEN DATA | | | | |
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| Lead Agency | | Chancellery of the Prime-Minister | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | Angela Benga | | |
| Title, Department | | Counsellor Department for Online Services and Design | | |
| Email | | angela.benga@gov.ro | | |
| Phone | | +4021.314.34.00/1367 | | |
| Other involved actors | Government | Public institutions | | |
| | Civil society | Open Data Coalition | | |
| Main Objective | | Improving the expertise of the persons designated as responsible for publishing open data and of the potential data users | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | | As there is a relative low understanding of the utility and necessity of opening public data, it is essential that the public servants already in charge with this process are trained accordingly. | | |
| Relevance | | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation |
| | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Ambition | | Improving public services; Increasing public integrity; More effectively managing public resources | | |
| Completion level | | Not started | Limited | Substantial |
| | | | ✓ | |
| Description of the results | | | | |
| 1. The responsible agencies will prepare the course curricula. The materials will be available online in an open format. (September 2014) | | The materials for the training sessions were delivered: the Open Data Guidelines, presentations, brochures; all the materials were published on the ogp.gov.ro website, sent by e-mail, printed and presented during the training sessions, conferences and other events. | | |
| 2. Publication of the training timeline | | Notices of the training timeline had been | | |

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| (September 2014) | published on the ogp.gov.ro website at least two weeks prior to the events. |
| <p>3. The responsible agencies will conduct 10 training sessions on Open data management. 4 training sessions will be held with the support of the Open Data Coalition. (September 2014 - June 2016)</p> | <p>8 training sessions were organised, from September 2014 to May 2015, by the Department for Online Services and Design, with the support of the Open Data Coalition, at the prefectures from all over the country (county / local government). The sessions included sections dedicated to the open data subject.</p> <p>Another 3 training sessions were held with personnel from the Ministry of Labour (2 December 2014), National Library (5 February 2015) and Ministry of Culture (29 June 2015).</p> |
| <p>4. Pilot with a public institution, involving as many interested parts as possible: the administration, civil society, journalists, citizens, such as to identify relevant data and the required steps for its publication, update and use.</p> <p>The pilot will aim to implement best practices from other countries.</p> <p>The phases of this project will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selecting the institution; 2. Training the persons involved in the open data publishing process; 3. Identifying relevant datasets and their potential applications/usages; 4. Publishing the datasets; 5. Assessing and presenting the findings. <p>The results will be presented in a public conference. (March - June 2015)</p> | |
| End date | 2016 |
| Additional information | <p>Both the representatives of the public administration and the members of civil society agree that the processes of training and dissemination of information on the open data subject are an essential step for the implementation of further actions in this area.</p> <p>However, the success of this process depends on the degree to which people understand the role and benefits of opening public data, as well as the efforts entailed.</p> |

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| | <p>In this regard, we agreed that the training and motivational program would provide better results if it is tailored to the profile of different stakeholders: public servant, member of the academia, member of the IT community, representatives of start-ups or SMEs and so on.</p> |
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| IV. DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON THE OGP PRINCIPLES AND PROMOTING THE OPEN DATA CONCEPT IN AN ACCESSIBLE MANNER | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lead Agency | | Chancellery of the Prime-Minister | | |
| Name of responsible person from implementing agency | | Angela Benga | | |
| Title, Department | | Counsellor Department for Online Services and Design | | |
| Email | | angela.benga@gov.ro | | |
| Phone | | +4021.314.34.00/1367 | | |
| Other involved actors | Government | Ministries | | |
| | Civil society, Private Sector | Open Data Coalition | | |
| Main Objective | | Wider dissemination of open government principles and information leading to greater openness of the administration and enhanced citizen participation and engagement in policymaking and governance | | |
| Brief Description of Commitment | | Through this commitment the government aims to improve dissemination and promotion of the open data concept, of efforts to date and long term benefits. | | |
| Relevance | | Transparency | Accountability | Public participation |
| | | Technology and innovation | | |
| | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Ambition | | Improving public services; Increasing public integrity; More effectively managing public resources | | |
| Completion level | | Not started | Limited | Substantial |
| | | | ✓ | |
| Description of the results | | | | |
| 1. The Chancellery will organise 17 information sessions with the ministries and subordinate agencies, in collaboration with the designated open data responsible persons | | 3 information sessions were organised for personnel from the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Economy. | | |

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| (June 2016) | |
| 2. The Chancellery will organise 17 mixed group workshops with representatives of the administration, the civil society and private sector to discuss challenges, identify solutions and promote best practices (June 2016) | |
| 3. The Chancellery will organise 8 information sessions for the prefectures' staff (June 2016) | From September 2014 to May 2015, 8 information sessions have been organised, with about 100 participants from the prefectures of all counties. |
| 4. The Chancellery will organise 2 information sessions for the Association of Romanian Towns (June 2016) | On 18 March 2015, an information session took place in Oradea (capital city of Bihor County) on OGP principles and open data. |
| 5. The Chancellery will organise 2 information sessions for the Association of Romanian Communes (June 2016) | |
| 6. The Chancellery will organise 2 information sessions for small and medium-sized enterprises (June 2016) | |
| 7. The Chancellery will continue to organise the monthly public meetings of the OGP Club (June 2016) | From June 2014 to September 2015, the Chancellery held monthly meetings of the OGP Club. Participants included representatives of the public administration, of the civil society and of the business sector. The subject and invitations have been made public on the ogp.gov.ro website and through mailing lists, at least one week prior to the event. The summaries of all meetings have also been published and are available on the website (http://ogp.gov.ro/club-ogp/arhiva/). |
| 8. The ogp.gov.ro website will be regularly updated to include relevant OGP or open data related efforts, both national and international. (June 2016) | Information, materials and news regarding the OGP and NAP are regularly posted on the ogp.gov.ro website. The website hosts public consultations on OGP issues, debate invitations, summaries of meetings, activity reports and so on. |

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| <p>9. The Chancellery will promote the OGP principles through: leaflets, video tutorials, interviews, social media, online forums and other available means (June 2016)</p> | <p>Presentations, brochures on OGP and open data were produced, published online and distributed during our events.</p> <p>In November 2014, the official Facebook page of OGP Romania was launched, and it is part of the OGP Unit's efforts to keep its stakeholders up-to-date on open government related events and news: https://www.facebook.com/RomaniaOGP.</p> <p>As acknowledgement and support of the joint efforts of government, civil society and business sector in implementing and respecting the OGP principles, the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister organized the OGP Romania Awards in December 2014. The website set up for the event, http://ogp.gov.ro/concurs2014/, included the award categories, the selection criteria and the judges. It also included forms that allowed the general public to submit proposals for several of the recognition categories.</p> <p>On the International Open Data Day, the Chancellery and the Coalition created and distributed brochures and posters, provided open-data hackathon inscribed t-shirts and promoted the event through social media and interviews. With the participation of the Prime-Minister of Romania and of the ambassadors of the United Kingdom, United States and the Netherlands, the team promoted 4 video messages of support for the open data movement (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/mesaje-de-sustinere/).</p> <p>As part of the Internship Program organised by the Government of Romania, on 6 August 2015, an information session was held with 30 interns.</p> |
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| End date | 2016 |
| Additional information | <p>Both the representatives of the public administration and the members of civil society agree that the processes of training and dissemination of information on the open data subject are an essential step for the implementation of further actions in this area.</p> <p>However, the success of this process depends on the degree to which people understand the role and benefits of opening public data, as well as the efforts entailed.</p> <p>In this regard, we agreed that the training and motivational program would provide better results if it is tailored to the profile of different stakeholders: public servant, member of the academia, member of the IT community, representatives of start-ups or SMEs and so on.</p> |

5. Peer Exchange and Learning

The Chancellery of the Prime-Minister, with the help of the World Bank, has organised four video-conferences with WB experts and representatives of the Governments of Croatia and Indonesia. They shared their experiences and best practices in implementing OGP plans with the Romanian civil society and government representatives. The subjects included: the institutional framework for the collaboration between government and civil society (Croatia); methods of extending the implementation of OGP plans to the local governments (Indonesia); global open contracting standards and best practices in the procurement process that ensure the greatest degree of transparency; NAP priorities.

Members of the OGP team presented the status of open governance components in Romania (open data, open access, open contracting) at the Share-PSI workshops in Lisbon and Timisoara. Share-PSI 2.0 is the European network for the exchange of experience and ideas around implementing open data policies in the public sector. It brings together government departments, standards bodies, academic institutions, commercial organisations, trade associations and interest groups to identify what does and doesn't work, what is and isn't practical, what can and can't be expected of different stakeholders.

On 1 April 2015, the Department arranged a meeting between the Comsode project team (<http://www.comsode.eu/>) and members of central government and civil society. Comsode is a research and development project, run by a pan-european consortium, aimed at progressing the capabilities in the field of Open Data re-use.

Romania's experience in the OGP was also shared in May 2015 during a peer exchange workshop in the third Open Data Conference in Ottawa.

On 2 July 2015, the OGP governmental team shared its experience in the Open Government Partnership with representatives of central administration and NGOs from Armenia and Georgia; the talks referred to our accomplishments from 2011 to 2015, but also to specific issues and problems.

6. Conclusion, Other initiatives and Next Steps

A. Lessons learned

The implementation of the first National Action Plan has provided everyone involved with a series of lessons to be learned, and one of the main conclusions that has been drawn is that, in order to establish an efficient mechanism for open government, a more substantial commitment on the partnership between the government and the civil society / private sector / citizens / the media is required. Increased efficiency of the administration may stem from better communication between public institutions, as well as between civil servants and other stakeholders.

Other lessons included the clear need for the dissemination of information and for the spread of the consultation process at the local level, as well as the need to further develop all forms of government - citizen dialogue.

The public administration should strive to improve the level of information available and encourage citizen engagement in the development of public services by informing, consulting, providing feedback and releasing data for use and reuse.

The organization of programming marathons that make use of open public data provides a great opportunity for all involved: the government discovers new ways to use/reuse its data and can even improve the quality of its databases, while the participants can discover new means to develop successful start-ups.

The open government subject has created ever higher expectations coming from the civil society regarding visible progress on actions related to the above assertions. As such, the SCOs demand that the Chancellery exerts to a greater extent its leadership status to impel public institutions to improve implementation of the commitments and to expand the number of people involved in the OGP process.

B. Other initiatives

As acknowledgement and support of the joint efforts of government, civil society and business sector in implementing and respecting the OGP principles, the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister organized the OGP Romania Awards in December 2014. The website set up for the event, <http://ogp.gov.ro/concurs2014/>, included the award categories, the selection criteria and the judges. It also included forms that allowed the general public to submit proposals for several of the recognition categories.

The Department for Online Services and Design has also provided support and participated in several events on themes related to open government:

- starting October 2014, the launch and regular meetings of the DigiGov Club, a network dedicated to communications persons from the public institutions (digitaldiplomacy.ro/digigov-retea-de-networking-dedicata-comunicatorilor-din-institutiile-publice-romanesti/);
- 30 September, 2014: the Open Government and Open Data debate, organised for the launch of the first paper in the new series of Open Society Reports (datedeschise.fundatia.ro/dezbatare-guvernare-deschisa-si-date-publice-deschise-in-romania/);
- the annual Anti-corruption Conference, held on 7 October, 2014. The Chancellery, through the Department for Online Services and Design, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, organised at the National Library of Romania a special section of the Conference dedicated to the OGP and open data. In the first part of the event, the members of the panel, the representatives of public administration and of the civil society presented and discussed the main phases and the degree of fulfillment of the NAP commitments. The second part of the meeting focused on actual results of using open public data (onoratainstanta.ro, nuvasuparati.info, expertforum – mapping the funding of local government by the central authorities);
- the hackathon organised by the IT communities of Timisoara on 17 October, 2014, (hacktm.ro), that included programming of apps using open data provided by the Timisoara City Hall and datasets from the data.gov.ro portal;
- support and active participation in the Open Geodata Initiative workshop on 12 December, 2014, organised as part of the GEOIDEA.ro research project. The workshop focused on the role of open geo data in Romania;
- promoting the International Open Data Day, between 20-22 February, 2015, in collaboration with civil society, business sector and diplomatic missions, through a series of public debates and a programming marathon. On 20 February, the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister and the Coalition for Open Data, with the support of the Embassies of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, organised the Open Data Day Conference, held at the National Library of Romania. Over 200 persons took part in the Conference - representatives of public institutions, of NGOs and the business sector, national and international open governance experts. For the first time, the Prime-Minister of the Government of Romania transmitted a direct and clear message of support for the open government efforts in our country (<http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/mesaje-de-sustinere/>). On the following days (21-22 February, 2015) an Open Data Hackathon was organised, event hosted by the Faculty of Cybernetics in the University of Economic Studies. 17 teams participated in the competition, each including developers, web-designers, activists, and produced useful apps and web platforms starting from the public open data;
- the Department was a partner in the organization of the second edition of the Open Education Conference (10 March, 2015) in collaboration with the Coalition for Open Educational Resources;

- support and active participation in the Open Data Priorities and Engagement international workshop, organised in Timisoara, on 16-17 March, 2015, as part of the Share-PSI 2.0 project;
- the representatives of the Department participated on 2-3 July, 2015, in Bucharest, in the TechSpacency & TechVocacy HUB event. It was organised by the Institute for Public Policies and the Black Sea Trust, the Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (Armenia) and the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (Georgia). The regional event promoted the increase of transparency in public decision making and the engagement of citizens in public life through the use of technology: online apps, interactive websites, blogs etc.
- on 8 July, 2015, the OGP team participated in the Health - Committee meeting organised by AmCham Romania (The American Chamber of Commerce in Romania), where it presented the status of open data in Romania and answered questions from the business sector regarding the level of transparency of data and information from the national health system.

C. Next steps

As there have been delays in the implementation of some NAP actions, the priority will be to bring all commitment-related activities up to date.

The current self-assessment, along with the IRM report due on January 2016, will be the starting points for drafting the next national action plan (2016-2018).

D. Conclusion

The Government of Romania took consistent action to achieve the OGP objectives, particularly to fulfill the NAP commitments. Romania's expertise and dedication to OGP principles received acknowledgement from both Romanian partners and from the other OGP member countries, being elected as member of the Steering Committee following the 2015 elections.

The constant dialogue with the representatives of the non-governmental organisations has obviously had a positive impact on all OGP related activities.

There was significant progress in the field of open data, proven by usability improvements to the national open data portal, by the increase in the number of public institutions willing to publish or already publishing data sets on the single gateway (including local government entities), efforts to standardize procedures, apps that prove the utility of the use and re-use of open datasets, local and central government training sessions etc.

Romania is among the first countries that showed interest in implementing the Open Contracting Data Standard in its electronic procurement system. This step is perceived as a useful tool to increase transparency in public procurement and allows for better transposing of the new European directives. Although this process is still under way, the Agency for the Digital Agenda of Romania is currently working on technical solutions for the implementation of the standard by the end of 2015.