



Open Government Partnership

Independent Reporting Mechanism

Romania

Comments Received on the First Progress Report

Andrei Petcu, Foundation Ceata, 2 comments in conversations via facebook messages, in January (before the public comments period, but saved for further reference):

- One reason for the business sector's reluctance to get involved may be deduced from this article <http://readwrite.com/2013/10/15/oracle-opens-both-barrels-on-open-source-software-in-military-whitepaper#awesm=~oxqNns7aywENYo>
- Romania may have improved its rankings, as pointed at <http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/romania-in-primele-15-tari-din-lume-in-open-data-index/>, but, upon closer look, we both agreed that such news is not spectacular, when we saw that Romania's total score is now 575, instead of 355, still about half of what's expected

Andra Bucur, Soros Foundation, face to face discussion, 5 February:

- Explored some of the implications for OGP related to classified information, especially office secrets, once the new Criminal Code entered into force—see <http://www.soros.ro/?q=blog/cod-ro%C8%99u-ce-protejeaz%C4%83-secretul-de-serviciu>

Bogdan Manolea, APTI, comments in email, 10 February:

- The business sector needs a push or pull with the OGP process overall, as pointed in the conclusions at <http://www.epsiplatform.eu/content/influence-open-government-partnership-ogp-open-data-discussions>
- The functioning of public institutions, especially at sectoral levels, is just too poor to expect proper implementation of existing legislation, as pointed in a paper at http://geoidea.ro/pdf/geoidea_id04_final.pdf

Meeting with local journalists and NGO reps, 18 February (in Tg. Mureș, facilitated by CJI):

- Open data cannot replace the lack of accountability, transparency and responsiveness that is manifest in local government

Elena Calistru of Funky Citizens, and Emilian Meiu of LiderJust, discussion face to face, 19 February (prompted by another project, facilitated by Konrad Adenauer Foundation/Rule of Law Program):

- There's a clear need for data from the judicial system, and some of it is available, but not centralized, and not yet inter-linked

Discussion with the participants at ODD hackathon (via Skype, facilitated by APTI), 22 February:

- All data sets reported to the EU should also be published on the national portal, in order to provide an example, a model, an incentive to domestic institutions to open up their data sets
- There's a need for data from the judiciary and the legislature, but CPM is reluctant to approach other branches of government, because of the tense political climate
- The publication of the MoJ/SNA monitoring reports is delayed, and this is not helpful for a preliminary assessment of what's happening in local governments
- Some participants recalled projects from the Open Media Challenge 2012

Stefan Căndeia, The Sponge, comments in email, 23 February:

- Referring to the same <http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/romania-in-primele-15-tari-din-lume-in-open-data-index/>, snaps at the CPM for merely ticking boxes, instead of ensuring the quality of the data sets, and suggests that an independent, third-party evaluation of the data on the portal should be the top priority
- Explains that he tried to use the data on procurement, but realized about 5% of the lines were impossible to utilize, while 100% of the listed budgets were false; bref, the data set at <http://date.gov.ro/dataset?groups=achizitii-publice> cannot be used for applications
- In relation to the entire theme B, his experience is that all public institutions have created additional bureaucratic hurdles that render e-services inapplicable—these include physical paperwork, captcha codes and closed .pdf/.jpg formats for presenting the information
- In relation to coalitions of organizations working on open data, see http://omc.thesponge.eu/Entry_list and <http://whtj.thesponge.eu/>

Ovidiu Voicu, Soros Foundation, face to face discussion, 25 February, based on email of 18 February:

- Due to the OGP Summit of late October, it must've been expected that all governments would accelerate implementation of the action plans in the

second half of 2013; from this perspective, having the IRM report evaluate what happened by mid-2013 didn't make sense to him, as this would not help in any policy decisions

Mădălina Mocan of the Rațiu Democracy Center, phone conversation on 25 February:

- There's a danger that local governments, such as the city halls in Cluj Napoca or Timișoara, would push for the publication of data sets that mean nothing or can't be used on account of inaccuracy (with intent), just to take the pressure off from their regular transparency obligations
- Having the OGP Club as a special, dedicated forum for consultation is not really conducive of more transparency at the level of the central government, either—a better solution would have been to have established a general platform for consultations, regardless of the topic

Cristi Danileț, judge, member of the Superior Council of Magistrates, face to face conversation on 28 February (prompted by another project, facilitated by Konrad Adenauer Foundation/Rule of Law Program and Funky Citizens):

- They have lots of data collected about the judiciary, but didn't know that such a portal existed, so they'll get in touch with CPM and see how they can release all that data