

Open Government Partnership

Independent Reporting Mechanism

Romania: Comments received on the Transitional Results Report for the fourth OGP action plan (2018-2020)

Commitment 9 (Section 2.4): Transparency in the funding of political parties

Septimius Parvu (Expert Forum):

Law 202/2020 does not include any comments on use of open data or reporting procedures and refers exclusively to the use of the subsidies in election campaigns. The draft law discussed in June was sent to the Parliament, but was not put on the discussion agenda.

The web portal www.finantarepartide.ro is an important step for the use of organised and editable data, but still lacks uniformity, important information is still missing (also because of the political parties that do not follow the rules), is not updated a timely manner and the used formats are rather different, ranging from pdf (predominant) to doc or xls. Still, the main characteristics of open data had not been implemented.

Moreover, the formats of the annual income and expenditure reports for party financing are different and political parties have diverse understanding on what data should be included. Information on the use of subsidies has been published since January 2021, but only scanned pdfs and rather general information (total value per type of expenditure) is included; although this is an important step, the procedure should be included in the legislation and open data formats and rules should be implemented.

The data published by the PEA during the election campaign is limited to the will of the institution, as formats or data to be published are not specified in the legislation. No intermediary report is required to be published by political parties, but PEA published a centralisation of reporting by political parties to the institution. Due to this fact in 2020, during the election campaign, PEA published detailed reports for the local elections, but rather limited for the parliamentary ones.

Expert Forum mapped the data used by the PEA and political parties in its 2021 annual report- <https://expertforum.ro/en/annual-report-2021/> and the analysis on the 2020 party finance <https://expertforum.ro/en/political-financing-in-2020-transparency-and-irregularities/>, illustrating the above mentioned limitations. Moreover, Expert Forum developed the only database in Romania featuring the entire history of party and campaign finance and proving the information in open data format, for the general public <https://www.banipartide.ro>.

Commitment 10 (Section 2.4): Improve transparency in allocations and acquisitions from national investment funds

Septimius Parvu (Expert Forum):

Data on implementation, procurement and evaluation was not published. Moreover, the ministry lacks a proper system to collect data from the beneficiaries and therefore, real statistics related to the implementation of PNDL are not available. EFOR reconstructed a partial database with procurement by using data from MDLPA and procurement from data.gov.ro portal and made it available for the public. In 2021 the ministry met with Expert Forum and provided a database with statistics related to the implementation of the program. EFOR published a report related to the use of open data and an interactive map - <https://expertforum.ro/en/how-do-we-fix-pndl/> and <https://expertforum.ro/apps/pndl>.