OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

Romania National Action Plan
July 2014 – June 2016

END OF TERM SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

30 September 2016

1. Introduction

The Romanian Government is a member of the Open Government Partnership since 2011 and its action plan commitments were designed to achieve the objectives of the agreement: to promote transparency and the fight against corruption, to encourage civic participation and the use of new technologies in administration.

The second NAP approved after joining the Partnership, covering 2014-2016, followed the model required by the OGP, thus being the result of consultations and communication between central administration and civil society. The efforts of the OGP team[1] from the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister, that is in charge with coordinating and monitoring the OGP National Action Plan since 2013, were strengthened by the support received from non-governmental organisations, especially the NGOs that form the Coalition for Open Data[2].

Following the co-creation of the Plan commitments, the approach was to also implement them through shared actions of the administration and civil society, as well as to continue this way of working for the third National Action Plan 2016-2018.

In 2016, the Romanian Government has strengthened its open governance efforts by establishing the Ministry for Public Consultation and Civic Dialogue, with the mission to improve access to information and transparency in the public sector, increase civil society participation in the decision-making process and the consultations with the non-governmental sector.

2. National Action Plan Development Process

A. Consultation during NAP development

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[1] http://ogp.gov.ro/

[2] http://datedeschise.fundatia.ro/

The draft of the 2014-2016 National Action Plan was based on the proposals received from the central administration and those received from the civil society, and followed the timeline that 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. The resources on which the debates and consultations were based were published on the ogp.gov.ro website, in a timely manner.

During 7-31 May 2014, the public consultation on the final draft of the new National Action Plan took place, and the received comments 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 meeting with the representatives of the civil society that submitted the respective comments and recommendations.

The consultations for the new Plan were also included by the Chancellery in the OGP Club meetings, in which stakeholders from the public administration, the civil society, the public and private sector or the academic sector held informal debates on opening administration and government.

Information regarding the consultations was published on the ogp.gov.ro website and on social media (the OGP Romania Facebook page).

B. Consultation during implementation

During the Plan implementation period, the OGP Club hosted series of debates on specific themes related to the NAP commitments: transposing of the provisions of the Directive on the re-use of public sector information, open legislation and justice, open data, online communication for the public administration, open contracting data standard, health, open access, open data from the subnational level. In 2016, a series of working meetings and debates were held to discuss the possible continuation of certain commitments in the 2016-2018 Plan, such as open access, access to public information or open contracting.

Online consultations also too place for the Open data publishing Guide, the 2015 Self-assessment report, the 2015 IRM Report and the continuation of previous commitments in the new Plan.

The collaboration of the OGP governmental unit with the members of civil society consisted not only in consultations, but also continued in the implementation and evaluation phases, as well as in participating to and/or organising different events in partnership[3].

The Coalition for Open Data endorsed the OGP related actions of the government and helped organise 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 the final version of the Report, published on the ogp.gov.ro website (http://ogp.gov.ro/rapoarte/).

In 2016, public consultations on the Self-assessment Report were announced since January, with the publication of the proposed 2016 OGP Action Calendar (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/propunerea-calendarului-de-actiuni-pentru-anul-2016/).

On 5 September, a public debate was announced for the date of 15 September regarding the self-evaluation of the 2014-2016 NAP implementation. The Report was available for public consultation from 13-27 September. Submitted observations were included in the final version of the Report, published on the ogp.gov.ro website on 4 October.

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

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[3] As detailed in 6. Conclusions, B. Other initiatives

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 2014-2016 Plan included some revised commitments from the previous plan as well as new, clear, succinct, and action-oriented measures that were to be implemented in the two-year period it covered.

The first year of implementation (2014-2015) of the 2014-2016 NAP was assessed through both the Self-assessment Report developed by the Chancellery and civil society in September 2015 and through the IRM Report published in February 2016. The IRM Report was published on the ogp.gov.ro website and was discussed during the Open Government Week debates. The IRM Report and mechanism were presented by Tinatin Ninua, Research Manager, the Independent Reporting Mechanism and Dani Sandu, Independent Researcher, IRM Romania.

In drafting the commitments for the new 2016-2018 action plan, we tried to comply with the general recommendations of the 2016 IRM Report on the next steps for OGP:
1. Give the next OGP national action plan a higher normative force, approving it by governmental decision.
The new Steering Committee will analyse the need and opportunity of this recommendation.

2. Increase accountability and institutional capacity within the OGP process in order to extend the implementation both on a national and on a local level
In the first phase, a series of pilot projects will be implemented locally (Subnational). These will be the starting point and will help gather experience for the development of a larger scale program aimed at increasing the number of local OGP contact points, as well as training of public servants and public awareness raising.

3. Make OGP/SNA (National Anti-corruption Strategy) actions more prominent and extend institutional responsibility by raising the number of responsible persons designated within institutions
Within the pilot project described above, the OGP coordination team from the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister will work in collaboration with the SNA team from the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration that undertook similar actions through the 2012-2015 SNA campaign with local authorities, as well as with the team from the MCPDC.

4. Improve the role of public consultations
Starting 2015, the Ministry for Public Consultation and Civic Dialogue was assigned attributions in this field and has developed a Guide on transparency and efficiency in the public consultation process, including the standardization of the public consultation procedure. The guidebook will be disseminated to all 3200 territorial and administrative

divisions (municipalities). To increase the administrative capacity of central institutions for public consultation, the ministry has organised 7 debates on topics of interest for the civil society with ministries such as: the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, the Ministry of Environment or the Ministry of Communications and Information Society. In its 5 months of activity, the Ministry for Public Consultation and Civic Dialogue has made 9 visits to local authorities to promote open government at the subnational level and collaboration with the associative, non-governmental sector.

The Government dedicated a section of this Plan to the public consultation process - Improving citizen access to the decision-making process.

5. Increase public awareness on the OGP action plan in Romania

This objective is inherently linked to all OGP activities and, from the experience gained so far, it proved to depend on the number and degree of involvement of stakeholders. Unfortunately, efforts undertaken so far did not produce satisfactory results at the local level, where strategies and campaigns must be specifically designed to target regional/local issues.

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

<table>
<tr><td colspan="5">PUBLISHING THE PUBLIC INTEREST INFORMATION ON A SINGLE GOVERNMENT PORTAL: TRANSPARENTA.GOV.RO</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Lead Agency</td><td colspan="3">Chancellery of the Prime-Minister</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Name of responsible person
from implementing agency</td><td colspan="3">Radu Puchiu</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Title, Department</td><td colspan="3">Secretary of State</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Email</td><td colspan="3">radu.puchiu@gov.ro</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Phone</td><td colspan="3">+4021.314.34.00/1018</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Other involved actors</td><td>Government</td><td colspan="3">Public institutions</td></tr>
<tr><td>Civil society</td><td colspan="3">Open Data Coalition</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Main Objective</td><td colspan="3">Increasing the transparency of public administration</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Brief Description of Commitment</td><td colspan="3">Public institutions will upload on the gateway the information that is subject to compulsory disclosure according to Law no. 544/2001.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="3">Relevance</td><td>Transparency</td><td>Accountability</td><td>Public participation</td><td>Technology and innovation</td></tr>
<tr><td>✓</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">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.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Ambition</td><td colspan="4">Improving public services by facilitating access to information regarding public institutions.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">Completion level</td><td>Not started</td><td>Limited</td><td>Substantial</td><td>Completed</td></tr>
<tr><td>✓</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Description of the results</td><td colspan="4">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</td></tr>
</table>

	information on the single gateway.
End date	June 2016
Next steps	The commitment will be continued in the 2016-2018 NAP: Access to Information - Centralized publishing of public interest information on the single gateway transparenta.gov.ro.
	Following the standardization process and the harmonization of legislation in this field, the pre-requisites for centralized publishing will be achieved.
	The Ministry for Public Consultation and Civic Dialogue will provide methodological assistance based on its activity and experience, while the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister will develop the platform.

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		
Email		angela.benga@gov.ro		
Phone		+4021.314.34.00/1152		
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 – March 2015. The Guidelines were sent to the ministries for dissemination and is published on the home page of the ogp.gov.ro website.
2. The ministries and their subordinate agencies will be required to establish and enforce the internal processes needed for: a) identifying all the datasets they generate that could be published in an open format; b) regular assessment and update of the datasets (December 2014)	According to the reports received from the ministries, at the central level, the procedures have been developed.
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. (April 2015)	Many of the datasets included in the inventories do not meet the open data criteria (for example PDFs and DOCs were included). In many cases, the inventories are incomplete, due to lack of response from the subordinate agencies. The ministries that have not submitted the datasets inventories are: the Ministry of Economy, Commerce and Relations with the Business Environment and the Ministry of Transport.
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 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)	The centralised inventory is published on the ogp.gov.ro website. With the 2016 monitoring of the implementation of this commitment, the Chancellery included a reminder of the provisions of art.9 of Law no.299/2015 amending Law no.109/2007 on the re-use of public information: (1) Public institutions must ensure conditions to facilitate access to available documents by publishing the lists of available documents and by designating the persons responsible for ensuring access and re-use. (2) To facilitate access to and search of the documents published in an electronic format and machine-readable format, public

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	institutions must publish the documents referred to in paragraph (1) on the governmental open data portal – data.gov.ro, along with the relevant metadata, following the portal guidelines. (4) The documents referred to in paragraph (1) may be uploaded by the public institutions either on their own internet pages or on portals with links to the lists of datasets, mentioning the points of information.
End date	December 2015
Additional information	An issue that affected the implementation was the continuity of people working on the open data inventories in public institutions. 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-1zIUQ35DllcxXS9pUZBQBxr9AQqz33QD5laZX-A/edit. As part of the project entitled „Increasing the quality and number of open datasets published by public institutions", the Chancellery will make an analysis within ministries on the drafting of procedures for the publication of open data and the status of datasets inventories. There will be 5 piloted local and central institutions that will be given assistance in drafting procedures and making the inventories.

ENSURING THE FREE ONLINE ACCESS TO NATIONAL LEGISLATION				
Lead Agency	Ministry of Justice			
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	TBC			
Title, Department				
Email				
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 (February 2015)	The national legislative database has been interconnected with the European portal N-Lex, and can be accessed at the following link: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/n-lex/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: • 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				
Title, Department				
Email				
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	In March 2015 the Ministry for the Information Society published online, for public consultation, the draft law amending

Directive 2013/37/EU amending the Directive 2003/98/CE on the Re-use of Public Sector Information, thus amending Law 109/2007. On the suggestion of civil society, proposals to create a legal framework for open data will also be taken into account. (June 2015)	Law 109/2007 regarding the re-use of public information. On 6 March 2015 a public debate was held at the headquarters of the Ministry. 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.
End date	June 2015
Additional information	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.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3" align="center">OPENING DATA COLLECTED FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM</td></tr>
</table>

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**	**Technology and innovation**
	✓		✓	
	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**	**Completed**
		✓		

Description of the results	
A. Development of the legislative framework	The activity of the Ethical Councils from the public health units is taking place in

	accordance with the provisions of the Order no.145/2015 of the Minister of Health. In 2015 ethical Councils were established in 350 hospitals. In July 2016, data from these health units was centralised in the Report for the first semester of 2016 that was submitted for approval.
B. **Development of the platforms**	In 2015, as part of the project entitled "Good Governance through Integrity and Accountability in the Romanian Health System, a Methodology for the monitoring of public procurement in public hospitals was developed (Ministry of Health, Agency for the Digital Agenda of Romania, Special Telecommunications Service). Based on the Protocol between the ministry and the Agency for the Digital Agenda – in charge with the public procurement portal, the ministry will obtain the database with all the acquisitions made by public health units in Romania.
C. **Initiate the opening of collected data**	The Ministry has started publishing data about public health units and data from the public procurement database on an open format on the data.gov.ro portal.
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 2015.
2. The ministry will pilot the platforms, in collaboration with civil society, in order to improve their functionalities based on the results (June 2015)	The platform is piloted, since June, in 5 important hospitals. The respective units filed into the database information regarding the patient feedback mechanism and data regarding received petitions. As a result of the pilot project, the

		representatives of the ministry and of the 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) were finalized.
4. Initiate platform large-scale use (January 2016)		-
5. Opening collected data (July 2016)		Data from the patient feedback mechanism is being published on the data.gov.ro portal. Data regarding the implementation of anti-corruption preventive measures in the Ministry of Health and subordinate agencies will be published starting January 2017.
End date	2016	
Additional information	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.

The representatives of the Ministry mentioned that there are issues with the medical personnel that is not used to providing reports through such platforms. | |

OPEN CONTRACTING		
Lead Agency		National Agency for Public Procurement (ANAP)
Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Oana Marc
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Phone		+40213118090
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)	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.

(July 2014)	
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)	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. Following the publication in the Official Journal of the EU of the new legislative package for the modernisation of European norms on public procurement, the ANAP was in charge with transposing the new Directives in the national legislation. The Chancellery and the Agency for the Digital Agenda made a series of recommendations for the correlation of the new legislative framework with the OCDS implementation requirements. The datasets resulting from the implementation of the OCDS will be published on the data.gov.ro portal.
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)	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.
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)	
5. Depending on the conclusions of the assessment Report, draft the proposal to amend current legislation to allow implementation of open contracting. (November 2015)	
End date	June 2016
Additional information	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. The commitment will be continued in the 2016-2018 NAP – Open Contracting, including the following actions: - Informing and training the public procurement staff in local and central public institutions; - Implementation of the OCDS in the e-licitatie.ro portal (public procurement portal); - Following the JSON standard, a webservice will serve API calls according to the OCDS, covering: Buyer Information, Tender/Initiation, Award, Contract, Implementation, Planning, Document, Budget, Item, Amendment, Classification, Contact Point, Value, Period; - Publishing the datasets resulted from the OCDS implementation, on the data.gov.ro portal; - Selection of one or more public institutions for the implementation of a pilot on applying the OC principles; - Piloting the implementation of OC principles in one public institution, in collaboration with civil society, in all phases: development/planning, awarding, execution, implementation/monitoring, completion, assessment. During the 15 September public debate on the Self-assessment Report, the representatives of AADR presented a demo of the OCDS sections that will be included in the new public procurement platform (SICAP), stating that the standard comes as support for the automatic processing of data and that the platform will allow for data analysis and interpretation. The AADR representatives also announced their intention to organise

	a series of presentation sessions to detail the functionalities of the new system, once the platform is officially launched.

	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	
Email	1. bogdan.veleanu@ancs.ro 2. octavian@roedu.net	
Phone	1. +4 021 318 30 65 2. +4 0744632339	

Other involved actors		National Council of Rectors, National Trade Union Federation *"**Alma Mater**"*
	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**	**Technology and innovation**
	✓			
	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 929/2014. The Government Decision 583/2015 for the approval of the National research, development and innovation plan (PNCDI III) includes the requirement for the authors of papers financed through the Plan to publish online the summaries of their published works, within a year from publication. The implementation of the PNCDI III is the responsibility of the National Authority for Research and Innovation (ANCSI).
2. The responsible institutions will issue recommendations for the development and use under open license of institutional repositories 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. Recommendations on the creation of national repositories have been developed and published: https://portal.anelisplus.ro/content/depozite-institutionale-si-relatia-cu-depozitul-national. Some institutions have already established institutional repositories: the Danubius University Galaţi (http://www.arthra.ugal.ro/), the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University Iaşi (https://www.uaic.ro/cercetare/publicatii-stiintifice/). The national OpenAccess repository was created and any institution can publish on it ((https://openaccess.anelisplus.ro/). A collection was created for the National Research and Development Institute for Industrial Ecology.
3. Drawing up proposals for drafting public policies on open access.	In May 2015, Ovidiu Voicu (Open Society Foundation) submitted a proposal for the next

(December 2015)	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
Additional information	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. The ANCSI representatives consider that it is necessary to include in public funded projects a chapter for the payment of articles published in open access peer-reviewed journals, so that the authors may benefit in their career from the scientific research activities. Among the main problems identified by the ANCSI regarding the publishing in the open access institutional repositories there are: a) the advantages of publishing in an institutional repository are not sufficiently known by authors; b) lack of funds at institutional level to create and manage the repositories; c) lack of qualified staff in research institutions to create and manage the repositories; d) data repositories creation requires documentation and research period to identify and replicate best practices. In 2016, the representatives of the civil society proposed the continuation of the commitment in the new NAP. However, the responsible agency did not agree with this proposal, invoking the need to clarify aspects regarding the available financial and human resources.

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	Completed
			✓		
Description of the results					

1. Creation, within the Department for Online Services and Design, Chancellery of the Prime-Minister, of a dedicated unit that will provide technical support for the data.gov.ro gateway (2014)	According to paragraph 4, art. 4 from the Government Decision no.464/2016 on the attributions, organization and functioning of the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister, the CPM is coordinating the information technology sector at the level of the whole public administration, including e-government projects and open standards.
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)	The Open Data Guidelines were published, with a significant delay, in March 2015. In 2016, with the support of the Share-PSI network members from Romania, a series of best practices identified in the Share-PSI project will be included in the Guidelines. In 2017, the Guidelines will be completed with the methodology that is to be developed in the project entitled Increasing the quality and number of open datasets published by public institutions. The projects is funded through the 2020 European Social Fund.
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)	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: 686 datasets published by the end of September 2016 on data.gov.ro.
4. The ministries will release 111 new datasets by publishing them on the data.gov.ro gateway	104 out of the 114 proposed datasets have been published so far.
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.	The Department for Online Services and Design received requests for specific datasets during the hackathons organised on various issues, as well as during the public consultations on the new 2016-2018 NAP. 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.

(Ongoing)	
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)	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.
7. A mechanism that will automatically assess the comprehensiveness of any published dataset will be embedded in the national data.gov.ro portal (2015)	
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)	According to the provisions of Decision no.170/2015, this action is the responsibility of the IT Working Group (GLIT), under the co-ordination of the Technic-Economic Committee for the Information Society, created according to the provisions of the Government Decision no.941/2013.
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)	2015
End date	June 2016
Additional information	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. 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. This need will be analysed as part of the project entitled Increasing the quality and number of the open datasets published by public institutions.

III. HUMAN RESOURCE TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF OPEN DATA				
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**	**Technology and innovation**
		✓	✓	✓	✓
Ambition		Improving public services; Increasing public integrity; More effectively managing public resources		
Completion level		**Not started**	**Limited**	**Substantial**	**Completed**
			✓		
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 (September 2014)	Notices of the training timeline had been published on the ogp.gov.ro website at least two weeks prior to the events.
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)	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. 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).
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. The pilot will aim to implement best practices from other countries. The phases of this project will be: 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. The results will be presented in a public conference. (March – June 2015)	
End date	2016
Additional information	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. 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. In this regard, we agreed that trainings and a 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. In 2017, as part of the project entitled Increasing the quality and number of the open datasets published by public institutions, training courses are planned for the public administration staff, along with the creation and dissemination of information materials on open data management.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="4">IV. DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON THE OGP PRINCIPLES AND PROMOTING THE OPEN DATA CONCEPT IN AN ACCESSIBLE MANNER</td></tr>
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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**	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**	**Completed**
		✓		

Description of the results

1. The Chancellery will organise 17 information sessions with the ministries and subordinate agencies, in collaboration with	3 information sessions were organised for personnel from the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of

the designated open data responsible persons (June 2016)	Economy.
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 2016, 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 NAPs 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.
9. The Chancellery will promote the OGP principles through: leaflets, video tutorials, interviews, social media, online forums and other available means (June 2016)	Presentations, brochures on OGP and open data were produced, published online and distributed during our events. 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. 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 2014 and 2016. On the 2015 and 2016 International Open Data Day, the Chancellery and members of the civil society, with the support of the embassies of the United Kingdom, United States and the Netherlands, organised several events promoting open government and open data. In 2015 and 2016, as part of the Internship Program organised by the Government of Romania, information sessions were held for the interns. The representative of the OGP unit from the Chancellery has given media interviews on the subject of the OGP, open government and related events, on numerous occasions in 2015 and 2016.
End date	2016
Additional information	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.
	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.
	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.
	In 2017, as part of the project entitled Increasing the quality and number of the open datasets published by public institutions, information materials and data visualisations instruments are to be developed and promoted.

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.

Within the Open Government Week event from March 2016, the Chancellery, with the help of the OGP Support Unit, organised a peer learning and exchange meeting with OGP points of contact from Romania, Moldova, Greece, Bulgaria, as well as data.gov.uk representatives.

In April 2016, with the support of the US Embassy, representatives of the central administration, civil society and diplomats from Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Slovakia took part in a two-day workshop on the implementation of OGP action plans.

Another opportunity for exchange of experience was offered by the regional event Data for Development Results, organised by the UNDP and the Slovak Ministry of Finance, where regional perspectives on good governance, digital activism, citizen engagement and open data strategies were presented.

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. In 2016, there was an increase in the number of stakeholders involved in the development and the implementation of open government commitments, as proved by the number and scale of the events organised in partnerships and by the new 2016-2018 NAP, that involves more responsible agencies and NGOs than before.

Starting from the proposal made by civil society regarding the coordination of OGP in Romania, the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister and the Ministry for Public Consultation and Civic Dialogue will initiate a public consultation process for the creation of an institutionalized mechanism for coordination and dialogue. According to the proposals, this should materialize in an OGP Coordination Committee and will work on the principle of continuous cooperation between Government and civil society in all its actions: co-creation of the national action plan, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The Committee will be composed of an equal number of representatives of public institutions and civil society.

Other lessons included the clear need for dissemination of information and for broadening of the consultation process at the local level, as well as the need to further develop all forms of government - citizen dialogue. In this respect, the 2016-2018 NAP includes a commitment on Open government at the subnational level that seeks to improve the engagement of local authorities in the OGP process, as well as citizen participation in the local decision-making processes. Another important aspect that has to be mentioned is the application by two Romanian cities (Timişoara and Cluj) to join the Subnational Pilot Program initiated by the Open Government Partnership. Although neither was chosen to participate in this first phase, the intention and the common objectives of stakeholders from those communities (public

administration, private sector and civil society, academia) are valued and promoted as good practices at national level.

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.

In 2016, the OGP Romania Awards were dedicated to applications and visualization solutions based on open data from public procurement and the health sector. The DiploHack competition, organised in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Romania, was focused on involving as many stakeholders as possible (diplomats, public administration representatives, civil society, programmers, students) in finding solutions for improving the quality of life or for community development through government transparency and open data re-use.

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. One of the greatest challenges within the OGP is high-level commitment that remains constant and un-affected by changes of governments.

During the public debate on this Report, leading voices from the civil society drew attention to the fact that it would be useful to adopt post-implementation monitoring indicators and suggested that the Self-assessment Report should be approved by Government Memorandum, just like the Plan itself, so that some sort of penalties for unfulfilled commitments can be considered.

The representatives of the Ministry for Public Consultation and Civic Dialogue, that, according to the provisions of the Government Decision no.464/2016 on the attributions, organisation and functioning of the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister, is coordinating with the Chancellery the implementation of the Open Government Partnership, suggested that a deeper analysis is required to establish the reasons for the delays and uncompleted commitments and identify management issues.

To the question whether fundamental changes occurred as a result of OGP membership, the representatives of the civil society answered that the changes cannot be deemed as

fundamental, but rather elitist and with limited impact, and that, unfortunately, there are no clearly identifiable effects on citizen engagement.

On the other hand, they acknowledged some important changes that wouldn't have occurred without the government's OGP commitments: the OCDS, open data, progress on open data based journalism. The partnership between government and civil society for the implementation of OGP in Romania proved to involve a learning process for both sides, and the diversification of themes constitutes an obvious progress.

Other conclusions included:

- Clarifications should be made on the differences between implementation of the National Action Plans and the national, European and international framework on good governance;
- Opening data and using it for creating applications can represent an influencing factor for citizen engagement and the quality / quantity of policies;
- Besides the obvious need to encourage citizen participation, there is also a clear need for specialists that can identify solutions;
- In order to achieve noticeable impact, technical assistance from the OGP experts would be welcomed in the implementation of national commitments.

B. Other initiatives

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

- Conferences and workshops: the annual Anti-corruption Conference, held on 7 October, 2014; 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/dezbatere-guvernare-deschisa-si-date-publice-deschise-in-romania/); Education for health in Romania - communication platform (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/educatie-pentru-sanatate-in-romania/); Open Geodata Initiative; International Open Data Day, between 20-22 February, 2015, in collaboration with civil society, business sector and diplomatic missions; Open Education conference; Open Data Priorities and Engagement international workshop, organised in Timisoara, on 16-17 March, 2015, as part of the Share-PSI 2.0 project; Copernicus conference, 2015 edition (http://ogp.gov.ro/date-deschise/datele-deschise-din-sectorul-geo-spatial/); Open Science Workshop (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/atelier-pentru-stiinte-deschise-26-noiembrie-2015/); Good governance through integrity and accountability in the Romanian health system (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/integritate-si-responsabilitate-in-sistemul-de-sanatate-romanesc/); GEOIDEA.ro (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/workshop-final-geoidea-ro-3-decembrie-2015/); 2016 OGP Romania Awards (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/premiile-ogp-2016/); Open Government Week 2016 (http://ogp.gov.ro/planul-national/pna-2014-2016-2/saptamana-guvernarii-deschise-2016-2/); workshop Romania,

Bulgaria, Macedonia and Slovakia (http://www.opengovpartnership.org/blog/ogp-webmaster/2016/06/02/p-partnership-us-embassies-partner-romania-bulgaria-slovakia-and);

- starting October 2014, the launch and regular meetings of the DigiGov Club, a network dedicated to communications persons from the public institutions;

- TechSparency & TechVocacy HUB event, 2-3 July, 2015, 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);

- We will OGP EU! session, organised in partnership with the Open Society Foundation, at the 2015 OGP Summit Mexico-City (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/concluzii-summit-ogp-2015/);

- Information campaigns and activities promoting open government: HackTM 2014, 2016, 2016 (http://ogp.gov.ro/date-deschise/date-deschise-pentru-orase-inteligente/, http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/hacktm-20-22-mai-2016/); the creation of Romania's largest digital library for the blind (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/colectie-digitala-pentru-persoane-cu-dizabilitati-vizuale/); Patient Feedback Mechanism (http://ogp.gov.ro/ms/campanie-de-promovarea-a-mecanismului-de-feedback-al-pacientului/); OpenDatathon (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/opendatathon/); Diplohack (http://ogp.gov.ro/noutati/diplohack-9-septembrie-2016/).

C. Next steps

- improve dialogue with the civil society and increase citizen trust in government;
- improve the co-creation process;
- complement transparency and open government efforts with greater focus on citizen feedback and government responsiveness;
- increase commitment coordination, monitoring and evaluation capacity;
- promote and strengthen support for central and local administration initiatives;
- improve thematic leadership, so that ministries and NGOs can work together across a set of priority issues to raise their collective ambition to solve common challenges and learn from each other;
- broaden the collective buy-in and enthusiasm for OGP across line ministries and across a broader range of civil society actors, and attract new actors into OGP who have a pivotal role to play, such as subnational governments, parliaments, youth and the private sector;
- encourage local authorities to adopt open government principles.

D. Conclusion on the positive impact of NAP actions

Open government, as promoted through OGP actions, means a cultural change in administration and support for reforms, as well as constant improvement of the dialogue with civil society, and Romania has gradually learned the benefits of such a process.

Firstly, the constant dialogue with the representatives of the non-governmental organisations has obviously had a positive impact on all OGP related activities. In addition, the public administration has provided lately more and more examples of taking into account the position of the civil society and keeping a constant dialogue with CSOs.

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. The constant promotion of the importance of open data resulted in the inclusion of open data criteria in the legal framework for transparency and access to information, as well as in the measures aimed to reduce bureaucracy.

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.

The Government of Romania has made efforts to meet the OGP objectives and, specifically, the commitments included in the action plans. Romania's experience within the OGP has received acknowledgement from both Romanian partners and from the other OGP member countries with the July 2015 elections when it was elected as member of the Steering Committee.

To facilitate peer learning and exchange between Partnership member states, 5 working groups have functioned within the OGP until now (Fiscal Openness, Legislative Openness, Access to Information, Open Data and Natural Resources). A new group was added on Anti-Corruption, and the Romanian Government was invited to participate, as OGP member that undertook significant actions in the fight against corruption. The correlation of the OGP actions with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy is continued in the new 2016-2018 NAP, which includes a series of important commitments on this subject.