



ROMANIA
TIMIȘOARA MUNICIPALITY

Dear Open Government Partnership team,

It is an honour for Timișoara to belong to OGP family!

I want to express my gratitude for the extension you have awarded us to submit the Local Action Plan for Timișoara. We have started our activity in this administration in November 2020, precisely when we initially applied to the OGP membership.

As you might recall, Timișoara, the city where the Revolution against Communism started in December 1989 is a beacon of innovation, multiculturalism and democracy. However, over the 30 years which followed that revolution, those principles have not been applied in the local administration consistently.

Open governance was at the heart of our campaign and our guiding principle all along. I won the election with a program called "Revoluția bunei guvernări!", "the Revolution of good governance!" aiming to apply OGP principles such as transparency, responsibility, accountability and participatory governance in the everyday life of the administration. Concretely we have had to identify and start dismantling corruption networks, re-design the way the departments of the City Hall functions to better adapt and respond to the city's challenges, and start changing mentalities.

Timișoara Municipality has carried out several major projects which used the principles, tools or OGP methodology. For instance, already in 2016 Timișoara won the title of European Capital of Culture (for 2021 and now 2023) with a participatory design program. The main objective of this program is to transform the local community into an open, participatory, responsible, connected, and innovative city.

Other projects, implemented last year include <https://covid19.primariatm.ro/> - the official website for COVID 19's situation in Timișoara which provides daily updated information from the Government, the hospitals in Timișoara, vaccination centers and "Oxygen for Timișoara" (<https://oxigen.primariatm.ro/#/>) a campaign started by Timișoara Municipality along with 14 NGOs gathering more than 350000€ to buy oxygen concentrators so people suffering from COVID 19 can be treated at home, keeping more beds in hospitals for severe patients. Both these platforms have received the national award of the Romanian Government for the best project in "Innovation and quality in public services", and were set as national examples by World Health Organization.

In March 2021, we have launched Timișoara's first data portal with 30 datasets (health, education, culture, infrastructure, environment, mobility etc.), called <https://data.primariatm.ro/>. We were the first Municipality in Romania with an open data portal.

We launched decidem.primariatm.ro at the end of last year as the main instrument for enhancing citizen participation in the City programs and decisions. It is inspired and created

after Barcelona's decidim tool, which was recognized at European level as one of the most innovative open-source projects in Europe. Decidem Timișoara has been created entirely by volunteers and inspired by the needs and the voice of the local community

Starting with 2021, we launched an online platform for consultation on the annual budget of Timișoara Municipality - <https://buget.primariatm.ro/>. In 2021, the social society declared Timișoara Municipality as the most transparent local administration.

In 2022, we launched the first participatory budget of our city and we received 113 proposals which are currently being analysed: <https://decidem.primariatm.ro/bp>.

Finally, we used the principles of open governance and synergies between NGOs, public administration, businesses, universities and citizens to organise our support to Ukrainian refugees: <https://timisoarapentruucraina.ro/ro>. This participatory model has been replicated by other municipalities in Romania, already.

The biggest challenge we continue to face is the change of mentalities. Today the citizens of Timișoara and most Romanian cities are not familiar with being involved in the public decision process.

Therefore our objectives for the LAP we submit now are:

1. To re-ignite trust in the administration through transparency and participation
2. To adapt our tools to the diversity of our communities and to find the most adapted methods to communicate as well as to involve them according to their interests, geographical areas or other criteria
3. To train our colleagues in the administration so as to integrate the open governance principles in their day to day activity

We count on your support at this second stage of our collaboration to share experiences on:

1. How to communicate towards citizens and foster this change of mentalities
2. How to build the capacity of open governance in all the areas of public administration

Thank you again for your support throughout Timișoara's transition towards open governance and I look forward to continuing our collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Samuel Fritz

Mayor of Timișoara

