



# ANNUAL REPORT

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2016

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THE CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC INNOVATION



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## 1. Introduction

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*The Center for Public Innovation* is a non-governmental organization that aims at consolidating the rule of law and at contributing towards a more inclusive and open society. In order to accomplish these goals the Center for Public Innovation promotes through its projects innovative models of social development.

In 2016 *The Center for Public Innovation* began undertaking project-based activities, since in the previous years it was conducting voluntary activities. The Center has partially taken over the portfolio of the former Department of Public Policies of the Foundation for an Open Society Romania. Following these developments, there has also been an increase in the number of members, from 3 to 7.

We have organized projects in various areas, such as open government, the promotion of a more inclusive society and the encouragement of political participation. Our main activities consisted of social research and monitoring the formulation and implementation of public policies, both at a central and at a local level.

In 2016 *The Center for Public Innovation* reached some important milestones, such as managing to introduce open education among the commitments of the National Action Plan for an Open Government. This facilitates the establishment of a more transparent educational system as well as the creation, the publication and the centralization of open educational resources. Other noticeable accomplishments have been: the publication of a guide regarding how to establish a political party, necessary in the context of a new political parties law and of an increasing number of citizens becoming interested in forming their own party; the fact that the Romanian Government accepted our recommendations to eliminate the holographic signature from requests of information of public interest and to receive the data in an open format (both suggestions have been included in the methodological norms of the Law 544/2001 regarding access to information of public interest); the evaluation of the process of Moldovan citizens regaining Romanian citizenship in order to put forward some public policies accessible for future applicants.



# Open Government

The background image shows a large, modern conference hall with a high ceiling and wooden paneling. In the foreground, several black tripods are set up, likely for cameras. A large banner is visible in the background, featuring the text "guvernare" in large blue letters, "date deschise România" in red and blue, and "deschisă" in red. Other smaller text includes "generatiul", "publice", "Club OGP", "data.gov.ro", "parenta", "publica", "implementare", and "organizare". The banner also has a logo on the left side that says "OGP".



## 1. Open Government

### 1.1. Open Education

*The Center for Public Innovation* endorses a more transparent educational system and the production of qualitative educational resources that can be used with no restrictions and which could help bring about equal access to education. Our medium-term objective is that the Romanian government adopts a strategy for open education.

In 2016 *The Center for Public Innovation* focused on advocacy-related activities, managing to get to the public agenda the subject of open education. The most important result was the inclusion of two commitments regarding open education in the [National Action Plan for Open Government 2016-2018](#), an important step on the road to the creation of an institutional framework for implementing the principles of open education. Another related initiative launched in 2016 consisted in communicating to the Ministry of European Funds the necessity of introducing a contractual stipulation that any beneficiary of public funds which creates educational resources make these available with an open license and redirect them towards the Virtual School Library, a platform mentioned in the Law of National Education 1/2011 that has yet to have come into existence. 2016 was also the year in which we organized the 3rd edition of the annual conference [Open Education Romania](#). The main subjects discussed were the improved transparency of the educational system, a goal which would be accomplished if the Ministry of Education, the school inspectorates and the school themselves would publish by default the data they create and administrate; the open access to the results of research funded by public funds; the creation and publication of open educational resources in the context of reupdating the curriculum and the national plans regarding the educational system. The conference was included in the series of debates organized under the aegis of the Presidential Administration in the program *Educated Romania* (*România Educată*). Last but not least, *The Center for Public Innovation* is a member of the *Coalition for Open Educational Resources*, a community which promotes open educational resources and open access to knowledge. *The Center for Public Innovation* conducts its activities in the field of open education due to the project *Towards an OER policy in Romanian public education 2015-2017*, funded the Open Society Foundations / Information Program.

<b>ȘCOALĂ</b> VERSUS <b>MANUAL</b> CUM INVESTIM ÎN EDUCAȚIE	
 Statul decide că are nevoie de o școală nouă	 Statul decide că are nevoie de un manual nou
Statul organizează o licitație și angajează un constructor	Statul organizează o licitație și angajează un editor
Constructorul construiește școala. Statul plătește integral costurile.	Editorul produce manualul. Statul plătește integral costurile.
Constructorul rămâne proprietarul clădirii și o poate închiria elevilor	Editorul rămâne proprietarul conținutului și îl poate vinde elevilor
 Scandalos!	 Convenabil



## 1.2 Participation at the drawing up of the National Action Plan Open Government Partnership 2016-2018

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Romania has been a member of the [Open Government Partnership](#) since 2011. In 2016, the Romanian Government adopted the third national action plan, which aims at applying the principles of open government in commitments taken by national or local public institutions. *The Center for Public Innovation* upholds the value of transparency and supports the cooperation between public institutions and citizens. The Center also has been monitoring the activity of the Romanian Government in the *Open Government Partnership*.

During February-March 2016, *The Center for Public Innovation* coordinated the efforts of the civil society to propose potential commitments for the upcoming National Action Plan. Over 200 persons made suggestions regarding the content of the National Action Plan 2016-2018. Pursuant to this collective effort 28 commitments emerged as mutually accepted (21 written commitments and 7 proposals), which were later submitted to the Government. 15 of these were included in the first draft of the National Action Plan which was made available by the Government for public debate.

Aut of the 18 commitments of the National Action Plan, *The Center for Public Innovation* is constantly monitoring 8 of these commitments, together with other organizations or as part of the coalition it belongs to (Open data, Virtual School Library and Open Educational Resources, Open data and transparency in education, Improved acces to cultural heritage, Access to performance indicators elaborated and monitored in the National Strategy Anticorruption, Open governance at a local level, Citizen budgets, Development of a computerized system for a better management of the requests of those who seek citizenship).





## 1.3 Access to information on matters of public concern



Ziua Internațională a  
dreptului de a ști

2809



sursele de  
finanțare



bugetul



bilanțul  
contabil

**Eu nu știu, tu nu știi. Hai să  
întrebăm partidele câți bani au  
și de unde!**

One of the fundamental bricks of open government is the degree to which the citizens can access with ease information on matters of public concern. *The Center for Public Innovation* added in 2016 its input in two regards to the methodological norms of the Law 544/2001 on access to said information. The proposals that have been adopted are the following: eliminating the requirement of holographic signature from citizens' requests and the possibility to receive the wanted information in open format from the public authorities.

The law 544/2001 was also modified in 2016. Prior to the amendment, political parties were exempt from the obligation to provide information on matters of public concern such as budgets. *The Center for Public Innovation* seized the window of opportunity created by the new article of the law and sent requests to most of the political parties registered at that moment in order to find out what was their budget and what were their financial sources. The political parties mostly ignored the requests, only 9/54 responding to our requests, and only 3/9 actually providing the solicited information.

A complementary initiative was the conduct of a research regarding the situation of requests for access that have gone to the court. The research was intended to serve as a guide for those would want to file lawsuits based on the Law 544/2001, so that they could better appreciate the risks and their chances in a predictable way. The report highlights jurisprudential inconsistencies and other deficiencies and makes recommendations so that the justice system could have a more cohesive and unitary approach in interpreting the articles of the law. For this research we have analyzed only the definitive rulings issued by judges and overrulings of the Courts of Appeal. We have analyzed 608 rulings from the following counties; Suceava, Constanța, Târgul Mureș, Ploiești, Timișoara, Brașov, Pitești și Galați, issued during 2011 – 2016. The source for the data was the free portal [www.rolii.ro](http://www.rolii.ro) . In writing the report we have benefited from funding from Open Society Foundations Europe.

Lastly, in order to instill a culture of transparency in the public companies in the energy field, we made [a series of recommendations](#) in 2016 to the Ministry of Energy. Among these we mention the publication of a series of data sets of public interest, such as budgetary data and data regarding the membership of Administrative Councils as well as the length of the mandates of the members of the Administrative Councils.



JUDEȚ  
Timiș

TOTAL CANDIDAȚI  
1018

CANDIDAȚI PRIMĂRIE  
51

CANDIDAȚI CONSILIU LOCAL  
835

CANDIDAȚI CONSILIU JUDEȚEAN  
132

NUMAR\_PARTIDE  
5

# Political Participation



## 2. Political Participation



### 2.1 The new Political Parties Law: challenges and opportunities

After the promulgation of the new Political Parties Law (114/2015), the number of citizens who could form a party was changed from 25,000 to just 3. *The Center for Public Innovation* encourages the citizens to exert their right to political association and promotes more equitable conditions of participation in elections for small or local parties. Throughout 2016, *The Center for Public Innovation* monitored the implementation of the law. We centralized the number of political parties, their membership, we analyzed their programs, how well they fared in elections, we raised awareness regarding the challenges they face in the registration process and subsequently in the political arena. As of late 2016, 65 new political parties registered at the Bucharest Court of Justice. Out of these, 30 entered the local elections and 8 the parliamentary elections. In the 2 reports we published on the subject in 2016, [How to form a political party](#) and [The new political parties law: improvements and shortcomings](#), we provide an in-depth analysis of the difficult process of registering a political parties, the delays in court procedures, the problems posed by the stringent activity criteria that have to be fulfilled by parties in order not to be liquidated. According to the new legislation, if parties do not nominate candidates in two successive elections (with the exception of the presidential elections), they are liquidated. Furthermore, they also have to nominate candidates in at least 75 circumscriptions for the local elections and a complete list of candidates in 1 circumscription or candidates in at least 3 circumscriptions at the parliamentary elections. These criteria entail that most of the newly registered parties would be susceptible to liquidation. The guide on how to form a political parties has been shared on [the website of the Bucharest Court of Justice](#). Another useful resource we created in 2016 is a constantly updated [database](#) containing information on what political parties are trying to obtain legal personality at the Bucharest Court of Justice. The monitoring activity took place between January 2016-January 2017 as part of the project „The Political Parties Law: challenges and opportunities”, funded by the Fund for Civic Innovation, a program developed by the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, in partnership with the Romanian American Foundation and the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe.



The background of the slide is a light gray field filled with a repeating pattern of simple, stylized line-art icons. These icons represent a wide variety of human figures and activities, including people riding bicycles, walking with canes, pushing strollers, wearing graduation caps, sitting at desks, and walking dogs. The icons are rendered in a light gray color, creating a subtle, textured effect across the entire slide.

# Inclusive Society



### 3. Inclusive Society

#### Mecanismul de Evaluare a Sistemelor Naționale de Integrare

169 indicatori



#### Condițiile generale de recepție (6)

- legislația și politicile naționale;
- durata procedurilor de recepție și acordare a statutului;
- bugetele alocate procedurilor de recepție;
- gestionarea cazurilor vulnerabile.



#### Integrare juridică (47)

- alinierea legislației la recomandările internaționale;
- condițiile și durata obținerii reședinței legale (inclusiv cazurile vulnerabile);
- condițiile și durata procedurii de reunificare a familiei (inclusiv cazurile vulnerabile);
- condițiile și durata procedurii de obținere a cetățeniei (inclusiv cazurile vulnerabile);
- resursele financiare alocate acestor etape și proveniența acestora.



#### Integrare socio-economică (75)

- prevederile legislative și politicile naționale referitoare la dreptul la proprietate, locuire, angajare, asistență medicală și protecție socială;
- practicile locale și infrastructura disponibilă;
- procedurile pentru cazurile vulnerabile;
- resursele financiare alocate integrării și proveniența acestora
- satisfacția beneficiarilor.



#### Integrare socio-culturală (41)

- durata și procedurile de înscriere a copiilor în sistemul public de educație;
- eficiența cursurilor de limbă și orientare culturală;
- parteneriatele public-privat în domeniul educației și orientării culturale;
- resursele financiare alocate integrării și proveniența acestora;
- satisfacția beneficiarilor.

#### 3.1 Migration and Integration

Romania, together with other states in Central Europe, have taken the responsibility to take in 6000 immigrants until the end of 2017. Given this international context, the European Commission, through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, financed a consortium of non governmental organizations and universities from 15 member-states, which implements a project of researching and analyzing the national immigrant integration systems of those countries – [NIEM: Measuring and improving integration of beneficiaries of international protection](#). The project will end in 2021 and the participant countries are Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

NIEM sets out to identify the most important problems and shortcomings of the national immigrant integration systems of the 15 countries mentioned beforehand, to propose solutions and to improve the cooperation between the public authorities of the participant states. There are 2 types of activities: 1) research and comparative assessment of the national integration policies; 2) consultation with governmental and non-governmental actors involved in the process of immigrant integration in order to test and enhance the analysis instruments developed as part of the first type of activities.

In 2016 we began the activity of assessing the integration policies by developing the evaluation methodology. Together with the Migration Policy Group (Belgium) and the 16 partners we developed a set of relevant and comprehensive indicators for each country. We have also organized meetings for preparing advocacy strategies with UNHCR Romania and other organizations interested in the subject. Together with other 22 non-governmental organizations we requested that the prime-minister of Romania allow the activity of the Interministerial Committee – National Coalition for the Integration of Refugees.



### 3.2 Anti-discrimination

In 2016, together with 77 non-governmental organizations, we requested that the Romanian Senate rejects the legislative proposal of redefining the family, since this is not necessary and, to make matters worse, it is at odds with the human rights standards with which the Romanian state complies and which should be guaranteed by Article 26 of the Constitution, article which protects private and family life of all Romanian citizens.

Ovidiu Voicu, the Director of the Center, sent to the Constitutional Court a notification regarding the dynamics of acceptance/rejection degree of homosexual persons in the Romanian society in the last 20 years, in order to support the case of Coman, Hamilton, Accept Association vs. The General Inspectorat for Immigration, The Ministry of Internal Affairs.

78 de organizații neguvernamentale cer respingerea  
propunerii de modificare a articolului 48 din Constituția României

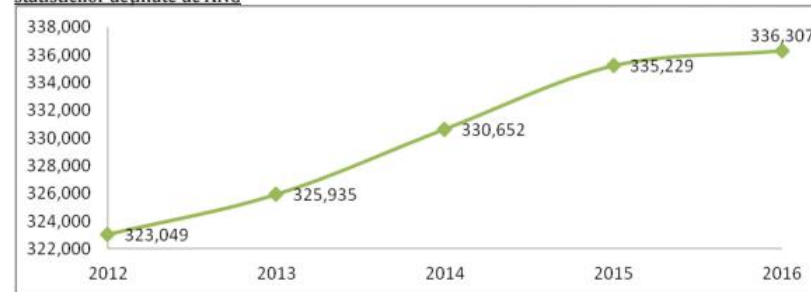
**Societatea civilă cere Parlamentului  
să respecte diversitatea familiei**



### 3.3 Regaining Romanian citizenship

The topic of Moldovan citizens being granted Romanian citizenship is very important in the context of the debates on the rights of the citizens of EU member-states. *The Center for Public Innovation* realized in 2016 an [assessment of the policies and practices on regaining Romanian citizenship](#) and put forward a series of recommendations: clarifying the cases of the minors in the Citizen Certificates; giving up on the requirement of criminal record obtained from the Romanian public authorities; supplementing the human resources of the National Authority for Citizenship; implementing an interactive online platform that would allow prospective applicants to easily find the information they need on the process of getting the citizenship, in order to cut back on the queues formed at the National Authority for Citizenship and to minimize their efforts.

Figura 4. Numărul persoanelor care au redobândit cetățenia între 1991-2016 (până la 1.04.2016) conform statisticilor deținute de ANC



Privire de ansamblu asupra legii cetățeniei române



#### 4. Consultancy

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Voicu, O. coord., Cash, J., Cojocariu, V. (2016). Biserică și stat în Republica Moldova- report published by Soros Foundation Moldova

Voicu, O. coord., Cojocariu, V. (2016). Tinerii: agenți ai schimbării în Republica Moldova. Rolul Fundației Soros. – report published by Soros Foundation Moldova

Voicu, O., (2016). Developing a model for Open Government in the EU- report published by The Open Society European Policy Institute





# Networks & Coalitions



## 5. Coalitions and networks

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- [Coalition for Open Data](#)
- [Coalition for Open Educational Resources](#)
- [Anti-discrimination Coalition](#)





## Mass-media appearances



## 6. Mass-media appearances

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### On electoral participation

- **Digi24** <http://www.digi24.ro/opinii/cum-puteti-sa-va-faceti-rapid-viza-de-flotant-pentru-a-vota-la-alegerile-din-decembrie-618212>
- **RFI** <http://www.rfi.ro/politica-87440-analist-politic-diferenta-intre-candidati-la-urne-se-va-face-emotional>

### On education

- **Agerpres** <http://www.agerpres.ro/social/2016/03/11/crearea-bibliotecii-scolare-virtuale-printre-propunerile-pentru-o-educatie-deschisa--12-23-11>

### On political parties

- **Agerpres** <http://www.agerpres.ro/social/2016/03/22/ong-18-formatiuni-au-fost-inscrise-in-registrul-partidelor-politice-in-ultimele-circa-zece-luni-23-33-15;>
- **Hotnews** <http://www.hotnews.ro/stiri-politic-20884486-ong-18-formatiuni-fost-inscrise-registrul-partidelor-politice-ultimele-circa-zece-luni.htm;>
- **Adevărul** [http://adevarul.ro/news/politica/mizele-alegerilor-locale--8\\_5735bf5c5ab6550cb8e6e0ab/index.html;](http://adevarul.ro/news/politica/mizele-alegerilor-locale--8_5735bf5c5ab6550cb8e6e0ab/index.html;)
- **Adevărul** [http://adevarul.ro/news/politica/analiza-partidele-noi-pericol-radiere-cauza-legislatiei-exemplul-alegerilor-5-iunie-1\\_5784cd1f5ab6550cb8c9544a/index.html](http://adevarul.ro/news/politica/analiza-partidele-noi-pericol-radiere-cauza-legislatiei-exemplul-alegerilor-5-iunie-1_5784cd1f5ab6550cb8c9544a/index.html)
- **Realitatea.net** [http://www.realitatea.net/oferte-de-partide-ca-in-anii-90-cate-forma-iuni-politice-s-au-inscris-la-tribunal-in-2015\\_1860318.html;](http://www.realitatea.net/oferte-de-partide-ca-in-anii-90-cate-forma-iuni-politice-s-au-inscris-la-tribunal-in-2015_1860318.html;)
- **România Liberă** <http://www.romanialibera.ro/opinii/comentarii/ce-mai-reprezinta--in-romania--stanga-si-dreapta---ii--409425>
- **Digi24** <http://www.digi24.ro/opinii/revitalizarea-politicii-e-impiedicata-de-legislatie-633402>
- **Dilema Veche** <http://dilemaveche.ro/sectiune/la-zi-in-cultura/articol/ce-inseamna-sa-fii-primar-in-romania-dialog-cu-ovidiu-voicu>
- **Epoch Times** <http://epochtimes-romania.com/video/ovidiu-voicu-centrul-pentru-inovare-publica-despre-lipsa-de-transparenta-a-partidelor-din-romania---1898>

### On political parties financing

- **Mediafax** <http://www.mediafax.ro/politic/macovei-i-am-cerut-presedintelui-sa-nu-promulge-legea-privind-deblocarea-conturilor-psd-si-pnl-15258796>
- **RFI** <http://www.rfi.ro/politica-85928-ovidiu-voicu-director-cip-partidele-incearca-sa-scape-de-plata-tuturor-datoriilor>



The background of the image is a collage of various banknotes. In the foreground, there are several Euro banknotes, including a 50 Euro note with its distinctive yellow and orange colors and a 100 Euro note with its blue and green hues. The Euro banknotes feature the twelve-pointed stars of the European Union flag. In the background, there are also US Dollar banknotes, including a 100 Dollar note with its green color and a 10 Dollar note with its purple color. The US Dollar banknotes feature the Great Seal of the United States and the text "FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE".

Budget



## 7. Budget

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### I. Incomes 2016

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<b>Incomes 2016</b>	<b>663,699</b>		
<b>I. Grants</b>	<b>530,671</b>		
<i>Funding entity</i>	<i>RON</i>	<i>Type of grant</i>	<i>Sum</i>
Foundation for an Open Society Romania	445,746	Institutional	445.746 RON
Foundation for the Development of Civil Society	44,724	Project	44.724 RON
Open Society Initiative For Europe	40,201	Project	10.000 USD
<b>II. Consultancy</b>	<b>130,230</b>		
<i>Beneficiary</i>	<i>RON</i>	<i>Type of activity</i>	<i>Sum</i>
Soros Foundation Moldova	96,350	Social research	23.100 USD
Open Society European Policy Institute	33,880	Public policy evaluation	7.500 EUR
<b>III. Donations</b>	<b>2,798</b>		
<i>Donors</i>	<i>RON</i>	<i>Donation source</i>	<i>Sum</i>
Anonymous citizens	798	2% mechanism	798 RON
SC Hype Media SRL	2,000	20% mechanism	2.000 RON



## II. Expenses 2016

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Expenses 2016	317,362
I. Implementing projects	238,651
<i>Projects</i>	<i>Sum</i>
Political parties law: challenges and opportunities	55,954
NIEM: National Integration Evaluation Mechanism	142,496
Access to information on matters of public concern	40,201
II. Contracts	57,189
<i>Type of expenditures</i>	<i>Sum</i>
Consultants' fees	53,161
Travel expenses	3,364
Other expenses	664
III. Operational costs (own projects)	10,345
<i>Type of expenditures</i>	<i>Sum</i>
Wages	5,911
Goods and services	2,620
Other costs	1,814
IV. Administrative costs	11,177
<i>Type of expenditures</i>	<i>Suma cheltuită</i>
Rent and utilities	5,858
Goods and services	4,632
Bank costs	687



## 8. The team

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Victoria Cojocariu- president of the council of directors  
Ovidiu Voicu- executive director, member of the council of directors  
Claudia Iordache- communication manager  
Adelin Dumitru- project manager

## Members of the Association Center for Public Innovation

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Nicoleta Voicu- member of the council of directors  
Mara Sescu  
Mihaela Ștefănescu  
Andreea Chifan





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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/INOVAREPUBLICA