

Moving forward. Open Data Discussions for an Open Romania

Submitted on 28 Jun 2013 by Bogdan Manolea

A [side event entitled "Moving forward. Open Data Discussions for an Open Romania"](#) took place on 18 June 2013 in Bucharest, as part of the Conference "Free and Open Source Software for **Geospatial Data** - Central and Eastern Europe (FOSS4G-CEE) that took place between 16th and 20th June 2013 at the National Library in Bucharest, Romania

This side event was organized by geo-spatial.org, **Soros Foundation** Romania, Online Services and Design Department - Prime Minister's Chancellery and [GEOIDEA.ro](#), with the support of the UK Embassy in Romania and gathered together representatives from the Romanian Ministries that deal with Open data, civil society interested in the subject and private sector representatives.

Radu Puchiu, State Secretary at the Prime Minister's Chancellery, Online Services and Design Department kicked off the event with a [presentation on the Open Data Mandate](#) for his department. He presented some figures on the current status of open data inventories by the Ministries: 29% of these institutions completed this task and 47% completed this partially. The obligation of the public bodies to perform their data inventories is one of the first steps of the Romanian commitments to the Open Government Partnership.(OGP)

Paul Massen, the independent civil society coordinator at OGP [explained what the partnership](#) is all about:

"The Open Government Partnership is about transparency and accountability, but also explicitly about partnership. The local dynamic is the most important for working on Open Government and that is where OGP will become a success or not. The other, more international layers and actors need to be supportive to that local dynamic. Nothing more. For me, the key defining factors for OGP success, in summary are: political will and backing, an open and positive mind, real commitment, the ability to identify and connect change agents. Accepting that a change process takes time and means making mistakes along the way. And building in space to exchange and learn".

Marcus Dapp from the Open Knowledge Foundation (OKF) emphasized that "Publishing data is just the first step in open data." and that the public sector representatives need to make the people aware, make the data discoverable and accessible before it becomes reusable. He also presented the list of the most [10 key datasets in each country](#) according with the OKF's project Open data census.

The rest of the presentations from the side event that focused on the general introduction on Open Data and Open access, positions of the private sector and practical projects from Romania (from civil society and public sector) showed how the data may be reused gave a practical perspective for all the participants involved. Most of the presentations [are already available on the Foundation Soros Romania website.](#)