

What's wrong with the Digital Agenda for Romania?

Submitted on 08 Aug 2014 by Bogdan Manolea

Only 5% of Romanians have used e-government services in 2013, compared with the EU average of 41%. The transparency index for public administration in Romania is 17 compared to the average of 49.

These scores indicate how important it is for Romania to have a good and coherent strategy for implementing the [European Digital Agenda](#). Last week the Ministry of the Information Society [published](#) the Romanian Digital Agenda Strategy for public consultation, but [the document](#) proved to be a disappointment.

The [Coalition for open data](#), the only platform in Romania which gathers CSOs and experts on open data, [has sent its remarks](#) regarding the open data section in the Strategy, to the Ministry.

So, what is wrong with the Digital Agenda Strategy with regards to open data ?

First of all, it doesn't focus on clear and measurable objectives and it doesn't anticipate any results. For example, one of the lines of action is „*To ensure an optimistic attitude for public officials, regarding open data*”.

Secondly, the Strategy is not correlated with other national public policies which mention and define open data, like the National Action Plan for the implementation of Open Government Partnership in Romania or the National Anti-corruption Strategy. Therefore, the terminology used is inconsistent. Also, the strategy makes a confusion between *open data* and *open source*. Moreover, the Strategy talks about the creation of a centralized platform for open data. But this already exists – www.data.gov.ro .

Therefore, we believe that the Strategy as is, cannot contribute to reaching the objectives imposed at an EU level until 2020 and to diminishing the gap between Romania and other EU countries in terms of open data, e-governance services and internet use.

Back to to the drawing board?