

Romania: Civil society urges for transparency over the implementation of the 2013 PSI Directive

Submitted on 27 Mar 2015 by Valentina Pavel

Member States are required to transpose Directive 2013/37/EU on the re-use of public sector information (the revised PSI Directive) by June 2015.

In Romania, the Ministry for Information Society (MSI) is the responsible body for the transposition process. As previously [announced](#), the Ministry published the draft law transposing the new PSI Directive on 27 February, which can be downloaded [here](#).

Given the nature of the draft law (on re-use of information and transparency), ironically, minimum basic information for the public consultation were either not easy to find on the ministry's website or completely lacking. One has to be well versed on all the sections of the Ministry's website in order to dig up the information.

It was later discovered (via an open letter), that the public consultation announcement was accompanied by a [note](#) describing the situation in more detail. Gladly, MSI's colleagues from the Department for Online Services and Design (DSOD), a body under the Prime Minister's Office in charge of the OGP and the open data portal, disseminated more accurate information (such as deadline and contact details) straight from the beginning and created more visibility for the public consultation.

Information such as where (and until when) comments, suggestions and opinions could be sent to was initially uncertain, therefore civil society immediately reacted by sending a [open letter](#) to the minister pointing out the lack of transparency and asking for a public debate. As a result, the announcement on the Ministry's webpage was later [complemented](#) (on 18 March) by a document describing the current situation, the changes and explanations of what has been taken into consideration for drafting the legal text. Moreover, on Thursday 26 March 2015, a [public debate](#) also took place.

After the public discussions, it was concluded that the suggestions are going to be taken into consideration. Comments can be made directly online [here](#) and there is a [public discussion group](#) (containing all relevant documents) also available. The document will still be available online for approximately another week.

After the period for comments has ended, the draft will be sent to the other interested public institutions and another public debate will hopefully take place after the public authorities provide their point of view and amendments.