



DG DIGIT

Unit.D2 (Interoperability Unit)

# Open Source Software Country Intelligence Report

Romania

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# ROMANIA

## Executive summary

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Romania is a country with a vibrant community of open source software (OSS) enthusiasts. Whilst there is no single governmental body responsible for the implementation and promotion of OSS and OSS-related policies and legislation, there are several associations, such as ROSI and Code4Ro working with the Romanian government and other public bodies to advocate in favour of the use of OSS solutions in public administrations across the country.

With regards to OSS-related policies, OSS is briefly mentioned in the policy document 'Romania's Digital Agenda 2014-2020'. Although the Romanian government is only recently beginning to actively promote the use of OSS solutions in public administrations, there are many initiatives nationwide that have been put in place in the last two decades, signalling a willingness among citizens and government staff to move away from proprietary software towards OSS solutions in public administrations.

## Actors

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This section presents the policy makers who are active in digitalisation efforts and influence the status of open source in public sector, as well as the main strategic players that work together with the government at all levels to raise awareness on OSS. In Romania, there is no governmental body that is specifically responsible for OSS policies.

### *Policy makers*

- Whilst there appears to be no public body directly responsible for the implementation of OSS policies in Romania, the Ministry of Communications and the Information<sup>1</sup> is tasked with delivering government policy in the field of electronic communications, postal services, information technology and information society.
- The Authority for Digitalisation of Romania (ADR)<sup>2</sup> is a government body under the coordination of the Prime Minister. It makes, coordinates and implements public strategies and policies in the field of digital transformation and society. It aims to achieve eGovernment at the public administration level in Romania. ADR is open to collaboration with civil society, such as with Code4Romania (below).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.comunicatii.gov.ro/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.adr.gov.ro/>

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### *Strategic players*

- Code 4 Romania (Code4Ro)<sup>3</sup> is a community of young professionals who develop OSS IT solutions to address Romania’s key societal challenges. They work in four key areas: information and access to public data, education and promotion of culture, involvement and civic collaboration, and facilitating access to public services. The community’s GitHub page has over 20,000 community revisions.<sup>4</sup>
- The Romanian Open Source and Free Software Initiative (ROSI)<sup>5</sup> is a member-driven community with the objectives of developing and sustaining a healthy OSS community and fostering digital civil society. One of its key objectives is the promotion of OSS within the Romanian government.
- ROSEdu<sup>6</sup> is a community of OSS enthusiasts whose goal is to spread the use of OSS by means of education. The community works with young pupils to train them in the use of OSS tools. Most ROSEdu members are current students or graduates of the Polytechnic University of Bucharest.
- CivicTech Romania<sup>7</sup>, founded by former members of GovITHub<sup>8</sup>, brings together public sector, OSS and IT enthusiasts to develop solutions to help make Romania more digitised and connected.

## Policy and legal framework

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This section summarises the main open source software related policies and legal acts of the last ten years, including the first known milestone in this domain. The list is presented in a chronological order, starting from the most recent milestone.

- OSS is mentioned (albeit briefly) in Romania’s Digital Agenda 2014 – 2020<sup>9</sup>. According to the Line of Action on Transparency and Openness, the strategy states that public administrations should use OSS and open standards and provide open access to the applications that are purchased and implemented by public administrations.
- There were some calls from public officials as early as 2010 to launch an IT strategy encouraging the use of OSS.<sup>10</sup> At the time, the strategy was considering to be a way to reduce government spending. The government also stated that they would develop some rules on interoperability to ensure that government bodies using OSS can communicate with those using proprietary

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<sup>3</sup> <https://code4.ro/ro/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://github.com/code4romania>

<sup>5</sup> <http://rosi.ro/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.rosedu.org/en/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://civictech.ro/#who>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ithub.gov.ro/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.trusted.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Digital-Agenda-Strategy-for-Romania-8-september-2014.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/nifo-national-interoperability-framework-observatory/news/romania-develop-national-o>

software and applications. However, despite these early efforts, there is no strategy on the use of OSS in public administrations in place.

## Open source software initiatives

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This section presents an overview of the main open source software related initiatives in Romania. The list is presented in a chronological order, starting with the most recent initiative.

- ANABI, 2020<sup>11</sup>: Code for Romania, together with the Ministry of Justice, is currently developing a tool that will gather and store all information about seized criminal confiscated assets in Romania in one place. The goal is to map all seized assets so that citizens can understand and know what is happening with these assets, with a goal to increasing the credibility of and citizen trust in the government.
- Open Data Portals, 2020<sup>12</sup>: Code for Romania is currently collaborating with the national government as well as three local municipalities to develop an OSS open data portal for use in public administrations. More specifically, they are collaborating with city halls in Timisoara, Cluj-Napoca and Iasi as well as several universities and NGOs to build the portal. A prototype of the Cluj-Napoca portal is publicly available for interactive browsing.<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, the source code for the national open data portal is available on GitHub.<sup>14</sup>
- OSGeo, 2019<sup>15</sup>: In 2019, Romania's FOSS community hosted the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial 2019 event. The focus of this year's event was on bringing geospatial data and geospatial OSS together to develop meaningful solutions.
- Data Visualisation for the National Anticorruption Strategy, 2018<sup>16</sup>: Code for Romania and the Ministry of Justice have developed a dedicated OSS portal visualising and breaking down the key objectives of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2016-2020. The portal was completed in 2018 and its source code is available on GitHub.<sup>17</sup>
- Social Services Map, 2016: The Ministry of Labour launched a map built using OSS depicting the location of social services that are available to Romanian citizens. The source code and information related to the map are available on GitHub.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <https://code4.ro/en/apps/anabi/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://code4.ro/en/apps/data-portal/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.figma.com/proto/P60qSupJkefpT7K4rT5PQuva/Data-Portal-Cluj-Napoca?node-id=90%3A7&scaling=min-zoom>

<sup>14</sup> <https://github.com/govro/datagovro>

<sup>15</sup> <https://2019.foss4g.org/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://sna.just.ro/vizualizare-date/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://github.com/code4romania/sna-client>

<sup>18</sup> <https://github.com/MinistryOfLabor/mmssmap>

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- Governmental websites, 2014<sup>19</sup>: Since 2014, many websites of the Romanian government are run on OSS. The sites are operational with the help of Apache, MySQL, PHP.<sup>20</sup>
- Open source in schools, 2014<sup>21</sup>: The Ministry of Education encouraged Romania’s public schools to switch to OSS solutions. Furthermore, the Ministry published a list of recommended OSS applications<sup>22</sup> that could be used by education systems across Romania. However, 900 Ubuntu-based laptops in schools, Joinup reports, appear to have never been used because of the lack of knowledge of Linux from teachers in the schools.
- Moodle<sup>23</sup>: Since 2014, it was reported by the country’s Moodle community manager, Herman Cosmin at the time, that 85% of Romania’s universities use Moodle, an open source e-Learning platform.<sup>24</sup> The National Institute for Administration<sup>25</sup> also highly relies on the Moodle platform in the training process.

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.gov.ro/> ; <http://www.sgg.ro/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/open-source-drives-main-roman>

<sup>21</sup> <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/education-ministry-romania-en>

<sup>22</sup> <http://icente.edu.ro/files/EdubuntuApps-draft-012013w.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> <https://training.ina.gov.ro/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/nearly-all-romanas-unive>

<sup>25</sup> <https://ina.gov.ro/en-home>

