




# Citizen Next and the Romanian public sector: an ongoing collaboration

keys to a successful collaboration



# Open Source in Romania

- No governmental body **directly responsible** for the implementation of OSS policies and legislation
- The government has only **recently started to actively promote** the use of OSS solutions in public administrations
- High **citizens involvement**
- Many initiatives **implemented** in the last decade



# Public administrations and open source communities

Government initiative:

**GovITHub**

Non-governmental initiative:

**Citizen Next**



# GovITHub

- Government **program** developed **together** with the private sector, in order to **increase** the **quality** of **public services** through **technology**
- Context
- How it worked
- Mobile First, Cloud Ready, **Open by Default**, Security & Privacy



# Citizen Next

- NGO whose mission is to initiate and develop digital tools to simplify citizens' access to public services and to increase the social impact of NGOs in Romania
- Context
- How it works
- Involvement in the public sector digitalization



# Key aspects

## Community

- Highly engaged
- Horizontal and transparent ways of working
- Easy communication
- Continuous growth
- High visibility

## Software

- High quality
- Reusable
- Documented
- GDPR compliant

## Public administration

- OSS benefits awareness
- Flexibility and agility to work with and within



# Challenges

- **Raise awareness** of the benefits of the OSS in public administration
- **Advocate** the reliability and security of the open source code
- **Work** with and within public administration
- Keep an **engaged** community
- **Grow** the community
- Ensure **visibility** of the results in the media
- Get **funding**



# OSS

	Covid-SAFE	Social Services Map	Case File
Public data	No	Yes	No
Administration Pro OSS	Yes	Yes	No
Deployment	STS	Citizen Next	Citizen Next
Code maintenance	Shared	Citizen Next	Citizen Next
Visibility	Yes	Yes	Yes
Funding	Volunteer work, CSR sponsorship	CSR sponsorship	Grant, Volunteer work



# Advocate the reliability and security of OSS

- Explain the application security
- Explain the project architecture
- Security audit by external third party
- Confidentiality agreements between partner entities
- Experience / other (similar) success projects



# Community

## Keep an engaged community

- Social good of the country
- Horizontal and transparent ways of working
- Easy communication
- Visible and recognized results
- Regular meetups
- Newsletter

## Grow the community

- Website
- Hackathon
- Idea and results promoted by the media



# Financing Sources

**Our annual  
Dev Fund**

**Grants**

**CSR  
Sponsorships**

# Conclusions

High quality software

High work ethics

Good communication skills

Patience

Lead by example

