



The **OECD**  
**Observatory**  
of **Civic Space**

# Civic Space Scan of Romania: Share your views!

Across the world, citizens are calling for more openness, transparency, integrity, accountability and participation at all levels of government. The OECD approach to civic space is informed by its long-standing focus and expertise on good governance and open government, as well as its constructive relationship with civil society actors.

As part of a wider project on “Enhancing policy coherence, transparency and coordination at the centre of the government in Romania”, the [OECD Observatory of Civic Space](#) will support the **General Secretariat of the Government of Romania** with a:

- 1) **Civic Space Scan of Romania;**
- 2) **the development of a strategy and implementation roadmap for civil society involvement in decision-making.**

Beginning in **November 2021**, the project is seeking to improve the government’s capacity to create the necessary conditions for a robust civil society, to coordinate and engage more effectively with civil society, and to streamline civic engagement, with a view to more socially inclusive, responsive, coordinated and predictable policy and decision-making.



## WHAT IS A CIVIC SPACE?

**Civic space** is the set of legal, policy, institutional, and practical conditions necessary for non-governmental actors to access information, speak, associate, organise and participate in public life.

**Protected civic spaces come in many different shapes and forms**, both online and offline, such as laws protecting freedom of speech, independent oversight mechanisms overseeing government decisions, portals responding to freedom of information requests, autonomous and independent news organisations, protection programmes for human rights defenders, and policies to promote civil society organisations.



## What is a Civic Space Scan?

Civic Space Scans support national governments by assessing the enabling environment for civic participation in public governance and public life, focusing on four key pillars:

- Civic freedoms and rights;
- Media and digital freedoms and rights;
- The enabling operational environment for CSOs; and
- Citizen and CSO participation.

The scan also examines cross-cutting issues such as social inclusion of marginalised groups, non-discrimination, gender equality, and the impact of COVID-19, among others.



Please share your views with the OECD!



The Observatory of Civic Space is collecting data for the Scan through surveys, desk research and interviews and we are keen to hear from you! We have launched a **public consultation** on civic space and engagement with civil society and we are committed to interacting with a diverse range of non-governmental actors including associations, foundations, trade unions, the non-profit business sector, academics and journalists representing the broadest possible combination of sectors, sizes, areas of expertise, and geographical regions of Romania. We are calling for suggestions and ideas on the following:

- How can Romania strengthen its commitment to civic space?
- How can Romania strengthen the enabling environment for civil society organisations (CSOs)? e.g. relevant laws, policy frameworks, access to public funding?
- How can Romania better engage with CSOs in policy-making and service design and delivery?
- What steps could a) the Romanian government and b) CSOs take to build trust with one another?
- What content would you like to see included in a strategy for civil society involvement in decision-making?



## How can you get involved?

The scan will generate evidence-based, concrete and actionable recommendations for the Government of Romania on how to further protect and promote civic space. **This is your chance to influence these recommendations!** There are several ways to get involved whether through interviews, roundtable discussions, contributing to our public consultation, or by sending us written inputs, including, for example, your own research and data.

If you are interested in participating, please get in touch! Participation can be in **Romanian or in English**. You can also help us by spreading the word among your colleagues, other civil society organisations, and partners.

You can access the consultation platform and share your thoughts [here](#). Information from civil society actors and other stakeholders can also be sent to the emails below and may be included anonymously, if requested.

[oe.cd/civic-space](https://oe.cd/civic-space)



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The OECD is an international organisation that works with governments and citizens around the world to establish standards to tackle social, economic, governance, and environmental challenges. The OECD provides a unique forum to collect data and analysis, exchange experiences, and develop evidence-based advice on public policies.