

ACTIVITY REPORT

2023



ActiveWatch

Activity Report - 2023

Total income 2023: 97.112 EUR

(483.095,29 RON)

Total expenditure 2023: 94.988 EUR

(472.528,86 RON)



2023 MAIN PROJECTS

Project "FreeEx Digest"

Period: September 2022 - October 2023

Funded by: the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands 2022

Budget: 14.880 EUR **Role**: applicant

Brief: Monthly digests on carefully selected topics on media freedom and its challenges, and significant incidents and threats on freedom of expression.

Main outcomes:

| Title | Date | URL Ro | URL En |
|--|------------|--|--|
| Siguranța jurnaliștilor. Linșaj public și kompromat - FreeEx Digest nr. 1 | 15.03.2023 | https://activewatch.ro/docum ents/249/freeex_digest_1.pdf | |
| Safety of journalists. Public lynching and kompromat - FreeEx Digest no. 1 (English) | 20.03.2023 | | https://activewatch.ro/docu ments/251/freeex_digest_1 _eng_rT75Bir.pdf |
| Controlul şi cenzura comunicaţiilor digitale - FreeEx Digest nr. 2 | 08.03.2023 | https://activewatch.ro/documents/250/freeex digest 2.pdf | |
| Control and censorship of digital communications - FreeEx Digest no. 2 (English) | 20.03.2023 | | https://activewatch.ro/docu ments/252/freeex_digest_2 eng_jZTffeM.pdf |
| Breaking (News) Democracy - FreeEx Digest nr. 3 | 03.05.2023 | https://activewatch.ro/docum ents/255/freeex_digest_3.pdf | |
| Partidele, banii și presa - o relație toxică FreeEx Digest nr. 4 | 27.06.2023 | https://activewatch.ro/docum ents/256/freeex digest 4.pdf | |
| Political parties, money and the media - a toxic relationship - FreeEx Digest no. 4 | 06.10.2023 | | https://activewatch.ro/docu ments/259/freeex_digest_4 _eng.pdf |
| Jurnaliştii şi sursele lor FreeEx Digest nr. 5 | 24.10.2023 | https://activewatch.ro/docum ents/260/freeex_digest_5.pdf | |

FreeEx Digest no. 2 was quoted by the European Commission as a source in the "2023 Rule of Law Report Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Romania", FreeEx Digest no. 4 was quoted by the European Commission as a source in the "2024 Rule of Law Report"



Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Romania, and "FreeEx Digest no. 1 was listed as a source by The EurOMo (Euromedia Ownership Monitor) in the country report 2023 on Romania. Also, FreeEx Digest was referenced by newsletters and websites, including by international organisations, focusing on analysing the Romanian media landscape.

Project "Group of NGOs for Citizens"

Period: December 2021 - November 2023

Funded by: the Network of European Foundation/CIVITATES

Budget: 19.440 EUR

Role: Partner

Brief: Capacity building for a network of Romanian NGOs that advocate for human rights in Romania.

NGOs for Citizens is a group of 20 NGOs in Romania gathered to challenge the shrinking space for participation. We act to safeguard and enlarge the civic space, so that NGOs and activists are able to freely operate. We are concerned about the attempts to delegitimize the activist NGOs, to abuse or isolate them. We advocate for better legislation and react to attempts to deteriorate the current regulations or to inappropriate implementation. We promote activism as a legitimate means to bring about change and stand by civic NGOs and activists as they need support. The issues we are most interested in are the freedom of expression, the right to peaceful assembly and transparency of the public decision making processes. Due to recent developments, we have also focused on access to justice and freedom of the internet.

Main outcomes: In response to legislative setbacks or instances where state institutions deviate from their responsibilities, we issued public statements to raise awareness and hold accountable those responsible for such actions. The Coalition webpage — www.stareademocratiei.ro — become a real-time reporting tool regarding the state of democracy. Between January 2023 and January 2024, 13 such statements were issued. To make our efforts stronger, depending on the magnitude of the issue, we use to raise support from other organizations.

To offer an overview of the State of Democracy, we published the 2023 State of Democracy Report, which were launched and discussed in open events. Beyond public statements, our advocacy efforts extend to direct advocacy reaching out to legislators or other state institutions or directly participating to the legislative process.

Beyond advocacy and public awareness, our watchdog activity aims to show solidarity with activists and other victims of abuse, be them part of the Coalition or not.

Project partners: Resource Center for Public Participation - CeRe, and Center for Public Innovation.

https://www.stareademocratiei.ro/



Project "Home"

Period: March 2022 - March 2024

Funded by: the Active Citizens Fund/EEA Grant

Budget: 75.331 EUR

Role: applicant

Brief: Increasing the capacity for self-representation and involvement of 40 disadvantaged people, in terms of housing. They will be directly involved in workshops aimed at increasing their self-esteem, informing them about human rights and the tools they have at their disposal to communicate with the public authority. Within this objective, we even aim to create an institutional consultation mechanism between the representatives of the local public authorities targeted by the project and this informal group, so that the projects that include social policies/measures are finalized through direct consultation with the potential beneficiaries. Increasing the level of information and awareness at the level of local authorities, but also of the general public on housing precariousness, but also on the need for coherent and adapted strategies, as well as promoting legislative changes that will lead to increased access to housing for vulnerable people, the Model proposed by us will be based on the direct involvement of the people targeted by public policies. This objective will also be achieved by carrying out a public campaign to destigmatize poverty and increase the level of understanding of the media and the general public (15k people) on the importance of social inclusion. Within the project we will propose a local social housing strategy. We will develop workshops on human rights and the need for social assistance correlated with the principles of human dignity in which we will include at least 30 local elected officials and at least 30 representatives of the technical apparatus, in order to show them good practices from European states.

Main outcomes: During the implementation of the project we worked in two informal housing communities in Bucharest. We organized workshops that prepared the communities for advocacy activities and we organized several direct meetings with representatives of local public authorities. In parallel, advocacy campaigns at local and national level followed up on measures formulated by the groups involved in the project, as well as measures we considered necessary, depending on the problems identified on the ground. As part of the project we produced an extensive report on poor housing and built around it a national campaign to promote the right to decent housing. Moreover, fundamental support materials were produced and sent to all local authorities in the county towns (methodology for consulting vulnerable people, templates for housing strategies, promotion of examples of good practice in housing, etc.).



Find out more about our work:

- Rapid reactions and public statements: https://activewatch.ro/search/#p=article
 - Analysis reports: https://activewatch.ro/search/#p=publication











Annex: List of projects 2019-2023

| Project Reference No and Title, Funding programme | Period (start and end date) | Role (COO, BEN, AE, OTHER) | Amount (EUR) | Website (if any) |
|--|--|--|-----------------|--|
| "Promoting critical thinking in pre- electoral and electoral context" funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands | October 2023 - December 2024 | coo | 19.840 | https://activewatch.ro/search/#p=pu blication |
| "IFEX Civic Space Grant" | December 2023 - April 2025 | coo | 20.000 | https://activewatch.ro/ |
| "Home", funded by Active Citizens Fund/EEA Grants | March 2022 - March 2024 | coo | 75.331 | www.homelessness.ro |
| "FreeEx Digest" - funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands | September 2022 - October 2023 | COO | 14.880 | https://activewatch.ro/search/#p=pu blication |
| "Group of NGOs for Citizen", funded by the Network of European Foundation/CIVITATES | December 2021 - November 2023 | BEN | 19.440 | https://www.stareademocratiei.ro/ |
| "Realign ActiveWatch's communication strategy and channels and adapt the Freedom of Expression program to the new reality", funded by IFEX | October 2021 - May 2022 | coo | 19.900 | https://activewatch.ro/ |
| "Integrity requires solidarity - SOLID - a program to strengthen whistleblower's protection", funded by Active Citizens Fund/EEA Grants | March 2021 - August 2022 | BEN | 34.557 | https://avertizori.ro/ |
| WECANHRS REC-RRAC-RACI-AG-2019 | February 2020 - May 2022 | BEN | 16.383 | coe.int/en/web/inclusion-and- antidiscrimination/wecan4hrs |
| Open Code for Hate Free Communication 850419 – OpCode – REC-AG- 2018/REC-RRAC-ONLINE-AG- 2018 | September 2019 - May 2022 | coo | 201.853 | mindthehate.com |
| "Monitoring Media Market Distortions in Central Eastern Europe", funded by New Endowment for Democracy | April 2020 - June 2021 | BEN | 23.500 | https://mertek.eu/wp- content/uploads/2021/10/Mertek- fuzetek_19.pdf |
| Do One Brave Thing 812631 – DOBT – ISFP-2017-AG- CSEP | January 2019 - May 2021 | BEN | 92.305 | onebravething.eu |
| GrassrootWavelengths/ 780890 / H2020-ICT-2017-1 | January 2018 - January 2021 | BEN | 115.125 | https://radiocivic.ro/ |
| The European Media Coach Initiative 592233-EPP-1-2017-1-CY- EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN | December 2017 - May 2021 | BEN | 38.960 | mediacoacheurope.com |