



# ACTIVITY REPORT

## 2024

# ActiveWatch

## Activity Report - 2024

**Total income 2024: 68.696 EUR**

**Total expenditure 2024: 69.688 EUR**

## 2024 MAIN PROJECTS

### Promoting critical thinking in pre-electoral and electoral context

**Period:** October 2023 - December 2024

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

**Budget:** 19.840 EUR

**Role:** applicant

**Brief:** The project “Promoting critical thinking in pre-electoral and electoral context” aimed at increasing critical thinking among the general public, media professionals, regulatory bodies and politicians on the importance of fair, free and accountable media in electoral contexts.

#### Main outcomes:

During the project lifespan, ActiveWatch has published and put forward:

- 4 analyses
- 2 policy papers and 1 informative article
- 20 rapid reactions and advocacy actions
- 18 educational materials (infographics and factsheets)

The reports and rapid reactions produced in this project were used as sources of information for our submission to the Rule of Law Report of the European Commission for 2025, that we put forward to the Commission together with Reporters without Borders.

The reports and rapid reactions produced in this project were also used as sources of information for the “[Media Capture Monitoring Report: Romania](#)”, published by two leading advocacy and research organizations in Europe - the International Press Institute and the Media and Journalism Research Center. The Media Capture Monitoring Report aims at assessing the state of media capture by political interests and the extent to which regulation to protect media independence meets new standards set by the European Media Freedom Act. It is meant to help policy development and implementation at EU level.

Due to our sustained efforts of monitoring the media landscape, and due to our permanent monitoring of, as well as involvement, with the relevant public authorities, AW managed to provide the first assessment of political spending in the media based on public information available at the National Council of Audiovisual.

We analyzed all relevant audiovisual legislation and put forward a legal analysis that was never done before regarding the (i)legality and (un)ethical aspects of payments received by media outlets from political parties for access on prime time TV shows.

Our rapid reactions and advocacy actions were meant at safeguarding a better legislative and institutional framework with impact on the electoral processes.

## Project "Group of NGOs for Citizens"

**Period:** January 2024 – December 2024

**Funded by:** the Network of European Foundation/CIVITATES

**Budget:** 9.660 EUR

**Role:** Partner

The project aims to contribute to a healthy electoral campaign, by exposing and preventing anti-democratic and populist back-sliding, and potential attacks, including hate speech, attempts to limit the civic freedoms, scape-goat-ing etc.; encouraging a healthy electoral debate, focused on real issues, rather than on populist messages; encouraging a better representation of traditionally under-represented groups. The project also aims to use the electoral campaigns to advocate for the legislative issues on our agenda: right to peaceful assemblies, transparency in decision-making, access to information as well as to open the debate on other issues (such as public safety vs. authoritarianism, involvement of the military in civil affairs). We aim to build a communication campaign to stimulate the citizens' critical attitude towards populism. We also work to strengthen the Coalition's capacity: internal cohesion, members' involvement, improving the return of investment for members, building a community of supporters, strengthening our voice on EU affairs.

<https://www.stareademocratiei.ro/>

## Project "We need to talk about elections - Tools and talks for informed elections and decisions"

**Period:** March 2024 - March 2025

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

**Budget:** 14.490 EUR

**Role:** applicant

The project aimed to introduce university students to the challenges raised by the electoral campaigns of 2024 and 2025, and to empower these young voters with a set of critical skills and attitudes, helping them to become better informed voters.

Outcomes and outputs:

- Over 500 better informed young voters (students from Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Oradea, and Timisoara)
- 11 seminars at 9 different universities/faculties
- Networking and know-how exchange with 8 university professors around the country
- Improved understanding of young people political and social concerns, as well as their information needs
- 45 experts and students gathered in a workshop on audience and research, with the participation of international speakers, hosted by the University of Bucharest
- 9 conference lectures published online

## Project "Civic Space Grant"

**Period:** December 2023 - December 2024

**Funded by:** IFEX

**Budget:** 20.000 USD

**Role:** applicant

With the IFEX Civic Space Grant support, ActiveWatch was able to sustain its actions aimed at protecting the civic space and the right to FoE&I in Romania, focusing on bringing to light and raising awareness on the negative actions and narratives targeting independent media and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), in an electoral context.

During the project lifespan, ActiveWatch has published and put forward 34 documents:

- 1 in-depth analysis;
- 16 rapid reactions/public statements;
- 17 policy papers and legislative advocacy statements.

## 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>


**G4Media.ro**  
Articole Analize Anchete Video G4Plus Contact  
HealthyLife InspiRO Sportz ENTR Apă și comunitate Green News Fashion Travel

### ActiveWatch: Primele măsuri ale extremiștilor în Parlament hărțuirea jurnaliștilor și instigarea la ură

ARTICOLE • 20 DEC 2024 • REDACȚIA • 5 COMENTARII




**Catalin Tolontan**  
4 December at 22:28  
Active Watch: „Ne exprimăm temerea pentru siguranța fizică a lui Victor Ilie și a celorlalți jurnaliști SNOOP și cerem Poliției să ia de urgență toate măsurile necesare pentru protejarea integrității jurnaliștilor vizați direct de amenințările proferate de Bruno Mihailescu, subiect al investigațiilor acestor jurnaliști”  
**ActiveWatch**  
4 December at 20:29  
Susținători ai candidatului Călin Georgescu, amenințări mafioate la adresa jurnaliștilor SNOOP  
Susținători ai candidatului Călin Georgescu au lansat amenințări ...  
See more  
Oana Ganea, Dana Gradinaru and 1.9K others 155 217  
Like Comment Send Share

**Digi24.ro**  
POLITICĂ ACTUALITĂȚI ECONOMIE EXTERNE SPORT TV M  
HOME Video Geoană răspunde la acuzațiile Active Watch





### Geoană răspunde la acuzațiile Active Watch


03.10.2024 21:49

Mirocea Geoană, candidat la alegerile prezidențiale, a răspuns la Digi24 [acuzațiilor](#) [organizației Active Watch](#) că încearcă să compromită jurnaliști care își fac meseria. Aceasta, după ce fostul secretar general adjunct al NATO a vorbit despre presupuse legături între jurnaliștii Active Bire și un român investigat pentru o tentativă de asasinat în Bulgaria. Jurnaliștii spun însă că este vorba despre un „fake news grosolan” și o teorie falsă vehiculată de unele publicații din Bulgaria.




Geoană, acuzații la adresa jurnaliștilor români din anchetă „A făcut parte dintr-o tentativă de asasinat” - jurnalist „fake news grosolan”  
Premiera Călin Georgescu va fi recompensată la gata din februarie 2025





**RSF**  @RSFinter  
**#Romania:** RSF and its partners wrote an open letter welcoming the reopened investigation into the "Kompromat" operation targeting @emiliasercan, and calling on the  authorities to conduct it properly – unlike last time.   
[rsf.org/en/romania-rsf...](https://rsf.org/en/romania-rsf...)



emilia sercan and ActiveWatch Romania

**SNOOP**  
ALEGERI 2025 REPORTING INVESTIGAȚII ANALIZE DE SISTEM DOSARE DESPRE NOI

distribuie



Snoop și **ActiveWatch** au aflat cum se transformă banii publici în publicitate pentru partide. Sumele exacte sunt ținute la secret de politicieni, dar și de televiziuni. În acest timp, CNA declară că nu este interesat să afle costul emisiunilor, iar colaborarea cu Autoritatea Electorală Permanentă, cea care supraveghează finanțele partidelor și campaniile electorale, este inexistentă.

**Veridica**  
STAND FOR FACTS  
ȘTIRI • OPINII • FACT-CHECKING • MONITOR MEDIA • MULTIMEDIA

Pentru o bună parte din presa mainstream din România, dar și pentru diverși politicieni de la putere și din opoziție, dosarul Roșia Montană a fost un test al responsabilității în comunicarea publică. Un test pe care l-au picat, potrivit unei [analize ActiveWatch](#).

**Paginademedia.ro**  
ZILNIC, PRIMA SURSĂ  
ȘTIRI MEDIA COMUNICATE AUDIENȚE TV • CNA INTERVIEWS VIDEO STUDIO VIDEO AUDIENȚE

Active Watch cere CNA să analizeze „cu rigoare și litera legii” pseudo-știrile despre candidați. Totul a pornit de la o „știre” fără marcat despre Gabriela Firea, difuzată de B1 TV

3 IUN 2024 16:34 ȘTIRI MEDIA 8 COMENTARII

**LIBER TĂCUT**  
ROMÂNIA INTERNATIONAL AFACERI DIVERTISMENT ȘTIINȚĂ SĂNĂTATE  
Ultimele știri Exclusiv Opinii Video Tehnologie 5 știri Newsletter Concurs Express fashion Bine pe  
1 Știri Știri România  
ActiveWatch, după ce Anghel Șerban a fost ridicată de polițiști: „O formă dură de intimidare și umilire a cetățenilor”. Activista acuză că a fost victima unei acțiuni de „poliție politică”  
Andrei Stan redactor Actualizat pe 15 ian. 2024, 16:40 21 comentarii  


## Annex: List of projects 2019-2024

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	<a href="https://activewatch.ro/search/#p=publication">https://activewatch.ro/search/#p=publication</a>
"IFEX Civic Space Grant"	December 2023 - April 2025	COO	20.000	<a href="https://activewatch.ro/">https://activewatch.ro/</a>
"We need to talk about elections" - Tools and talks for informed elections and decisions" funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	March 2024 - March 2025	COO	14.490	<a href="https://activewatch.ro/">https://activewatch.ro/</a>
"Group of NGOs for Citizen", funded by the Network of European Foundation/CIVITATES	January 2024 - December 2024	BEN	9.660	<a href="https://www.stareademocratiei.ro/">https://www.stareademocratiei.ro/</a>
"Home" , funded by Active Citizens Fund/EEA Grants	March 2022 - March 2024	COO	75.331	<a href="http://www.homelessness.ro">www.homelessness.ro</a>
"FreeEx Digest" - funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	September 2022 - October 2023	COO	14.880	<a href="https://activewatch.ro/search/#p=publication">https://activewatch.ro/search/#p=publication</a>
"Group of NGOs for Citizen", funded by the Network of European Foundation/CIVITATES	December 2021 - November 2023	BEN	19.440	<a href="https://www.stareademocratiei.ro/">https://www.stareademocratiei.ro/</a>
"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	<a href="https://activewatch.ro/">https://activewatch.ro/</a>
"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	<a href="https://avertizori.ro/">https://avertizori.ro/</a>
WECANHRS REC-RRAC-RACI-AG-2019	February 2020 - May 2022	BEN	16.383	<a href="http://coe.int/en/web/inclusion-and-antidiscrimination/wecan4hrs">coe.int/en/web/inclusion-and-antidiscrimination/wecan4hrs</a>
Open Code for Hate Free Communication  850419 – OpCode – REC-AG-2018/REC-RRAC-ONLINE-AG-2018	September 2019 - May 2022	COO	201.853	<a href="http://mindthehate.com">mindthehate.com</a>
"Monitoring Media Market Distortions in Central Eastern Europe", funded by New Endowment for Democracy	April 2020 - June 2021	BEN	23.500	<a href="https://mertek.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Mertek-fuzetek_19.pdf">https://mertek.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Mertek-fuzetek_19.pdf</a>

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	<a href="https://radiocivic.ro/">https://radiocivic.ro/</a>
The European Media Coach Initiative 592233-EPP-1-2017-1-CY- EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN	December 2017 - May 2021	BEN	38.960	mediacoacheurope.com