Corneliu Bjola, IP Fellow

2002 IPF Final Activity Report

Issue Area: *Media and Information Policy to Build Open Information Societies*

Strategies for Developing Information Societies: The case of Romania

A. Research activity:

- *April 2001:* Fieldwork in Bucharest, Romania - first round of data collection on the positions, communication channels, and action strategies of the main actors involved in the public sector information and the IT sectors (on a scale from 1 - low to 3 – high, the figures in brackets represent, in this order, the degree of accessibility and the quality of the data collected from the respective institutions):

    1. *Official institutions*:
        - The Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies (3,3)
        - The Ministry of Public Information (1, 2)
        - The Ministry of Education and Research (1,2)
        - The Parliamentary Committee on Communications and Information Technology of the Chamber of Deputies (2, 3)
        - The Department of Communications and Information Technology of the Chamber of Deputies (3,3)
        - The European Commission - Information Society Directorate General (3,3)

    2. *Research institutes and professional organizations*:
        - The National Research and Development Institute for Micro-technologies (2,3)
        - The Romanian Association for Internet (3,2).

- *June 2001:* Presentation and discussion of preliminary conclusions during the OSI workshop on "Government/Citizen Interfaces" in Budapest, Hungary.

- *July – August 2001:* Fieldwork in Bucharest, Romania - second round of data collection (on a scale from 1 - low to 3 – high, the figures in brackets represent, in this order, the degree of accessibility and the quality of the data collected from the respective institutions):

    1. *Official institutions*:
        - The Ministry of Public Administration (1, 2)
        - The Ombudsman (People's Advocate) institution (1, 2)
        - The Presidency (2, 2)
        - The Senate (2, 2)
        - The Constitutional Court (1, 2)
        - The Bucharest City Hall (1, 2)
    2. *Non-governmental organizations*:
        - The Romanian Development Gateway (3, 3)
        - Club Europa - the Romanian partner of PSINet (1,1).
        - The Romanian Academic Society (3, 2)
        - The E-Democracy think tank (3,3)
        - Private IT companies (2,2)

- *August 2001:* Submission of the second draft of the policy paper to the external mentors for feedback and criticism.

- *November –December 2001:* Last round of data collection (on a scale from 1 - low to 3 – high, the figures in brackets represent, in this order, the degree of accessibility and the quality of the data collected from the respective institutions):
    - The Parliamentary Committee on Communications and Information Technology of the Chamber of Deputies (3, 2)
    - The Department of Communications and Information Technology of the Chamber of Deputies (3,3).
    - The E-Democracy think tank (3,3)

- *February 2002:* Submission of the third draft of the policy paper to the external mentors for feedback and criticism.

B. Publication activity:

- *June 2001:* On-line publication on the OSI website of the first draft (in PowerPoint format) presented during the OSI workshop on "Government/Citizen Interfaces" (http://www.policy.hu/~bjola)

- *August 2001*: Submission of the interim research report to the Global Development Network competition, as part of the panel on Governance and Development.

- *September - October 2001*: On-line publication of the second draft (in PDF format) of the interim research project on the OSI website (http://www.policy.hu/~bjola).

- *March 2002*: On-line publication of the final research paper on the OSI website (http://www.policy.hu/~bjola).

- *June 2002*: Dissemination of the final research report to:

  - Parliamentary Committee on Communications and Information Technology of the Chamber of Deputies.

  - European Institute of Romania

  - Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – the ICT section.

  - Privacy.Org - joint project of the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) and Privacy International.

  - Freedom House – international NGO

  - Jenkins and Associates Inc., Canada – private ICT consulting company.

- *July 2002*: Article publication: "Moving the Signpost: Good Governance and Development in the Context of Public Access to Information," in *Romanian Journal of European Affairs*, 2: 2 (July 2002).