Code for Romania

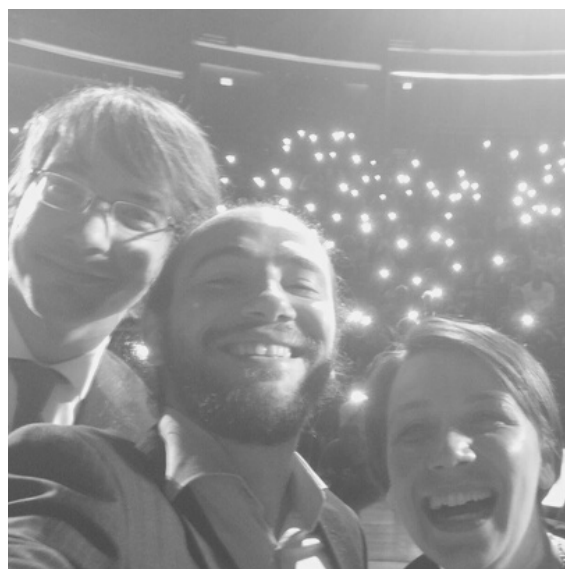**THE BEGINNINGS**

2016/2017

Our mission is to put technology to work to **upgrade Romania** to the country we all know it can become.

WE ARE THE ONES WE VE BEEN WAITING FOR

Going above and beyond

The fire at Colectiv Club in Bucharest that took the life of 65 people in the Fall of 2015, was the turning point in civic engagement for Romania. In order to channel the civic energies of those moments towards some practical goals, a group of friends established an informal community in early 2016 with the objective of bringing together IT developers, designers, social scientists and communication specialists to help develop the necessary civic technology infrastructure for Romania.

Since the beginning of 2016, we've created a community of like-minded volunteers who love the challenge of coming up with digital solutions to societal issues.

We promote openness in our work and in the work of our civil society & government partners. All of our digital tools are open source. We actively encourage documentation, sharing, collaboration, and reuse of all of our tools, programs, and processes.

PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

542

Volunteers registered in the community as of December 31st 2017.

580K

Euros in pro-bono working hours of staff & volunteers.

5

solutions have been researched, designed, prototyped, developed and launched

80+

Hackdays, design thinking sessions and other events led by our staff

OUR ACTIVITY

TECH FOR SOCIAL GOOD

The first months of 2016 were dedicated to designing the mechanisms behind what will become Code for Romania. In order to do that, our first objectives were to better understand the conditions in Romania, the prior history of civic technology in the country, as well as to document the functional models behind civic technology organisations around the world.

Romania has been witnessing a growing boom of its IT industry. The number of very well prepared IT developers is on a constant rise and due to high demand on the market so are their salaries. This is leading to a growing digital divide between the for profit and the non-profit and institutional sectors that are unable to compete on the market to employ good IT professionals. This is why we do not only lack a civic technology infrastructure in Romania, but NGOs as well as public institutions also lack the capacity to correctly assess the needs in this respect and design digital solutions.

Consequently, even when funds had been directed towards civic or gov technology the failure rate of this technology was very high, leading to waste of money and lack of trust of both donors and users in the solutions proposed. This is even more worrying as technology has become an undeniable part of our lives and as technology can and must be put to use in creating better societies and a better overall civic environment.

TECH FOR SOCIAL GOOD

Already having a 50+ strong community, having delivered one successful civic app, we officially launched Code for Romania at the end of September 2016, three months after becoming a legal entity. The public response was overwhelming, with over 300 requests to join the community coming in in the first few hours.

Today Code for Romania is the second largest civic tech organisation/community worldwide with over 500 members at the end of 2017, out of which over half have been active contributors. The sheer size of the community cannot be overstressed as it stands witness to both the wish of IT developers, designers, communication specialists and social scientists to contribute with their specialized skills to the development of Romania which is undeniably part of a wider social awakening, as to the success of the organisational model of Code for Romania.
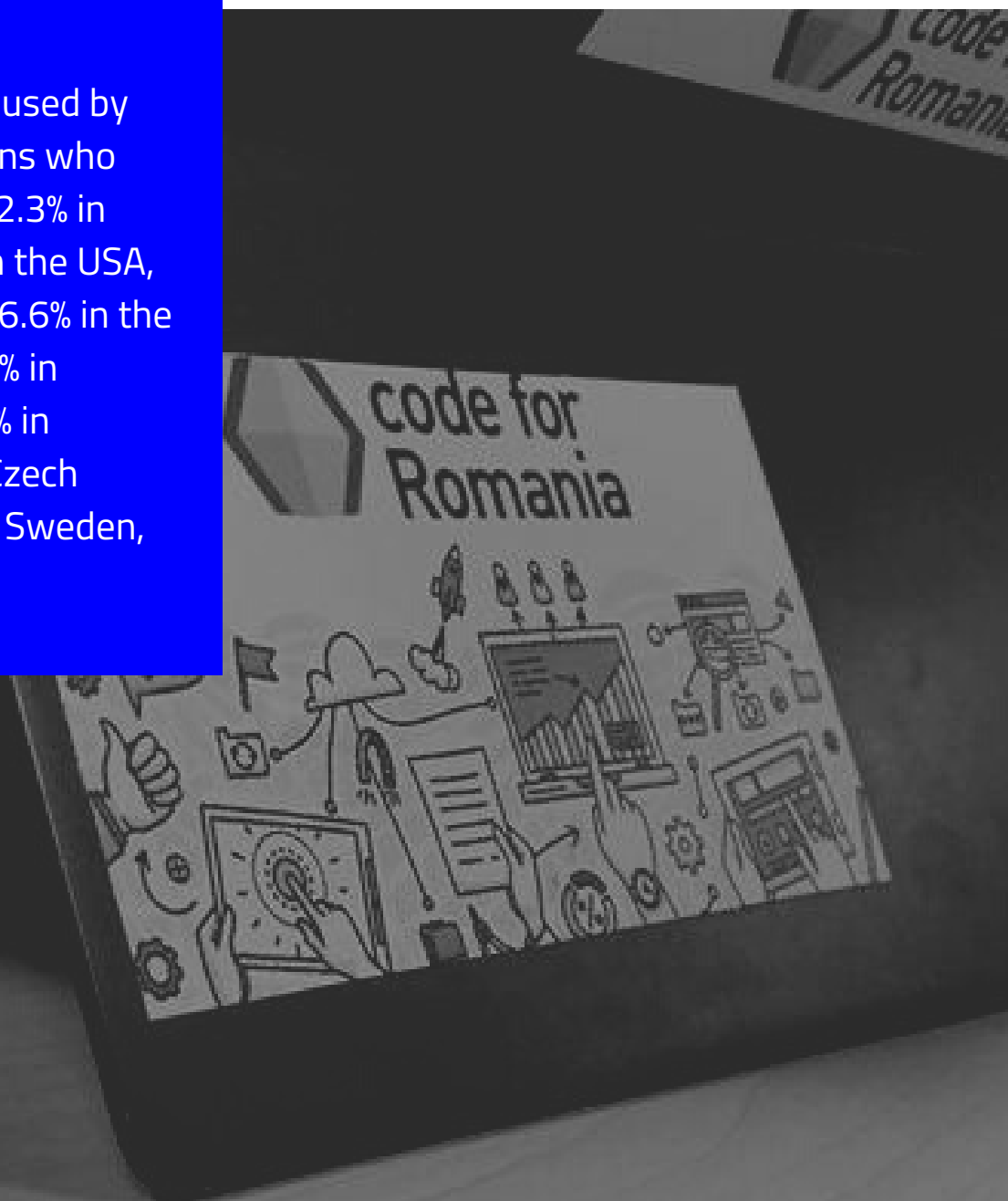
Out of the community of 600, over 150 are from the diaspora, including 3 staff members and 5 project leads. Three out of our five live products have been delivered by project leads from the diaspora. Code for Romania was thus able to create the first fully functional mechanism for Romanians in the diaspora to directly work on development projects for Romania.

We were able to create local communities in 6 cities across Romania and in Chisinau, Moldova and we organized over 150 medium and small sized event. So far the cities with most Code for Romania volunteers are Bucharest, Iasi, Timisoara, Cluj, Oradea and Brasov, with incipient communities also in Sibiu and Tg Mures.
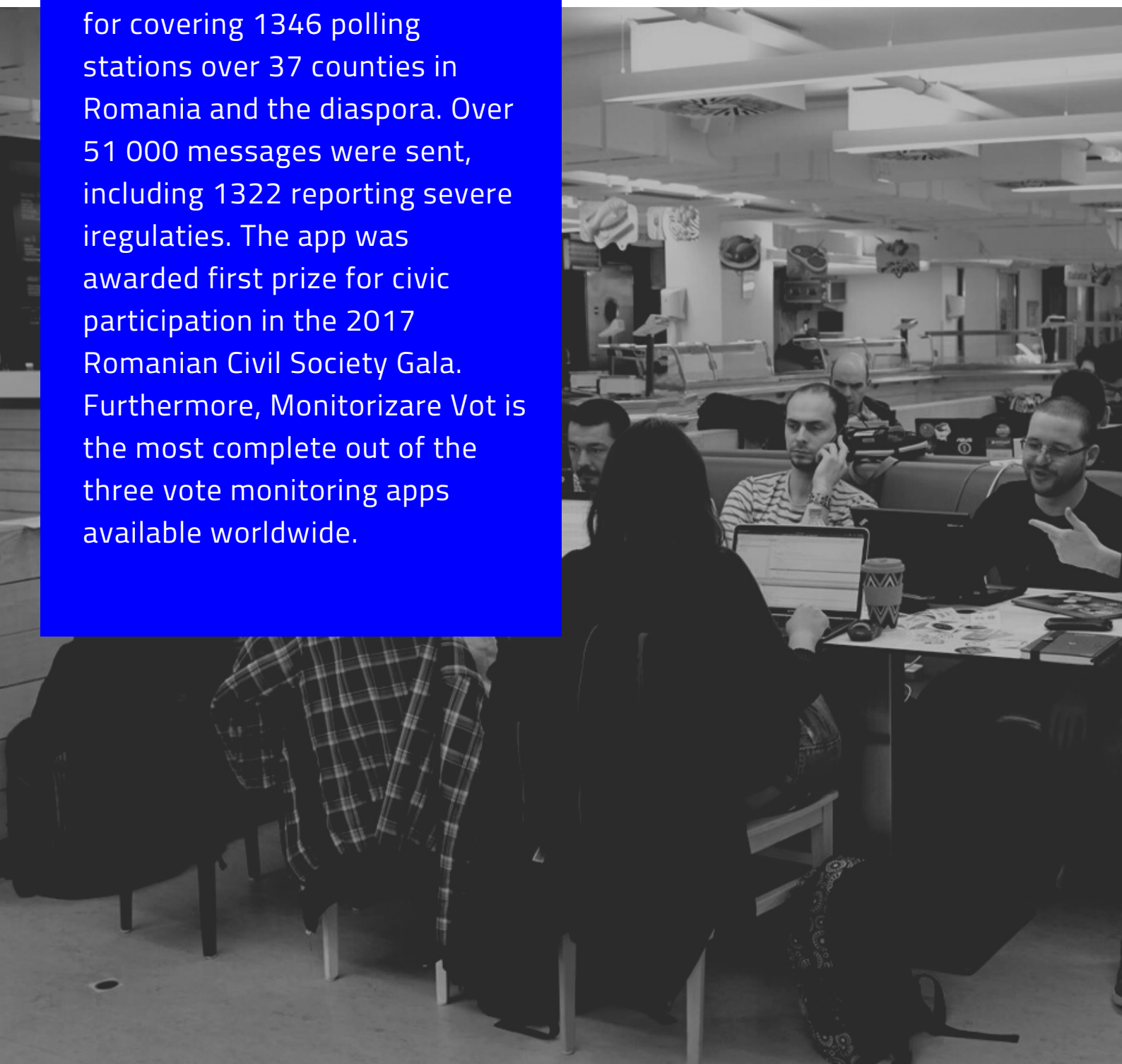
OUR APPS

Our first app, Vot Diaspora, that guided Romanians voting abroad through the complicated registration process had 10 000 organic active users, with a peak of 5 017 during the election day.

The platform was used by 16.8% of Romanians who voted in the UK, 12.3% in Germany, 36.3% in the USA, 12.5% in France, 36.6% in the Netherlands, 30.9% in Switzerland, 34.4% in Austria, 46.4% in Czech Republic, 50.4% in Sweden, 14.8% in Norway .

VOTDIASPORA

Monitorizare Vot, our vote monitoring ecosystem, was successfully deploy in the 2016 Romanian parliamentary elections by 562 independent observers out of a total of roughly 1 000. The app was used for covering 1346 polling stations over 37 counties in Romania and the diaspora. Over 51 000 messages were sent, including 1322 reporting severe iregulaties. The app was awarded first prize for civic participation in the 2017 Romanian Civil Society Gala. Furthermore, Monitorizare Vot is the most complete out of the three vote monitoring apps available worldwide.

MONITORIZAREVOT

OUR
AWARDS

TFSG

As proof of the success of our organizational model and methodologies stands the fact that Tech for Social Good, our tech development programme was awarded first prize in the Programme Section of the Romanian Civil Society Gala.

Monitorizare Vot has been awarded first prize in the Civic Participation section of the Romanian Civil Society Gala after being used in the 2016 Parliamentary elections.

The success of Code for Romania has also translated in a fastly built international prestige. We joined Code for All, the largest civic tech network in the world and we are currently one of the three organization sitting on its Executive Board. We were able to consistently put Romania on the map by participating, offering workshops and presenting in over 10 international conferences abroad and by actively leading two global co-creation efforts on open legislation and disaster relief management.

Most importantly, we were able to convince our international partners to host the Code for All Global Summit, the most important civic tech event of the year in Bucharest and it will take place in october 2018. Also starting October, for nine months, we will be hosting a National Geographic fellow who will be filming a documentary about Code for Romania.

FINANCIALS

2016

Total income:
85.191 lei

Total expenses:
 23.592lei

2017

Total income:
32.490 lei

Total expenses:
 21.587 lei