

# Code for Romania



2018





# WHO WE ARE

We are a strong and enthusiastic group of developers, designers, social scientists and communication specialists who aim to improve the society they live in.

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. At Code for Romania we believe that change needs structure, planning and sustainability.

For over two years we have dedicated tens of thousands of hours to building software solutions that have an impact, help communities evolve, bridge the gaps between institutions and its citizens and lead everyone towards an efficient digital life, worthy of the transformational era we live in. We pay attention to how technology reshapes our lives and make sure, through our programs and solutions, we put this resource to good use.

Technology can bring an immense added value for the better if it is used right.



# LETTER FROM THE STAFF

**Dear volunteers and supporters,**

We have just come to the end of our third year and the journey couldn't have been more spectacular. Thank you all for being here, for being engaged, for believing in solutions with no compromises and for showing up every time to bring the change we all want to see happening here.

As we have matured, we are now building up on our sustainability strategies, to make sure that all almost 800 of our volunteers benefit from our permanent support, the necessary infrastructure and instruments to continue and to scale all the work we have all put in so far. 2018 has been a year of continuous learning, testing and adjusting our programs in order to reach the most efficient workflows and to start building a true brand in the social responsibility sector.

We have won our first programme award for Tech for Social Good, we have managed to organize the most important civic technology summit in the world, bringing together experts in the field from over 40 countries, thus putting Romania on the map of civic technology all over the globe. We have been one of the three countries leading Code for All, the biggest civic technology network in the world, all this while continuing to deliver digital solutions for Romania.

We thank you for trusting us and for being as enthusiastic and committed to change as we were when we started all this. We promise to do all in our power to upgrade Romania to the country we all want to live in.

**We are the ones we've been waiting for.**



# OUR STAFF

The Code for Romania staff is made of 18 people who strive every day to ensure the necessary infrastructure to allow our volunteers to deliver the best possible solutions for Romania's social issues.

Just like our community, our staff consists of senior professionals, with many years of experience in their fields, ranging from user experience design, development, community organizing, communications, social media, IT security and research. We are organized in five departments: operations, technology, community, communications and fundraising.

Each of these departments play specific roles in our path to sustainability and scalability of the movement. As of December 2018, only one person in this structure is a full-time employee, the rest of the staff is pro-bono.

By the end of 2019, with the support of the Romanian-American Foundation and several other funders we will have reached a 10 full time staff supported by 13 other pro-bono members. The organisation is led by a board, supervised by the general assembly of the association's members.



# OUR STAFF



# OUR NUMBERS

Here are some of the results we have achieved so far in Romania and diaspora

**750+**

**volunteers**

**2.1 MIL**

**dollars saved  
through pro-bono  
work**

**4/5**

**volunteers are  
senior professionals**

- second largest community of civic technologists in the world
- over 45 small and medium events organized
- first prize for our Tech for Social Good programme

**60000+**

**pro-bono  
working hours**



# OUR PROGRAMMES

## Civic Labs

[click on the logo to visit the website](#)

Civic labs is one of the main programs of Code for Romania. We focus on mapping the most pressing social issues from 10 major areas of interest such as education, health, public services, media, open legislation, etc., and identify the best digital solutions for them through a process of research, validation, prototyping, testing and design.

Civic Labs is in both scope and method a unique undertaking in Romania. Through our methodology, aside from the end result of the programme - which is identifying the right solutions for the right problems aiming to treat the causes not the symptoms of our national pain points - we also want to address several other structural problems regarding how funding is being done in Romania.

The current context is that in Romania there are few funders who support civic technology and few NGOs capable of delivering a functional, useful, impactful solution. Funders usually call for proposals and offer little guidance in drafting a clear idea and NGOs come up with an idea that is always insufficiently documented, tested, validated for it to be applicable. The lack of technical knowledge also contributes to the low level of applications for civic tech projects. Another problem is the lack of flexibility in adapting and adjusting a civic app after the funding was granted by the funders, and the NGO, even if it realizes it is building a solution that won't work or will partially work, it is under the pressure of delivering according to the initial proposal.

This is where the Civic Labs comes in to address all of the above issues through its methodology, making sure that funders invest in tested and valid solutions, and NGOs benefit from all the tech know-how needed to deliver a good app. All of this while following realistic KPIs and measuring impact and result.



# OUR PROGRAMMES



[click on the logo to visit the website](#)

As the name says, our mission is to write code in order to make Romania the country we all want. That's why Tech for Social Good is Code for Romania's flagship program, the place where we buckle down and develop tech solutions for societal problems. Tech for Social Good has been awarded the best NGO program award at the prestigious 2018 Civil Society Gala.

We identify problems through a clear workflow and methodology. We take them into the Civic Labs, our digital solutions generator where a team of researchers, UX specialists and experts in various fields build functional prototypes for future civic apps. Once this process is over, these solutions are ready for development. Some of them end up here, in the Tech for Social Good programme. This is where the magic happens.

But magic in technology needs skills, time and consistency. But there's strength in numbers and if we all work together we can work towards fixing society's problems. Therefore we have devised a mechanic to allow for all of our volunteers to contribute easily no matter where they are in the world or how much time they have at their disposal.

Every month we organize a Hack Day, where all the teams, community and non-Code4 members are welcome to code for an entire day in four of our cities - Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi and Timisoara. The Tech Department sets up the development infrastructure necessary so that any developer can simply come in, plug in his laptop and start coding. All the tasks are visible, detailed and clear documentation is in place. In between these recurring events the work happens online in GitHub and Slack.





# MONITORIZARE VOT

## OUR IMPACT

Monitorizare Vot, our vote monitoring ecosystem, was successfully deployed in the 2016 Romanian parliamentary elections for the first time. 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 and starting in 2018 we are redeploying the ecosystem around the world, beginning with the Polish elections that took place on the 23rd of October 2018.

Election monitoring in Romania was, before Monitorizare Vot a pen-and-paper affair. There were no video, photo or audio recordings that could be shared in real time and hand written reports were centralized after weeks and weeks, making any findings simple post-factum observations.

Monitorizare Vot is designed for both election observers and regular citizens, being made of: (1) a native mobile app (iOS and Android) through which commissioned observers can easily report back to their respective NGOs throughout the election day; (2) a platform for NGOs which centralises in real time all information sent by their respective observers; (3) an online platform where voters are able to report voting irregularities.

We estimate that in 2019 we will cover all the counties in Romania and several countries in the world.



## OUR IMPACT

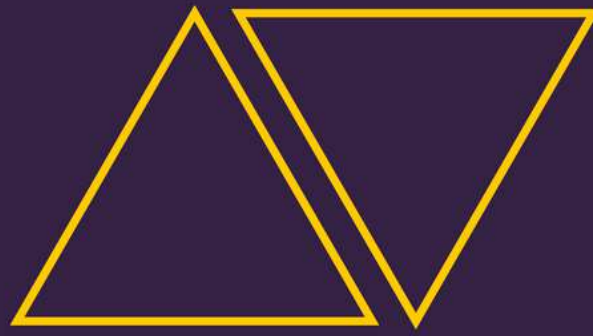
Redirectioneaza is probably the most altruistic project a CSO has done for his colleague organisations. Every year people can redirect 2% of their income tax to a worthy cause. However, most of them never do it, being put off by two hurdles: the bureaucratic process and the lack of information on CSOs they could help.

Moreover, CSO themselves have a hard time getting their message across to as many people as possible. The website offers information on a variety of CSOs (over 1000) that can be supported by redirecting 2% of the income tax. It will also be a means for CSOs to showcase their projects to a wider audience and convince them to redirect the 2% to them.

Direct contact between the two will not be necessary anymore, which means saving time and resources for both and more #230 tax forms submitted.

### Results

- 99.800 views
- 1088 registered CSOs in the platform,
- 10.119 forms filled and more distributed nationally

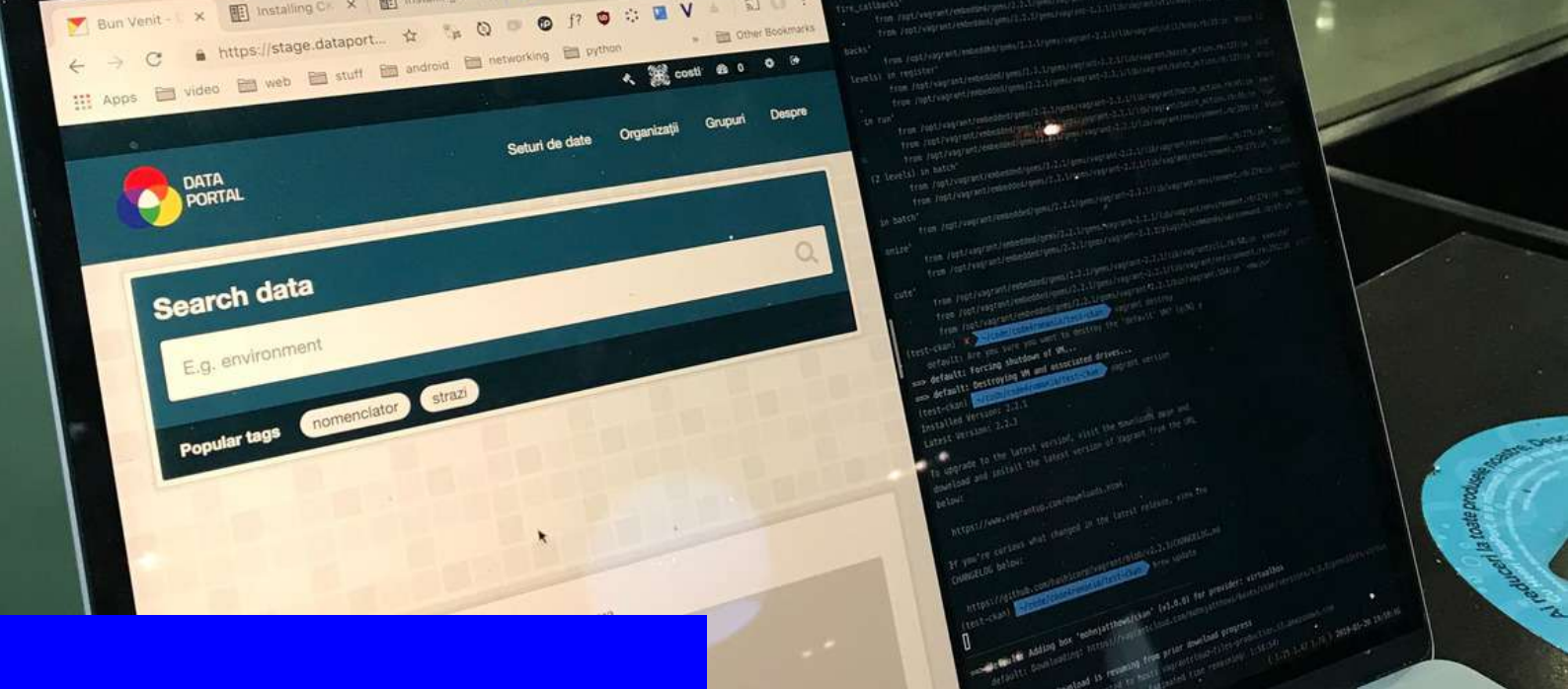


# VOTDIASPORA

## OUR IMPACT

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. (numbers are calculated as percentage of the number of unique visitors from that country using the platform to help register to vote, from the number of Romanian voters in that country.)





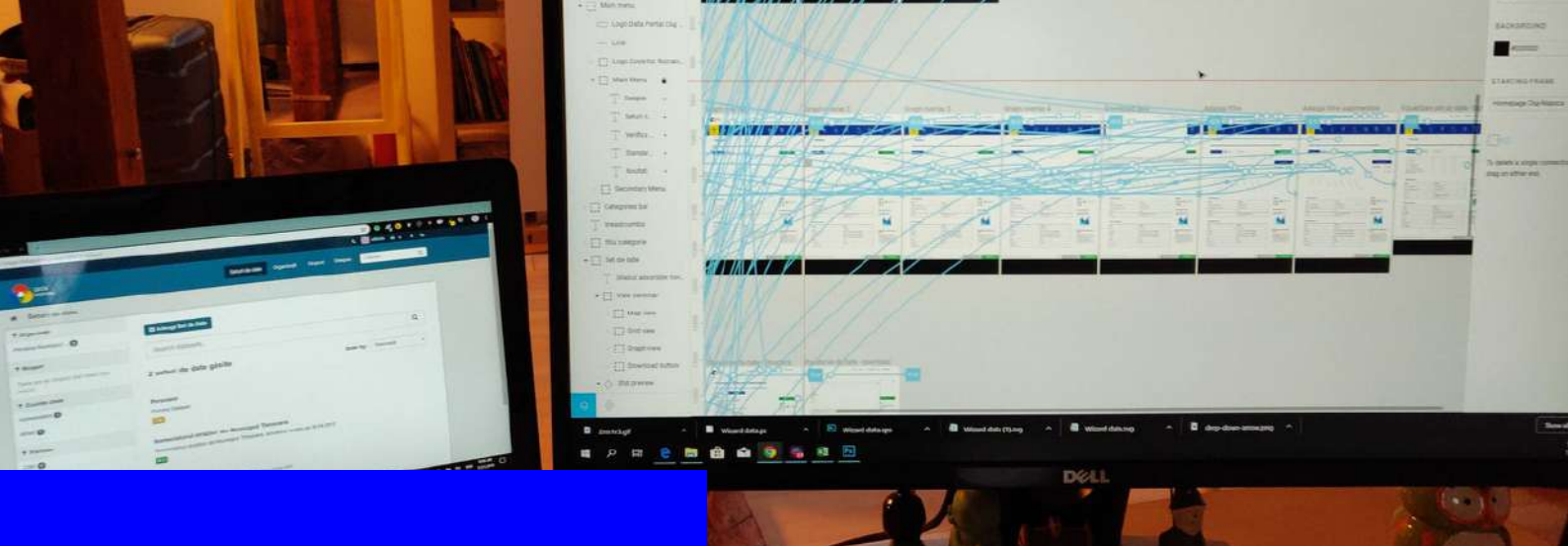
# INTERNATIONAL WORK

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 in October 2018. Also starting October, for nine months, we are hosting a National Geographic fellow who will be filming a documentary about Code for Romania, exploring the reasons why we were able to create such an impact so fast and to gather this number of people.

Through the year our specialists have also gone up on stage at numerous other events around the world such as PDF CEE, PDF Ukraine, Code for America Summit, Understanding Risk, Fearless Cities and many more.



# SUSTAINABILITY

Our sustainability strategy consists of several strategic directions that will help us become as autonomous and solid as possible. Our plans for the next two years consist of.

## **A. Turning the Civic Labs into the go-to platform for civic tech funding**

Currently we are in advanced talks with several companies and foundations, some of the prime investors in civic technology in Romania, to become the key supporter of the Civic Labs. Once the program starts working, and solutions are put up for implementation, we will be able to regain the trust of other prior investors in civic tech who are now reluctant to support app development because of the big failure rate registered so far.

## **B. Tech for Social Good as an employer branding strategy for IT companies**

The Tech for Social Good program is tailored in such way that brings together companies, employees and potential new hires together for the greater good, on a regular basis, therefore helping the involved actors to achieve their goals. Companies gain access to valuable employees, volunteers donate their time and skills in meaningful projects and Code for Romania maintains a steady development pace. We have tested various scenarios in the past two years, measured impact and adjusted our processes in order to reach this flow.



# SUSTAINABILITY

## **C. Scale and redeploy civic apps and programs on an international level**

Many of our apps can be used in a variety of situations and are also useful in other countries in regional/global contexts. For example, our election monitoring app is now scaled internationally to be used in other countries, project INLAR has been developed to cover an entire region, at the same time the Civic labs methodology can be redeployed and implemented all over the world, with the necessary resources and know-how. Therefore, the scalability and replication potential of our programs and tools can help us secure international funding.

## **d. Crowdfunding in Romania**

Crowdfunding in Romania is a highly debated topic, but nevertheless it is a complementary solution we are looking at, as our community grows bigger and bigger. The advantage we have is that the donors can see tangible results, can benefit from the developed civic apps and can measure very clearly what we promise to achieve.

## **e: External crowdfunding**

A considerable percentage of our community lives in diaspora, and also, a large portion of our followers are now residents in other countries, with a high concentration in the US. On many occasions when we engaged with them, they have expressed their desire to support Code for Romania through individual donations, but they need a set of facilities to do so.





# SUSTAINABILITY

## **f: Pursuing grants from foundations, corporations or government agencies**

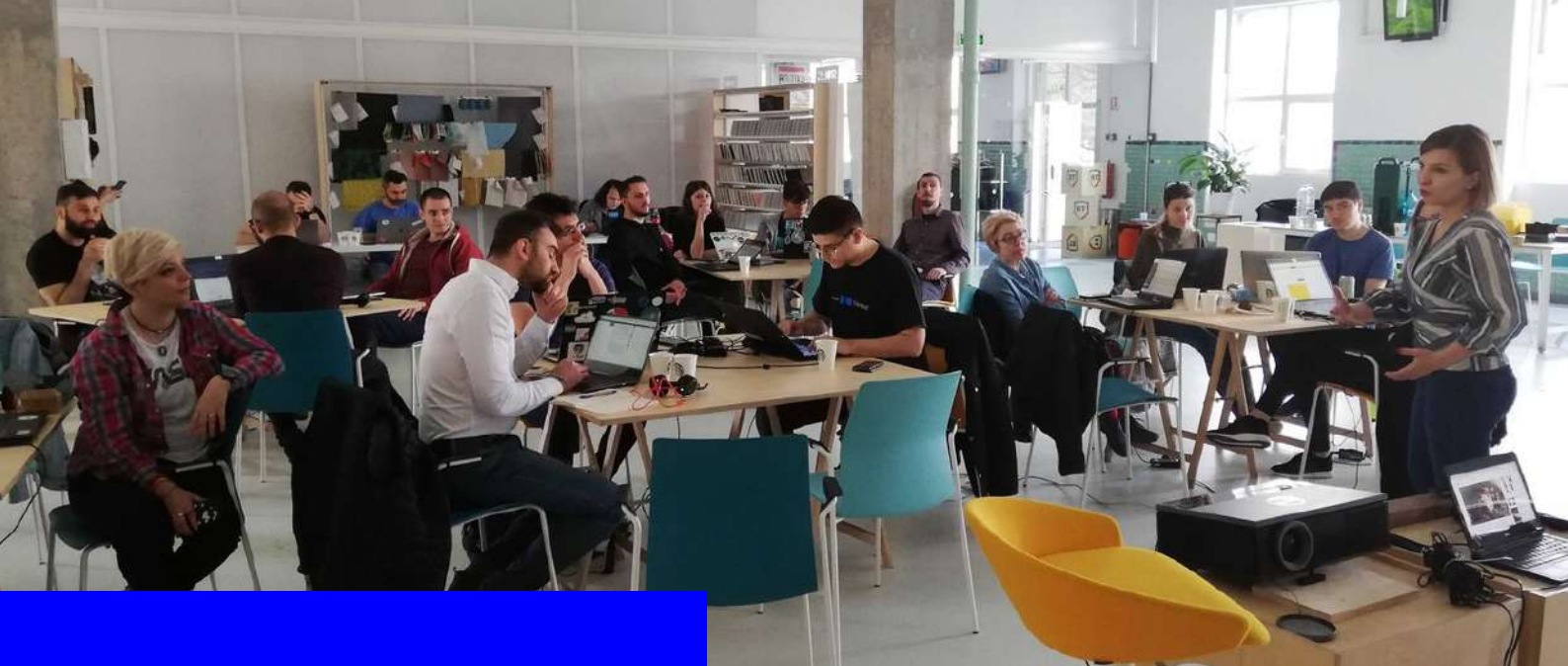
Upon researching and writing successful grant proposals Code for Romania can receive generous funding decisive to the sustainability of its programs.

## **g: Code for Romania civic apps powered by relevant commercial brands**

The civic apps we develop cover a variety of subjects, starting from arts, open data, election monitoring, up to legal tech, transparency and vulnerable groups - topics that can be interesting for those companies or commercial brands that are just looking for a small civic tech endeavor to empower. The adoption of Code for Romania civic apps will become a tactical stream of funding to round off the smaller CSR opportunities from companies that are just getting started in supporting civic tech and which have very narrow areas of focus in their CSR strategy. core values, other than through the traditional marketing channels.

## **h: Training, workshops and consultancy for NGOs and the wider audience**

While making civic tech solutions available for civil society is the first step for more efficient communities, the adoption rate of these solutions depends on the beneficiary's capacity and understanding of the main benefits these solutions bring. At the same time, bridging the digital divide is an important aspect to take into account, as most often, NGOs - even if they do want to work better and faster - they lack the necessary IT knowledge to identify their gaps and how they can fix them. This is why training programs tailored to their needs are necessary and these programs can also function as a revenue stream for the core activity of Code for Romania.



# SUSTAINABILITY

## **i: Consultancy for companies**

The same type of consultancy that we offer for NGOs is available for companies. In time, we have noticed an increase in demand from our specialists to offer a range of services to corporate actors: organisational analysis, needs, processes and flows assessment and employee retention strategies, just to name the most often cases. Therefore we understand that, even if the consultancy market is widely developed in Romania, there is still a gap to fill and an opportunity for us to secure funds.

## **j: Installing Code for Romania Advisory Council**

By creating an advisory board, Code for Romania aims to engage donors in a little advice-giving and a lot of donating and fundraising. We will invite prospective donors onto an official body, separate from the standard organization membership and we will ask for this body's additional support in engagement and communication, advocacy, public speaking engagements, fundraising, advising on programs, as well as having high profile names associated for increased credibility and providing pro bono work to assist with other staff-driven needs.



# FINANCIALS

## **Income**

Membership fees: \$5,175

Corporate sponsorship \$ 22,432

Tickets for Code for All Global Summit: \$8,633

Donations through Patreon and [www.code4.ro](http://www.code4.ro) website and income tax redirections: \$31,948

Commercial services: \$ 1124

**TOTAL: \$ 69,312**

## **Expenditures:**

Code for All Global Summit logistics and organizing: \$11,813

Contracted services and software subscriptions:\$ 27,500

Travel and accommodation: \$ 2,650

**TOTAL: \$ 42,113**





# MEDIA

GOVNEWS ABOUT | 關於 NEWSLETTER | 電子報 DIGEST | 選輯 CIVIC TECH | 公民科技 OPEN GOV | 開放政府 中文



A protestor holding up a Romanian flag during the 300,000 person strong Jan-Feb 2017 protests. Photo courtesy of [Paul Aron Wagner](#)

### Code for Romania's "Wake Up Call"

How tragedy and protest led to the creation of Eastern Europe's largest civic hacking community.

OCF [Follow](#)  
May 1, 2018 - 5 min read

### Cum e să gestionezi o comunitate de peste 500 de voluntari – Studiu de caz: Code for Romania

septembrie 14, 2018 12:33 ■ de [Constantin Pescaru](#)



**"Construim tool-uri digitale care rezolvă probleme sociale. Facem tehnologia să lucreze pentru cetățeni. Dăm putere oamenilor simpli. Producem schimbări în comunități. Dar avem nevoie de tine să facem lucrurile să dureze."**

Acesta este mesajul cu care cei de la Code For Romania îți întâmpină vizitatorii pe site. Este o descriere pe scurt a activității lor complexe.

### Aplicația "Monitorizare Vot", implementare la nivel internațional

[Oana Coșman](#)

Aplicația "Monitorizare Vot", dezvoltată de Code for Romania, urmează să fie folosită la alegerile din Polonia, ulterior fiind implementată la nivel internațional.



### Code for All aduce la București specialiști de la Mozilla și GitHub

[Oana Coșman](#)

Heroes of Tech, primul summit global pe teme de tehnologie pusă în slujba societății din lume, este găzduit de organizația non-guvernamentală Code for Romania, a doua cea mai mare organizație de civic tech din lume și membră a Code for All, o rețea care cuprinde astăzi 20 de țări de pe 5 continente.



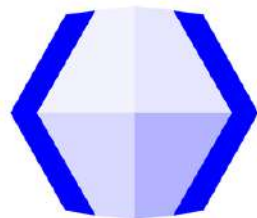
**DOR** Despre ▼ Povesti ▼ Podcast ▼ Arhivă

### 31 de ani, co-fondator și CEO Code for Romania

De Dor  
Fotografie de [Alex Gălmășu](#)  
4 decembrie 2018



**WE ARE THE ONES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.  
THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE CHANGE.**



**Code for  
Romania**

**WWW.CODE4.RO // CONTACT@CODE4.RO**