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**City of Timișoara**  
September 30, 2020

Dear Open Government Partnership Co-Chairs:

As governmental and non-governmental representatives of the city of Timișoara, we are proud to participate in the OGP Local program 2020!

Timișoara, a city of over 300.000 people, operates under a City Council-Mayor system of governance. Our concerted efforts to increase transparency, accountability, and civic participation has yielded results: Neighborhood Consultative Councils, a Seniors' Consultative Council, a Youth Consultative Council; a comprehensive strategic plan co-created with the citizens; a local data portal; ECoC<sup>1</sup> title for 2021, annual hackathons with community focus and many more.

Our work can be accelerated by this opportunity to work with the OGP Local Program to intertwine these efforts into a newer and greater outcome for our community. Timișoara, among others, is a city of innovation, technology, multiculturalism. And it is the starting point of the revolution<sup>2</sup> against communism in Romania. So, the principles of participatory governance are at home in our city! Through the OGP Local program 2020, we aim to evolve and contribute to the global culture of open government that empowers and delivers for citizens

It should be mentioned from the very beginning the fact that the content of this letter was co-created during a participatory process, a public debate involving political parties, civil society, academic, business and other cities representatives. And the Romanian OGP Point of Contact.

In the following chapters we have captured some of the experience, priorities, motivation and objectives of the city in terms of open governance. These will be approached with a view to increasing citizens' trust in government through responsive, reliable and open communications, while integrating these principles to an open and inclusive response to the current pandemic crisis.

## Priorities

The city's main priorities, identified and prioritized through a participatory process, are: 1) Citizen participation, 2) Transparency and open data, 3) Digital governance, 4) Education and 5) Communication. Four of them are horizontal and one is vertical (Education). For each of these 5 priorities, there are several expected results, captured in the following chapters.

## Involvement

In order to encourage citizen participation in our local community, we used, with small and successful steps, the following instruments: participatory leadership, open budgeting, open repository for documents, thematic working groups, smart tech interactions in the public area.

On the other hand, we intend to use wisely the opportunity of the very recent local elections. The mayor to be in our city just won the elections with a program built upon the slogan "The revolution of the good governance!", an approach which includes the principles of open government.

Of course, we are, also, learning from the experience of other cities in order to increase the involvement of citizens in city governance and civic activities.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.themayor.eu/en/timisoara-is-the-european-capital-of-culture-2021-for-romania>

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian\\_Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian_Revolution)