

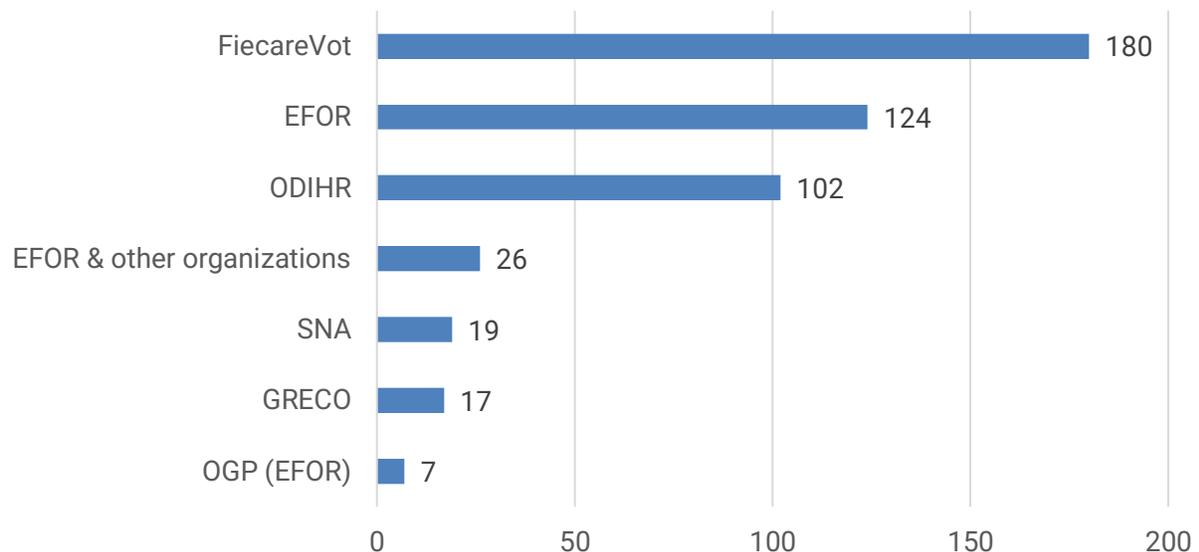


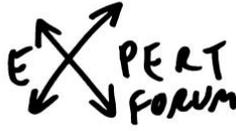
Expert Forum Electoral Recommendations Database

About the database

The Electoral Recommendations Database (<https://expertforum.ro/recomandari-electorale>) contains recommendations or commitments regarding the electoral process and political financing, based on evaluations made by national or international organizations and institutions, which take into account agreements or other international documents to which Romania has adhered or ratified. The recommendations were made by Expert Forum, FiecareVot (a national coalition that monitors the elections in Romania and of which EFOR is a member), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE / ODIHR) or the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). The database also includes commitments from the Action Plans of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (SNA), respectively. Along the way, other relevant recommendations will be added. Most of the recommendations are made between 2016-2022, but it also includes those formulated by GRECO in 2010 and evaluated in several compliance reports, while ODIHR recommendations go back to 2009.

The database contains on 2 May 2022 a number of 475 electoral recommendations.





Methodology

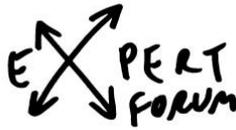
The recommendations are divided into categories, which related to the stages of the electoral process. In some cases, a secondary category was added to better illustrate the multiple perspectives of a recommendation.

A recommendation can have one of the following statuses:

- *Implemented* - recommendation has been fully implemented
- *Not implemented* - recommendation not implemented at all
- *No longer valid* - this is a temporary regulation, which can no longer be evaluated
- *Cannot be evaluated* - there is not enough data or has been implemented recently and there was no time for a new evaluation. This category also includes recommendations related to elections that have not been held in the meantime and are specific to that type of election (e.g. elections for the European Parliament)
- *Partially* - only part of the recommendation has been implemented. In some cases there is draft legislation in the approval circuit to address the issue.

If a recommendation was made for a specific law or a type of election, the evaluation takes into account their specificity and does not refer to other ones. For example, the introduction of two rounds for the local elections will only refer to the law on local elections. In this case, the evaluation reflects the current status of the law.

However, there are some general recommendations, which refer to all types of processes such as “Streamlining the voting procedure and rethinking the manner in which voting materials are produced”; in this case, the evaluation refers to the most recent elections, which are the parliamentary elections, held in December 2020. If legislative amendments have been made in such cases, they are updated to May 2022. The majority of recommendations on political finance are general and refer to most elections.



Recommendations have been divided into legislative and practical. In case of some practical recommendations the assessment is not available as they have been made in 2020, but they will be evaluated for the next elections, if they will be relevant.

The status of international recommendations combines EFOR's own evaluation and the status given by the organization, if available; see for example the case of ODIHR's database <https://paragraph25.odihhr.pl>.

The latest update was made in May 2022. The database includes all types of elections and referenda.

The functions of the database

allows the selection of different filters

shows the number of recommendation

details about category, type and year

illustrates the status of implementation

Author and link to the report

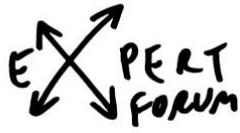
the recommendation

Statistics

- Most recommendations are related to political funding (113), electoral administration (55) and voting organization (61)
- Most recommendations were made for local (125) and parliamentary elections (122)



- Most recommendations were made in 2020 (216), while 58 originate in 2019.
- A quarter of the ODIHR recommendations and almost 46% of the FiecareVot coalition recommendations were not implemented
- 44% of the EFOR proposals and 15% of the ODIHR proposals were partially implemented.
- In terms of full implementation, the largest percentage is attributed to EFOR (36%), ODIHR (28%) and GRECO (17%).
- Most of the non-implemented recommendations are those related to political financing, followed by those related to the organization of voting and electoral administration; the order is similar to those partially implemented. Most of the recommendations fully implemented are those related to political funding (28%), voting organization (23%) and electoral administration (13%).
- A more detailed analysis in specific categories shows that the percentage of non-implemented recommendations is rather high regarding the media, complaints and appeals, and the participation of women in the electoral process
- Among the oldest unimplemented ODIHR recommendations are those related to the elaboration of an Electoral Code, ensuring the possibility for observers to monitor the entire electoral process or the publicity of the meetings of the electoral administration. For example, the need for an Electoral Code can be traced back to the ODIHR's report on the 2000 presidential and parliamentary elections. These facts reflect the low will of the legislators to increase transparency and to produce reform
- The recommendations formulated by EFOR for the Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2022-2024 were not accepted by the Permanent Electoral Authority, which is a negative development in terms of transparency.



Electoral timeline

