

ASPECTS REGARDING SOME OF THE E-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN ROMANIA

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Abstract: *This article presents some of the e-government activities of individuals via websites in Romania in the period 2015-2018, in accordance with the data available on Eurostat. We have focused on the aspects concerning the behavior of the individuals regarding the submission of the official forms to public authorities' websites.*

Keywords: *e-government, public authorities, official forms, internet use, information.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Today the Internet offers us the possibility not only to order goods or services for private use, but also to interact with public authorities via official websites, to obtain information from those sites, to download official forms, to submit completed forms, and in some countries to submit income tax declaration.

We analyzed in this paper some of the data available on Eurostat [1] concerning those aspects in Romania compared with the EU28 (European Union – 28 countries).

2. DATA ANALYSIS

We took into consideration the following indicators, as calculated by the Eurostat methodology [2]: Internet use: interaction with public authorities, Internet use: obtaining

information from public authorities web sites, Internet use: downloading official forms and Internet use: submitting completed forms, divided into macroregions, cities, towns and suburbs and rural areas in Romania. We compared those with the data from the EU28.

Concerning the first indicator – Internet use: interaction with public authorities – calculated as percent of individuals aged 16 to 74 in Romania in 2015 the value was 11% and then decreased to 9% in 2016 and remained the same until 2018. In the EU28 the value of this indicator was 46% in 2015 and increased constantly up to 52% in 2018 [3]. This indicator was obtained as an average of the values registered in the 4 Macroregions of Romania (NUTS-I) [4]: Macroregion one – North-West and Center (NUTS-II) comprising the

following counties: Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Alba, Brașov, Covasna, Harghita, Mureș and Sibiu (NUTS-III); Macroregion two – North-East and South-East comprising the following counties: Bacău, Botoșani, Iași, Neamț, Suceava, Vaslui, Brăila, Buzău, Constanța, Galați, Tulcea, Vrancea; Macroregion three – South-Muntenia and București-Ilfov

comprising the following counties: Argeș, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Prahova, Teleorman, București, Ilfov; Macroregion four – South-West Oltenia and West comprising the following counties: Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinți, Olt, Vâlcea, Arad, Caraș-Severin, Hunedoara, Timiș, as you can see in the picture below (Figure 1) and in Table 1.

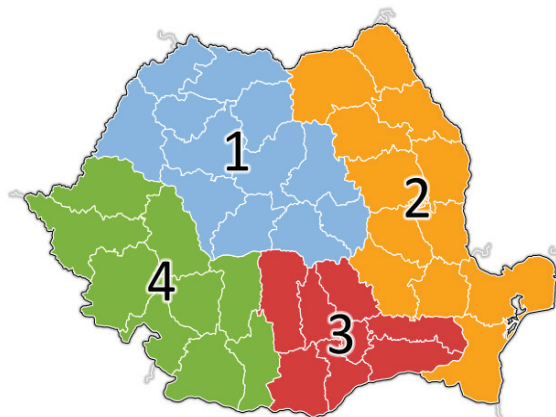


Figure 1. Macroregions of Romania

Table 1. Internet use: interaction with public authorities
(percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
Romania	11	9	9	9
<i>Macroregion one</i>	11	9	11	12
North-West	10	9	8	12
Center	13	10	14	11
<i>Macroregion two</i>	7	6	7	5
North-East	6	6	8	7
South-East	8	6	6	3
<i>Macroregion three</i>	14	12	9	12

South - Muntenia	7	7	6	11
Bucuresti - Ilfov	22	19	13	13
Macroregion four	11	8	8	9
South-West Oltenia	12	12	7	9
West	11	5	9	9

As you can see in the Table 1 above the minimum value registered for this indicator was in 2018 in South-East Region (3%) and the maximum value registered was in 2015 in Bucuresti-Ilfov (22%).

Table 2. Internet use: interaction with public authorities (last 12 months). Individuals living in cities (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	52	54	55	58
Romania	16	16	14	13

Table 3. Internet use: interaction with public authorities (last 12 months). Individuals living in towns and suburbs (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	46	47	46	50
Romania	12	8	9	9

Table 4. Internet use: interaction with public authorities (last 12 months). Individuals living in rural areas (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	39	41	43	47
Romania	6	5	4	6

Analyzing the data showed in the tables above we draw the conclusion that the percentage of individuals using the Internet for interaction with public authorities is in direct correlation with the size of the place, meaning also with the degree of economic development. The maximum value is 16% in cities

If we are dividing the indicator Internet use: interaction with public authorities in sub-indicators showing the individuals living in cities, towns and suburbs and in rural areas we obtain the 3 tables below.

and 4% in rural areas.

Also the size of the gap between Romania and EU28 is increasing from cities to rural areas.

If we are talking about the second indicator – Internet use: obtaining information from public authorities web sites the data are showed in the next 3 tables.

Table 5. Internet use: obtaining information from public authorities' web sites (last 12 months). Individuals living in cities (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	45	47	46	49
Romania	14	14	10	11

Table 6. Internet use: obtaining information from public authorities' web sites (last 12 months). Individuals living in towns and suburbs (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	40	42	40	42
Romania	10	6	8	7

Table 7. Internet use: obtaining information from public authorities' web sites (last 12 months). Individuals living in rural areas (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	33	35	35	38
Romania	4	4	4	5

This second indicator shows similar values with the first one, meaning the same difference depending on the place of living and on the economic development. The maximum value is 14% in cities and 4% in rural areas. The gap between Romania and EU28 is also similar with the values of the first indicator, but in Romania we have a constant

decrease and in EU28 we have an increase of the percent of individuals using the internet for obtaining information from public authorities' web sites.

We can see data for the third and the fourth indicator – Internet use: downloading official forms and Internet use: submitting completed forms on the next 6 tabs.

Table 8. Internet use: downloading official forms (last 12 months). Individuals living in cities (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	32	33	34	36
Romania	9	8	9	7

Table 9. Internet use: downloading official forms (last 12 months).
Individuals living in towns and suburbs (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	27	28	28	30
Romania	6	4	4	4

Table 10. Internet use: downloading official forms (last 12 months).
Individuals living in rural areas (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	23	24	26	27
Romania	2	2	2	3

Table 11. Internet use: submitting completed forms (last 12 months).
Individuals living in cities (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	30	32	35	39
Romania	8	7	6	6

Table 12. Internet use: submitting completed forms (last 12 months).
Individuals living in towns and suburbs (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	25	27	27	32
Romania	5	3	3	4

Table 13. Internet use: submitting completed forms (last 12 months).
Individuals living in rural areas (percentage of individuals)

GEO/TIME	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU28	22	24	27	31
Romania	2	2	2	2

The use of Internet for downloading and submitting official forms has lower values than the first 2 indicators analyzed. Maximum value is 9% and minimum value is only 2%. The gap between Romania and EU28 stays the same.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Taking into consideration that in 2018 81% of the households in Romania had Internet access, the percent of the individuals aged 16 to 74 that are using the Internet for interaction with public authorities is very low.

More specialized courses or training could be necessary in order for this percent to grow. Also from the part of the public authorities more transparency is recommended and using on-line user friendly platforms.

REFERENCES

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