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Monthly Digital Report

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Executive summary

In **November**, Romania advanced key initiatives to strengthen digital infrastructure, AI adoption, and transparency in public administration. The Constitutional Court validated the Lobby Transparency Law, creating the Unique Register of Transparency of Interests in Parliament (RUTI), a public platform where MPs must record all meetings with third parties, including companies, advocacy organizations, and trade unions. This measure increases accountability in lobbying, requiring digital and telecom companies to adjust engagement strategies as interactions with policymakers are now publicly documented.

The MPs also adopted the **National Catalogue of Public Services (CNSP)**, a centralized digital platform managed by ADR to register all public services and integrate with national IT systems. CNSP standardizes service provision, ensures compliance, and simplifies citizen and business interactions with public authorities. At the same time, ADR and MEDAT launched the **APTA AI platform** to support public institutions in developing, testing, and piloting AI-powered digital solutions, optimizing G2C and G2G processes, reducing bureaucracy, and improving service quality, with EU and ADR funding totaling 295.8 million RON.

The Romanian Government also approved the launch of a **European AI Gigafactory** initiative, a high-performance computing and AI infrastructure with over 100,000 AI accelerators, planned as a public–private partnership with €4–5 billion in investments. The Gigafactory, to be built in Cernavodă and Doicești and powered by zero-emission nuclear energy, will provide world-class AI resources for startups, enterprises, and research institutions. Meanwhile, MEDAT proposed an extension of the **National Program for Digital Transformation of Local Authorities**, promoting integration with the Government Cloud, eIDAS nodes, document digitization, RPA adoption, and standardized services across local administrations.

Looking ahead to **December**, the Chamber of Deputies is expected to **reject the SOS Romania AI Regulation**, which proposed strict rules on AI transparency, human oversight, and penalties, avoiding potential overregulation and legal uncertainty for the tech sector. Deputies may also **issue a report on the draft bill protecting minors on Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs)**, which, if adopted in February 2026, will introduce age verification, parental controls, content moderation, and rapid response obligations, with penalties tied to global turnover. These developments will continue shaping Romania’s digital, AI, and telecom landscape, balancing innovation, public service efficiency, and citizen protection.

Highlights of the previous month

(1) Romania Implements Lobby Transparency Law.

Since November, Romania has a **new law** regulating lobbying in Parliament, following its approval by the Constitutional Court. The legislation establishes the **Unique Register of Transparency of Interests in Parliament (RUTI)**, a public platform where MPs must record all meetings with third parties concerning legislative initiatives. Third parties include companies, advocacy organizations, public affairs firms, associations, foundations, trade unions, employer organizations, and chambers of commerce. Both MPs and third parties must provide detailed information, including the subject of discussion, organizational structure, activity domain, and funding sources. Meetings can only occur if the third party is registered and the MP has reviewed the relevant information. The platform ensures public access to these interactions, supports regular data updates, and allows parliamentary leadership to monitor active actors and areas of interest in legislative processes.

Impact: The law's implementation will increase transparency and accountability in all sectors that conduct public affairs and lobby activities, including the digital and telecom sectors. Companies and industry groups will need to adjust their advocacy strategies, as all interactions with policymakers are now formally documented and publicly accessible, potentially influencing legislative outcomes and stakeholder engagement.

(2) CNSP: The National Digital Gateway for Public Services.

In early November, the MPs adopted the **law** establishing the **National Catalogue of Public Services (CNSP)**, a centralized digital platform designed to organize, monitor, and facilitate access to public services offered by central authorities. Managed by the **Authority for the Digitalization of Romania (ADR)**, CNSP provides free public access to information on available services, steps required to obtain them, digitalization levels, conditions, and associated costs. The platform will integrate with other government IT systems, including the national cloud, interoperability platform, and electronic public administration systems. All public institutions are legally required to register their services in CNSP and adhere to a standardized provision process, with penalties for non-compliance. ADR will issue technical structures, registration methodology, and enforce compliance within specified timelines, ensuring a unified and secure digital service framework. The law was already signed by the President and published in the Official Gazette.

Impact: The CNSP will significantly enhance transparency and accessibility for citizens and businesses, simplifying interaction with public authorities. It offers clearer guidance on regulatory and administrative processes, while creating opportunities to integrate services with the platform and streamline digital service delivery.

(3) Government to Launch National AI Platform for Public Administration.

At the end of November, the Authority for the Digitalization of Romania (ADR) and the Ministry of Economy (MEDAT) launched a **draft government decision for the development and implementation of APTA**, a national AI platform designed to **support public institutions in creating, testing, and piloting advanced digital solutions**. Funded through POCIDIF Priority 2, the project will run for 48 months and aims to enhance e-governance by optimizing interactions between government and citizens (G2C) and between institutions (G2G). APTA will provide software, hardware acceleration, and flexible infrastructure for AI experimentation, training, and consulting. The platform will enable the development of AI-powered services that reduce bureaucracy, lower costs, improve service quality, and facilitate data-driven policymaking. Direct beneficiaries include ADR and partner public institutions, while citizens, businesses, and select SMEs will indirectly benefit from enhanced digital services. Key indicators include five participating institutions, 40,000 annual users of optimized digital products, and the creation of five AI-based solutions. The project is financed with 295.8 million RON from EU funds and ADR's budget.

Impact: APTA is expected to accelerate AI adoption in public administration, streamline service delivery, and improve transparency. For the digital and telecom sectors, it opens opportunities to collaborate on AI projects, integrate intelligent solutions into public services, and leverage the platform for developing innovative, data-driven applications.

(4) Government Advances National Interoperability Platform for Public Services.

The **second draft government decision** launched last month by the ADR and MEDAT establishes the **National Interoperability Platform (PNI)**. The platform aims to **modernize and connect public institutions' IT systems, enabling secure, automated, and standardized data exchange**. Key features include the integration of core state registers (population, tax, commercial registry, education, etc.), implementation of the "once-only" principle for citizens and businesses, electronic authentication (eIDAS, ROeID), and connection to European services such as the Single Digital Gateway. PNI will provide digital services for both public institutions and end-users, centralize communication histories, and improve administrative efficiency. The platform will be administered by ADR, with a total project budget of 164.4 million lei and a 36-month implementation timeline, funded by European and state resources.

Impact: PNI is expected to streamline public service delivery, reduce administrative burdens, and increase transparency. For the digital and telecom sectors, the platform offers faster access to authoritative data, easier integration with public systems, and opportunities to develop and deploy digital services that leverage standardized government infrastructure.

(5) MEDAT Extends Local Digital Transformation Program.

Additionally, MEDAT has also proposed a **draft emergency ordinance** to extend the **National Program for Digital Transformation of Local Public Authorities** by one year, until the end of 2026. The program supports local authorities in **becoming more efficient, transparent, and**

citizen-focused, while aligning with the **Government Cloud project and European eIDAS nodes**. The extension enables continued integration of local IT systems, modernization of administrative processes, cost and time reduction, and standardization of public services. The program allows local authorities to acquire software, IT systems, and integration services for delivering digital services and supports initiatives such as document digitization, interoperability standardization, deployment of robotic process automation (RPA), and improved responsiveness of local public services to citizens' needs.

Impact: The extension will accelerate local digital transformation, enhance interoperability with national and European systems, and expand the reach of digital services. For digital and telecom sectors, it provides opportunities to supply technology solutions, integrate innovative applications, and support the modernization of local public administration infrastructures.

(6) USR Proposes Unified Framework for Public Digital Infrastructure.

USR MPs have proposed a new **legislative initiative** to establish the **National Platform of Public Digital Infrastructure (PNIDP)**, creating the **first unified legal framework for managing, monitoring, and securing all public digital resources**. The platform will register domains, websites, applications, software licenses, IT equipment, and publicly funded projects, with unique persistent codes assigned to each resource and institution. Managed by the Authority for the Digitalization of Romania (ADR), with technical support from STS and security oversight by DNSC, PNIDP enforces standardized digital infrastructure practices, mandates the appointment of a “digital responsible” in every public institution, and sets minimum technical standards including MFA, TLS encryption, DNSSEC, WCAG compliance, and backup/patch management. Institutions must register their digital assets within six months, with sanctions for non-compliance and restrictions on unregistered resources. The platform also ensures interoperability, prevents duplicate data requests, and allows redistribution and reuse of publicly funded digital resources.

Impact: The PNIDP will enhance security, transparency, and operational efficiency across Romania's public digital infrastructure. For the digital and telecom sectors, this law encourages standardized resource management, improves cybersecurity practices, and facilitates integration with government systems, potentially influencing project planning, software procurement, and collaboration with public institutions.

(7) Government Launches Bid for European AI Gigafactory.

In the last week of November, the Romanian Government approved a **memorandum** initiating the process for Romania to host a **European AI Gigafactory**, a high-performance computing (HPC) and AI infrastructure with over 100,000 AI accelerators. The project, planned as a **public-private partnership** with total investments of EUR 4 – 5 billion (up to 35% public funding), **will be built in two phases at Cernavodă and Doicești, powered by zero-emission nuclear energy**. The memorandum mandates the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Finance, with ADR support, to prepare the EuroHPC application, negotiate with the European Commission and partners, attract private investment, and

define the technical, financial, and operational model. A multi-institutional working group, supported by the World Bank, will manage the process with a target proposal submission by March 2026.

Impact: *The AI Gigafactory is expected to strengthen Romania's digital ecosystem, providing world-class computing resources for AI research, startups, and enterprise innovation. For the digital and telecom sectors, it opens opportunities for co-investment, development of AI-enabled software, cyber resilience solutions, and collaboration with academia, accelerating AI adoption and cloud-native services nationwide.*

What to expect this month

(1) Deputies, to definitively reject SOS-backed AI Regulation.

In late November, Romanian MPs are expected to reject the **AI legislative initiative** proposed by SOS Romania, that sets **a national legal framework for the use of artificial intelligence (AI)**, focused on transparency, the protection of fundamental rights, abuse prevention, and the encouragement of innovation. The proposal defines key AI concepts such as algorithmic decision-making, explicability, and critical sector usage. It prohibits fully automated decision-making in public administration, judiciary, and healthcare without human oversight, mandates independent audits of AI systems, and introduces criminal and financial penalties for unethical or abusive AI use. Given that the Committees Commissions have already issued a rejection report, and the plenary session of the Chamber of Deputies is likely to vote against it before the winter parliamentary recess.

Impact: Although framed as a safeguard for transparency and citizens' rights, the AI initiative proposed by SOS Romania (a far-right, ultranationalist party), raises concerns over its underlying motivations and potential unintended consequences. It introduces rigid restrictions and severe penalties that could stifle innovation, especially in emerging tech sectors, while duplicating or conflicting with the more balanced and technically grounded provisions of the EU AI Act. Its populist framing around “protection from manipulation” and “deepfake bans” may reflect more of a political stance than a coherent digital strategy, risking overregulation without clear enforcement mechanisms. If adopted (quite impossible), it could create legal uncertainty and discourage investment in AI development and deployment in Romania.

(2) Deputies Consider Bill to Protect Minors on Large Online Platforms.

Likewise, in December, the deputies from the referred committees could issue a report on the **draft bill** aiming to protect minors under 18 from harmful content on **Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs)**. While adoption before the winter recess is unlikely, the bill could become law most likely in February during the first ordinary session of 2026. We remind you that the bill defines harmful content and imposes obligations on VLOPs to implement age verification, active parental controls, digital mediation services, and rapid responses to regulatory notifications. It also prohibits monetization of live content involving minors without consent and establishes penalties of 0.5 - 3% of global annual turnover for violations. ANCOM, together with CNA, will enforce the law, and the Ministry of Education, CNA, and NGOs will develop a national digital literacy and media education program for children aged 5 - 18.

Impact: *If adopted, the bill would enhance child safety online and promote responsible platform management. For the digital and telecom sectors, it will require robust content moderation systems, age verification tools, parental controls, and compliance with strict reporting and response obligations,*

potentially increasing operational costs but improving user trust and platform accountability.