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**Initiatives Platforms  
Vision**

**Version 2.1**

Initiatives Platform	Version: 2.2
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## Revision History

Date	Version	Description	Author
19/Mar/18	1.0	First version	Ieremias Viorel
20/Mar/18	2.0	Full version	Ieremias Viorel
23/Apr/2018	2.1	Fixed some formatting issues	Varadi Robert
20/May/2018	2.2	Final adjustments	Ieremias Viorel

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# Vision

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to collect, analyze, and define high-level needs and features of the Initiatives Platform, an application that aims to both empower and make people more responsible, by giving them the chance to be part directly in their communities' development process. It focuses on the objectives, the stakeholders, on the needs of the targeted users, and why these needs exist. The details of how the Initiatives Platform fulfills these needs are detailed in the use-case and supplementary specifications.

### 1.2 Scope

This Vision Document applies to the Initiatives Platform, which will be developed by a team of two undergraduate students, namely Varadi Robert and Ieremias Viorel. The team will develop the application to work as a web-based platform. The application will provide a way for citizens to propose projects they consider relevant and useful for their community. In the same time, the decision-making process will be in their hands too, since the projects will be reviewed and voted by the same people, that actively want to take part in the governing of their city.

### 1.3 Definitions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations

- Participative budgeting - budgeting process under which those people impacted by a budget are actively involved in the budget creation process
- Web based platform – content distribution application that is accessed over a network using HTTP, rather than existing within a device's memory, often run inside a web browser

Consult the glossary for further terms.

### 1.4 References

1. <https://bugetareparticipativa.ro/>
2. <http://bp.primariaclujnapoca.ro/>
3. <https://www.accountingtools.com/articles/what-is-participative-budgeting.html>
4. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1141085.pdf>

### 1.5 Overview

The following sections of this document contain more details about the problem statement, the stakeholders that come together in the system, the users and their profile and finally the product requirements.

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## 2. Positioning

### 2.1 Problem Statement

The problem of	people not having a simple, tangible way of involving in the decision-making process of their community
affects	on a local level, the citizens of the community itself, all demographic categories equally; on the national level, society as a whole
the impact of which is	frustration, lack of trust, lack of interest and disappointment amongst the citizens
a successful solution would be	a simple, easy to access and use web-based platform where they can list and describe the things they think are necessary for their community and vote in order to choose the most important of them

### 2.2 Product Position Statement

For	citizens of a community, town or city
Who	don't have a perceptible and feasible way of involving in taking the decisions that affect them
The Initiatives Platform	is a web application
That	provides them the opportunity to submit ideas and projects that aim increase the quality of life in their community and to be part of the group of people that decide what is implemented
Unlike	other existing implementations, it is easier to use, provides more functionality and encourages responsibility and involvement in the same time
Our product	provides users with a meaningful way of expressing their needs and electing in an organized and democratic way the measures to be implemented in their city in order to improve the overall quality of their lives

### 2.3 Stakeholder and User Descriptions

The main stakeholder in the case of the Initiatives Platform is represented by the local authority - the mayor and the members of the Council of the city where the system is implemented. It is in their interest too, to have a healthy and correct distribution of funds, for projects that can improve the conditions for as many people as possible. Under these assumptions, it is obvious the interest in a system where both the propositions and the decisions come from the actors that are to be affected mostly by those decisions, namely the citizens.

The users of the system, as already mentioned, are the citizens of community. Registration in the system is conditioned by the same regulations that condition the right to vote in local or national elections, as established by the Constitution or the organic laws of the country. As a consequence, the person that wants to register in the platform must be eligible in terms of age, mental health state and criminal record. Any incompatibility results in denying the

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person's possibility to register on the platform. Further details about the terms and condition are provided in the Terms and Conditions of Use document.

The activity on the platform is monitored and mediated by a team of content advisors, that make sure the content is not offensive or inappropriate in any way. The content advisors verify and if necessary, take the necessary action against users that do not use the platform in a disciplined, appropriate way.

## 2.4 Stakeholder Summary

Name	Description	Responsibilities
Local authority	The institutions that are responsible with the governing at a local level	Makes sure that the implementation follows the legal context, that projects are budgeted and implemented according to the result of the voting campaigns and supervises overall activity on the platform, to avoid inappropriate proposals or behavior of users. Regarding the last objective, it will coordinate a team of content advisors that will review content flagged as offensive and inappropriate in the environment of the platform.
Citizen	Person, that is eligible to register and use the platform	Keep an adequate communication and behavior, when it comes both to submitting project and when making suggestions to existing proposals
Content advisors	Employees of the local authority that will supervise the activity on the platform	Despite the fact that people will be required to register with their true identities, and more than that, their identities will be checked against the information from the national information systems, there may be situations when users behave offensively or inappropriately. These situations will be immediately flagged by other users. A content advisor will review the respective content and check if it's truly the case. If so, punitive measures will be taken against that user, ranging from temporarily disabling some of the functionalities of the platform to denying the right to vote in a number of voting sessions.

## 2.5 User Summary

Name	Description	Responsibilities	Stakeholder
Citizen	Member of a community, resident	Uses application to forward ideas and / or vote for ideas proposed by other users. Proposed projects should be feasible, reasonable and should be community-centered, not self-	Self

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## 2.6 User Environment

The Initiatives Platform will be used by voting-eligible citizens of a community to submit for voting and to vote himself, regardless of age, field of activity, religion or other criteria, development projects aimed to improve the overall life standard in the respective city.

## 3. Product Requirements

The main requirement is to create an application that can be used equally well by all the citizens of the community. The right of initiative and the right of vote are fundamental rights, that every person has, and this should apply in the case of the application.

This means first of all that the application should be very easy to use, so as not to cause difficulties to people with poor technology education. It should have intuitive UI and interactions and should contain indications and guides on how to be used.

Then, it should have very low system requirements and should be easy to access, meaning that people who only have access to less capable computes can access the application equally well.

Finally, it should be available non-stop, in order to provide a fair and accurate view of the people's needs.