



TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL  
ROMANIA

**Stakeholder participation  
in policy-making**

# TO LOBBY OR NOT TO LOBBY: PROS & CONS

## ADVANTAGES

- favouring stakeholder participation in policy-making
- providing information to support policy-options
- bringing specific problems on the public agenda

## DISADVANTAGES

- excessive, undue influence for wealthy stakeholders in policy-making
- biased, one-sided information as basis for policy-outcomes
- opaque interference of interest groups in setting the public agenda


**Some interest-groups have more power and resources to participate in policy-making through lobbying than others. How can we ensure equal access? „ How can we ensure that we don't turn democracy into pecuniacracy (power of money) ? ”**

# INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS & NATIONAL CONTEXT

- Creating transparency in lobbying is a focus point on the international agenda
    - Council of Europe
    - European Commission
    - Transparency International
  - Lobby regulation needs to take into account international recommendations, best practices, lessons learned, but also the national context.
- 

# EQUAL ACCESS TO POLICY-MAKING

We need to ensure equal access for all stakeholders to the decision-making process. This implies:

- ***Transparent influencing of decision-making***
  - ***Safeguards against undue influence***
- 

# MECHANISM FOR PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVE

Lobbying is justified in the legitimate need of stakeholders to participate in the decision-making process, not only through feedback, but also through input.

***Transparency International Romania recommends:***

***-the creation of transparent mechanisms that enable the civil society and the business environment to have public policy initiative = to bring their problems on the public agenda***

# MECHANISM FOR PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVE

Essential features of the mechanism for public policy initiative:

- It should complement the procedure for citizen legislative initiative with a more accessible tool, usable by CSOs and business associations
- It should complement the law for transparency in decision-making, by allowing input, rather than mere feedback, from stakeholders
- It should provide a framework that allows participation and efficient social and civic dialogue between stakeholder groups



## **Transparency International Romania**

Nicolae Bălcescu 21, etaj 2, 010044 Bucharest  
phone +4 031 6606 000 / fax +4 031 6606 006  
office@transparency.org.ro  
www.transparency.org.ro/

[facebook.com/transparencyRO](https://www.facebook.com/transparencyRO)