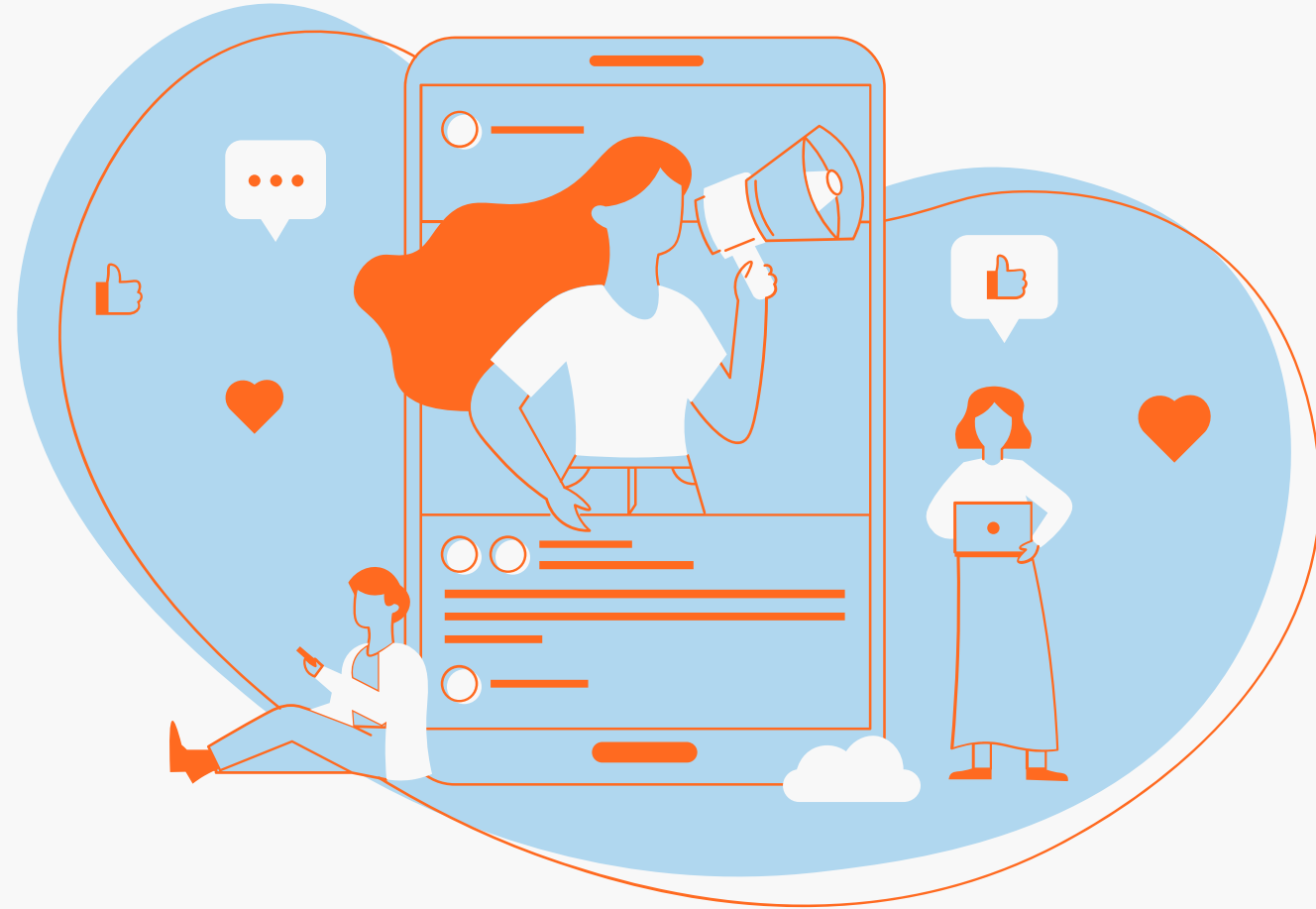


Social Fabrics Research Lab

FabLab



Meet a new kind of research, development and innovation lab



Manifesto

ACADEMIC WORK,
FROM DUSTY TO FABULOUS



DO WE NEED US?

From ivory tower to **co-creation lab**

From hierarchical casts to **leadership-mentorship-collaborative model**

From know-it-all to **tried-it-all**

From abstract to **empirical**

From niche to **public**

From ignored to **relevant**

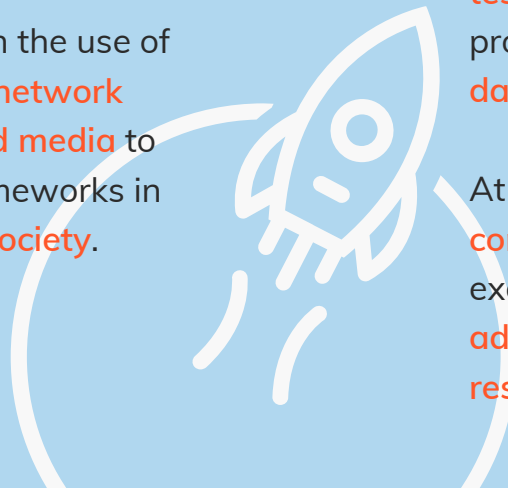
YES, **YES WE DO.**

FabLab's Vision, Mission & Values

Connected Research for Social Impact

FabLab makes **social science research open, useful and relevant**. It brings our work exactly where it is needed: **to the young and talented, to the local communities, to the public sphere, to the level of policies.**

Our aim is to address complex problems with the use of **strong social science theories, cutting edge network and data science, and new technologies and media** to collect, analyze, test and scale civic tech frameworks in **government, business, academia, and civil society.**



Experiential Learning for Social Change

We believe **the future of work is human-centered and community-driven**. We thus prepare our students, the future professionals for whom most jobs have not yet been invented, to **design, ideate, co-create, experiment, test, and implement** solutions to complex social problems, through **storytelling, community-building, data analysis, and design thinking.**

At FabLab, they gain **practical work experience and competitive advantages** in a dynamic job market, exercising **empathy, growth, management skills, adaptation, team work, and technologies for research, production, analysis and visualization.**

Projects we currently work on

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Research & Training

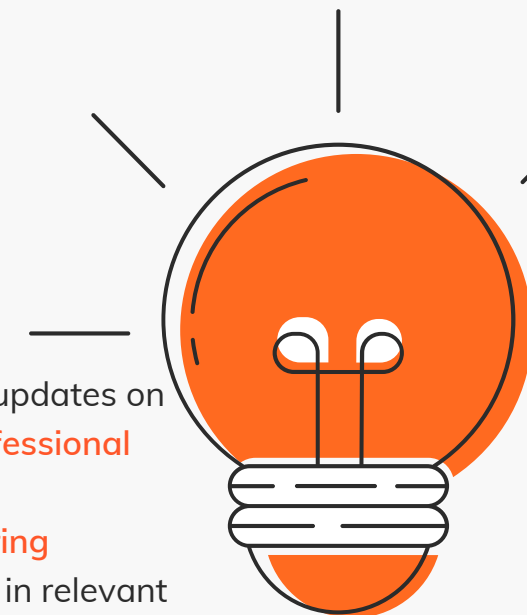
- Social Network Analysis for mapping **civil society mobilization** and for designing **resilient changemaker ecosystems**
- Organizational Network Analysis for **organizational development** and **change management**
- Political Network Analysis for **anti-corruption**

Digital Education and Culture

- Digital Society Podcast for **citizen empowerment** in the digital world
- În Bine, a unique magazine on **volunteerism and philanthropy**
- EduGrow, **digital education with empathy** - a platform for educators
- FabLab Seminar Series for **cutting edge research and professional development**

Community Programs

- PFC Opportunity Board for updates on **glocal events, jobs, and professional development tools**
- Mentoring Program for **pairing students with professionals** in relevant areas of expertise
- Upskill-Reskill Community Training Program in **digital technologies and competencies** for elders, the unemployed and first-time job seekers



A sample of our work

TO GET YOU CURIOUS

FabLab is an **experiential learning hub for social change**.

All projects have student project owners or founders and are run by **self-organizing student teams**, with professors mentors and organizational partners.

In the past year, **we earned more than 10,000 euro from consultancy and training**. Most of this money is invested into student grants.



www.digitalsocietypodcast.com

#connect #learn #act



www.inbine.ro

Vrei sa faci o fapta buna?



SUPERHUMANS

1 minut pentru o intreaga zi



EduGrow

Educatie digitata cu empatie



Seminar Series

FabLab

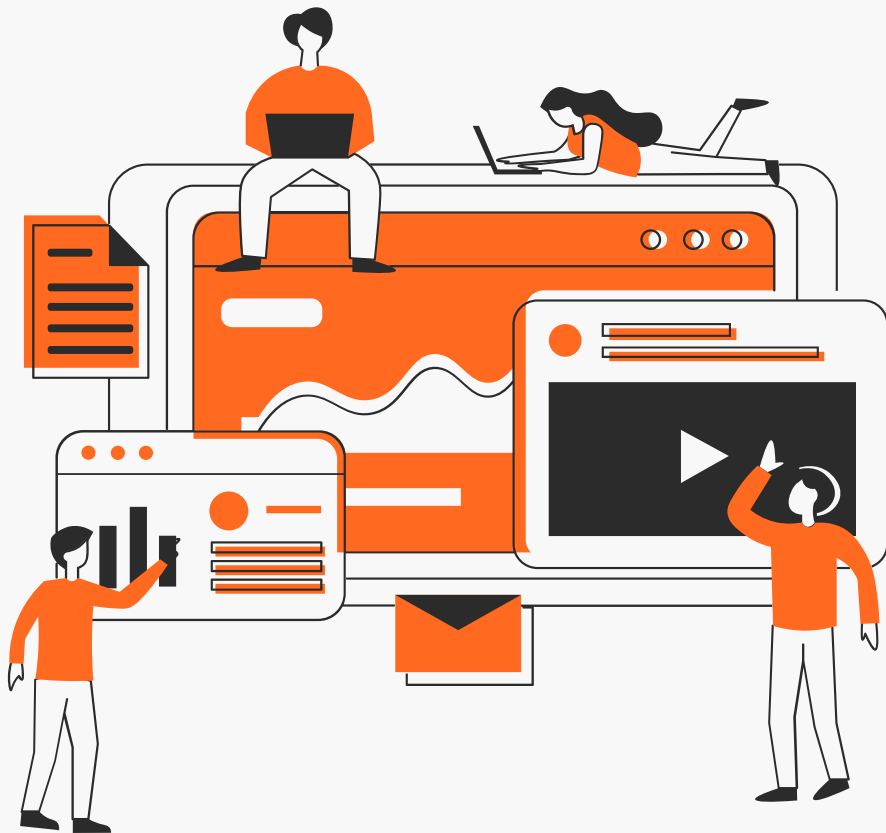


WOMEN IN DATA SCIENCE
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

Co-organizers of the 1st Edition, 2021

Who we are

AND WHY IT MATTERS



In a year, we grew to more than 50 people active in the Lab.

Most are **undergrad students**, a few profs, a few international collaborators

We work remotely, from all over Romania and across the globe

The core team is scattered, and we have project partners **across all continents**.

We do applied work across sectors

Our team members have demonstrated expertise in **political science, communication sciences, journalism, sociology, public policy, digital media, international development, organizational development, and change management**. They are involved in research and development projects at both the global and local levels, in **government, business, academia and civil society**.

We are dynamic, inclusive, empathic and responsive

And that makes us **experimental and experiential in learning, resilient to failures and adaptive to change. Innovators**. Our generation of engaged students aim high and achieve well. We trust their abilities to care for solving complex social problems that challenge our present and future. We hope their work in the Lab will help them find **career paths with passion and purpose**.



Leaders in the Making

DISCOVER WHAT SOME OF OUR MEMBERS DO



VLAD BOLEA, Digital Media Student, BA, UVT
Project Owner: [EduGrow](#)
Interests: Sports Analytics, Project Management,
WebDev
Projects: [Digital Society Podcast](#), [Doctoral Platform](#)



REBECA PECCA, Advertising Student, BA, UVT
Project Owner: [Superhumans Romania](#), [PFC Public Speaking Club](#)
Interests: Storytelling, Copywriting, Digital Marketing
Projects: [EduGrow](#)



TEODORA NAN, Communications and PR Student, BA
Shaper @ Global Shapers Hub Timisoara
Head of Image, Communications and PR @FabLab
Interests: Communication Science, Public Relations,
Project Management, Communication Psychology
Projects: [WiDS CEE](#) & [WiDS RO](#), [Seminar Series](#),
[Digital Society Podcast](#)



IANIS RUȘITORU, Digital Media, BA, UVT
Research Assistant, Producer & Tech Lead
Interests: Computational Social Science, Chess
Projects: [Digital Society Podcast](#), [WiDS CEE](#) & [WiDS RO](#),
[Seminar Series](#), Anti-Competitive Behavior Investigation,
Mapping Civil Society Mobilization, Changemakers Maps,
The Map of Good: Text Analysis and Visualization of the
[În Bine](#) Magazine



CRISTINA DANILEȚ, Digital media student, BA, UVT
Team Lead: [Digital Society Podcast](#)
Interests: Digital Marketing, PR, Social Media, Graphic
Design
Projects: [WiDS CEE](#)



IONELA URSĂȚANU, Digital Media, BA, UVT
Graphic Designer
Interests: Graphic Design, Digital Marketing, Digital Art
Projects: [Seminar Series](#), [Digital Society Podcast](#)



ANDREI DODEA, Information Systems Student, MA, UVT
 Shaper @ Global Shapers Hub Timișoara
 Interests: Individual development, public-private collaboration & tech
 Projects: [WiDS CEE](#), [Changemakers Maps](#)



ALEXANDRA FLOREA, PhD Candidate, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany
 Research Associate, Team Lead: FabLab Research
 Interests: sociology of work, social network analysis, research methods
 Projects: [Digital Society Podcast](#), [FabLab Training Development](#), [The Map of Good: Text Analysis and Visualization of the *În Bine* Magazine](#)



ELISABETH VARVAROI, Digital Media Student, BA, UVT
 Image, Communications and PR
 Interests: Graphic Design, Digital Marketing
 Projects: [WiDS CEE](#) & [WiDS RO](#), [Seminar Series](#)



ROXANA LEAHA, Digital Media Student, BA, UVT
 Digital Content Creation
 Interests: Gaming, Graphic Design
 Projects: [Digital Society Podcast](#), [WiDS CEE](#) & [WiDS RO](#), [Changemakers Maps](#)



MIRUNA LUCAN, Digital Media Student, BA, UVT
 Image, Communications and PR
 Interests: Graphic Design, Social Media, Digital Marketing, Copywriting
 Projects: [WiDS CEE](#), [EduGrow](#), [Seminar Series](#)



LARISA SOFIA, Digital Media, BA, UVT
 Image, Communications and PR
 Interests: Color Psychology, Graphic Design Thinking, Web Design
 Projects: [Superhumans Romania](#), [Digital Society Podcast](#), [WiDS CEE](#) & [WiDS RO](#).



TEODORA HANEȘ, Digital Media Student, BA, UVT
 Image, Communications and PR
 Interests: Graphic Design, Digital Marketing, Social Media Management, Copywriting
 Projects: [WiDS CEE](#) & [WiDS RO](#), [EduGrow](#), [Seminar Series](#)



LORENA PĂCURAR, Journalism Student, BA, UVT
 Editor-in-Chief @ [În Bine](#) Magazine
 Interests: Journalism, Storytelling



**Social Fabrics
 Research Lab**

FabLab

Leader in the House

MEET OUR FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

Silvia I. Fierăscu, PhD



I am a Lecturer at the [Department of Philosophy and Communication Sciences](#), the Founder and Director of [FabLab - Social Fabrics Research Lab](#), and Researcher at the [Big Data Science Laboratory](#), all at [West University of Timișoara](#). I hold a PhD in Political Science with a specialization in Network Science from [Central European University](#) in Budapest and I am Head of [OrgMapper Academy](#) at [Maven7 Network Research Inc.](#)

My research interests are on applications of network and data science to social science problems. I work in various international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary projects, translating complex problems into solutions for organizational development, change management, better communication, good governance, public policy, and social impact.

Get in touch

[Email](#), [LinkedIn](#), [ORCID](#), [Twitter](#)

Scientific Council



OUR NETWORKS OF GUIDANCE



[SORIN ADAM MATEI](#)

Professor, Purdue University, US
Research Methods

<https://cla.purdue.edu/>



[LEVENTE LITTVAY](#)

Associate Professor, Central
European University, Austria
Research Methods

<https://dsps.ceu.edu/>



[CARL NORDLUND](#)

Assistant Professor, Linköping
University, Sweden
Research Methods

<https://liu.se/en/>



[ADINA BAYA](#)

Assistant Professor, UVT
Journalism

<https://pfc.uvt.ro/>



[BOGDAN NADOLU](#)

Associate Professor, UVT
Sociology

<https://fsp.uvt.ro/>



[ILEANA ROTARU](#)

Associate Professor, UVT
Communication Science

<https://pfc.uvt.ro/>



[VIOREL PROTEASA](#)

Assistant Professor, UVT
Political Science

<https://pfc.uvt.ro/>



[FLORIN LOBONT](#)

Associate Professor, UVT
Philosophy

<https://pfc.uvt.ro/>



[GHEORGHE CLITAN](#)

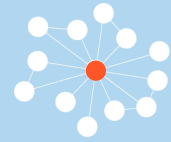
Professor, UVT
Applied Philosophy

<https://pfc.uvt.ro/>

Organizational Structure and Work Flows



Octo - FabLab Mascot
Logo credit: Roxana Leaha (MD II)



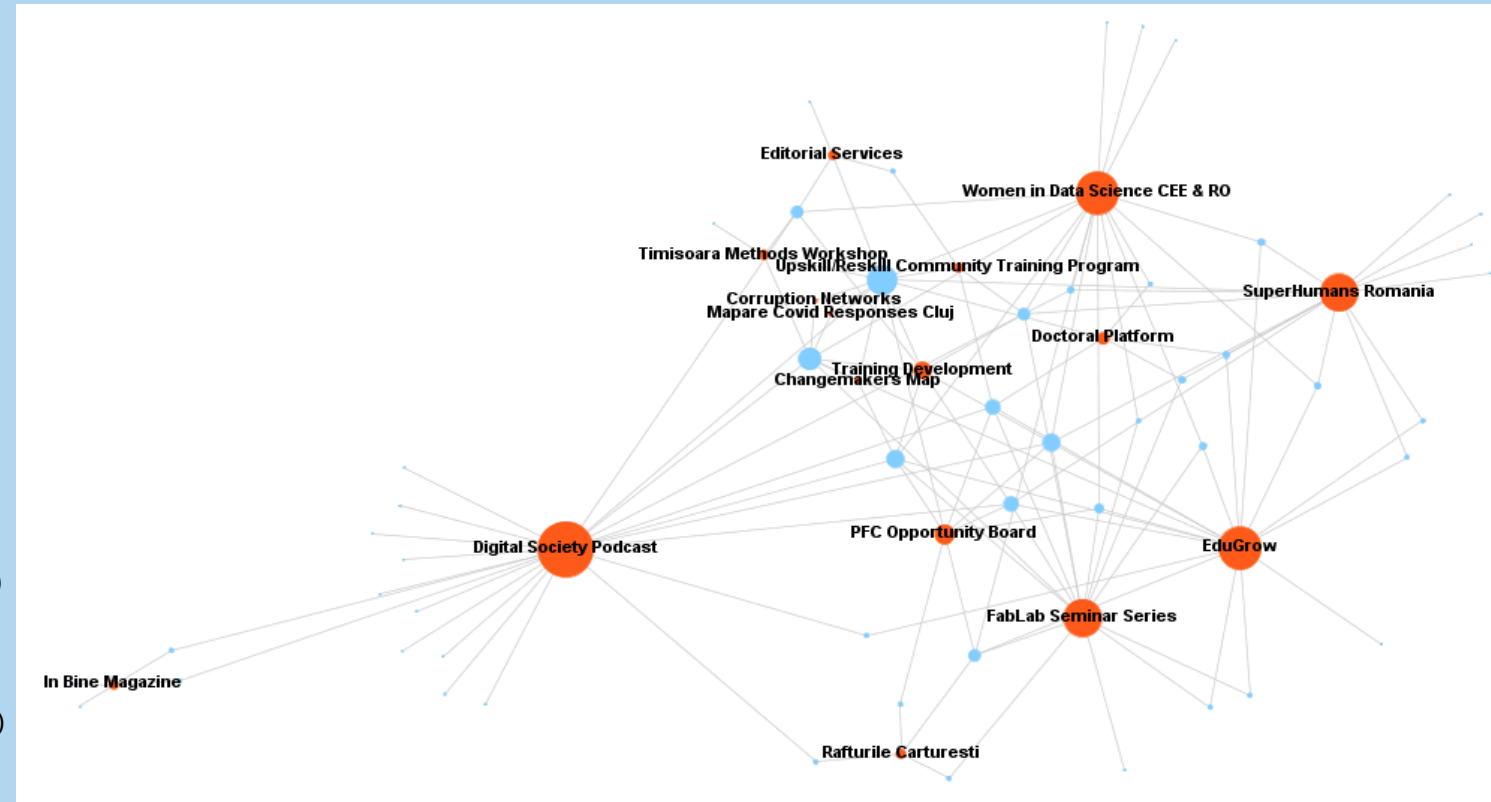
Social Fabrics
Research Lab

FabLab

Logo credit:
Cristina Danileț (MD II)
Clau Căruțeru (MD II)

HOW WE WORK

FabLab Project Teams 2021 (Jan)
Orange - Projects
Blue - Team members
Node size: size of team (orange)
number of project involvement (blue)
Credit network graph and analysis:
Ianis Rusitoru (MD II)



Our students' voice



IN THEIR WORDS: CE TE MOTIVEAZĂ SĂ RĂMÂI IMPLICAT(Ă) ÎN FABLAB? (RO)

“

Dorința de a ajuta la dezvoltarea unei societăți axate pe lucrurile care contează cu adevărat în secolului 21, însă nu în modul în care am perceput-o până în 2020, ci cu un vibe startup-ish, cu mult spirit de posibilitate și cu mult youthful naivitee care, focalizat, mută munții.

Spiritul de comunitate, nivelul general de commitment, dorința oamenilor din jur de a "face lucrurile să se întâmple", faptul că, la o scară mică, în puțini oameni, it feels like we're building skyscrapers.

”

“

Ador comunitatea FabLab, oameni foarte deschiși, creativi și de la care am multe de învățat.

”

“

Oportunitățile de dezvoltare profesională pe care le primim, colectivul dedicat și pofta de muncă și rezultate :)

”

“

Mediul de lucru și echipa din care fac parte sunt absolut tot ce ți-ai putea dori de la o organizație, există foarte multă diversitate. FabLab e locul în care ceea ce ne imaginăm poate deveni realitate deoarece există foarte multă susținere.

”

Partners & Collaborators



OUR NETWORK OF SUPPORT



Universitatea de Vest din Timisoara



Centrul de Politici Publice, UVT



Banat IT



Ashoka Romania



Facultatea de Științe Politice,
Filosofie și Științe ale Comunicării, UVT



Big Data Science Laboratory, UVT



Fagaras Research Institute



UrbanizeHub



Institutul de Cercetari
Social-Politice, UVT



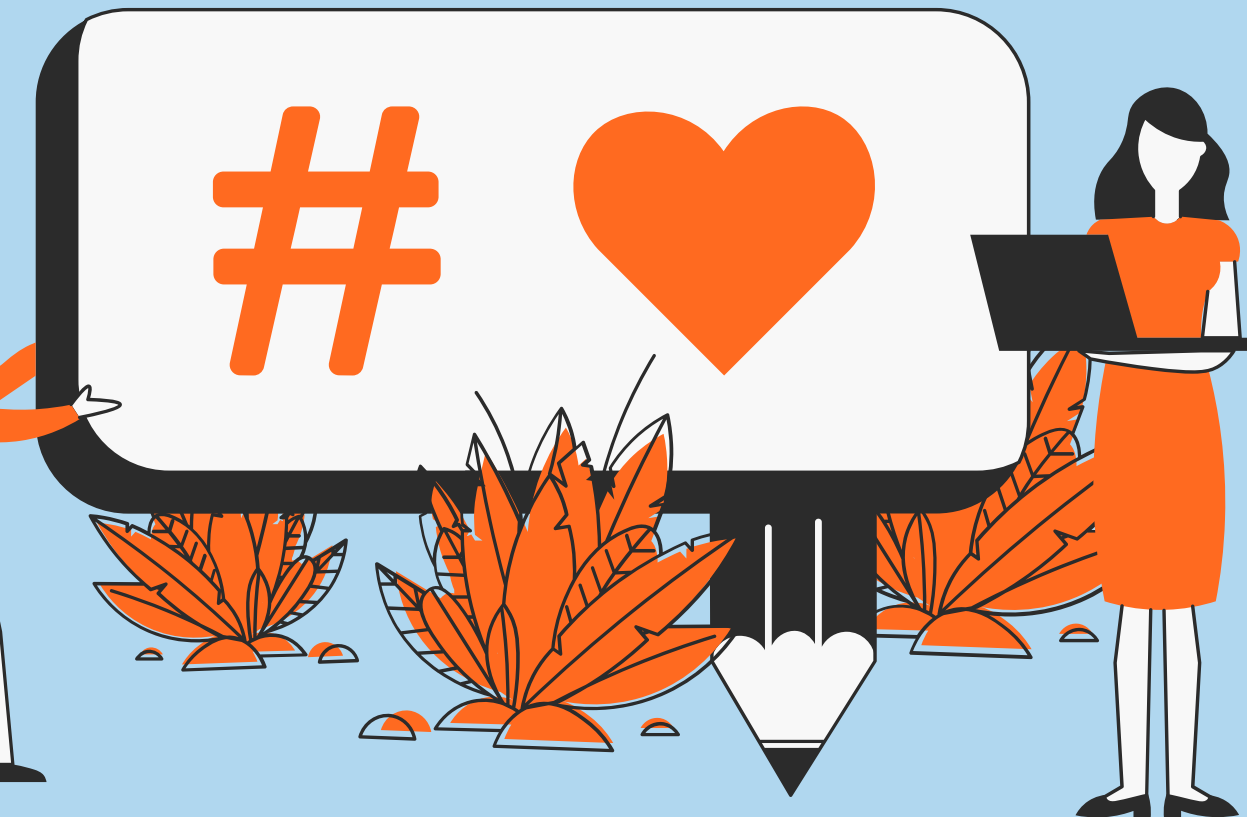
360.org.ro



Government Transparency Institute



Collective Anti-Corruption
Tech Initiatives



Get in touch

LET'S CONNECT DOERS
WITH OPPORTUNITY!

Email

fablab@e-uvt.ro

Website

www.fablab.uvt.ro

