

**Tătar, M. & Matiuța, M. C. & Brihan, A.**

## **The participation of NGOs in the Romanian policy-making process**

**Abstract:**

This paper analyzes the participation of civil society in the Romanian policy-making processes. More specifically, the study shows that the Romanian NGO sector went through several phases of participation in policy-making after 1989. In the early stages of transition the newly emerged NGOs were seen with suspicion by public authorities, which dismissed them as illegitimate partners in policy-making. However, gradually when democracy started to consolidate and the Romanian governments made firm commitments to Euro-Atlantic integration, externally funded NGOs became increasingly important in influencing policies, pushing for reforms and liberalization and voicing the neo-liberal agenda of their international donors.