ALBANIA'S OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 2020-2022:

DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

WHAT IS THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)?

- Began in 2011 as a unique partnership between government leaders and civil society advocates

- International agreement that combines the powerful forces of both government and civil society to make **governments more open, effective, and accountable to serve and empower their citizens**

- Seventy-eight countries and a growing number of local governments—representing more than two billion people—along with thousands of civil society organizations are members of the OGP

OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

- **Action plans are at the core of participation in OGP**

- Participating countries develop two-year National Action Plans without gaps between the end of the last action plan and the beginning of the new one

- Every country will be implementing a plan at all times

- Countries draft their new National Action Plan during the last six months of implementation of the previous plan.

- **Participating governments work in collaboration with civil society to co-create action plans for government reforms to promote the OGP's values of civic participation, transparency and public accountability.**

- To date the OGP process has been involved in the co-creation of over 4000 open government reforms.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY AND STAKEHOLDERS

- **Action plans are independently monitored by the OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism** to ensure accountability and transparency and promote meaningful collaboration with civil society towards meaningful reform strategies

- **Each participating government is obliged to co-ordinate and collaborate with civil society to jointly develop commitments on selected areas of focus for government reform**

- **Created by combining the forces of government and civil society, working together to define ambitious commitments across a range of issues.**
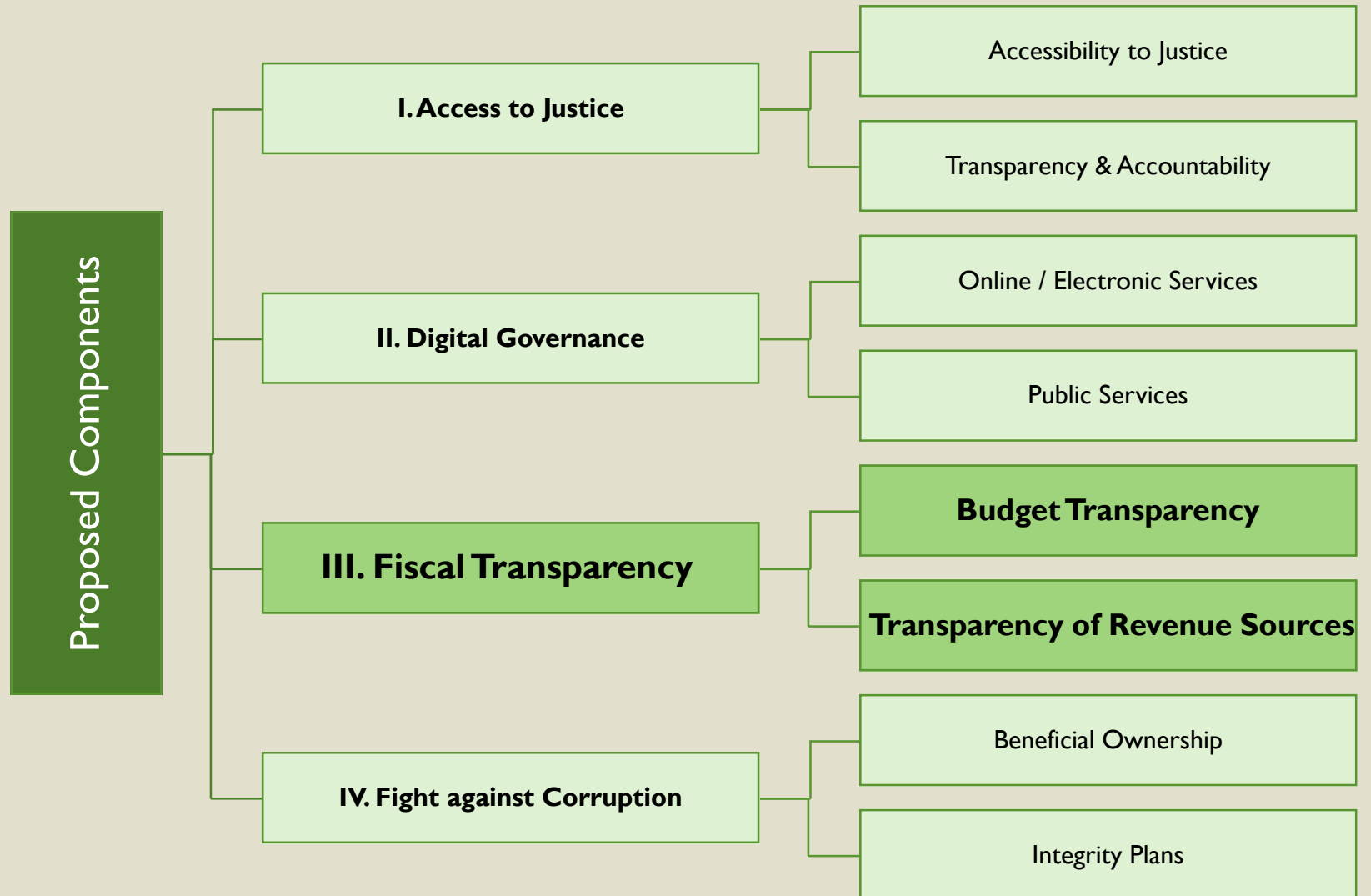
WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPLES OF OGP?

Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation	Technology & Innovation
• Publication of all government-held information (as opposed to only information on government activities); • Proactive or reactive releases of information; • Mechanisms to strengthen the right to information; • Open access to government information.	• There are rules, regulations, and mechanisms in place that call upon government actors to justify their actions; • Rules or mechanisms that require governments to act upon criticisms or requirements made of them; • Governments must accept responsibility for failure to perform with respect to laws or commitments; • Outward-facing component (i.e., they are not solely accountable to internal systems, but also involve the public).	• Governments seek to engage citizens in a dialogue on public policies or programs; • Governments request their input, feedback, and contributions, which lead to more responsive, innovative, and effective governance.	• Governments embrace the importance of providing citizens with open access to technology; • Governments embrace the role of new technologies in driving innovation, and the many benefits of increasing its capacity; • Technology and innovation cannot be a stand-alone principle but must support/advance the previous three principles.

POLICY GOALS PROPOSED FOR THE OGP PLAN 2020-2022

I. Access to Justice

II. Digital Governance / Public Services

III. Fiscal Transparency

IV. Fight against Corruption

PROPOSED POLICY GOALS

Proposed Components

- **I. Access to Justice**
  - Accessibility to Justice
  - Transparency & Accountability

- **II. Digital Governance**
  - Online / Electronic Services
  - Public Services

- **III. Fiscal Transparency**
  - **Budget Transparency**
  - **Transparency of Revenue Sources**

- **IV. Fight against Corruption**
  - Beneficial Ownership
  - Integrity Plans

STAGES OF DRAFTING THE ACTION PLAN 2020-2022

September-October

July-August

- **<u>Process Mobilization with Component Leaders</u>**
- Finalization of the methodological package
- Sending the methodological package to the leaders of each component
- Meeting with the Technical Secretariats

- **<u>Online consultation of the early phase of priority measures</u>**
- All 4 components / secretariats will consult the public online through innovative methods (eg. surveys), which will be coordinated by the National Agency for Information Society

- **Preparation of the Action Plan 2020-2022 for each component in coordination with civil society and stakeholders**

- Coordinated consultative working meetings with civil society on consolidation of priority measures

November-December

- **<u>Finalization of the consultation and approval of the GMIP Action Plan 2020 - 2022</u>**
- Department of Development and Good Governance for the:
- Consolidation of the Action Plan 2020-2022
- Consultation on the OGP site
- Finalization of the draft and submission for discussion / approval to the GMIP (coordinated with civil society actors)

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Consultation meetings

– Opportunities to suggest ideas / discuss / brainstorm / select ideas

- **Information / briefs on OGP**

– Background information

– Criteria for including ideas into the action plan

– Other country examples

Feedback tools for contributing ideas

– Word and online formats

FISCAL OPENNESS

- Every year, governments collect and spend billions of taxpayer funds to pay for services such as education and healthcare. **Citizens have a right to know how their governments are collecting and where they are spending their money.**

- **Openness across the budget and fiscal cycle** – through transparency, public participation, and legislative oversight – allows citizens to hold their government accountable and reduce waste. Over time, this can ensure that government spending reflects the people's interests and needs.

- **Fiscal transparency is essential to fight corruption, which predominantly hurts the poor and marginalized.**
    - Transparency and broad-based public deliberation are important determinants of whether public infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, roads, electricity and water supply are well planned, well built, and well maintained; public services are of good quality and generally deliver what the public wants; and tax officials are honest in their dealings with taxpayers

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN FISCAL POLICIES
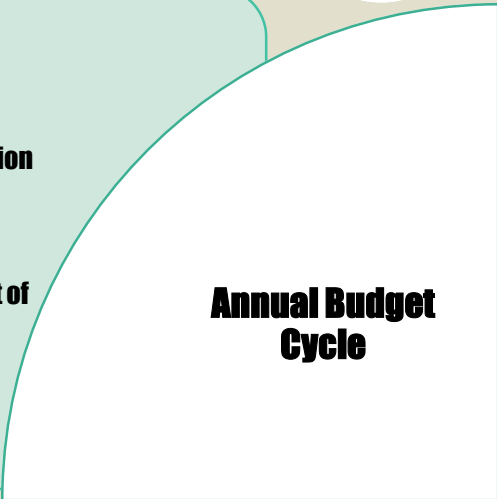
- Fiscal strategy
- Preparation of annual budget proposal by executive
- Presentation of budget & its adoption by legislature
- Budget implementation
- In-year reporting on & amendment of the budget
- End-of-year reporting, auditing & review

Annual Budget Cycle

New Policy Initiatives, Plans, Reviews On Revenues, Expenditures, Financing, Assets & Liabilities

- Fiscal policy initiatives subject to public engagement outside of the annual budget cycle or over a longer period than the window for preparation of the annual budget
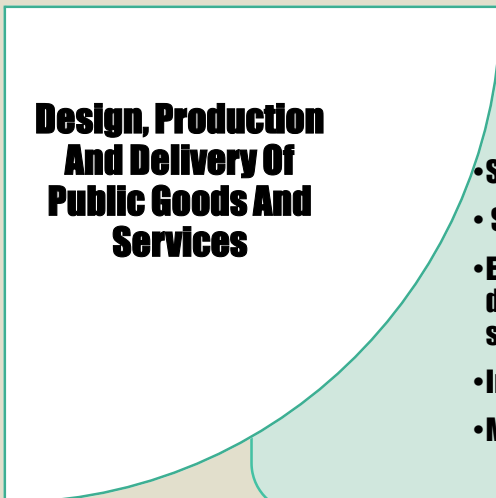
- National & sector planning:
- project preparation;
- Appraisal and selection;
- Project implementation;
- Audit and review

Planning, Appraisal, & Implementation Of Public Investment Projects

Design, Production And Delivery Of Public Goods And Services

- Service delivery planning;
- Setting of service standards;
- Engagement during service delivery, through feedback from service recipients;
- Independent review mechanisms;
- Monitoring & evaluation.

PRIORITIES OF FISCAL OPENNESS

BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

Budget transparency is publishing budget reports and relevant financial data in a format that is understandable and accessible to all citizens, such as through the use of plain language and accompanying information to explain more complex aspects.

REVENUE TRANSPARENCY

Revenue transparency is publishing and making available all relevant financial data regarding the revenues collected by governments from various industries -- especially those relating to infrastructure, development and extractive resources -- bringing industry, government and civil society stakeholders into the monitoring process. This information should be in a format that is understandable and accessible to all citizens, such as through the use of plain language and accompanying information to explain more complex aspects.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Participatory budgeting is governmental actions to increase citizen participation throughout the entire budget cycle. Commitments that encouraged public participation in budgeting significantly opened up decision-making processes.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC BUDGETING

Sector-specific budgeting occurs when open and participatory budgeting is applied to the health, education, and environmental sectors, etc. to improve public service delivery

GENDER BUDGETING AND INCLUSION

Use budgeting as an opportunity to advance gender equality and women's empowerment by including gender-responsive budget reviews – budgeting that ensures that public resources are allocated in ways that promote gender-equitable spending and represent the interests of all citizens

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: KEY ISSUES

Identifying Key Issues for Fiscal Transparency:

What do you think are the most important issues the Albanian Government should prioritize to improve fiscal transparency and why?

1. _____

   _____

2. _____

   _____

3. _____

   _____

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: IDEAS

Ideas and Solutions to Support Fiscal Transparency

Please propose any ideas or solutions you may have to support fiscal transparency efforts. These suggestions can be simple – the details can be discussed in later consultations:

Idea 1

1. *Briefly describe the overall idea*

   _____

2. *What is the problem the idea will address?*

   _____

3. *Main objective of idea*

   _____

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT ANTI-CORRUPTION

When thinking of ideas keep in mind the following:

- **Problem**:
  - What is the social, economic, political, or environmental problem addressed by this idea?

- **Objective**:
  - What are the objectives stated in the idea? How does the idea's objective contribute to solving or improving the problem?

- **Solution**:
  - What activities does the idea propose to achieve the objective? How would the activities contribute to the objective of the commitment?

- **Impact**:
  - If fully implemented as written, what potential effect would this approach have on the problem? What would each milestone achieve?

STAKEHOLDER INPUT CONT.

1. **Describe the overall idea**

2. **What is the problem the idea will address?**

3. **How will the idea help solve the problem?**

4. **Main objective of idea** / What would be the impact of the idea if implemented**?**

5. **Main beneficiaries /** Who benefits?

6. **Would the idea improve?:**

   - **Transparency & Access to Information?**
     Disclose more information? Improve the quality of information disclosed?
     Improve public access to information? Enable the right to information?

   - **Public & Civic Participation?**
     Create or improve opportunities, or capabilities for the public to inform or influence decisions?
     Create or improve the enabling environment for civil society?

   - **Government Accountability?**
     Create or improve rules, regulations & mechanisms to publicly hold government officials answerable to their actions?

   - **Technology & Innovation for Transparency & Accountability**
     Use new or innovative means to promote transparency & accountability in public policy?

7. **What are the main agencies who would implement the idea** (Ministries/NGOs/etc.)?

RESULTS/INCLUSION INTO ACTION PLAN

Based on the assessments according to the criteria established idea proposals will be categorised into one of four groups:

Accepted	Accepted with Changes	Recommended for Future	Not Accepted
Proposals to be incorporated in the 2020-2022 Action Plan	Proposals to be admitted to the 2020-2022 Action Plan with changes	Proposals to be incorporated in future Action Plans	Inadmissible proposals

PRINCIPLES OF OGP

Transparency and Access to Information	Public Accountability	Public and Civic Participation	Technology & Innovation
Disclose more information to the public? Improve the quality of information disclosed to the public? Improve accessibility of information to the public? Enable the right to information?	Does the idea create or improve rules, regulations, and mechanisms to publicly hold government officials answerable to their actions? Does the idea make the government accountable to the public and not solely to internal systems?	Does the idea create or improve opportunities, or capabilities for the public to inform or influence decisions? Does the idea create or improve the enabling environment for civil society?	Will technological innovation be used in conjunction with one of the other three OGP values to advance either transparency or accountability?

OGP & CSO RECOMMENDATIONS FISCAL OPENNESS

OGP

- Increase citizen participation throughout the budget cycle to open up decision-making.

- Apply open and participatory budgeting to specific sectors such as health, education and the environment.

- Advance gender and inclusion through gender-responsive budget reviews.

CSOs

The recommendation provided from CSO's responses so fare, are:

1. Increase Citizens engagement in the budget process
2. To publish concessionaire contracts.
3. Public participation in Albania in the budget process
4. Simplify the content of the key budget documents

Nr.		Institucionet përgjegjëse	Institucione të tjera përgjegjëse	Afati i zbatimit	
	ACTION PLAN				
	OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP 2020-2022_Fiscal Transparency				
				Afati Fillimit	**Afati Mbarimit**
	Qëllimi i Politikës: POLICY GOAL				
1	**Specific Objective 1 Budget Transparency**				
1.1	**Priority Measure 1 'Government National Accounts' Timely and reliable Government Financial Statistics'**				
1.1.1	A sustainable statistical system for the general government units is in place;	INSTAT	MOFE & BoA	Q1 2020	Q1 2021
1.1.2	EDP tables will be revised using statistical system created.	INSTAT	MOFE & BoA	Q2 2021	Q4 2021
1.2	**Priority Measure 2 'Financial and performance monitoring and reporting' Published in year and annual financial reports contain**				
1.2.1	Fiscal risk management-Strengthen financial oversight and management of the fiscal risks in order to have an improved FRS with more fiscal risks monitored and mitigated if necessary	MOFE	MOFE	2020	Q4 2022
1.2.2	Published government yearly budget execution report;	MOFE		2020	Q4 2022
1.2.3	Published in-year budget execution reports, including the mid-year review.	MOFE	Line Ministry and Budget Institutions	2020	Q4 2022
1.3	**Priority Measure 3 ' Citizens' engagement' Formal opportunities are provided for the public to engage in the planning and**				
1.3.1	A budget hearing calendar with key budget processes is in place and implemented.	MOFE	Other LMs & BI	2020	Q4 2022
2	**Specific Objective 2 Transparency on Revenue**				
2.1	**Priority Measure 1 'Accounting' Accounting is in compliance with appropriate International Public Sector Accounting Standards.**				
2.1.1	An implementation Plan for the regulatory framework in accordance with IPSAS	MOFE	BB, SECO	Q1 2019	Q4 2019
2.1.2	An improved accounting regulatory framework;	MOFE	BB, SECO	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
2.1.3	Enhanced AGFIS to record accrual accounting data;	MOFE	BB, SECO	Q1 2020	Q4 2022
2.1.4	Capacity Development	MOFE	BB, SECO	Q1 2019	Q4 2021
2.2	**Priority Measure 2 'Improved Assets management' Preparation and publication of the full asset registry of public sector, based on**				
2.1.1	Methodology and guidelines for a full public asset inventory in Central Government (CG) institutions prepared;	MOFE	BB, SECO	Q1 2020	Q4 2022
2.2.2	Full public assets inventory is recorded in AGFIS by those BIs which have direct access in this system.	MOFE	Budgetary Institutions selected to have direct access in AGFIS	2020	Q4 2022
2.2.3	Full public assets inventory is recorded in Excel (for BIs which not have direct access in AGFIS)	MOFE	Budgetary Institutions with no direct access in AGFIS		Q4 2022

EXAMPLES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES: *BUDGET TRANSPARENCY*

Web Portal of Government Spending

ITALY

'Follow the money', a web portal that contains data on spending by all government agencies.

Citizens' Guides on Budgets

CROATIA

Committed to publishing three Citizens' Guides: on annual & semi-annual state budget execution & the annual budget proposal.

Citizen Portal for Fiscal Education

HONDURAS

Create a fiscal education portal on the Secretariat of Finance's web-site (complement to Citizens' Budget)

Platform for Broadcasting Budget Updates via SMS and Radio

LIBERIA

Provides regular budget updates to citizens via SMS & associated technologies through various local languages; & provide periodic support to rural radio stations to broadcast the messages of the Open Budget Initiative

REVENUE TRANSPARENCY

Electronic Revenue Collection System

AFGHANISTAN (2019-2021)

Municipalities' revenue collection system ensures transparency and public scrutiny of revenue collection and expenditure within these authorities. System will be enabled to report; on the basis of revenue type, district and other relevant aspects. System will generate various reports to public and CSOs from revenue collection to monitoring and expenditure of revenues. Reports will have to be generated monthly, quarterly and annually and be generally accessible.

Publish Online Information about Revenues & Spending of Institutions

Lithuania (2016-2018)

The objective is to create legal basis, which will provide conditions for the provision of information and data electronically to citizens about the revenue and expenses of the State and municipal institutions and agencies, and fund recipients as well as an information system to make public the revenue and expenses of the State and municipal institutions and agencies, and fund recipients, will be created and launched.

Engage Canadians to Improve Key Canada Revenue Agency Services

CANADA (2016-2018)

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will undertake a number of key public consultation and engagement activities to respond to key challenges. A better understanding of the public's satisfaction with, and interest in, statistical tax publications and related data, is needed to meet the growing demand for data that is of value to Canadians.

Promote Transparency and Accountability in the Management of Natural Resources

GUATEMALA (2014-2016)

Promote transparency and accountability in the administration of Natural Resources to ensure that revenues from extractive industries are used to generate social welfare.

TRANSPARENCY OF CORE PUBLIC SERVICE SPENDING

Feedback Portal for Public Services

NORTH MACEDONIA

Introduce a citizen portal for feedback on public services.

Promotional Campaign for Citizen Engagement in Public Service Spending

COSTA RICA

Strengthen the National System of Service Audits through a promotional campaign on its functions and the channels for citizen complaints and suggestions.

Publishing of Public Complaints of Government Agencies

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Publish data on public complaints at the level of individual government agencies.

Publishing of Budgets of the Ministries for Health and Education

INDONESIA

Publish local service delivery-level budgets in health and education.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

The Citizen's Budget

GHANA (2013)

The Ghanaian government and civil society organizations collaborated to create a participatory budget that more directly reflected citizens' wants and needs.

Bottom up Budgeting

PHILIPPINES

Local Poverty Reduction Action Teams of officials and CSOs throughout the country identify projects to be funded by the participating national agencies from the national budget.

Accountability through Access

TBILISI, GEORGIA (2016)

Committed to implement a participatory budget mechanism to increase the government's accountability to citizens and improve cooperation between citizens.

Public Policy Management Councils

BRAZIL

More than 50,000 on-going (bi-) monthly councils, at all levels of government, in which officials and civil society representatives deliberate and decide on new budget policies and monitor implementation.

Pre-Budget Consultations

KENYA

The Ministry of Finance holds public hearings around the country during budget preparation, and there is a further two week window for public consultation on the Budget Policy Statement before it is submitted to the legislature.

PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process

- Promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision

- Promotion of sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers

- Seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision

- Seeks input from participants in designing how they participate

- Provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way

- Communicates to participants how their input affected the decision

BRAIN STORMING QUESTIONS

- TBD

- Any other ideas welcome!

FALEMINDERIT