

Albania's Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2020-2022:

Digital Governance



Stakeholder Consultation 1
30 September 2020

What is the Open Government Partnership (OGP)?

- International agreement by governments to promote accountable, responsive and inclusive governance
- Began in 2011 as a unique partnership between government leaders and civil society advocates
- **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

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

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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



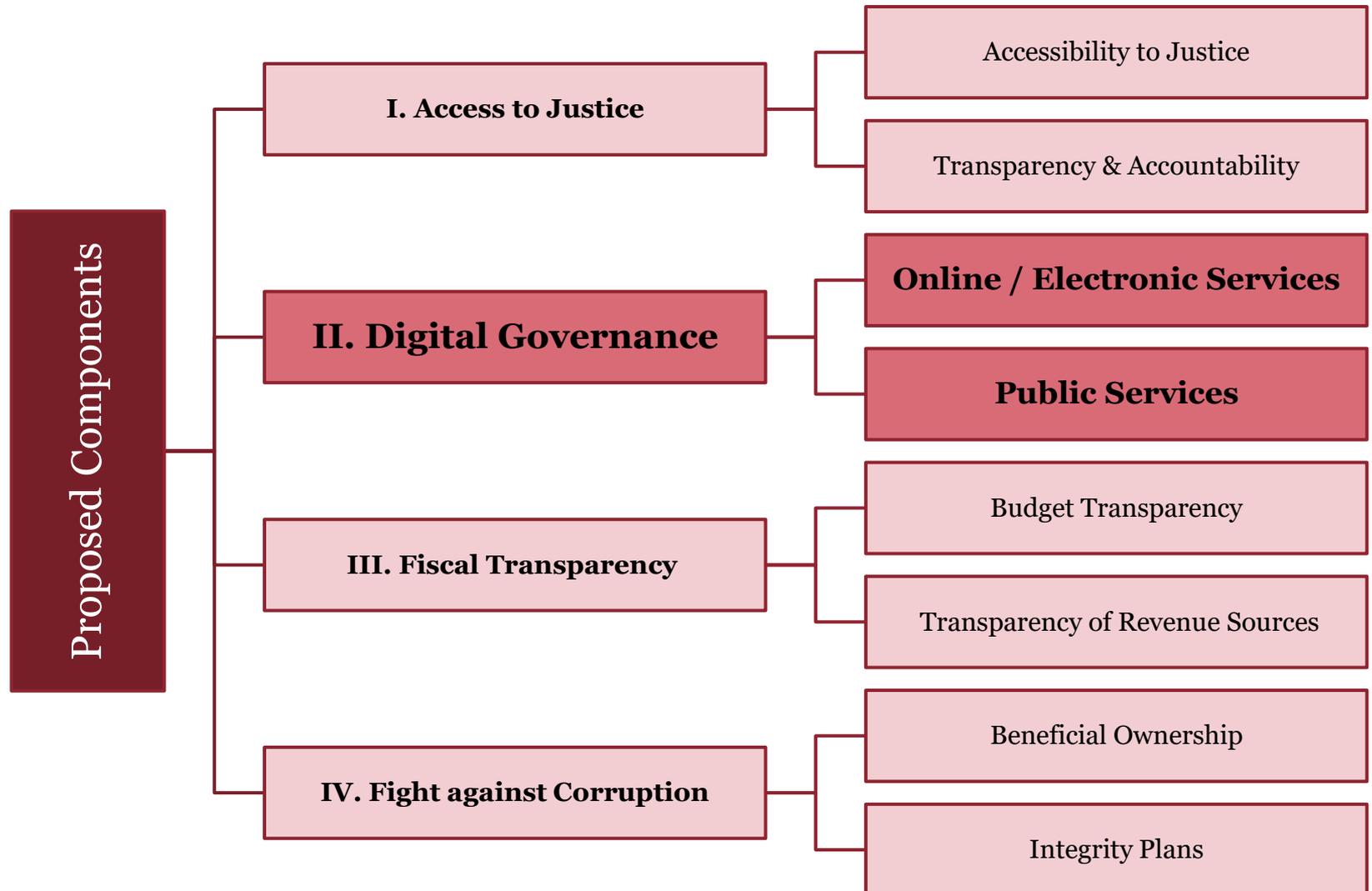
I. Access to Justice

II. Digital Governance / Public Services

III. Fiscal Transparency

IV. Fight against Corruption

Proposed Policy Goals



Stages of drafting the Action Plan 2020-2022

Process Mobilization with Component Leaders

- Finalization of the methodological package
- Sending the methodological package to the leaders of each component
- Meeting with the Technical Secretariats

Online consultation of the early phase of priority measures

- 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

July-August

September-October

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

Finalization of the consultation and approval of the GMIP Action Plan 2020 - 2022

- 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)

November-December

Digital Governance

- Digital tools and social media have empowered people through widespread access to information and global connections.
- **Citizens are using technology to hold governments to account and to exercise their civic rights.**
- **Governments are using technology to be more transparent, accountable and inclusive.**
- They are also innovating solutions to pressing issues, including delivering services better, establishing cutting edge systems of procurement, and fighting fraud and abuse.
- Yet, the same technologies can represent real risks to democracies.
 - Unaccountable institutions are leveraging technology to pursue their own interests.
 - Public institutions are dealing with the unintended consequences of fast-moving technologies that often outpace government oversight

Pillars of Improved Digital Governance

Right to information :

- Governments should aim to maintain the processing of requests for information and, to the greatest extent possible, requirements to provide information “as soon as possible” should remain in place.
- Measures include access to information laws, prioritisation of information requests, proactive publication of information and data, and strengthening capacity to respond to information requests.

Preventing misinformation and protecting freedom of expression :

- Disinformation is as information that is false and deliberately created to harm a person, social group, organization or country.
- Misinformation is defined as information that is false but not created with the intention of causing harm.
- Measures to prevent misinformation and disinformation include publishing information proactively, ensuring due process and clear definition of scope and limitation of laws, expanding digital access, raising awareness and training, and regulating the media environment.

Protecting participation and deliberation in administration :

- Governments should ensure that there are no secret laws, especially on emergency powers (in the context of COVID 19 and its aftermath), continue or improve publication of ex-ante evaluations such as regulatory or environmental impact assessments in advance of consultations to allow public deliberation, carry out enhanced online deliberations and maintain timelines, extend public comment periods and allow for challenges to regulations and decisions within adjusted timelines.

OGP Recommendations: Digital Governance

- Monitor standards emerging around data rights, use, storage and privacy at the regional level.
- Ensure internet access is inclusive and addresses barriers to affordability and accessibility for underrepresented communities and geographically isolated regions.
- Proactively create mechanisms for transparency, oversight, and inclusion into the use of artificial intelligence and algorithms.
- Create policies to limit abusive surveillance and safeguard against censorship and arbitrary shutdowns. With regard to internet censorship governments must ensure that content-based restrictions meet international standards for civic rights.
- Explore policies to tackle disinformation and misuse of social media platforms.

Stakeholder Input: Key Issues

Identifying Key Issues for Digital Governance:

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

1.

2.

3.

Stakeholder Input: Ideas

Ideas and Solutions to Support Digital Governance

Please propose any ideas or solutions you may have to support digital governance 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

Examples from other countries

DIGITAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND DELIBERATION

JALISCO, MEXICO (2019-2021)

Jalisco, Mexico committed to providing a digital platform for citizen participation in the creation and approval of laws.

COLOMBIA (2015-2017)

Colombia created automated services to process citizen comments and input.

GEORGIA (2016-2018)

Georgia enhanced citizen participation in the supervision process of public finances.

FRANCE (2018-2020)

France is using OGP to improve the transparency of public algorithms and source codes and is working within its government to develop a shared methodology for opening algorithms and the codes contained in its information systems.

Examples from other countries

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION

CROATIA (2014-2016)

Croatia prioritized public participation throughout the drafting process for the national Anti-Corruption Strategy.

UNITED KINGDOM (2013-2015)

United Kingdom involved civil society in designing the Cross-Government Anti-Corruption Plan.

LATVIA (2017-2019)

Latvia committed to raising awareness and strengthening processes for public participation in decision making.

AUSTRALIA (2018-2020)

Australia committed to creating a whole of government approach to digital governance by increasing data access and use within government, while improving data privacy and security with strengthened safeguards.

DENMARK (2017), CHILE (2018), INDONESIA (2018)

Denmark, Chile, Indonesia have made explicit commitments on issues of responsible data stewardship in the public sector.

Examples from other countries

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE LAWMAKING PROCESS

LATVIA (2015-2017)

Latvia enabled the collection of signatures online to initiate a referendum.

URUGUAY (2016-2018)

Uruguay involved civil society in creating a participatory water management system under the National Water Plan.

IRELAND (2014-2016)

Ireland held three referenda that arose from Constitutional Convention recommendations.

CHILE (2014-2016)

Chile implemented and monitored the Lobbying Law, which regulates lobbying activities.

CANADA (2018)

Canada is developing a government directive “to set rules on how departments can use AI ethically to make decisions.”

ITALY (2016-2018)

Italy is using OGP to adopt the Charter of Internet Rights, as approved by its legislature in 2015. The Charter links on and offline rights, including protecting basic civil liberties such as the freedom to assemble.

Brain storming questions

- What are the main barriers for access to information digitally?
- How can digital spaces enable civil society to participate?
- Is freedom of speech protected?
- How can civil society be empowered through digital tools?
- How can online engagement and participation be improved (public consultations, etc.)?
- Any other ideas welcome!

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