

Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2020-2022 Brief for Civil Society

What is the Open Government Partnership?

The Open Government Partnership (OGP)¹ is an international agreement by governments to create greater transparency, increase civic participation and use new technologies to make their governments more open, effective, and accountable to serve and empower their citizens.

The OGP began in 2011 as a unique partnership between government leaders and civil society advocates to combine the powerful forces of both government and civil society to promote accountable, responsive and inclusive governance.

Action plans are at the core of participation in OGP. They are created by combining the forces of government and civil society, working together to define ambitious commitments across a range of issues. 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. This means every country will be implementing a plan at all times, although individual commitments and milestones may vary in length. In order to achieve this, 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.

Figure 1: The Principles of the Open Government Partnership

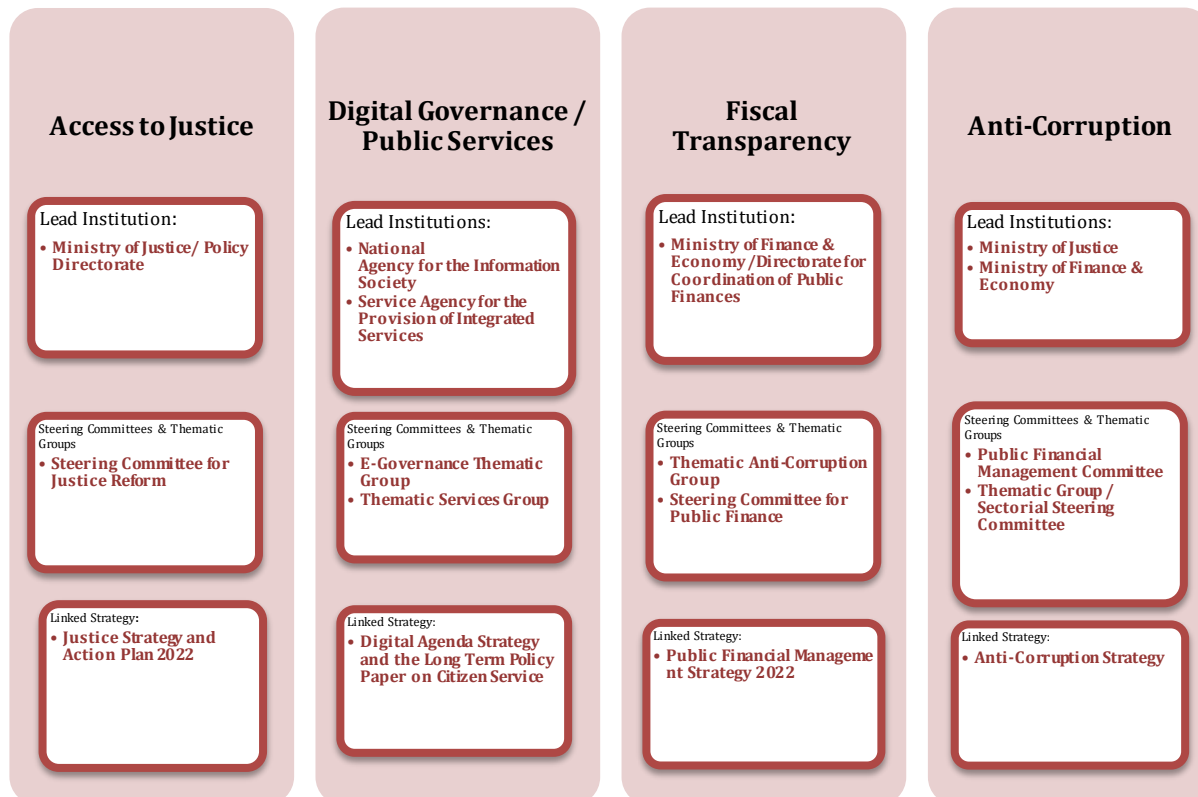
Transparency	Accountability	Public Participation	Technology & Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of all government-held information (as opposed to only information on government activities); • Proactive or reactive releases of information; • Mechanisms to strengthen the right 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.

¹ For more information on the OGP see <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/mission-and-strategy/>

Policy Areas of Focus

Under the coordination and technical support of the POC Lead Focal Point Institutions (LFPs) oversee the development of Action Plan commitments relevant to their policy area of focus. The LFPs work in collaboration with the POC to co-create commitments with civil society.

Figure 2: Proposed Policy Areas of Focus with Lead Focal Point Institutions (LFPs), the thematic groups and aligned strategies



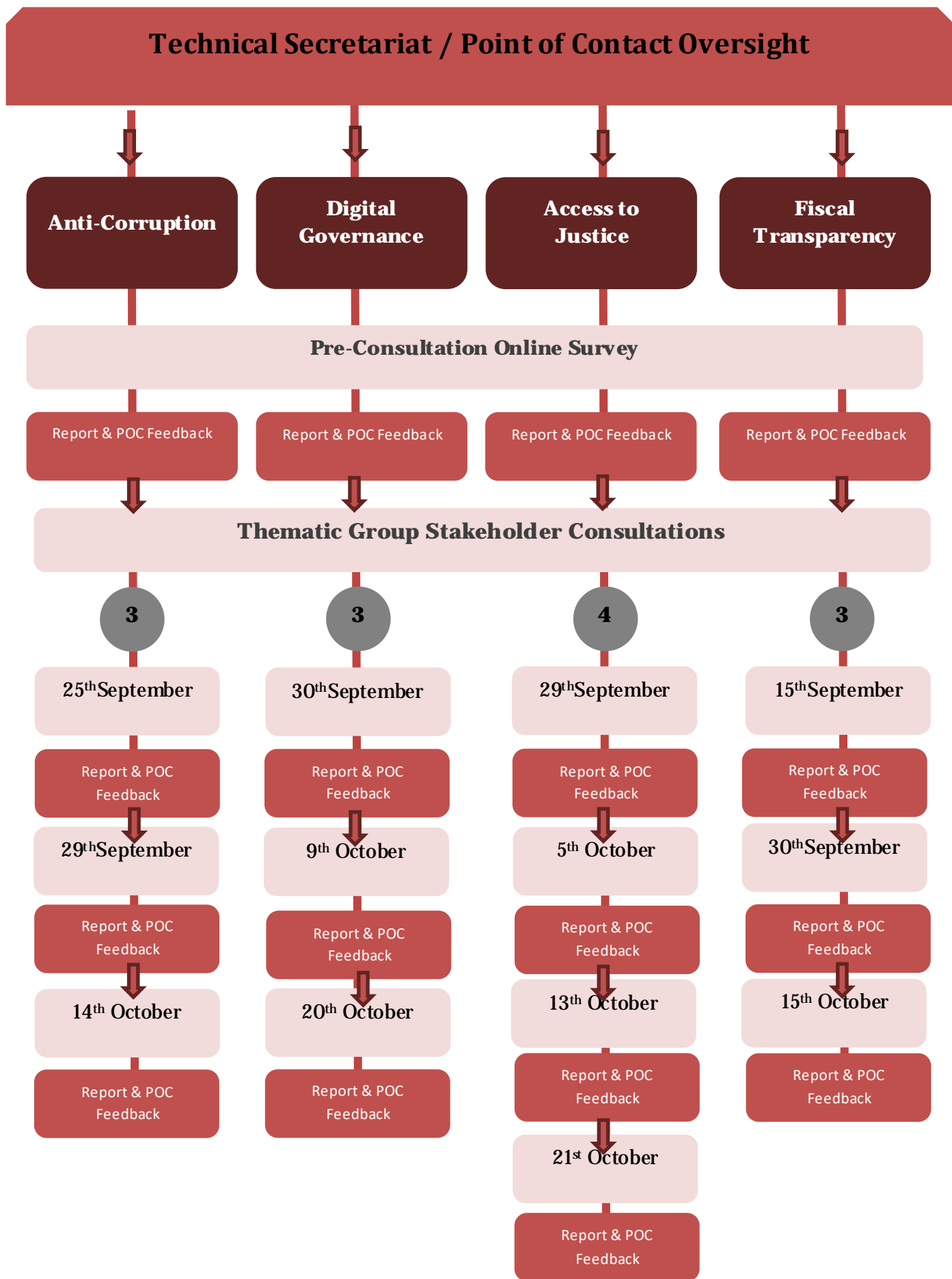
Promoting Stakeholder Participation & Collaboration

One of the primary objectives of Albania's 2020-2022 Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan (AP) development process was to improve the level of engagement with civil society, citizens, and other stakeholders in its development. Significantly advancing civic participation presents a substantial challenge.

To facilitate progression in stakeholder engagement towards the 2020-2022 Action Plan, but to also provide a foundational from which to increasing improve civic engagement the Government Point of Contact (POC) prioritized a close dialogue with the Lead Focal Point Institutions (LFPs) and the development of a framework with materials and tools. This approach aimed to not only enable stakeholder participation and contributions, but facilitate accountability regarding the incorporation and consideration of stakeholder contributions.

To promote the active involvement of stakeholders with an interest in the policy areas of focus the LFPs utilized the list of registered civil society organizations (CSOs) compiled by the Agency for Support of Civil Society in order to identify and contact all CSOs whose focus is either directly or indirectly related to their policy area of focus. To encourage informed participation the focal point of the POC coordinated with the LFP to conduct thematic stakeholder consultations with brief informative presentations to facilitate stakeholder dialogue and contribution.

Figure 3: Overview of POC Coordination of the Thematic Stakeholder Consultations



To facilitate improved stakeholder participation in the development of Albania's 2020-2022 OGP Action Plan the POC in collaboration with the LFPs and NAIS established a framework to enable a broader scope of opportunities for CSOs and stakeholders to propose their own ideas for government reform as well as to discuss, refine and elaborate on government proposed reforms. These advancements are summarized by the figure below.

Figure 4: Mechanisms for Participation in the Development of Albania's 2020-2022 OGP AP

