

THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR ALBANIA

2020 – 2022

Component -Fiscal transparency

CONSULTATION SUMMARY 1



CONSULTATION 1

Consultation Details

Policy Goal Focus	Fiscal Transparency
Lead Focal Point Institution	Ministry of Finance and Economy
Date	15 September 2020
Consultation Meeting Number	1

I. Objective of Consultation Meeting

What was the aim of this consultation? Please answer for all that apply	Details
(i) Introduce stakeholders to the proposed policy goal	<input type="checkbox"/> No / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Yes, it was the aim of this consultation to introduce the stakeholders with the component fiscal transparency, which is led by Ministry of Finance and Economy and to explain the two Specific Objectives: Transparency on Budget and Transparency on Revenues and to ask for CSO's contribution in order to identify the priority measures as part of these objectives. Transparency, public participation, and legislative oversight in the development of budgets creates better outcomes and are the main issues to better improve the citizen access on fiscal documents. Current challenges related to fiscal transparency have been identified mostly from international evaluations, and based on these findings, Albania should work more to increase fiscal transparency. MoFE prepared a PowerPoint presentation to introduce several priority measures related to fiscal transparency.
(ii) Introduce stakeholders to the OGP process	<input type="checkbox"/> No / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Speaker on OGP topic. Delivered brief presentation on the OGP and Albania's involvement to date. Yes, it was the aim of this consultative meeting to introduce the stakeholders to the OGP initiative, to launch the process for starting to prepare the New Action Plan of OGP 2020-2022 and to invite all members to work and to promote openness and to identify priority measures to address the improvement on Transparency on Budget and Transparency on Revenues. Considering shortcomings identified by the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) 2018-2020 in the report Albania's Progress on the Eligibility Criteria for OGP, one of the main issues that need efforts for improvement is Citizen Engagement. As well, the transparency has been part of the OGP action plan 2018-2020 and currently, we are working to address the existing challenges in the new OGP work plan 2020-2022.
(iii) Explain the feedback tools for stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/> No / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Several tools are used to promote the collaboration with citizen and to receive their feedback. The feedback tools to stakeholders we used are: Survey, OGP website, email.
(iv) Brainstorm ideas with stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No / <input type="checkbox"/> Yes The meeting was focused on the items according to the

previously defined agenda:

1. Notice for drafting the OGP Action Plan 2020-2022_Fiscal Transparency Component-moderated by DMRFP;
2. Brief presentation of the component structure - moderated by DMRFP;
3. Presentation of the purpose of each measure / policy proposed to be part of the 2020-2020 Action Plan-moderated by DMRFP and then each member of the working group explained what objective each of the proposed measures will have;
4. Invitation of CSOs to bring contributions / proposals - DMRFP invited representatives of CSOs present if they had comments, suggestions and opinions. There were no specific suggestions from the present representatives, only congratulations to the MFE in undertaking this process and congratulations for a good process.

In conclusion, before the end of the meeting, it was communicated to the Civil Society that there will be further consultative meetings and they were invited to follow up on their contributions and proposals. It was also requested to complete the survey published on the OGP website.

(v) Develop further details (milestones, etc.) for ideas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No / <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
(vi) Gather feedback on proposed policy goals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No / <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. No specific feedback was received during this consultation, only some responses from pre consultation survey.
(vii) Prioritize proposed policy goals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No / <input type="checkbox"/> Yes It was only a presentation on several measures that were proposed based on internal evaluations, but being that no idea was discussed from CSO, it was no needed to prioritize at that moment.
(viii) Other (provide details)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No / <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

II. Methodology

What was the format of the meeting? How were stakeholders able to participate?	Details
(i) Presentations	<input type="checkbox"/> No / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Presentations on the topics discussed in Section I. MoFE prepared a PowerPoint presentation to introduce priority measures related to fiscal transparency, which was share with the participants after the consultation.
(ii) Discussion / Feedback from stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/> No / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes It was provide the opportunity for discussion but ne specific feedback was receive from CSOs.
(iii) Questions and answers	<input type="checkbox"/> No / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Opportunity for questions and answers and a specific session for CSOs comments was leave and they were invited to give any opinion but no comments were made, only some written messages to congratulate for this initiative and this consultation.
(iv) Brainstorming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No / <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Stakeholder Selection	Details
(i) How were stakeholders selected?	CSOs selected are based on the interaction in the framework of PFM reform and considering all CSOs listed by the Agency for Support of Civil Society, focusing on the CSOs that might cover the state economic and finance issues. More specific, CSOs were chosen if their work was related to fiscal matters. Also, CSOs were also requested to invite any missing relevant stakeholders
(ii) How were stakeholders contacted?	Through email and OGP website
(iii) How many stakeholders were contacted?	55
(iv) Was the consultation announced publically? (via websites, social media, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> No / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes The consultation was published on the OGP website
(v) Were stakeholders reminded?	<input type="checkbox"/> No / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Stakeholders were reminded a few days before the event and in the meeting day and as well when it was sent the link to access in the virtual meeting.

III. Results/ Findings

Stakeholder Contributions	Details
(i) How many stakeholders attended?	In this meeting participated: Working group members, which are from Ministry of Finance and Economy and INSTAT, and 3 CSOs attended the consultation meeting: 2 experts from Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC); 1 expert from Co-plan, and; 1 expert from o non-identified CSO.
(ii) Did stakeholders contribute?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No / <input type="checkbox"/> Yes In the meeting they did not provide any idea, because the representative from 3 CSOs responded that they had completed the pre consultation survey, so they did not have any other comment.
(iii) Main issues identified by stakeholders	None
(iv) Main recommendations from stakeholders?	None

IV. Shortcomings Identified & Preparations for Next Consultation

	Details
(i) Limitations in stakeholder attendance	Stakeholder engagement on this governmental focus has been a challenge for years. Public trust in processes is still being established. COVID-19 may also be posing a greater challenge for awareness and participation as traditional means of in-person meetings are not possible.
(ii) Limitations in stakeholder participation	Stakeholders who attend will need to feel they can contribute meaningfully and their voices heard. Lack of participation may suggest that stakeholders would prefer to learn more on this initiative and then to contribute in future.
(iii) What can be done to improve attendance?	Promotion of consultation through social media channels, contacting key stakeholders for more contacts to approach and encourage stakeholders to invite colleagues.
(iv) What can be done to improve participation in the next meeting?	Emphasize that all contributions will be considered and made public and subjected to a transparent and egalitarian selection process.

Stakeholder Feedback

Name:		Organization/ Affiliation:		Position:	
Comments/ Issues Raised /Feedback/ Ideas					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No specific comments, only some warm words and congratulation on the process and initiative to promote fiscal transparency.					

STAKEHOLDER ATTENDANCE and contribution

	Name	Organization/ Affiliation	Position	Email
1	Vanina Jakupi	MoFE	Working Group	
2	Blerina Gjaci	MoFE	Working Group	
3	Valion Cenalia	MoFE	Working Group	
4	Kostandine Dorri	MoFE	Working Group	
5	Jonida Fili	MoFE	Working Group	
6	Anida Gjanci	MoFE	Working Group	
7	Erisa Rodhani	MoFE	Working Group	
8	Gentian Sinakoli	INSTAT	Working Group	
9	Esmeralda Hoxha	CSO: Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC)	Project Coordinator	hoxha.esmeralda@gmail.com
10	Marinela Seitaj	CSO: Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC)	Coordinator	marinela.seitaj@live.com
11	Merita Toska	Co-PLAN	Economic Development Expert	co-plan@co-plan.org
12	Anisa Feshti	OSHC		