



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
KRYEMINISTRIA

SECRETARIAT MEETING NOTES

E-MEETING WITH THE SENIOR REGIONAL COORDINATOR EUROPE

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)

Place: Hosted by the Office of the Prime Minister virtually

Date: 04.08.2020

Subject: Progress on the new Action Plan 2020-2022

Headed: Department of Development and Good Governance, Prime Minister's Office

Annexes:

Annex 1: Attendance of the Meeting

Annex 2: Agenda Meeting

The list of participants is presented in the Documentation Package (referred to in the last section)

I. Opening of the meeting and discussion:

The representative of the DDGG Department began by welcoming Ms. Sandra Pernar, Senior Regional Coordinator Europe, Open Government Partnership (OGP) to the meeting.

Brief update on the current situation in Albania requested by the SRC Ms. Pernar related to the new action plan: The DDGG representative explained that the Technical Secretariat- the Department of Development and Good Governance (DD&GG) and all linked institutions which are involved in the New Action Plan (NAP) 2020-2022 are facing challenging times due to COVID-19. The pandemic has brought in unprecedented changes and regulations to the work environment. However, she also emphasized the support that various Development Partners have provided during this difficult time.

Further, the challenges have not prevented the Technical Secretariat (DD&GG) from holding a dynamic engagement with the Line Ministries (LMs) and local experts on eliciting feedback on the recommendations of previous Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM). These internal discussions have led to the formulation of the methodological framework of the New Action Plan (NAP) with justice reform, public finance management reform, public

administration reform and anti-corruption reform at its core. Moreover, the consolidated methodological package has been formally approved and sent by the Deputy Prime Minister to relevant institutions towards the launch of the New Action Plan 2020-2022.

Changes from previous Action Plan to the New Action Plan 2020-2022: The absence of a multi stakeholder forum in Albania's OGP process was identified as a crucial weakness by IRM 2018-2020. Albania is addressing this drawback with the help of Integrated Policy Management Groups (IPMG) which offer agility and flexibility in working mechanism. The IPMG will coordinate policies and monitor implementation covering measures related to civil society advancement, decentralization and local governance, public administration reform, service delivery public, transparency & anti-corruption, statistics, e-government and digitalization. It will also coordinate with civil society all measures that will be planned in the Action Plan 2020-2022, enabling consultations in periodic stages.

Phases of the New Action Plan: All notifications and evidences for each meeting (in addition to the consolidated methodological framework) will be published on the dedicated OGP website in both Albanian and English.

The different phases for the New Action Plan are the following:

- i) Assessment of the previous IRM recommendations and Action Plan: (Completed);
- ii) Elaboration and consolidation of methodology: (Completed);
- iii) Official launching of the consolidated methodological framework through the official letter of the Deputy Prime Minister: (Completed);
- iv) Webinar meeting with Lead Focal Points (LFPs) to review the findings and recommendations of previous IRM as well as to introduce the methodological framework and components of the NAP (Completed);
- v) Lead Focal Points (LFPs) will conduct dedicated meetings to their respective structures/ institutions on the recommendations of the previous IRM and new rules and criteria of the NAP (Ongoing);
- vi) Pre-consultation phase will entail a survey to elicit feedback on identifying priority measures from citizens and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Also, the list of CSOs that participate in the process will be available on the OGP website. In addition to these measures, there will be a dedicated e-mail which can be used to provide feedback on the process and components (Initiated and will be completed by September end);
- vii) Preparation of the Action Plan 2020-2022 for each component in coordination with civil society and stakeholders, including at least 3 or 4 consultation meetings by each LFP with CSOs and local experts (Beginning September and ending in October);
- viii) Finalization of the consultation, consolidation and submission of the Action Plan 2020-2022 for formal approval to the Deputy Prime Minister (November-December).

Feasibility of the finalization by December 2020 (in the context of COVID-19 disruptions): The Calendar of the NAP has been designed such that a formal approval will be sought from the OGP Head Quarters by mid-September, and finalization of the NAP by December 2020. Moreover, the ongoing Action Plan 2018-2020 will be finalized by the end of August 2020 as approximately 80% of the measures proposed have already been implemented and finalized.

However, it was brought to the notice of the Technical Secretariat that any measure proposed in the current Action Plan 2018-2020 that has not been implemented thus far can be included and followed-up in the NAP 2020-2022. Also, given the COVID-19 restrictions in place, there is also an option for extending the consolidation and finalization of the NAP into next year with no sanctions for the extended time-line, but obligation on reporting.

Change in Components/ Commitments from Previous Action Plan to the NAP: As most of the commitments proposed in the Action Plan 2018-2020 has been achieved and the relevant activities finalized, and drawing on lessons learned from the previous IRM, it has been decided to have new commitments in the NAP. These new commitments include open justice, beneficial ownership and integrity plans (both as part of the wider anti-corruption commitment), and fiscal transparency through budget participation. These measures have been chosen for their comprehensiveness, for being national priorities and for their linkages with other countries' measures. OGP has agreed to lend additional support in the implementation of open justice and beneficial ownership. In addition, several countries are running pilot studies on these measures, and hence cross-country learning would be possible.

Conclusions and Follow up:

1. *OGP's Guidance on Co-creation:* It has been agreed to facilitate a dedicated virtual meeting in mid-September between the Technical Secretariat, OGP and IRM representatives presenting the new methodology, process and commitments initiated on the NAP.
 2. The OGP website link published the (i) methodology (ii) webinar meeting and (iii) surveys link related to each components have been requested to be send within the 1st week of August.
 3. It was very much approached the commitments related to (i) open justice and (ii) beneficial ownership and the OGP headquarter willing to support in these two related topics.
 4. *OGP's Contribution fee for Albania:* The OGP Office have been informed that will send a formal letter regarding the fee contribution related to the OGP that Albania have obligation as member country.
 5. *OGP-Local Application:* OGP-Local has reached out to the Municipality of Tirana as a potential candidate to apply for the process (open until mid-August). The Municipality of Elbasan has expressed interest in applying, and OGP has connected the municipality representative with the relevant OGP expert for better guidance. OGP would be excited to receive applications from Albania as the region itself lacks representation. It would be helpful to follow up with the application processes of these municipalities.
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Attached documents:

- 1. Attendance list;*
- 2.. Operational Conclusions.*

Support Unit of the General Secretariat

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