**ACTION PLAN**

**OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE**

**"OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP "**

**FOR THE PERIOD 2019 - 2021**

April 2019.

**Introduction**

On September 24, 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina officially joined the multilateral global initiative of the Open Government Partnership. Open Government Partnership (eng. Open Government Partnership-OGP) is a global multilateral initiative for transparency and openness of public authorities, and its participants are states that commit themselves by the membership in the Partnership to concrete measures and actions in the areas of transparency, strengthening citizen participation in authorities, fighting corruption and introducing new technologies that make public administration as efficient as possible.

The idea of establishing Partnership was first put forward by US President Barack Obama during his speech at the UN Assembly in September 2010, and the following year the Declaration on Open Government was signed by eight states, which became members of the OGP Governing Board's Steering Committee - Brazil, Philippines, Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico, Norway, United States and the United Kingdom. Of the OGP's eight original members, the Initiative now includes 79 member states and 20 members of local and regional authorities, and each year the number of countries approaching the initiative is increasing.

In previous years, the Initiative has made many achievements, including, among other things, more than 2,500 measures and activities that have been jointly developed and implemented by civil society organizations and governments, and in a large number of countries, thanks to the OGP, a permanent forum for dialogue between government and civil society has been established. All these measures aim to make the work of governments more efficient, more transparent and accountable and to have a transformative effect on the whole community.

The core of the OGP initiative are the values of the Declaration on Open Government. By accession to the OGP, Member States express:

1. Awareness of the need for open government - an awareness that citizens want a more open government, participation in public life and government that will be transparent, accountable, efficient and sensitive to the needs of citizens.

2. Individual approach to membership of the Initiative - each country chooses its own access to Partnership, which is in line with state priorities, circumstances and citizens' wishes.

3. Responsible fulfilment of obligations - accepting the responsibility to take over the obligations to promote transparency, fight against corruption, empowerment of citizens and the use of new technologies for the purpose of more efficient and accountable government.

4. Openness in co-operation with citizens and promotion of transparency - Representing the principles of openness in the joint efforts of the authorities and citizens to ensure progress, innovation and community security, and the acceptance of the principles of transparency and open government, with aim of achieving more levels of prosperity, well-being and human dignity.

The principles of Open government partnerships and the implementation of measures under this initiative are directly related to the implementation of public administration reform, which is one of the EU's priority requirements and key pillars in the enlargement process, together with the rule of law and economic governance. As a member of the Initiative, BiH supports its principles in line with the general principles and public administration reform that is focused on creating an efficient, transparent, responsible, modern public administration that will base its work on the best practices and principles of European administrative space and work effectively in favor of citizens by providing fast and reliable services.

Open Government Partnership is based on values which are entirely complementary with the values BiH has committed to respect and other relevant documents in the EU accession process, in particular through the document "Reform Agenda" which clearly affirms the principles of transparency and efficiency of public administration.

**Past efforts and planned future activities in the field of open government**

This is the first Action Plan of the BiH Council of Ministers for implementation of the Open Government Partnership in BiH for the period 2019-2021. Given the priorities set by a series of strategic documents such as the BiH Reform Agenda, the Strategic Framework for Continuing Public Administration Reform, Anti-Corruption Strategy, Public Finance Strategy and others, the BiH Council of Ministers has agreed that the first Action Plan covers several challenges, such as: strengthening institutional integrity, more efficient public resource management, improving public services through the application of open data, increasing transparency of institutions, and improving co-operation and greater involvement of civil society in policy-making. The Council of Ministers of BiH has opted for measures that will lead to a more proactive disclosure of information on the BiH institutions' websites and meeting the standards of proactive transparency, open data in the field of statistics and public procurement, building a web platform for drafting BiH institution integrity plans, making the Budget for citizens and establishing effective mechanisms of cooperation with civil society.

Online public consultations were held for the preliminary draft of the Action Plan, through the web site of the eKonsultacije (https: //ekonsultacije.gov.ba) during the period 2.10.-15.10.2018. No additional suggestions and comments were received during the public consultation period.

Information on the process of drafting the Action Plan and the consultation call was submitted to civil society organizations for the purpose of disseminating information on holding consultations.

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| Template for obligations/measures | | | | |
| **Name and number of obligation: 1. Open Data on Public Procurement in BiH** | | | | |
| **Start date and end date:** 1. 5. 2019. - 30. 6. 2020. | | | | |
| Leading agency/institution for implementation | | Public Procurement Agency of BiH | | |
| Description of obligations: | | | | |
| Which public issue will be addressed by this obligation? | | Lack of transparency in low-value procedures, as well as the professional and legal implementation of public procurement procedures without the preference of bidders are the main threats to the integrity of the public procurement system in BiH. A large number of public procurement procedures are low-value procurement, for which are currently not foreseen announcements of the procurement notices on the public procurement portal.  The implementation of this measure will increase transparency and enhance the responsibilities of public funds management in BiH.  Different groups of people and organizations can benefit from the availability of open data in public procurement. At the same time, it is difficult to precisely predict how and which value of open data will be created in the future, because innovation by nature is such that it comes in unexpected ways. | | |
| What is the obligation? | | Make publicly available all public procurement data in BiH which are collected through the public procurement portal www.ejn.gov.ba. The data will show how public funds are spent by contracting authorities at all levels of government in BiH. Data will be available in machine-readable JSON format, for data to be used for web and mobile application development for various purposes, and in Excel, for manual processing by interested individuals and organizations such as civil society organizations, journalists, academics, companies. | | |
| How will the fulfilment of the obligation contribute to the solving of the public problem? | | Open data on public procurement will enable transparent insight into the way of implementation of public procurement procedures, and the value of contracts awarded which will enable easier work of administrative inspection, audit office of the financial operations, if necessary, prosecutors and other law enforcement authorities, which will affect the reduction of corruption in this area. | | |
| Why is this obligation relevant to OGP values? | | It enables public sector transparency in the area of public expenditure, which significantly impacts on strengthening the integrity and responsibility of the public sector organizations. | | |
| Additional information | | * The obligation will be implemented through established cooperation with the German Association for International Development Cooperation (GIZ), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Open Contracting Partnership Organization. * The Strategy for Combating Corruption 2015-2019 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy 2015-2019 in Chapter *9.2.5 Public Procurement and the Private Sector* foresee two strategic programs relevant for this action: *continuous harmonization of the legislative framework in the public procurement area with international obligations and standards* and *improvement of the legal framework for more active participation of the private sector in anti-corruption activities.* Both programs will be actively supported through the implementation of this obligation; * The Reform Agenda in BiH 2015-2018, adopted by the governments of all administrative levels in BiH, speaks about the need to ensure transparency in the public procurement system. | | |
| Goals/activities | | | Start date: | End date: |
| Analysis of the existing positive legislation, establishing the necessary activities on the drafting and the necessary amendments to the bylaws, as well as the adoption of the same. | | | 1. 5. 2019. | 30. 9. 2019. |
| Implementation of OCS standards at the technical level. | | | 30. 9. 2019. | 31. 12. 2019. |
| Development of open data modules as an extension of the public procurement portal (www.ejn.gov.ba).  The aim is to provide data infrastructure for conducting analysis and development of applications and information services in the field of public procurement in BiH. | | | 1. 1. 2020. | 30. 6. 2020. |
| Contact information | | | | |
| The responsible person appointed by the institution responsible for the implementation | Taida Bajramović  Dario Kihli | | | |
| Position, Department | Assistant Director of Information Technology, General and Financial Affairs  Head of Information Technology Group | | | |
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| NGOs, the private sector, multilateral, working groups | GIZ, UNDP BiH, OCP | | | |

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| Template for obligations/measures | | | | |
| **Name and number of obligation:** 2. Development of a web platform for online drafting of integrity plans in institutions | | | | |
| **Start date and end date:** 1. 6. 2019. - 31. 12. 2019. | | | | |
| **Leading agency/institution for implementation** | | Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption | | |
| **Description of obligations:** | | | | |
| **Which public issue will be addressed by this obligation?** | | Getting acquainted with risk situations that can contribute to undermining institutional integrity and suggesting how to avoid said situations in the future. In April 2018, the Agency prepared and published the draft Guidelines for drafting and implementation of integrity plans in BiH institutions, thus initiating the second cycle of drafting integrity plans. In order to facilitate the institutions accessing the creation of the document and at the same time modernize the self-assessment process that is being done in this way, access to the creation of a web application for online drafting of integrity plans will make this process quicker and easier. People who will be in charge of drafting integrity plans will undergo the necessary training by employees of the Agency. | | |
| **What is the obligation?** | | Web platform created and installed in BiH institutions, coordinators trained to use platforms. The second cycle of drafting integrity plans in BiH institutions has been successfully completed. | | |
| **How will the fulfilment of the obligation contribute to the solving of the public problem?** | | In a single document (electronic format document), the institution will have a complete list of risks threatening to undermine the integrity of the institution and propose measures to minimize defined risks. Realizing the proposed measures to improve integrity in practice strengthens the confidence of citizens and the general public in the work of public institutions.  Given that the integrity plan is a preventive anti-corruption mechanism whose purpose is not to solve individual cases of corruption but establishing mechanisms that will influence the reduction of the risk of corruption and other irregularities in all areas of functioning of the institution, by electronic drafting and by the publication of this document of public institutions will affect solving the problem of corruption in society. | | |
| **Why is this obligation relevant to OGP values?** | | When making a document, objective self-assessment is important, ie relevant and realistic identification and risk analysis, assessment of their intensity and suggesting adequate measures to reduce the risk. Objective self-assessment does not imply recognition of the existence of corruption or other irregularities in the institution but of the perception and identification of opportunities and disadvantages that may lead to corruption and other irregularities in the work of the institution. Given that the document should be public, thus are fulfilled obligations such as: disclosing information and improving the availability of information to the public or providing the right to information, creation or improvement of rules, regulations and mechanisms in order to make civil servants responsible to the public for their actions. | | |
| **Additional information** | | * The obligation to develop integrity plans stems from the Anti-Corruption Strategy 2015-2019 and the accompanying Action Plan. | | |
| **Goals/activities** | | | **Start date:** | **End date:** |
| Creating a Web Platform | | | 1. 6. 2019. | 1. 9. 2019. |
| Creating and publishing manuals for web platform use, training of coordinators, test phase of web application | | | 1. 6. 2019. | 1. 9. 2019. |
| Installing a software in institutions of BiH, on-line drafting of integrity plans | | | 1. 9. 2019. | 31. 12. 2019. |
| **Contact information:**  Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption  Dabrobosanska 26-28  71 123 Istočno Sarajevo  kontakt@apik.ba | | | | |
| **The responsible person appointed by the institution responsible for the implementation** | Vladica Babić | | | |
| **Position, Department** | Assistant Director in the Department for the Prevention of Corruption | | | |
| **E-mail and phone** | 057/ 322 549  vladica.babic@apik.ba | | | |
| **Institutions and other actors involved in the implementation** | Civil Service Agency of BiH | | | |
| **NGOs, the private sector, multilateral, working groups** | Regional anticorruption initiative (RAI) | | | |

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| Template for obligations/measures | | | | |
| **Name and number of obligation** 3.Development of online training modules for civil servants in the process of drafting and implementing integrity plans | | | | |
| **Start date and end date:** 1. 6. 2019. - 31. 12. 2019. | | | | |
| **Leading agency/institution for implementation** | | Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption | | |
| **Description of obligations:** | | | | |
| **Which public issue will be addressed by this obligation?** | | Strengthening the awareness of the harmfulness of corruption and the strengthening of ethics and professional integrity of civil servants. | | |
| **What is the obligation?** | | Creating and distributing a survey that will be compulsory for civil servants employed in BiH institutions in order to determine the state of the personal integrity of civil servants. Based on the conducted survey, analysis is to be made of the existing state of integrity in the civil service. The Agency, in cooperation with NGO INFOHOUSE, initiates activities on the development of online education aimed at improving the knowledge of civil servants regarding the drafting of integrity plans in institutions in BiH as well as on the issue of strengthening ethics and professional integrity. Creation as well as the publication of online modules on the official site of the Agency. | | |
| **How will the fulfilment of the obligation contribute to the solving of the public problem?** | | Training is designed to improve and develop institutional capacities, improve the role of employees in state institutions, contribute to the prevention, monitoring and detection of corruptive behaviours. | | |
| **Why is this obligation relevant to OGP values?** | | Bitno je da se unaprijede kapaciteti u području ljudskih resursa, postizanje adekvatne strukture zaposlenih kako bi se u najvećoj mjeri iskoristile, ali i poboljšale njihove sposobnosti u području prevencije korupcije (razvoj institucionalnih i ljudskih kapaciteta u području prevencije korupcije). Dovesti do jačanja svijesti o štetnosti korupcije kao i naglašavanja važnosti kako u institucijama rade profesionalni i nepristrani zaposlenici čija je funkcija biti na usluzi građanima.  It is important to improve human resource capacities, to achieve an adequate structure of employees to maximize and enhance their capabilities in the area of corruption prevention (development of institutional and human capacity in the area of corruption prevention). To raise awareness of the damaging effects of corruption as well as emphasizing the importance that the institutions are employing professional and impartial staff whose function is to serve the citizens. | | |
| **Additional information** | |  | | |
| **Goals/activities** | | | **Start date:** | **End date:** |
| Designing and making a survey for civil servants | | | 1. 6. 2019. | 1. 9. 2019. |
| Distribution of the survey to the civil servants | | | 1. 9. 2019. | 1. 10. 2019. |
| Analysis and publication of collected data | | | 1. 10. 2019. | 31. 12. 2019. |
| Preparation of materials needed for education | | | 1. 6. 2019. | 1. 9. 2019. |
| Preparing moodle for education | | | 1. 11. 2019. | 1. 12. 2019. |
| Publication of moodle on the official website of the Agency and sending notices to civil servants about the possibility of attending the said education | | | 1. 10. 2019. | 31. 12. 2019. |
| **Contact information:**  Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption  Dabrobosanska 26-28  71 123 Istočno Sarajevo  kontakt@apik.ba | | | | |
| **The responsible person appointed by the institution responsible for the implementation** | Vladica Babić | | | |
| **Position, Department** | Assistant Director in the Department for the Prevention of Corruption | | | |
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| **Institutions and other actors involved in the implementation** | Civil Service Agency of BiH | | | |
| **NGOs, the private sector, multilateral, working groups** | NGO Infohouse | | | |

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| Template for obligations/measures | | | | |
| **Name and number of obligation:** 4. Increase availability, openness and use of official statistical data | | | | |
| **Start date and end date:** 1. 5. 2019. - 30. 4. 2021. | | | | |
| **Leading agency/institution for implementation** | | Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina | | |
| **Description of obligation:** | | | | |
| **Which public issue will be addressed by this obligation?** | | Official statistics is a basic source of information about a country that provides to its social and economic structure, on an impartial basis, the numerical and representative data and information about the massive economic, demographic and social phenomena, as well as on developments in the field of labour and the environment.  The problem addressed by this obligation is the inadequate use of statistical data in decision-making processes, programming, policies, and inability to easily measure results by stakeholder organizations and citizens.  By increasing the availability and openness of a series of high quality and reliable data sets, we can expect progress in a large number of areas, as well as creating new products and services, development of innovations, increasing transparency and more. | | |
| **What is the obligation?** | | Through the activities of the Agency for Statistics of BiH, we plan to increase the availability, openness and use of official statistical data in a way that all the data published by the Agency will be free, in a machine-readable form under the open license and constantly available at www.bhas.gov.ba consistent with the five-star implementation scheme. In addition to the above-mentioned activities and high-quality promotion that includes events and the development of educational materials, we want to boost the use of data and the development of innovative solutions. | | |
| **How will the fulfilment of the obligation contribute to the solving of the public problem?** | | By opening data from different areas (gender, criminality, culture and art, education, social protection, population, labor market, national accounts, prices, foreign trade, construction, industry, investment, business statistics, tourism, agriculture, forestry, environment, energy, traffic, communications, etc.) we are encouraging the service improvement, economic growth, technological development and transparency.  In order to achieve this, it is necessary to improve the data infrastructure, overcoming the legal and organizational barriers and establish a sustainable and up-to-date open source information system on permanent web links. In order to make the most of the information we have available, we need active interaction with the users in order to understand their needs on one hand and to provide education to the users with the aim of making proper use of data and strengthening their skills.  Data opening improves their quality by influencing the methodology of collecting and computing through user reactions. Data users are business entities and their associations, state bodies and bodies of local self-government units, cultural, educational and scientific institutions as well as the wider public, and therefore it is important to have timely available, high quality, accurate, objective and independent quantitative information required for quality estimates and decisions.  Due to the broad spectrum of different users, for the purposes of education, it is necessary to produce various educational tools in the form of short animated films, brochures, presentations and infographics, with the aim of encouraging the development of innovative solutions, organizing competitions with symbolic prizes (eg. the most interesting application created on open data). | | |
| **Why is this obligation relevant to OGP values?** | | **Transparency**  Obligation means publishing more information, improving the quality of published information, and improving public access to information.  **Citizen Participation**  The obligation implies improving the possibility and ability of the public to influence the decision-making process by increasing the availability of data that is the basis for the argumentation.  **Responsibility**  The obligation implies an improvement of the measurement mechanism and a kind of impact indicator that will increase the public officials' responsibility to the public. | | |
| **Additional information** | | An additional budget for this obligation is not required. The statistics serve as a basis for calculating many SDG indicators. | | |
| **Goals/activities** | | | **Start date:** | **End date:** |
| Establish user-friendly interactive web portal bhas.gov.ba | | | 1. 5. 2019. | 15. 6. 2019. |
| Creating data sets from different areas and publishing under Open License in accordance with the five-star implementation scheme | | | 1. 5. 2019. | 30. 4. 2021. |
| Creating educational tools, interaction with users, and promotional events | | | 1. 11. 2019. | 30. 4. 2021. |
| **Contact information:** | | | | |
| **The responsible person appointed by the institution responsible for the implementation** | Alen Mrgud | | | |
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| **Institutions and other actors involved in the implementation** |  | | | |
| **NGOs, the private sector, multilateral, working groups** |  | | | |
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| **Institutions and other actors involved in the implementation** |  | | | |
| **NGOs, the private sector, multilateral, working groups** |  | | | |

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| Template for obligations/measures | | | | |
| **Name and number of obligations:** 5. Involvement of civil society organizations in policy-making processes | | | | |
| **Start date and end date of obligation:** 1. 9. 2019. – 31. 12. 2019. | | | | |
| **Leading agency/institution for implementation** | | Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina | | |
| **Description of obligation:** | | | | |
| **Which public issue will be addressed by this obligation?** | | Co-operation with civil society on public policy issues, including the process of European integration, has become de facto one of the political conditions for full membership in the European Union and is regularly addressed in both the EU enlargement strategies published periodically by the European Commission and in progress reports on Bosnia and Herzegovina for membership in the European Union.  The Treaty of Lisbon on the Amendments to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community stipulates that the European Union is based on the representative (role of political parties) and participatory democracy (the role of civil society). This is the participation of citizens and civil society organizations in the work of the institutions of the European Union through open, transparent and regular dialogue and consultation, proclaimed by the fundamental constitutional value on which the European Union is founded - and which also obliges candidate countries and potential candidates for membership.  In January 2017, the Council of Ministers adopted new Rules on Consultation in Drafting Legal Provisions ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 5/17) and launched the web application eKonsultacije https://ekonsultacije.gov.ba to conduct a public consultation with the interested public on the regulations proposed by the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The web application eKonsultacij has a total of 55 registered BiH institutions that are conducting public consultations for regulations from their jurisdiction.  In 2018, 280 public consultations were conducted and 234 reports on the conducted consultations were published, which is a significant increase compared to 2017 when 111 public consultations were conducted and 108 reports on the conducted consultations were published. The total number of registered users on the web platform eKonsultacije in December 2018 was 1,876 and is higher for 389 registered users than the total number of web application users from December 2017.  However, the participation of civil society organizations is not sufficient and it is necessary to raise awareness and educate civil society organizations to participate actively in the process of public consultation organized by the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina through the web platform eKonsultacije. | | |
| **What is the obligation?** | | To hold eight workshops for civil society organizations to present the Rules on Consultation in Drafting Legal Provisions ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 5/17) and the possibilities of active participation in the process of creating regulations and other acts under the competence of the Council of Ministers of BiH. Web platform eKonsultacije would be presented at the workshop and the way in which civil society organizations can register and actively participate in the process of drafting regulations and other documents by sending their suggestions and comments. | | |
| **How will the fulfilment of the obligation contribute to the solving of the public problem?** | | By fulfilling this obligation, we want to motivate civil society organizations to participate more actively in the policy-making processes of the Council of Ministers of BiH in order to improve quality of regulations at the Council of Ministers level with their suggestions and comments. | | |
| **Why is this obligation relevant to OGP values?** | | Meeting this obligation allows the efficient adoption of public policies and establish clearer procedures of co-operation of the Council of Ministers and the civil society in BiH. | | |
| **Additional information** | |  | | |
| **Goals/activities** | | | **Start date:** | **End date:** |
| In cooperation with the CSO, determine the location of the workshops | | | 1. 9. 2019. | 15. 9. 2019. |
| Prepare and publish a call for workshops | | | 15. 9. 2019. | 30. 9.2019. |
| To hold workshops in eight BiH cities | | | 1. 10. 2019. | 1. 12. 2019. |
| Make Recommendations for improving the public consultation process based on proposals by civil society organizations | | | 1. 1. 2020. | 30. 1. 2020. |
| Implement recommendations in order to create a more quality legislative and legal framework for inclusion of CSOs in policy-making processes | | | 1. 2. 2020. | 1. 6. 2020. |
| **Contact information** | | | | |
| **The responsible person appointed by the institution responsible for the implementation** | Vildan Hadžihasanović | | | |
| **Position, Department** | Senior Associate | | | |
| **E-mail and phone** | [Vildan.hadzihasanovic@mpr.gov.ba](mailto:Vildan.hadzihasanovic@mpr.gov.ba), +387 33 721 604 | | | |
| **Institutions and other actors involved in the implementation** |  | | | |
| **NGOs, the private sector, multilateral, working groups** | CSO | | | |

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| Template for obligations/measures | | | |
| **Name and number of obligations:** 6. Improving transparency in BiH institutions | | | |
| **Start date and end date of obligation:** 1. 5. 2019. – 31. 12. 2020. | | | |
| **Leading agency/institution for implementation** | | The Public Administration Reform Coordinator’s Office | |
| **Description of obligation:** | | | |
| **Which public issue will be addressed by this obligation?** | | According to the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index for 2017, Bosnia and Herzegovina is ranked 91st out of a total of 180 countries with a score of 38 on a scale from 0 to 100, which is slightly worse than in the previous 2016. The Strategy for Combating Corruption (2015 - 2019) apostrophes the problem of transparency of institutions in BiH and states that "corruption is also favoured by a general lack of transparency in the work of institutions and insufficient freedom of access to information". Therefore, as some of the specific measures, increasing transparency in decision-making (2.7.1 Strategy) and (9.2.1 Strategy) public in institution work and access to information are mentioned. The level of transparency of the institutions at the level of the Council of Ministers of BiH is low, indicating that the institutions do not proactively publish much information of importance to citizens. The average level of transparency is 34.8 per cent, which means that most institutions do not have any basic information on their web sites about their work, management, structure, responsibilities, budget, programs, etc. - these are the results of research conducted by the Center for Social Research Analitika. Out of 68 institutions, only eight institutions have published more than 50 per cent of the documents/information stipulated by Proactive Transparency Standards. The lack of transparency of institutions in terms of proactive dissemination of information on the websites is also confirmed by the SIGMA 2017 report for BiH and the audit report on the impact of "Transparency of the Work of the Institutions of BiH". | |
| **What is the obligation?** | | The obligation will directly address the above problem, with the aim of increasing the degree of proactive transparency through the following measures:   * + advocacy and promotion of proactive publication of information within the civil service   + promotion of proactive publication aimed at the management of institutions   + capacity building of civil servants in the area of proactive transparency   + customer satisfaction survey on proactive transparency   + measuring and tracking progress in the area of proactive transparency. | |
| **How will the fulfilment of the obligation contribute to the solving of the public problem?** | | Proactive disclosure of information will provide transparent insight into the work of institutions and decisions made on behalf of citizens. Access to information is thereby made easier for citizens, where the application on a prescribed form, the knowledge of the legal framework, the waiting or possible payment of access fees are replaced by a proactive approach to the institution and the disclosure of information prior to requesting them. Also, the proactive disclosure of information ensures that the information the institution possesses is accessible to everyone, and not just to applicants. Unless they have the right information, citizens are not able to exercise their rights and access to services provided by the public sector. Access to information is part of the basic tools for monitoring the work of elected officials, as well as for ensuring greater accountability for spending taxpayers money. | |
| **Why is this obligation relevant to OGP values?** | | Increases the transparency of institutions and the participation of citizens in decision-making. | |
| **Additional information** | | The following documents also mention the obligation of proactive disclosure:   * Universal Declaration of Human Rights * European Good Governance Principles * Directive on the repeated use of information 2003/98 / EC * Revised Action Plan 1 of Public Administration Reform * Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan for the Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy 2015-2019 * Regulations (BiH Public Procurement Law, Administrative Laws, Free Access to Information Law ...) * Report performance audit on "Transparency of the institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina." | |
| **Goals/activities with measurable results** | | **Start date:** | **End date:** |
| After the Council of Ministers of BiH adopts the information on the Policy proactive transparency and Standards of proactive transparency of the PARCO and obliges all institutions on the implementation of the conclusion, the degree of fulfilment of standards of proactive transparency in the institutions of BiH is increased. | | 1. 9. 2019. | 31. 12. 2019. |
| Capacities of civil servants and heads of institutions of proactive transparency are increased | | 1. 5. 2019. | 1. 1. 2020. |
| A mechanism for measuring and researching proactive transparency has been established | | 1. 6. 2019. | 1. 6. 2020. |
| **Contact information** | | | |
| **The responsible person appointed by the institution responsible for the implementation** | | Vedrana Faladžić  Mubera Begić | |
| **Position, Department** | | Senior Associate for Public Relations  Professional Adviser for Public Administration Reform | |
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| **Other actors involved** | **Other institutions involved** | Council of Ministers of BiH  Civil Service Agency of BiH  Directorate for European Integration  Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina  Agency for the Development of Quality of Higher Education and Quality Assurance  Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption  The Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of BiH  All Institutions of the Council of Ministers of BiH | |
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| **NGOs, the private sector, multilateral, working groups** | The inter-institutional thematic working group for communication Program of strengthening of public institutions  Civil Society Organizations: Transparency International BiH, Analitika, Why Not, CIN, CPI and other civil society organizations | |
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| Template for obligations/measures | | | | |
| **Name and number of obligations:** 7. Drafting of the budget for citizens | | | | |
| **Start date and end date of obligation:** 1. 5. 2019. – 31. 12. 2020. | | | | |
| **Leading agency/institution for implementation** | | Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH | | |
| **Description of obligation:** | | | | |
| **Which public issue will be addressed by this obligation?** | | Generally speaking, governments are responsible to their citizens or at least they should be responsible for actions and policies they are implementing. Budget, as the basic instrument by which the government implements its policies and realizes plans, is usually very complex and difficult to understand by a large part of the public. Therefore, it is not only important that the budget is available to the public, but it is equally important that budget documentation is accessible and understandable to citizens.  According to the results of the International Budget Openness Research (IBP), the Budget Openness Index in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2017 was only 35 points out of a total of 100 index points, which BiH puts in countries whose "government provides citizens with minimal budget information".  According to this survey, the worst segment, citizens' participation in the budget cycle, was rated with only nine index points. | | |
| **What is the obligation?** | | Regarding the described situation , one of the or the first of the measures that the institutions of BiH should undertake is to make the information about the budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina available and accessible in a simple, concise and transparent way to the citizens and the public in a form and content that would reflect their interest and needs.  This measure would be realized through the preparation and publication of the Budget for citizens publication, while the process of publishing the publication itself would imply several steps and the involvement of a number of actors. The essence of drafting a Budget for citizens is to make very complicated, professional and comprehensive information presented in a simple, concise and appealing way. The main objective is to: make citizens competent and interested to participate in budget processes | | |
| **How will the fulfilment of the obligation contribute to the solving of the public problem?** | | The regular preparation and publication of the Budget for Citizens is a reflection of the best international practices and trends in the field of public finance transparency. Given that the state level of government has not had significant activities and initiatives in this field until now, by introducing the practice of compiling and publishing the Budget for Citizens, it is expected a strengthening of citizens' awareness and public accountability, as well as a much better rating of BiH institutions on the international scale budget transparency, measured primarily by the Budget Transparency Index, which will result in increased trust among citizens, donors and civil society organizations. | | |
| **Why is this obligation relevant to OGP values?** | | The relevance of this measure to OGP values is reflected in the following facts:   * Through the implementation of this measure/obligation, for the first time information on the budget intended for citizens will be published, the quality of published information will be improved in relation to the needs of the target group, the availability and accessibility of information in the public will be improved. * The obligation will directly affect the creation of preconditions and a favourable environment for the public to influence the decision-making process.   By achieving greater transparency and the sense of significant public oversight, the public officials' accountability towards their actions is expected. | | |
| **Additional information** | | The purpose of this activity is to publish and distribute the Budget for Citizens of BiH Institutions for the first time and not only as an informative material of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH, which would formally comply with this obligation, but the result would be the document in which the citizens themselves participated and NGOs, which fully reflects their interests and needs. Also, it is envisaged that the entire process is implemented systematically and some kind of methodology/guidelines will be developed for the preparation of budgets for citizens, which would be used for the purposes of further training and dissemination of positive practice to all institutions and possibly other levels of government in order to achieve more transparency.  Although most of these activities will be realized within the staffing capacities of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH and BiH institutions, the BiH Ministry of Finance and Treasury will request a partner donor organization ready to support the planned activities, especially in the area of mentoring and expertise in this area, meetings and workshops, design and preparation of the document itself, as well as assistance in the distribution of the same and eventual procurement of the information tool for the publication of the data on the websites of the institutions of BiH. | | |
| **Goals/activities** | | | **Start date:** | **End date:** |
| In cooperation with the NGO, we will identify the interests and needs of the beneficiary/target group, consider and process the collected information, then work out, write, design and publish the Budget for Citizens and distribute it to citizens through a web site and in a printed form. | | | 1. 5. 2019. | 1. 8. 2019. |
| Preparation of guidelines for the preparation of the Budget for Citizens for BiH Institutions and provision of education to institutions in connection with drafting the Budget for Citizens. | | | 1. 8. 2019 | 31. 12. 2020. |
| **Contact information** | | | | |
| **The responsible person appointed by the institution responsible for the implementation** | 1. Snežana Tuševljak  2. Halida Pašić | | | |
| **Position, Department** | 1. Head of the Department for Plan Analysis and Budget Execution  2. Head of the Department for Budget Preparation | | | |
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| **Institutions and other actors involved in the implementation** | Public Administration Reform Coordinator's Office of CM BIH (in view of previous experience in this area) in the preparation phase of the guidelines and drafting the Budget for Citizens, and at a later stage (training) the other BiH institution. | | | |
| **NGOs, the private sector, multilateral, working groups** | CSOs and multilateral working groups | | | |