



Open Government Partnership
Independent Reporting Mechanism
Norway
Comments Received on the First
End-of-Term Report

NORWAY – Comments from The Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation to Norway: 2014-2015 END-OF-TERM-REPORT

We have two comments:

1. Commitment number 26 (page 3)

In the 2014 – 2015 End-Of-Term Report from Norway, the last sentence on page 3 reads: *"A 26th commitment, which was added after the publication of the action plan and promptly cancelled by the Norwegian government, has not been evaluated."*

This sentence is not quite correct: Commitment number 26 is Norway's ambitious commitment to the OGP Summit in London 2013, see annex. The commitment is about the Government's Municipality Reform, one of the Norwegian Government eight priority areas. This commitment and project on the Municipality Reform has not been cancelled.

The Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation will in the spring of 2017 put forward a paper to the parliament with proposals for municipal amalgamations. As of January 27th 2017, 155 municipalities have decided that they want to amalgamate with one or more other municipalities.

2. Plain legal language (Commitment number 16 – page 49)

We want to note concerning commitment number 16. Plain legal language that the representation of the project "Plain Legal language" on page 50 (Did it open government? – Access to information: Marginal) is incorrect.

The laws mentioned in the End-of-term report are not the four specific pieces of legislation that were part of the project. The laws in the project are: Education Act, Inheritance Act, Adoption Act and Defence Personnel Act. In addition to these four laws in the project, several of the legislative committees have requirements

regarding plain legal language in their mandate. This applies to the laws mentioned on page 50.

In our opinion, it is too early to conclude about the output. The laws have not been adopted yet, some committees are still working.

Concerning demanded reaction about the language in the draft of the Law on Municipalities, we disagree with the conclusion. The experiences from the project "Plain legal language" give another picture. As a part of the project, citizens tested the laws. Their feedback was that the information that is important for their rights and duties were easier to access.

We also want to note that working with "Plain legal language" is a long-term project.

Page 49

Responsible institution: (since 1.1.2014 NOT Ministry of Government, Administration and Church Affairs) Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation

Start date: (not ongoing) 1 July, 2014
2014)

End date: Ongoing (not 1 July

Terje Dyrstad
Deputy Director General

Oslo, 6th February 2017
Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation