



**BULGARIA**  
**SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THIRD**  
**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2016 - 2018**

**THIRD ACTION PLAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA ON THE**  
**“OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP” INITIATIVE**  
**September 2017**

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We thank the representatives of the administrations, who have reported the implementation of the planned measures for the collection of information.

Sofia, September 2017

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## Contents

1. Introduction and Background	3
2. National Action plan Process	23

A. Process of consultations on the preparation of the Third National Action Plan:	23
B. Process of consultations during the implementation of the Third National Action Plan	25
C. Describe briefly the deadline for consultations and receiving comments during the preparation of the Self-Assessment Report and how they were reflected in the Report.	25

3. IRM Recommendations	26
4. Implementation of the commitments, set out in the National Action Plan	28
Commitment 1: The Bulgarian government will improve the accessibility and quality of public services by employing e-government tools	29
Commitment 2: The Bulgarian government will continue to improve access to information through further enhancing the scope of available public information and extensive electronization of the information provision processes	63
Commitment 3: Bulgarian government will actively cooperate and encourage the local authorities to employ open government practices at local level	85
Commitment 4A: Bulgarian government will maintain an active dialogue with civil society based on innovative forms of interaction allowing for feedback and co-authorship of policy	91
Commitment 4B: Bulgarian government will strive to improve the environment and provide support for the development of civil society organizations	103
Commitment 5: The Bulgarian government will aim to increase government integrity and improve the internal and external control of the institutions	106
Commitment 6: The Bulgarian government will continue to publish public information in open format and take steps to improve the quality of published datasets and promote public engagement in data usage	122
6. Conclusions, other initiatives and next steps	146

A. Lessons learned:	146
B. Next Steps:	147
C. Conclusion:	147

## 1. Introduction and Background<sup>1</sup>

The Third National Action Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria under the Initiative 'Open Government Partnership' (OGP) (1 July 2016 - 30 June 2018) was adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 570 of 11 July 2016.

By decision of the Council of Ministers of 25 May 2017 Mrs. Romyana Bachvarova, Head of the Prime Minister's Political Cabinet, was assigned to be responsible for the coordination and participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the initiative.

The Directorate 'Administration Modernization' with the administration of the Council of Ministers performs coordination on the operational level and reporting on the implementation of the Action plan's measures.

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The Action Plan has been divided into 6 themes - 'E-Government', 'Access to Information', 'Open Cities', 'Civic Participation', 'Public Integrity' and 'Open Data'. The Action Plan includes 7 major commitments of the Bulgarian government for which 37 specific measures have been formulated. 16 institutions are responsible for implementing the measures. More than 15 institutions, public and civic organizations were identified as involved parties and stakeholders in the plan.

The third Action Plan focuses on the following themes:

- Improving access to information by providing a two-way communication with stakeholders and taking advantage of new technologies;
- Improving the quality of public services through their extensive digitalization;
- Enhancing integrity in governance by enhancing internal and external institutional control;
- Creating prerequisites for civic participation in decision-making processes by introducing new forms of interaction that promote their real participation and opportunities for co-authorship in policy formulation;
- Creating prerequisites for widely published information in open-source format and its reuse by stakeholders to create new products, data and research.

<sup>1</sup> The self-assessment report of the administration covers the period for implementation of measures from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

The Third Action Plan, with respect to the Civic Participation Theme and the publication of Open Source Information, also includes measures to be implemented at local level.

The analysis of the measures in the plan shows that the measures that are in alignment with the challenge of the Public Service Improvement Initiative are dominant. Specifically in the plan, these are measures related to the introduction of new electronic services, registers or information systems that will facilitate the access to services and improve their quality.

While reviewing the measures in the action plan for their compliance with the core values of the Initiative, we have noted that the measures, related to improving the public accountability of the institutions prevail. That also corresponds to the public expectations for improved institutional integrity, for open and transparent governance. They are followed by the measures that are in line with the values of the Initiative for access to public information and for the incorporation of technologies and innovations for openness and accountability. The measures in the action plan, related to civic participation present the smallest group. Their implementation however would lead to a qualitative change in the interaction with citizens and their active involvement in the decision-making process.

**Table 1** shows the compliance of the commitments/measures of the Third Action Plan with the main challenges of OGP

**Table 2** shows the compliance of the commitments/measures of the Third Action Plan with the values of OGP

COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES				
			1. Improving Public Services	2. Increasing Public Integrity	3. More Effectively Managing Public Resources	4. Creating Safer Communities	5. Increasing Corporate Accountability
1) THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS	1.1.1	Improving the existing and developing new e-services for the National Revenue Agency	X				
	1.1.2	Development of an E-government Strategy 2016 - 2020 of the Ministry of Environment and Waters and a Roadmap for its implementation			X		
	1.1.3	Establishment of a public electronic register of the installations emitting volatile organic compounds and provision of two e-services – submission of applications for registration and submission of applications for changes to the registration	X				
	1.1.4	Development of a national information system for waste with supporting e-submission of applications, generation of reports and provision of information online	X				
	1.1.5	Development and implementation of software applications for real-time processing of information and issuance of e-referrals and e-prescriptions.	X				
	1.1.6	Transformation of the the initial registration procedure for civil	X				

		society organizations from court registration into administrative registration and centralization and electronization of the CSO register in the Registry Agency					
	1.1.7	Connecting the Information System for Managing and Monitoring the EU Funds with the information system of the National Statistical Institute	X				
	1.1.8	Upgrading the main information systems of the Customs Agency and adding a functionality for exporting data and services to external systems	X				
	1.1.9	Development of a Centralized Public Procurement System containing all modules including e-evaluation and e-submission of bids. Prepare and employ a centralized tender documentation. Strengthening the role of the Central Public Procurement Authority via the e-procurement system.	X				

COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES				
			1. Improving Public Services	2. Increasing Public Integrity	3. More Effectively Managing Public Resources	4. Creating Safer Communities	5. Increasing Corporate Accountability
2) THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH FURTHER ENHANCING THE SCOPE OF AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIZATION OF THE INFORMATION PROVISION PROCESSES	2.1.1	Coordination and support in the process of revising the internal procedures for providing access to public information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and establishing clear mechanisms and responsibilities for pro-active provision of information and internal control.		X			
	2.1.2	Conducting trainings for the administrative officials and the units responsible for information provision concerning the amendments to the Freedom of Information Act		X			
	2.1.3	Maintaining public electronic registers of: online gambling sites by persons not issued a license to organize online gambling; gambling operators; manufacturers, distributors, importers and technicians of gambling equipment; suspended, revoked and denied gambling licenses; approved gambling equipment	X				
	2.1.4	Publishing the annual priorities of the National Revenue Agency (NRA),			X		



		results and outcomes of the NRA operation and results from opinion polls commissioned by NRA on customer satisfaction					
	2.1.5	Publication of analyses/research financed by the EU Funds as a resource for information exchange and thematic mapping of the information resources aimed at improving access to information			X		
	2.1.6	Creating a register of all regulatory, supervisory and control agencies appointed by Parliament (in conjunction or not with the Council of Minister and/or the President) containing information about their web sites, powers, mandate, members, decisions, etc.		X			
	2.1.7	Establishment of an information system for collection, digitalization and storage of the central archive of the National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage (NIICH) and provision of e-services to citizens, central and local administrations by creating a digital public archive and e-register of archaeological sites.	X				

COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES				
			1. Improving Public Services	2. Increasing Public Integrity	3. More Effectively Managing Public Resources	4. Creating Safer Communities	5. Increasing Corporate Accountability
<b>3) BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL ACTIVELY COOPERATE AND ENCOURAGE THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO EMPLOY OPEN GOVERNMENT PRACTICES AT LOCAL LEVEL</b>	3.1.1	3.1 Adoption of a program and schedule for opening local government data	X				
	3.1.2	3.2 Increasing local governmental financial transparency through pilot citizen budget initiative in the municipalities		X			

COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES				
			1. Improving Public Services	2. Increasing Public Integrity	3. More Effectively Managing Public Resources	4. Creating Safer Communities	5. Increasing Corporate Accountability
<b>4A) BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE DIALOG WITH CIVIL SOCIETY BASED ON INNOVATIVE FORMS OF INTERACTION ALLOWING FOR FEEDBACK AND CO-AUTHORSHIP OF POLICY</b> <b>4Б) BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE</b>	4a.1.1	Improving the quality of public consultation through upgrading the functionalities of the Public Consultation Portal; drafting unified standards for the selection of the members of public and consultative councils, publicity of their operation and decision – making mechanisms; development in conjunction with civil society organizations of training programs for public officials on the organization of effective public		X	X		

ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS		consultations, developing guidelines for citizen engagement and provision of feedback					
	4a.1.2	Introducing an option for a national and local electronic petition and reducing red tape and the requisite data for organizing a citizen petition. Adopting the necessary amendments to the Direct Participation Act	X				
	4a.1.3	Establishment of a permanent joint mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of the OGP national action plan implementation			X		
	4a.1.4	Piloting a new collaborative method (design-thinking) for analysis of complex open issues in the decision-making process relating to the EU Funds: organizing a seminar with stakeholders focused on the practical implementation of the environmental and climate policies as horizontal policies within the EU Funds management			X		
	4a.1.5	Develop and organize forums on the development of a Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy (CSRS)					X
	46.1.1	Updating the Strategy for Developing Civil Society Organizations and adoption of a new action plan thereto and lead institution		X			

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COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES				
			1. Improving Public Services	2. Increasing Public Integrity	3. More Effectively Managing Public Resources	4. Creating Safer Communities	5. Increasing Corporate Accountability
5) THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL AIM TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY AND IMPROVE THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF A PUBLIC REGISTER FOR BUDGET	5.1.1	Establishment of a public register for budget and project control of the e-government efforts			X		
	5.1.2	Development and implementation of an Information System for Corruption Risk Analysis		X			
	5.1.3	Introducing a requirement for the personnel of the Customs Agency to have passed a professional and psychological suitability test. A draft ordinance to be developed and approved by the Ministry of Finance.		X			
	5.1.4	Increasing the transparency of the customs authorities by instituting a variety of communication channels for citizen input – hot line, information system of the National Anti-Corruption Council, email, by mail and feedback boxes – and providing feedback and taking action on incoming complaints and proposals		X			
	5.1.5	Amendments to the Public Procurement Act introducing an		X			

		obligation for applicants for large contracts to disclose their beneficial owners and undergo preliminary checks					
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COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES				
			1. Подобряване на обществените услуги	2. Засилване на обществения морал	3. По-ефективно управление на публичните средства	4. Създаване на по-безопасни общности	5. Повишаване на корпоративната отговорност
6) THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH PUBLIC INFORMATION IN OPEN FORMAT AND TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PUBLISHED DATASETS AND PROMOTE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN DATA USAGE	6.1.1	Upgrading and improving the Open Data Portal by adding new functionalities – hierarchy of publishing organizations, better search capabilities, issue tracker for low-quality datasets and automatic alerts to data owners, data excellence certificates, feedback, etc.	X				
	6.1.2	Publishing program and project data from the new information system for EU Funds management including data on implementation progress			X		
	6.1.3	Organization of public events (conferences, hackathons, competitions) promoting the benefits of open data and collection of case-studies on the economic and social benefits of open Data	X				
	6.1.4	Drafting and dissemination of Open Data Usage Manual	X				
	6.1.5	Update, maintenance and	X				

		development of GIS applications for the register of protected areas in Bulgaria					
	6.1.6	Publication of data from the macroeconomic forecast twice a year			X		
	6.1.7	Publication of open data on migration				X	
	6.1.8	Upgrade of the Crime Prevention Information System and granting public access to the system core. Export of open data and use of system data for provision of integrated administrative services	X				

**Table 2** shows the compliance of the commitments/measures of the Third Action Plan with the values of OGP

**Table 2:**

COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES			
			1. Access to information	2. Civic participation	3. Public Accountability	4. Technology and innovation for openness and accountability
1) THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY	1.1.1	Improving the existing and developing new e-services for the National Revenue Agency				X

AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS	1.1.2	Development of an E-government Strategy 2016 - 2020 of the Ministry of Environment and Waters and a Roadmap for its implementation			X	
	1.1.3	Establishment of a public electronic register of the installations emitting volatile organic compounds and provision of two e-services – submission of applications for registration and submission of applications for changes to the registration	X			X
	1.1.4	Development of a national information system for waste with supporting e-submission of applications, generation of reports and provision of information online	X			X
	1.1.5	Development and implementation of software applications for real-time processing of information and issuance of e-referrals and e-prescriptions.	X			X
	1.1.6	Transformation of the the initial registration procedure for civil society organizations from court registration into administrative registration and centralization and electronization of the CSO register in the Registry Agency	X			X
	1.1.7	Connecting the Information System for Managing and Monitoring the EU Funds with the information system of the National Statistical			X	

		Institute				
	1.1.8	Upgrading the main information systems of the Customs Agency and adding a functionality for exporting data and services to external systems				X
	1.1.9	Development of a Centralized Public Procurement System containing all modules including e-evaluation and e-submission of bids. Prepare and employ a centralized tender documentation. Strengthening the role of the Central Public Procurement Authority via the e-procurement system.	X			X

COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES			
			1. Access to information	2. Civic participation	3. Public Accountability	4. Technology and innovation for openness and accountability
2) THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH FURTHER ENHANCING THE SCOPE OF AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTENSIVE	2.1.1	Coordination and support in the process of revising the internal procedures for providing access to public information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and establishing clear mechanisms and responsibilities for pro-active provision of information and internal control.			X	



ELECTRONIZATION OF THE INFORMATION PROVISION PROCESSES	2.1.2	Conducting trainings for the administrative officials and the units responsible for information provision concerning the amendments to the Freedom of Information Act			X	
	2.1.3	Maintaining public electronic registers of: online gambling sites by persons not issued a license to organize online gambling; gambling operators; manufacturers, distributors, importers and technicians of gambling equipment; suspended, revoked and denied gambling licenses; approved gambling equipment	X			X
	2.1.4	Publishing the annual priorities of the National Revenue Agency (NRA), results and outcomes of the NRA operation and results from opinion polls commissioned by NRA on customer satisfaction	X			

	2.1.5	Publication of analyses/research financed by the EU Funds as a resource for information exchange and thematic mapping of the information resources aimed at improving access to information	X			
	2.1.6	Creating a register of all regulatory, supervisory and control agencies appointed by Parliament (in conjunction or not with the Council of Minister and/or the President) containing information about their web sites, powers, mandate, members, decisions, etc.	X		X	
	2.1.7	Establishment of an information system for collection, digitalization and storage of the central archive of the National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage (NIICH) and provision of e-services to citizens, central and local administrations by creating a digital public archive and e-register of archaeological sites.	X			X

COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES			
			1. Access to information	2. Civic participation	3. Public Accountability	4. Technology and innovation for openness and accountability
<b>3) BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL ACTIVELY COOPERATE AND ENCOURAGE THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO EMPLOY OPEN GOVERNMENT PRACTICES AT LOCAL LEVEL</b>	3.1.1	3.1 Adoption of a program and schedule for opening local government data	X			
	3.1.2	3.2 Increasing local governmental financial transparency through pilot citizen budget initiative in the municipalities	X	X		

COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES			
			1. Access to information	2. Civic participation	3. Public Accountability	4. Technology and innovation for openness and accountability
<b>4A) BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE DIALOG WITH CIVIL SOCIETY BASED ON INNOVATIVE FORMS OF INTERACTION ALLOWING FOR FEEDBACK AND CO-AUTHORSHIP OF POLICY</b>	4a.1.1	Improving the quality of public consultation through upgrading the functionalities of the Public Consultation Portal; drafting unified standards for the selection of the members of public and consultative councils, publicity of their operation and decision – making mechanisms; development in conjunction with civil society organizations of training		X		

45) BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS		programs for public officials on the organization of effective public consultations, developing guidelines for citizen engagement and provision of feedback				
	4a.1.2	Introducing an option for a national and local electronic petition and reducing red tape and the requisite data for organizing a citizen petition. Adopting the necessary amendments to the Direct Participation Act		X		
	4a.1.3	Establishment of a permanent joint mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of the OGP national action plan implementation		X		
	4a.1.4	Piloting a new collaborative method (design-thinking) for analysis of complex open issues in the decision-making process relating to the EU Funds: organizing a seminar with stakeholders focused on the practical implementation of the environmental and climate policies as horizontal policies within the EU Funds management	X	X		
	4a.1.5	Develop and organize forums on the development of a Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy (CSRS)			X	
	46.1.1	Updating the Strategy for Developing Civil Society Organizations and adoption of a		X		

		new action plan thereto and lead institution				
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COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES			
			1. Access to information	2. Civic participation	3. Public Accountability	4. Technology and innovation for openness and accountability
5) THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL AIM TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY AND IMPROVE THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF A PUBLIC REGISTER FOR BUDGET	5.1.1	Establishment of a public register for budget and project control of the e-government efforts	X		X	
	5.1.2	Development and implementation of an Information System for Corruption Risk Analysis	X			X
	5.1.3	Introducing a requirement for the personnel of the Customs Agency to have passed a professional and psychological suitability test. A draft ordinance to be developed and approved by the Ministry of Finance.			X	
	5.1.4	Increasing the transparency of the customs authorities by instituting a variety of communication channels for citizen input – hot line, information system of the National Anti-Corruption Council, email, by mail and feedback boxes – and providing feedback and taking action on incoming complaints and		X		X

		proposals				
	5.1.5	Amendments to the Public Procurement Act introducing an obligation for applicants for large contracts to disclose their beneficial owners and undergo preliminary checks	X		X	

COMMITMENT	№	MEASURE	OGP CHALLENGES			
			1. Access to information	2. Civic participation	3. Public Accountability	4. Technology and innovation for openness and accountability
6) THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH PUBLIC INFORMATION IN OPEN FORMAT AND TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PUBLISHED DATASETS AND PROMOTE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN DATA USAGE	6.1.1	Upgrading and improving the Open Data Portal by adding new functionalities – hierarchy of publishing organizations, better search capabilities, issue tracker for low-quality datasets and automatic alerts to data owners, data excellence certificates, feedback, etc.	X			
	6.1.2	Publishing program and project data from the new information system for EU Funds management including data on implementation progress	X			

	6.1.3	Organization of public events (conferences, hackathons, competitions) promoting the benefits of open data and collection of case-studies on the economic and social benefits of open Data	X			
	6.1.4	Drafting and dissemination of Open Data Usage Manual	X			
	6.1.5	Update, maintenance and development of GIS applications for the register of protected areas in Bulgaria				X
	6.1.6	Publication of data from the macroeconomic forecast twice a year	X			
	6.1.7	Publication of open data on migration	X			
	6.1.8	Upgrade of the Crime Prevention Information System and granting public access to the system core. Export of open data and use of system data for provision of integrated administrative services			X	

## 2. National Action plan Process

### A. Process of consultations on the preparation of the Third National Action Plan:

The process of preparing the Third National Action Plan was launched in early 2016. On 27 January 2016, the Bulgarian Portal for Public Consultations, [www.strategy.bg](http://www.strategy.bg), announced the timetable for drafting the Action Plan.

According to this schedule, the process of preparing the plan went through the following three phases:

#### What happened during the information phase:

- ✓ Presence of a schedule;
- ✓ Sufficient prior notification of stakeholders;
- ✓ Using multiple channels of communication.

**A) Information phase.** The information phase took place in January and February 2016, aiming to reach the widest possible range of people in order to familiarize them with the principles and objectives of the initiative and to involve them in the process of setting up the action plan.

Representatives of the team, responsible for the action plan were involved in a number of events, at which they presented the government's initiative and views on the third national plan. Various channels of communication were used - personal meetings and presentations, publications

on social networks, participation in press conferences, and others in order to reach different audiences.

### B) The Consultation Phase.

This phase took place in May-June 2016.

The main efforts during this phase were aimed at structuring a collaborative, bidirectional process of exchange of proposals and ideas. An

inter-ministerial working group, comprising 34 members - representatives of institutions and

#### What happened during the consultations phase :

- ✓ Define the **thematic areas for discussion**;
- ✓ Conduct **thematic discussions** between the members of the working group and the stakeholders;
- ✓ **19 proposals for measures** under the Action Plan were received by civil organisations;
- ✓ A total of **64 proposals for measures** were discussed;
- ✓ Prioritization and selection of measures



civil organizations - was set up within the consultations phase.

During the consultations phase there was a pre-announced timetable for its progress. Representatives of civil organizations, whose spheres of activity coincide with the thematic areas were invited for meetings or thematic discussions. Feedback took the form of minutes, records of the meetings held and meetings or opinions on proposed measures by the stakeholder state institutions.

**C) Validating phase.** The main focus of this phase **was for the** prepared third national action plan to receive political support and legitimacy. In this respect, meetings were held with the ministers of all departments, which have taken commitments with regard to the action plan. This phase ended with a final conference to present the action plan.

### **Advantages and Challenges in Preparing the Third Action Plan:**

*The positive aspects of the preparation of the third Action Plan were related to:*

- Clear structure and approach to the plan preparation - including clearly defined phases of informing and consulting stakeholders on the commitments in the action plan;
- Early identification of stakeholders and their active involvement during the preparation of the action plan with specific suggestions, opinions, recommendations.

*Key Challenge:*

- The absence of sufficient in-depth expert analysis of administrations with respect to the commitments that should be included in the action plan.

In preparing the third Action Plan, a strong focus was put on attracting stakeholders and actively involving them in consultations about the action plan. At the same time, at the level of the responsible institutions, there were no sufficient in-depth discussions at expert level, as to whether the institution recognizes the measures, proposed by the stakeholders and whether the institution has the capacity to implement them, and what measures should be included in the action plan, so that they would observe the values of the initiative, but also be in line with the strategic objectives and tasks of the institution that proposes them. As a result, measures have been invented in the action plan that are currently being implemented by the administrations and have no added value to this plan or measures have been included that are not recognized by the administrations, responsible for their implementation at expert level.

The main conclusion is that we need to have a balanced approach in the consultations on the measures, both with representatives of stakeholders and with experts from the institutions responsible for implementing the measures.

## **B. Process of consultations during the implementation of the Third National Action Plan**

The one-year period from the adoption of the action plan until the preparation of the first self-assessment report is characterized by political instability in the country, leading to the early termination of the mandate of the government that adopted the action plan, the subsequent ruling of the caretaker /interim/ government and the holding of new parliamentary elections. In such a political environment, there was no clear political leadership with regard to the initiative 'Partnership for Open Government'.

Following the parliamentary elections and the election of a new government by Decision of the Council of Ministers of May 25, 2017, Mrs. Romyana Bachvarova was appointed the person responsible for the coordination and participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the initiative. Immediately after that decision, on 6 June 2017 a meeting was convened with representatives of the implementing institutions and stakeholders. Representatives of the OGP Support Unit also took part in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 13 institutions, involved in the implementation of the measures and representatives of 18 civil organizations. The main focus during the meeting was to discuss the need to set up a constantly functioning tool to monitor and assess the implementation of the commitments under the action plan.

After the meeting, a mailing list was created of all participants and a summary of the meeting was sent to all of them.

Following the public meeting on 6 June 2017, the next step was the identification of 'coordinators' on behalf of institutions, implementing the measures of the action plan to report on a regular basis on the progress of implementing the measures. A total of 37 coordinators from 19 institutions were identified.

## **C. Describe briefly the deadline for consultations and receiving comments during the preparation of the Self-Assessment Report and how they were reflected in the Report.**

The self-assessment report of the administration, in its part on the implementation of each of the measures under the action plan, was published on 14 September 2017 on the Bulgarian Portal for Public Consultations - [www.strategy.bg](http://www.strategy.bg). Within the 14-day deadline for consultations, opinions were received from the Bulgarian Center for Non-Profit Law, the Citizenship Forum and the Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives. The combined opinion of the Bulgarian Center for Non-Profit Law (BCNL) and the Civic Participation Forum (CPF) criticized the absence of monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the action plan, as well as the poor progress in the implementation of measures in the Civic Participation Theme. As a general remark in the opinion, a concern has been expressed that if the institution responsible for the implementation of the action plan does not demonstrate a model for structured dialogue and joint initiatives between civil society and the administration, the implementation of the action plan in an adequate and effective way is in question. The opinion ends with several specific proposals, aimed at improving the dialogue between the

administration and the stakeholders in the process of monitoring the implementation of the action plan. In essence, these suggestions are the following:

- Designation of a representative from the administration, responsible for the six thematic areas of the action plan to organize meetings every three months between the implementing institutions and the stakeholders. During the meetings, comments should be given on the progress of implementing the measures;
- Conducting annual and regional meetings on the progress of the action plan.

The received proposals by CSOs shall be discussed in expanded format during a meeting to be organized after the finalization of the self-assessment report.

The specific comments, expressed in the opinions of the three organizations on the implementation of the measures were reflected in the relevant parts of the report and a response was also published on the Bulgarian Portal for Public Consultations. These opinions have been enclosed as an Annex to this report.

### 3. IRM Recommendations

In the preparation of the Third National Action Plan, were taken into consideration the general recommendations and the five key recommendations of the report of the Independent Reporting Mechanism.

In particular, the process of preparing the action plan directly addresses the recommendations for: *'Improving Civic Participation in the process of preparing and implementing the action plan'*, and the following actions were carried out in line with this recommendation:

- Launching stakeholder information procedures and consultations with representatives of civil society organizations early in 2016;
- Publishing a timetable with the preparation phases of the action plan;
- Identification of civil organizations, stakeholders to the theme and their involvement in the process of preparation of the action plan through their participation in meetings and thematic discussions. Stimulating their activity of sending suggestions, engaging them in a process of dialogue to evaluate and prioritize proposals;
- Promotion of the initiative and the actions of preparation of the action plan through publications in the social networks, the facebook page of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and through the Bulgarian Portal for Public Consultations (PPC) - [www.strategy.bg](http://www.strategy.bg) ;
- Active cooperation and involvement of leading Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the process of establishing the action plan.

The action plan corresponds to another general recommendations of the report on the independent evaluation mechanism, related to the linguistic improvement of the

commitments. 37 measures of the Third National Action Plan have been clearly and precisely defined and the wording used does not lead to ambiguity or vagueness.

Another general recommendation was made *to include municipalities in the OGP process*. The action plan included two measures, targeting local governments. One of the measures of the action plan, namely the publication of the local budget in a format, accessible to citizens, with responsible authority - the Municipality of the Capital of Sofia (Sofia Municipality), also corresponds to one of the five key recommendations, made by the independent observer.

With respect to the five key recommendations, set out in the Independent Reporting Mechanism, the preparation and ongoing implementation of the third National Action Plan has responded to four of them:

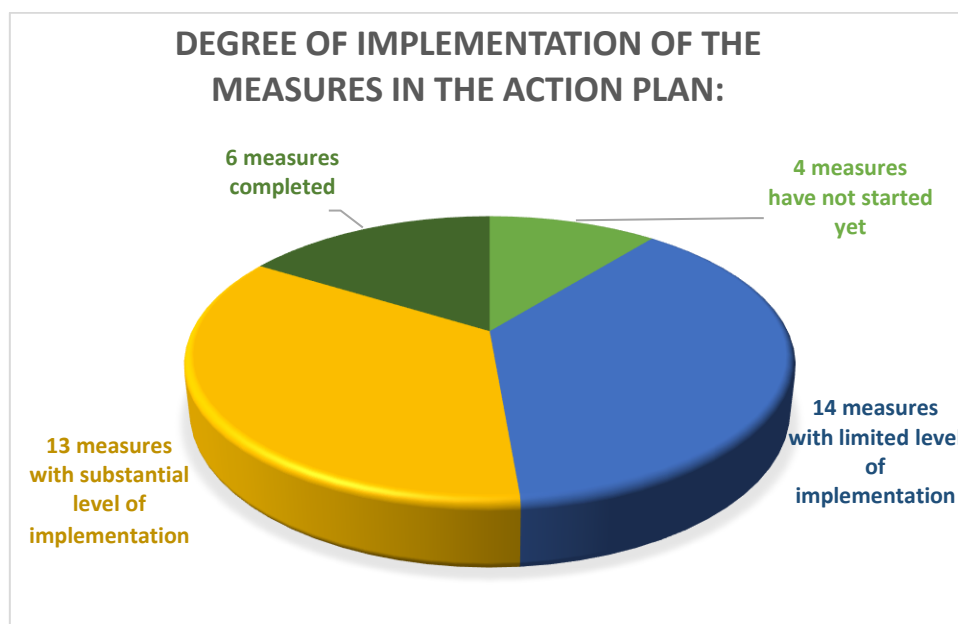
- **Establishment of a permanent joint mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of the OGP national action plan implementation** has been defined as a specific measure (Measure 4a.1.3 of the action plan). During the reporting period, for reasons, specified in the substantive part of the report, no action has been taken to implement this measure. Expectations are that in the second year of implementation of the action plan there will be a mechanism in place;
- **The implementation of additional activities** in view of completing the Public Consultation reform with amendments to the Law on Normative Acts has also been presented as a specific measure of the National Action Plan (Measure 4a.1.1). Deliverables under this measure are also expected in the next reporting period.
- **Including local governments in the OGP process** by publishing budgets for citizens in an accessible format is foreseen as a specific measure in the action plan (Measure 3.1.2) and the actual implementation of this measure has already started.
- **Improving the effectiveness of citizen initiatives**, through amendments in the Act on the direct participation of citizens in state power and local self-government has been included as a measure in the action plan (Measure 4a.1.1).

The last of the five key recommendations is related to ensuring equal access of all citizens to the legislation in force, whereas in implementation of this requirement, the National Assembly is required to publish on the Internet, free consolidated texts of laws and other normative acts of the same or higher rate of importance.

This recommendation is not addressed as a specific measure in the third action plan, as the institution that controls its implementation is the National Assembly.

#### 4. Implementation of the commitments, set out in the National Action Plan

The analysis of the degree of implementation of the specific measures in the action plan shows that 74% of the measures have started their implementation and are in some form of implementation - from limited to substantial. 16% of the measures have completed their implementation. 10% of the measures have not started their implementation.



In the review of the measures in the different themes, we have noticed that two of the themes (Civic participation and Public integrity) have measures, the implementation of which has not yet started.

The measures in the Theme 'Civic Participation' have the lowest level of implementation. One possible reason is related to the fact that some of the measures in the thematic area, for which the administration of the Council of Ministers is responsible, are bound to the implementation of specific projects that have not yet started their actual stage of implementation. A major delay is observed with regard to the measure, related to the establishment of a platform for control and monitoring of the implementation of the measures in the action plan. Notwithstanding the following reasons for the delay, the implementation of this measure was bound to start at an earlier stage, so as to ensure an open and transparent process of implementing the action plan with the active involvement of all stakeholders.

## THEME 1 E-GOVERNMENT

**Commitment 1: The Bulgarian government will improve the accessibility and quality of public services by employing e-government tools**

Commitment Completion Template		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Commitment 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS</b></p> <p><b>Measure 1.1.1.</b> Improving the existing and developing new e-services for the National Revenue Agency</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ongoing (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>		
Lead implementing agency	National Revenue Agency (NRA)	
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Kiril Hrisimov Ignat Gavrailov	
Title, Department	Chief Expert Chief Legal Adviser Strategic Planning and Change Management Directorate	
Email	<a href="mailto:k.hrisimov@nra.bg">k.hrisimov@nra.bg</a> <a href="mailto:i.gavrailov@nra.bg">i.gavrailov@nra.bg</a>	
Phone	+359 2 9859 3321 +359 2 9859 3184	
Other actors involved	Government; Ministries; Agencies	Ministry of Finance

	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Business associations; Employers' organizations			
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Reducing the administrative burden for citizens and businesses by improving accessibility to NRA services.			
Main objective		To expand the scope and to improve the quality of the e-services provided by NRA; To simplify procedures and improve approaches geared to the needs of taxpayers.			
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)		Extending the scope and quality of the e-services provided by the National Revenue Agency to reduce further red tape through customer-oriented services and improving internal business processes and procedures.			
Relevance		The measure corresponds to the OGP's great challenge of improving the efficiency of public services.			
Ambition		Easy and convenient access to services offered by the National Revenue Agency; reduced administrative burden for citizens and the business; economic benefits from saved human resources and time for the business and citizens; improved management of NRA processes and enhanced efficiency of the revenue administration.			
Degree of implementation		Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				X	

<p>Description of the results</p>	<p>In the period 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017, the following new e-services were implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public register report of collateral provided by persons carrying out transactions in liquid fuels;</li> <li>• Application for priority payment of social security contributions;</li> <li>• Application for priority payment of social security contributions for compulsory additional pension insurance;</li> <li>• Automatic exchange of financial information (FATCA);</li> <li>• Application for a social security shift pursuant to Art.4b of the Social Security Code (SSC);</li> <li>• Application for a social security shift pursuant to Art.4c SSC;</li> <li>• Request for the issue of a certificate under Art.87 (10) of the Tax and Social Security Code (TSSC);</li> <li>• Request for the issue of a certificate under Art.87 (11) TSSC;</li> <li>• Provision of a report on paid income (other than employment) to individuals by electronic means with a qualified electronic signature (QES) – No. 2687;</li> <li>• Provision of a report on sales declared by persons registered under the VAT Act for a certain tax period with a qualified electronic signature (QES) – No. 2688;</li> <li>• Filing a declaration under Art.54 (4) of the Local Taxes and Charges Act for owned passenger vehicles;</li> <li>• Filing a declaration under Art.54 (4) of the Local Taxes and Charges Act for owned transport vehicles, other than passenger vehicles;</li> <li>• Upgrade of the payment service with an option for payment to accumulation enforcement accounts.</li> </ul> <p>Estimations show that e-services most sought after by NRA clients will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for the issue of a certificate under</li> </ul>
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	<p>Art.87 (10) TSSC;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for the issue of a certificate under Art.87 (11) TSSC;</li> <li>• Provision of a report on paid income (other than employment) to individuals by electronic means with a qualified electronic signature (QES) – No. 2687;</li> <li>• Provision of a report on sales declared by persons registered under the VAT Act for a certain tax period with a qualified electronic signature (QES) – No. 2688;</li> </ul> <p>In early 2017, the NRA improved e-services for filing tax and social security returns and forms online with QES and PIC in line with the amendments to the substantive legislation under the VAT Act, PITA, CITA, SSC, the Tax on Insurance Premiums Act and the Labor Code, and the relevant regulations and ordinances. E-services total more than 100 – with QES, PIC or free access, which covers more than 62% of all services provided by the NRA. The NRA delivers services to more than 5.4 million clients annually. The annual average of filed and processed tax and social security returns is more than 50 million. More than 90% of all key declarations (tax and social security returns, notifications under the Labor Code) are received at the NRA electronically. Annually, the NRA exchanges with its clients a total of more than 100 million electronic documents, saving the business and the public directly over BGN 300 million of administrative costs.</p>
End Date	Ongoing task
Next Steps	Maintain and develop e-services in line with new technology and facilitate NRA clients' access when using them. Study the opinion of clients using NRA's e-services and develop the latter in line with clients' expectations.

More information

### Commitment Completion Template

#### Commitment 1

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS

**Measure 1.1.2.** Development of a Sector Strategy on e-governance in the Ministry of Environment and Water and a Road Map for 2016 – 2020 in compliance with the E-governance Development Strategy – 2014-2020 in the Republic of Bulgaria

1 July 2016 – 31 October 2016  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		Ministry of Environment and Waters
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Desislava Lozanova
Title, Department		System Administrator, IT Department
Email		<a href="mailto:halembakova@moew.government.bg">halembakova@moew.government.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 940 60 25
Other actors involved	Government; Ministries; Agencies	During the measure's implementation the secondary budget spenders in the structure of the Ministry of Environment and Waters were identified as engaged parties.
	Civil organizations, private sector, international	NGOs, business and Local communities

	organizations and ets.	
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Development of a Sector Strategy and a Road Map is relevant to the commitments of the Bulgarian Government to improve access to and the quality of public services in environment protection sector through electronization of the processes in the sector; expanding the access to service to citizens and business introducing e-services and electronic public registers in the Ministry of Environment and Water's system; publishing public information in an open format and encouraging its multiple use.
Main objective		The Strategy on e-environment and the Road Map are oriented to development of purposeful, accessible, predictable, efficient and effective e-governance for the benefit of public and environment.
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)		The development of a sector strategy is a complementary element to continuing the efforts for establishment of e-government. While developing Strategy and Road Map the Ministry of Environment and Waters puts an emphasis on defining specific projects, which contribute to implementing principles, set in the Open Government Plan, namely transparency, accountability, participation, technologies and innovations.
Relevance		<p>The measure addresses the challenges, related to contemporary management of natural resources, improvement of public services and increasing the integrity of management.</p> <p>Electronization of the processes contributes to achieving more transparent decisions and actions in regard to environment protection, as well as higher level of accountability.</p>

Ambition	Achieving flexibility and effectiveness of measures for environment protection, shortening the deadlines for processing of documents, convenient access and publicity of procedures.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				X
Description of the results	<p>The main priorities in the work of the Ministry of Environment and Water are as follows: increasing the management efficiency of environmental policies, accelerating the construction of the environmental infrastructure, improving the implementation of environmental requirements and standards by business and control activity, consolidating synergies with local authorities and development of public environmental culture. A main prerequisite for implementing these priorities is the availability of well-structured information and communication between the different units in the institution and the second level spending units. In this sense introducing and developing contemporary information technologies are also among the key priorities of the Ministry and should be implemented systematically, consistent and subordinate to the common policy and strategy.</p> <p>During the reporting period the Ministry of Environment and Water developed a Sector Strategy on E-management and a Road Map 2016 – 2020. Strategic goals for transition to e-governance in the system of the Ministry and specific activities to implement these goals have been defined.</p> <p>During the development of the Strategy and the Road Map a profound analysis of the current state of the system of the Ministry and the specific actual</p>			

	<p>needs was completed.</p> <p>The fact was taken into account that collecting and storing in structured type large and various information as well as submitting it to stakeholders for a free access was a main priority of the Ministry in July. This reflects on the content of the Road Map with concrete actions at implementing the strategic goals regarding the e-governance. The emphasis is put on developing and upgrading information systems with environmental data which help the implementation of the monitoring and control activities of the Ministry of Environment and Water and its second level budgetary units.</p> <p>In compliance with the Strategy and the Road Map up to now projects have been completed or are being currently completed. On the one hand they facilitate and improve the access of the stakeholders to environmental information and on the other hand lead to transformation and improvement of intra-institutional and inter-institutional processes and help for clear separation of responsibilities and deadlines.</p>
End Date	<b>31 October 2016</b>
Next Steps	The goals set in the Sector Strategy on E-governance in the Ministry of Environment and Water, are subject of permanent monitoring. Corrective actions are undertaken on relation to implementation of projects defined as priority projects under the Road Map.
More information	

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 1

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS

**Measure 1.1.3.** Establishment of a public electronic register of the installations emitting volatile organic compounds and provision of two e-services – submission of applications for registration and submission of applications for changes to the registration.

1 July 2016 r. - 30 July 2016 r.  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		Executive Environment Agency (ExEA)
Persons responsible from implementing agency		1.Rossalina Indzhieva 2.Valya Zhelyazkova
Title, Department		1.Director of Directorate "Information Systems, International Cooperation and Public Relations"  2.Head of Unit "Programming and Software Technologie"
Email		<a href="mailto:rossalina@eea.government.bg">rossalina@eea.government.bg</a> <a href="mailto:zhelyazkova@eea.government.bg">zhelyazkova@eea.government.bg</a>
Phone		+ 359 2 940 64 14 + 359 2 940 64 19
Other actors involved	Government; Ministries; Agencies	Ministry of Environment and Waters (MoEW);

	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Local communities; Environmental organizations
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The necessity to reduce the administrative burden on businesses by including e-submission of registration application and applications for changes in the registration;</li> <li>• The necessity to provide up-to-date and reliable information at national level for registered installations.</li> </ul>	
Main objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure high-quality services for businesses;</li> <li>• To optimize the work processes at the respective authorities (regional inspectorates, the Ministry and Executive Agency;</li> <li>• To improve information provided to the citizens and increase transparency with regard to the policies on protecting the quality of ambient air.</li> </ul>	
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)	The public electronic register of installations, sources of volatile organic compounds, is a software solution that enables online application and processing received applications, collection and storage of information, and its publication on the Internet.	

Relevance	The public electronic register ensures easier and quicker access to up-to-date information on installations, sources of volatile organic compounds emissions, in accordance with regulatory requirements. Transparency and awareness of the implementation of policies to protect the clean air are achieved. The process of electronic submission and aggregation of data at central level is a significant improvement for the e-Government development.			
Ambition	As a result of the engagement's implementation, real-time information about submitted and processed applications, entries / deletions of registered installations is provided. Public access to the data, maintained in the registry, is also provided. Modernization of the work of the experts in the state administration and optimization of the working processes is also achieved.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				<b>X</b>
Description of the results	<p>A procedure of signing and coordinating of an Order of the Minister of Environment and Waters, which sets obligations, terms and administrations responsible for putting into operation and maintenance of public electronic register of installations, sources of volatile organic compounds.</p> <p>Profiles for the Regional Inspectorates' experts are created, a digital certificate for use of application, instructions for configuring the browser and a contribution on brought up questions are provided.</p> <p>Registration and processing of documents (applications, certificates, orders, etc.) is processed in the information system of the register by RIEWs' experts.</p>			



	A system parameter, profiles and nomenclatures, needed for working with the registry, are maintained.
End Date	<b>30 July 2016 r.</b>
Next Steps	Maintaining the operational capacity of the information system of the register, observance with the regulatory requirements by the obligated operators and RIEW, as well as control by the competent directorates of the MoEW.
More information	

Commitment Completion Template	
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 1</b></p> <p align="center"><b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS</b></p> <p><b>Measure 1.1.4.</b> Development of a National Waste Information System with the possibility of submitting applications, keeping records and providing information electronically</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 r. - 31 December 2017 r. (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>	
Lead implementing agency	Executive Environment Agency (ExEA)
Persons responsible from implementing agency	1.Rossalina Indzhieva 2.Valya Zhelyazkova
Title, Department	1.Director of Directorate "Information Systems, International Cooperation and Public Relations" 2.Head of Unit "Programming and Software Technologie"

Email		<a href="mailto:rossalina@eea.government.bg">rossalina@eea.government.bg</a> <a href="mailto:zhelyazkova@eea.government.bg">zhelyazkova@eea.government.bg</a>
Phone		+ 359 2 940 64 14 + 359 2 940 64 19
Other actors involved	Government; Ministries; Agencies	Ministry of Environment and Waters (MoEW); Regional Inspectorates for Environment and Water
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	NGOs, business and Local communities
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Improved the quality of the provided or received information on waste management.
Main objective		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the technology benefits to provide more Information on waste management, as well as reduction of the administrative burden on business;</li> <li>• Improved control over the operators of waste disposal installation;</li> <li>• Improved the application submission process;</li> <li>• Broaden the scope of publicly available information electronically.</li> </ul>
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)		<p>Providing the business with the opportunity to fulfill its obligations under the Waste Management Act (WMA) and its regulations electronically.</p> <p>Providing public information on waste management activities.</p>

Relevance	The measure provides better public services and resources management by electronization of the reporting processes and provision of information on waste management activities. It increases the publicly available information on waste management and improves the public accountability mechanisms of MoEW waste management activities.			
Ambition	Improving the functionality of National Waste Information System (NWIS) and increasing the amount of publicly available waste management data are a continuous process.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				X
Description of the results	<p>During the reporting period the following activities have been done:</p> <p>The Second phase of NWIS has been made till 30.09.2016. This phase included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of applications for issuing, updating and canceling of documents for carrying out waste management activities, according to the requirements of Art. 35 of WMA;</li> <li>• Submitting documents for validation of waste classification worksheets;</li> <li>• Submitting a request to validate an account book;</li> <li>• The public register of persons authorized to carry out waste activities and / or registration documents for carrying out waste activities, incl. those with canceled action;</li> <li>• The Public Register waste sites for of ferrous and non- ferrous metals, electric and electronic equipment, end-of-life vehicles and batteries and accumulators;</li> </ul> <p>The third phase of NWIS's implementation of NWIS has been made till 31.12.2016. This phase included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accounting and providing annual waste reports;</li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The information system under the The end-of-life vehicle Ordinance, allowing reporting and control over the implementation of the Ordinance</li> </ul>
End Date	<b>31 December 2017</b>
Next Steps	Since 1 <sup>st</sup> January, 2017, NWIS has been put into operation. Since 1 <sup>st</sup> 2018 the system has to used by liable under the law persons. Based on the customers needs and law requirements the system will be further upgraded.
More information	

Commitment Completion Template	
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 1</b></p> <p align="center"><b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS</b></p> <p><b>Measure 1.1.5.</b> Development and implementation of software applications for real-time processing of information and issuance of e-referrals and e-prescriptions.</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 r. - 31 December 2018 r. (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Health
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Svetlana Galeva Kristiyan Vilner
Title, Department	State Experts in the "International Projects and E-health" Directory

Email		<a href="mailto:sgaleva@mh.government.bg">sgaleva@mh.government.bg</a> <a href="mailto:kvilner@mh.government.bg">kvilner@mh.government.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 9301 255
Other actors involved:	Government; Ministries; Agencies	National Health Insurance Fund
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Patient organizations, Associations of general practitioners and pharmacists
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Administrative burden for medical professionals, complicated health assistance procedures for patients and difficulties in controlling the financial flows in the health system.
Main objective		Optimization of health related processes, better health services quality and accessibility for the citizens
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)		An essential element of e-health in Bulgaria is National health information system (NHIS). Health data will be collected, summarized and analyzed through the system, observing information security standards. The first stage of NHIS implementation includes set of electronic services related to e-prescription, e-distribution (e-referrals) and electronic health record as a part of system core.

Relevance	Implementation of the e-services (e-prescription, e-referrals etc.) ensures more effective spending of public resources as it decreases the costs and shortens the time for prescribing and dispensing medicines and also optimizes the process of medical referrals issue and execution. It provides better health care and accessibility for patients as well. Digitalization of medical information reduces the costs for the external and internal control of the health system.			
Ambition	Reduction of administrative workload for the medical professionals and improvement of the health service provided to patients.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		X		

Description of the results	<p>An E-Health Strategy has been compiled during the reported period. The strategy presents the vision of the Ministry of Health for development of e-health in Bulgaria. The concept of implementation of the National Health Information System (NHIS) as a key element of the sector's electronization is expanded in the document. The strategy is being updated due to comments made by the State Agency for Electronic Governance and also recommendations provided by the Court of Auditors following an e-health audit.</p> <p>On March 20, 2017, a grant agreement for implementation of the first two stages of the construction of the NHIS was signed under the Operational Program "Good governance", amounting to BGN 12 million. A working group, involving a wide range of experts in the healthcare system, was set up to prepare the technical assignments on the NHIS modules. At the time of reporting, the work of the experts continues.</p>
End Date	<b>31 December 2018 r.</b>
Next Steps	<p>It is expected that public procurements for some of the NHIS building activities, including the implementation and development of the NHIS core functionality, will be launched by the end of September 2017. The sets of electronic services – a commitment of the Ministry of Health according to the Third National Action Plan – are an element of the NHIS core.</p>
More information	

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 1

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS

**Measure 1.1.6** Transformation of primary CSOs registration from judicial to administrative and centralization of the primary register of CSOs at the Registry Agency through complete digitalization of the register

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency	The Registry Agency	
Persons responsible from implementing agency	1. Zlatozar Zlatev; 2. Nikolina Pavlova; 3. Maria Tumbeva.	
Title, Department	1. Registration Officer, RO Directorate; 2. Chief Expert at the Registry Information Systems Department, Registry DG; 3. Chief Expert at the Registry Information Systems Department, Registry DG;	
Email	<a href="mailto:zlatozar.zlatev@registryagency.bg">zlatozar.zlatev@registryagency.bg</a> <a href="mailto:nikolina.pavlova@registryagency.bg">nikolina.pavlova@registryagency.bg</a> <a href="mailto:m.tumbeva@registryagency.bg">m.tumbeva@registryagency.bg</a>	
Phone	+359 2 9486 133 +359 2 9486 180 +359 2 9486 207	
Other actors involved:	Government; Ministries; Agencies	The Ministry of Justice



	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Center for the Study of Democracy
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	As yet there is no single centralized register of NGOs/CSOs. The registers of NGOs/CSOs at the district courts are kept in paper form, which makes their administration and management difficult and increases the risk of loss or destruction of the information, as well as errors in the issuance of certificates and references.	
Main objective	To consolidate the data on registered civil society organizations in a fully digital register, simplify the registration procedure, access to collected information and easy check options with regard to the standing of CSOs.	
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)	Ensure the transformation of CSOs paper registers, kept by the courts into electronic registers, kept by the Registry Agency with the Minister of Justice.	
Relevance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reducing the administrative burden for CSOs, by enabling their digital registration.</li> <li>2. Increasing the transparency and accountability of CSOs by providing opportunities to make free online checks on their standing and by publishing their financial statements and annual reports.</li> <li>3. Discharge the court from cases of low legal complexities.</li> <li>4. Providing online public access on the web to CSOs cases, as well as to the documents of the registration officers on the applications, submitted at the register.</li> </ol>	

Ambition	<p>The implementation of the Register of CSOs as part of the Commercial Register with the Registry Agency shall reduce the administrative burden on citizens and businesses, by introducing standard forms and standard registration and change of registration documents.</p> <p>The practical introduction of new e-services will ensure user convenience, by providing opportunities to request services from a remote location, without the need to spend time and money on submitting the application on the spot. Through a readily accessible interface, users will have access to the digital services at any time, regardless of their location, while at the same time guaranteeing their basic rights, personal data and identity. The transition to digital documents will preserve the existing procedures of providing services to citizens on paper. The foundations and associations under the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act will be provided <b><u>at least 18 new services</u></b> of initial registration, change of registered data and receipt of documents.</p>			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		X		
Description of the results	<p>The following actions were carried out within the measure reporting period:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In compliance with Order No. RD-01-66 dated 14 February 2017 of the Executive Director of the Registry Agency, a Draft has been prepared of the Ordinance, amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 1 on the registration, storage and access to the Commercial Register (the Ordinance), along with the annexes thereto - Application Forms for registration, deleting circumstances and declaring acts. (At the time of report</li> </ol>			

	<p>drafting) the text of the Ordinance was published on the website of the Ministry of Justice for public discussion.</p> <p>Proposed changes are mainly related to ensuring the practical implementation of the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act at sub-national level. The texts specify the applications, on the basis of which the registrations and deletions of circumstances shall be made and the statement of acts concerning the non-profit legal entities, presented as annexes to the Ordinance. The registration sections, groups and fields of the Commercial Register's Information System have been specified; these will display the entered circumstances regarding the non-profit legal entities.</p> <p>2. An interdepartmental work group has been established by Order No. LS-04-537 / dated 16 March 2016 of the Minister of Justice (amended by Order No. LS-04-638 / 31 March 2016 and Order No. LS-04 / 7 October 2016) with the following tasks: "... to propose the necessary changes to the State Tax Rates/Stamp Duties/, collected by the Registry Agency in accordance with the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act, with regard to the transformation of the registration of non-profit legal entities with the District Courts to the Registry Agency with the Ministry of Justice ...".</p> <p>The implementation of the measure greatly depends on the improvement and the upgrading of the Commercial Register Information System in order to ensure opportunities of accepting and reviewing applications and requests for registrations, deletions and statements, concerning CSOs. The funding for the building of the necessary functionalities of the Commercial Register's Information System has been provided under the project '<i>Upgrading the Commercial Register for Integration with the platform for exchange of data between business registers in</i></p>
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	<i>the European Union, incorporation of the Register of Non-Profit Legal Entities, Integration with the Land Registry, Single Entry Point and Transfer of the Central Pledge Register' from the Good Governance Operational Program through the European Social Fund.</i>
End Date	The deadline for the implementation of the measure of the Action Plan has been specified as June 2017, yet the amendments to the law that would provide changes to the registration of CSOs would become effective on 1 January 2018, so the actual measure implementation period should comply with the legal texts.
Next Steps	Adoption of prepared draft amendments to the statutory regulations, stipulating the requirements for CSO registration; Development of technical specifications/terms of reference/ for conducting public procurement procedures for the selection of contractors to establish the centralized digital register of CSOs.
More information <sup>2</sup>	

<sup>2</sup> Comments of the Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law and the Citizen Participation Forum: "... There is no progress yet in preparation for transferring the NGOs registration which puts into question the entry into force of the stipulated by the law term - 01.01.2018. Public procurement for software development has not started yet, so we doubt that in the remaining 4 months until the end of the year the software will be developed. This fact is not sufficiently commented in the report. We insist that efforts be put in order to meet the deadline stipulated by the law."

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 1

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS

**Measure 1.1.7** Establishment of connection between Unified Management Information System for Management and Monitoring of the EU Structural Investments in Bulgaria (UMIS) and the information array of the National Statistical Institute

1 July 2016 r. - 31 December 2017 r. -  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		Administration of the Council of Ministers, Central Coordination Unit Directorate
Persons responsible from implementing agency		1. Kiril Ezekiev; 2. Lubomir Stoyanov
Title, Department		1. State Expert at Department Strategic planning and programming, Central Coordination Unit Directorate 2. Chief expert at Department Strategic planning and programming, Central Coordination Unit Directorate
Email		<a href="mailto:k.ezekiev@government.bg">k.ezekiev@government.bg</a> <a href="mailto:L.Stoyanov@government.bg">L.Stoyanov@government.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 940 2518 +359 2 940 2551
Other actors involved:	Government; Ministries; Agencies	National Statistical Institute

	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Бенефициенти по оперативните програми Operational programs beneficiaries
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		A lack of an integrated approach by different levels administrations in usage the statistical data to evaluate the implementation of European/ national strategies and under Operational Programs activities co-funded by the ESIF 2014-2020
Main objective		The objective of this measure is to gather statistical information for implementation of programme indicators financed under ESIF. Providing statistical data will allow more accurate and data-based assessment of implementation and effectiveness of programmes financed by the European Union.
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)		The Unified Management Information System for Management and Monitoring of the EU Structural Investments in Bulgaria (UMIS) contain full information of projects and beneficiaries under operational programmes financed under ESIF. Several omissions were identified within various administrations in regards with the usage of statistical data especially in respect to OPs' evaluation as well as other national programmes implementation. An interface between UMIS and the system of NSI will contribute the achievement of an unambiguous and accurate evaluation of operational programmes' effects, financed under European funds; an opportunity for more precise allocation of funds; publicity of results.

Relevance	This measure contributes to the achievement of more effective management of public resources through measuring results of invested public resources. This will also provide information for the real effect of spent public resources to the general public.			
Ambition	Timely evaluation of programmes effects in order to achieve the maximum benefits of implemented interventions.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
	X			
Description of the results	In order to establish a working interface, a particular engineering expertise is required. A public procurement has been launched by the Council of Ministers Administration, which will enable the development of the foreseen interface. At present, the procedure has been appealed and therefore the implementation of this measure has been postponed.			
End Date	31 December 2017 r. The real implementation of the measure is expected to be done till December 2020			
Next Steps	Choosing of contractor who will develop the necessary interface in a way which enable the automatic data exchange in digital form.			
More information				

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 1

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS

**Measure 1.1.8** Upgrade of the main systems of the National Customs Agency for provision of services to external

1 July 2016 – 30 June 2018  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		National Customs Agency
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Emilia Toteva
Title, Department		Head of 'Information and Communication Technologies' Department, 'Information Systems' Directorate, Central Customs Directorate
Email		<a href="mailto:Emilia.Toteva@customs.bg">Emilia.Toteva@customs.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 9859 4566
Other actors involved:	Government; Ministries; Agencies	Ministry of Finances
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Private sector



Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	<p>To response of the needs for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>streamlining and simplifying the procedures related to customs as well as to create the conditions for more efficient customs operations;</li> <li>Implementing the transition of the customs authorities to work entirely in electronic environment, in which documents on a paper carrier shall not be not used.</li> </ul>			
Main objective	Providing of usability and accessibility for citizens and business.			
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)	The commitment results from the EU Initiatives („e-Customs“ and „e-Excise“), The Strategy for Development of e-management in the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020 and the NCA Strategy 2014-2017 and relates to upgrade of the main systems of the Customs Agency.			
Relevance	The completion of the commitment will contribute to improvement of public services and more efficient management through enhanced and automated internal control.			
Ambition	Reducing the administrative burden for business and citizens. Smooth integration of the NCA system with other software systems that are external for the Agency.			
Degree of implementation	Not started			
	Completed	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	

<p>Description of the results</p>	<p>In the reporting period the following activities have been done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated and approved Sectoral strategy 'e-Customs' 2016-2020 and the Roadmap thereto.</li> <li>• Prepared and adopted project proposal 'Upgrade of the main systems of the National Customs Agency for provision of data and services to external systems – BICIS 2020 (Phase 1) under the 'Good governance' Operational Programme (BG05SFOP001-1.002-0002/14.10.2016); signed contract for the project implementation between the National Customs Agency and the 'Good governance' Operational Programme (GGOP);</li> </ul> <p>The overall objective of the project is development of the sectoral system from the e-management – e-Customs, meeting the main objectives of the procedure and of the strategic aim of target area 'Development of the customs information system – BICIS 2020' from the Sectoral Strategy 'e-customs' – Transformation of the customs administration into digital administration by integration of the information processes'. The overall aim of the project will be achieved by fulfilment of the following specific aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Development and introduction of Institutional architecture of the NCA up until covering the main and auxiliary customs processes</li> <li>➤ Implementation of the Union's and national requirements to BICIS 2020 (Phase 1)</li> <li>➤ Connection to the central European components, stabilizing the external components, provision of user-friendly electronic services for citizens and business and implementation of option for provision of already electronized</li> </ul>
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	<p>administrative services as internal administrative services, in view of the implementation of complex administrative services.</p> <p>In order to achieve the aims of the project, the foreseen results by activities include development of systems and modules to BICIS, drawing up of registers, development and introduction of electronic services in transaction regime and exchange of information with other national and international control authorities in the customs area, for the purposes of development of the organizational and analytical capacity of the NCA, including for performance of joint checks.</p> <p>The project includes 4 main activities:</p> <p><b>Activity 1:</b> Development and introduction of the the Institutional architecture of the NCA in respect to 'Management and Administration of IS in NCA' module and implementation of the Union functional requirements in respect to System for direct access of traders to the European IS (UUM&amp;DS)</p> <p><b>Activity 2:</b> Development of the Institutional architecture of the NCA for customs processes: Importation, Export, Transit, Customs Debt, Management of Securities and Exchange of Information with the Community Domain (REX, BTI, Surveillance3, CDMS), and introduction of the Institutional architecture of the NCA, through integration of systems and modules in BICIS, corresponding to those customs processes</p> <p><b>Activity 3:</b> Development of the Institutional architecture of the NCA for customs processes: Single Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI2), Reference data (CSRD2) and Authorized Economic Operators (AEO), and introduction of the Institutional architecture of the NCA, through introduction of modules in BICIS, corresponding to these economic processes</p> <p><b>Activity 4:</b> Analysis of the necessity of changes in the integration of the national domain of the</p>
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	<p>trans-European systems of the Community domain, resulting from the introduction of the CCN2 platform and the specification of the necessary changes in the IS of the NCA; The deadline for completion of the project is December 2018.</p> <p>Terms of reference were prepared and procedures for selection of contractors for Activities 1 and 2 were carried out. The implementation of Activity 1 started in October 2016, and of Activity 2 – in March 2017.</p> <p>Awarding procedures for the implementation of activities 3 and 4 are to be carried out.</p>
End Date	<p><b>30 June 2018 r.</b></p> <p>The project, part of which is the measure's implementation lasts to December 2018</p>
Next Steps	Project's activities implementation.
More information	

Commitment Completion Template	
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 1</b></p> <p align="center"><b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES BY EMPLOYING E-GOVERNMENT TOOLS</b></p> <p><b>Measure 1.1.9</b> Development of a Centralized Public Procurement System (SPPS) containing all modules including e-evaluation and e-submission of bids. Prepare and employ a centralized tender documentation. Strengthening the role of the Central Public Procurement Authority via e-procurement system.</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 – 30 June 2018 (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>	
Lead implementing agency	Public Procurement Agency (PPA)

Persons responsible from implementing agency		Dafinka Velcheva
Title, Department		Chief Expert in “Electronic procurement, standardisation and monitoring” Directorate
Email		<a href="mailto:d.velcheva@aop.bg">d.velcheva@aop.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 98597166
Other actors involved:	Government; Ministries; Agencies	Ministry of Finance
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Contracting authorities and businesses taking part in the procurement process
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Currently the public procurement process is not fully electronic and standardized, which makes it necessary for the applicants to prepare tender documentation on paper and submit it in the offices of the respective contracting authority, to take into consideration non-uniform requirements for similar subjects which is ineffective, time-consuming and entails significant cost while at the same time making the processing and evaluation of bids difficult for the administration.
Main objective		Simplification of procedures, ensuring an objective and transparent evaluation of tenders and award of contracts.
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)		Introduction of a system for conducting electronic public procurement. The introduction of e-procurement will be phased.

Relevance	By electronisation and increased transparency of procurement procedures are improved the public services, it is enhanced the integrity of the public institutions, it is improved the business environment and it is achieved efficient management of public resources.			
Ambition	With the introduction of entirely electronic process of awarding contracts the estimated impact of the implementation of the System is the electronisation of the stages of the awarding process through introduction of standardised business processes and documents templates, which will facilitate all the participants in the process, incl. will optimize the activities under the external control, carried out by PPA.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	
Description of the results	It is ensured the requested under Public Procurement Law (PPL) publicity for public procurements, both through Public Procurement Portal of the Public Procurement Agency and by the Buyers Profiles of the contracting authorities. Direct and free-of-charge access to their public procurements information is provided.			
End Date	<b>30 June 2018 r.</b> Due to law's amendments SPPS will function since 18 October 2018			
Next Steps	It is yet to be selected a contractor for the announced open public procurement procedure with subject: Development, implementation and maintenance of a single national electronic web-based platform: Centralised Automated Information System "Electronic Public			

	Procurement” (CAIS ePP), financed under Operational Programme “Good Governance” (OPGG), co-financed by the European Union (EU) through the European Social Fund (ESF). For the procedure were submitted 5 tenders, most of them from consortiums with Bulgarian and foreign participation.
<p style="text-align: center;">More information</p> <p>The activities for implementation of the measure are related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ electronisation of the stages of the awarding process, supporting the contracting authorities with introduction of standardised business processes and documents templates;</li> <li>➤ improved control at each stage of the procedure;</li> <li>➤ optimizing the processes for keeping the Public Procurement Register.</li> </ul> <p>Possible risks are related to challenges in the introduction of new technological processes linked to network, operational and IT compatibilities.</p> <p>There is a risk not to be followed the preliminary set up deadlines in case of appeal of the contracting authority’s decision.</p> <p>The successful introduction of the national platform for electronic award will change significantly the way of work of the participants in the process and it is connected with increasing of their qualification and abilities.</p>	

## THEME 2 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

**Commitment 2: The Bulgarian government will continue to improve access to information through further enhancing the scope of available public information and extensive electronization of the information provision processes**

Commitment Completion Template		
<b>Commitment 2</b> <b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH FURTHER ENHANCING THE SCOPE OF AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIZATION OF THE INFORMATION PROVISION PROCESSES</b>		
<p><b>Measure 2.1.1.</b> Coordination and support in the process of revising the internal procedures for providing access to public information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and establishing clear mechanisms and responsibilities for pro-active provision of information and internal control</p>		
<p>1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017 (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>		
Lead implementing agency	Administration of the Council of Ministers	
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Nusha Ivanova	
Title, Department	Chief Expert at Department 'Impact Assessment of Legislation', Directorate 'Modernization of Administration'	
e-mail	<a href="mailto:n.ivanova@government.bg">n.ivanova@government.bg</a>	
Phone:	+359 2940 24 45	
Other actors involved:	Government / Ministries / Agencies	Public Organizations under the Freedom of Information Act (FIA)



	Civil organizations / Private sector / International organizations and others.	Access to Public Information Program (APIP)			
Issue to be addressed		The amendments to the Freedom of Information Act laid down a number of new obligations, related to the law, which lead to the requirement of taking new specific measures. In this regard, it would be necessary to revise the internal rules of public organisations, as regards the active publication online of free information, pursuant to the provisions of FIA.			
Main objective		To introduce standards and improve the processes of information provision and control.			
Brief description of commitment (14 character limit)		Coordination and support of the process of bringing the internal rules for the provision of public information by the administration in accordance with the amended requirements of the law.			
Relevance		This measure creates a general measure to improve the process of providing public information and leads to increased transparency in the work of public institutions. The measure contributes to enhancing the integrity of institutions and improving the services, related to the provision of public information.			
Ambition		Transparent information provision process and facilitated search and re-use of information by the citizens.			
Completion Level		Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X		

Description of the results	<p>During the reporting period the following project was started: <i>Improving the processes, related to the provision, access and re-use of public sector information</i> with the beneficiary of the administration of the Council of Ministers. The main activity of the project is the creation of a platform for access to public information. The platform will be a single, centralized, public, web-based information system that provides for access to and publication of public information. Provisions are made for the platform to be used to make requests for access to information, to monitor the status of the application (whether it has been <i>approved, rejected or partially granted</i>) and to publish the feedback of the institutions, with which the applications have been filed.</p> <p>Changes in the internal rules of the various administrative structures in line with the new legal provisions would only come to their full realization following the implementation and functioning of the platform, as administrations will have the platform profiles they will manage in connection with the provision of access to public information.</p> <p>Currently, the project is in the stage of selecting a Contractor (contractors) to build and implement the platform. In this respect, the actual implementation of the measure will start after the creation of the Access to Public Information Platform (APIP).</p>
End date	<p><b>30 June 2017</b></p> <p>This measure shall be implemented within the project, lasting until 31 May 2018, when we expect to have its complete implementation.</p>
Next steps	

## Commitment Completion Template

### Comittment 2

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH FURTHER ENHANCING THE SCOPE OF AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIZATION OF THE INFORMATION PROVISION PROCESSES

**Measure 2.1.2.** Conducting trainings on the amendments to the Access to Public Information Act (APIA) for all officials in the administration and especially for the units in charge of APIA and publishing on the Internet

1 July 2016 r. – 31 December 2017 r.  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		Administration of the Council of Ministers (CoM) Institute of Public Administration (IPA)
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Nevena Amova
Title, Department		Chief expert, Trainings, International Activitiy and Proejcts directorate, IPA
Email		<a href="mailto:n.amova@ipa.government.bg">n.amova@ipa.government.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 940 29 88
Other actors involved:	Government; Ministries; Agencies	Institute of Public Administration (IPA)
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Access to Information Program
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Inefficient transparency in the activity of the public administration and difficult access of citizens to search for public information.

Main objective	Increasing the capacity of the public administration to implement Access to Public information Act (APIA) and providing access to public information.
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)	IPA presents in its annual catalog training on “Access to Public Information”. The main purpose of the training is to form the necessary knowledge and practical skills for work on providing access to public information as well as for protection of personal data and classified information. During the training, the legal framework in the field of the right to information and the types of public information are considered. The participants are introduced to the obligated subjects under the APIA and with the re-use of the public sector information. After the training civil servants have a deep understanding of open government and transparent administration as modern imperatives. The training is conducted by IPA in accordance with requests made by the administration for senior management and expert staff who provide or control access to public information, provide information protection and data transfers to the administration.
Relevance	The training builds an administrative capacity for the responsibility of the administration to ensure access to public information by ensuring openness, credibility, completeness of the information, legality and equal access conditions as well as protecting of personal information, the security of society and the state. Participants receive a thorough understanding of open government and transparent administration as modern imperatives.

Ambition	Competent and motivated administration that contributes to more open management and provides active public disclosure.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	
Description of the results	<b>Four trainings</b> with the total number of <b>84 trained</b> employees by the state administration have been provided during the reporting period. Evaluations showed a high degree of satisfaction of the participants. The training is considered as a practically oriented and following the current trends. The ex-post evaluation (three months after the end of the training) shows that as a result of the training the participants become more motivated and prepared to fulfill their obligations under APIA.			
End Date	<b>31 December 2017 r.</b>			
Next Steps	The Institute will continue to promote the principles of open government by preparing training on the implementation of APIA. In the autumn of 2017, a Good Practice Competition on "Technology Solutions for Open Government" will be organized. The aim is to identify and promote good practices related to open state governance, exchange of data between administrations, publishing of high added-value public information, digitization of registers and archives, etc.			
More information				

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 2

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH FURTHER ENHANCING THE SCOPE OF AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIZATION OF THE INFORMATION PROVISION PROCESSES

**Measure 2.1.3** Maintaining public electronic registers of: online gambling sites by persons not issued a license to organize online gambling; gambling operators; manufacturers, distributors, importers and technicians of gambling equipment; suspended, revoked and denied gambling licenses; approved gambling equipment

Ongoing  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		State Commission On Gambling
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Marian Popov
Title, Department		Chief Secretary
Email		<a href="mailto:m.popov@dkh.minfin.bg">m.popov@dkh.minfin.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 9859 5801
Other actors involved:	Government; Ministries; Agencies	Ministry of Finance
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Not specified

Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	With such registers the State Commission on Gambling provides to an unlimited circle of persons public and transparent information for the regulated licensed market, and thus protects all participants in gambling games from illegal betting.
Main objective	Publicity and transparency of licensed and regulated gambling activity. Protection from and prevention against the organization of illegal gambling. Improvement of the business environment for betting companies and increase of revenue in the budget.
Brief description of commitment (140 character limit)	Keeping and maintaining public electronic registries of the State Commission on Gambling for organizers of gambling activities, production and distribution, repair and import of gaming equipment, suspended, revoked and refused gambling licenses, established gaming equipment. Updating and maintaining a list of websites by which gambling is organized by persons who have not obtained a license for online betting under the Gambling Act.
Relevance	The performance of measure 2.1.1 ensures transparency and accountability of the state policy with regard to gambling regulation and fiscal protection, as well as access of a wide range of interested parties to the information, which also stimulates greater involvement in monitoring the implementation of the policy. Providing more information in a simple and accessible form is directly related to the administration seeking to be transparent, accountable and predictable.
Ambition	Protection of the legitimate operators of gambling games and the citizens.

Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				<b>X</b>
Description of the results	The registers kept by the State Commission on Gambling can be found on the website of the Commission. They are updated upon any change, which in due time is reflected in them. Feedback on the usefulness of the information that is contained in them is received by the Commission through the questions and the signals which interested parties submit through the website.			
End Date	<b>Ongoing</b>			
Next Steps				

Commitment Completion Template	
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 2</b></p> <p align="center"><b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH FURTHER ENHANCING THE SCOPE OF AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIZATION OF THE INFORMATION PROVISION PROCESSES</b></p> <p><b>Measure 2.1.4.</b> Publication of National Revenue Agency's (NRA's) annual priorities, key results of NRA's activities and findings of public opinion surveys on NRA's operations</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017 (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>	
Lead implementing agency	National Revenue Agency (NRA)
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Kiril Hrisimov Ignat Gavrilov
Title, Department	Chief Expert Chief Legal Adviser Strategic Planning and Change Management Directorate



Email		<a href="mailto:k.hrisimov@nra.bg">k.hrisimov@nra.bg</a> <a href="mailto:i.gavrailov@nra.bg">i.gavrailov@nra.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 9859 3321 +359 2 9859 3184
Other actors involved:	Government; Ministries; Agencies	Ministry of Finance
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Not specified
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		The National Revenue Agency maintains a constant contact with both the public and the business and it is crucial that they can access a maximum volume of information about its operations – requirements to taxable persons, planned activities and results. The administration provides full and comprehensive information about services, procedures, forms, filling instructions, clients' rights and obligations, as well as about various free-access e-services. All channels of provision of services are implemented with a focus on the use of modern information and communication technology. As an institution communicating with the public and the business on a regular basis, the NRA continues to take account of users' opinion on the effectiveness of provided services and seeks to reduce further the administrative burden for taxpayers.
Main objective		Enhance the transparency in the operations of the National Revenue Agency and reduce the administrative burden for taxpayers.
Brief description of commitment		Maintenance of user-oriented approaches

Relevance	The measure is aimed at improvement of public services and enhanced effectiveness of public resources management. Its implementation will enhance the transparency of National Revenue Agency’s operations.			
Ambition	Maintenance of user-oriented approaches			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	
Description of the results	<p>The National Revenue Agency’s website features as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NRA priorities for 2017</li><li>• NRA Annual Activity Report for 2016</li><li>• Monitoring survey on tax and social security compliance for 2016.</li></ul> <p>For the purposes of the survey, in 2016, consultations with the Ministry of Finance were held on the content of the questionnaire.</p>			
End Date	June 2018			
Next Steps	Identify the full volume of information that needs to be published and the frequency of its publication			
More information				

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 2

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH FURTHER ENHANCING THE SCOPE OF AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIZATION OF THE INFORMATION PROVISION PROCESSES

**Measure 2.1.5:** Publication of analyses / studies, funded by the ESIF, as a resource for exchange of practices, mapping resources on topics to improve access to information

Ongoing  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		Administration of the Council of Ministers, Central Coordination Unit Directorate
Persons responsible from implementing agency		1.Kiril Ezekiev; 2. Lubomir Stoyanov
Title, Department		1.State Expert at Department 'Strategic planning and programming', 'Central Coordination Unit' Directorate 2.Chief expert at Department 'Strategic planning and programming', 'Central Coordination Unit' Directorate
Email		<a href="mailto:k.ezekiev@government.bg">k.ezekiev@government.bg</a> <a href="mailto:L.Stoyanov@government.bg">L.Stoyanov@government.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 940 2518 +359 2 940 2551
Other actors involved:	Government; Ministries; Agencies	Not specified
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Not specified

Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	To improve access to information			
Main objective	Help beneficiaries prepare projects of better quality and improve their implementation / management of the received funding			
Brief description of commitment	Publishing relevant information to help beneficiaries prepare better-quality ESIF projects and improve their implementation/ management of the funding.			
Relevance	Improvement of the work of public institutions providing guidance and assisting beneficiaries in the planning, organization, control and implementation of measures, co-financed with European public resources. Contribution to more effective management of these resources in accordance with the rules, "lessons learned" and good practices.			
Ambition	Identical publishing practices; wider access to accumulated analytical expertise on programmes and projects funded under the ESIF.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	

Description of the results	During the reported period data on the current implementation of the EU Structural Funds was published on the Single information portal ( <a href="http://www.eufunds.bg">www.eufunds.bg</a> ) in a timely and systematic manner. The Portal unifies the information flow across all operational programmes and brings together all the necessary data for potential and current beneficiaries. The role of the Central Coordination Unit Directorate is to systematize and make information available through its role as co-ordinator of the process of publishing and structuring the information flow.
End Date	<b>Permanent implementation</b>
Next Steps	To continue the systematic approach in publishing relevant documents and other information.
More information	

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 2

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH FURTHER ENHANCING THE SCOPE OF AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIZATION OF THE INFORMATION PROVISION PROCESSES

**Measure 2.1.6.** Creating a register of all regulatory, supervisory and control agencies appointed by Parliament (in conjunction or not with the Council of Minister and/or the President) containing information about their web sites, powers, mandate, members, decisions, etc.

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2018  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		Administration of the Council of Ministers
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Krassimir Bozhanov
Title, Department		Director of Administration Modernization Directorate
E-mail:		<a href="mailto:k.bozhanov@government.bg">k.bozhanov@government.bg</a>
Telephone:		+359 2 940 27 27
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Offices / Agencies	Not specified
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Center for Liberal Strategies; Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives.
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		The absence of consolidated information about the regulatory, supervisory and controlling authorities in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Main objective	To improve access to information about the work of the regulatory bodies.			
Brief <b>description</b> (140 characters)	The measure provides for the establishment of a register, covering all independent regulatory, supervisory and control bodies, appointed by the National Assembly (independently or jointly with the Council of Ministers and / or the President).			
Relevance	The measure is aimed at facilitating the access to information about the operation of independent regulators and increasing the transparency of their activities, it is also in line with the principle of initiative in the accountability of public institutions.			
Ambition	Facilitating access to information to the work of regulators would result in higher citizen awareness of the decision-making of these authorities and, accordingly, would allow for more active citizen control over their actions, which would bring about greater public accountability for this type of organizations.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	
Description of the results	<p>The Information System of the State Administration (IISDA) maintains information about the Administrative Register, regulated in Art. 61, Para. 1 of the Administration Act regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The administrative structures and related legal entities, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Their governing bodies;</li> <li>(b) The rules, relating to administrative services;</li> <li>(c) The places, in which they operate;</li> </ol> </li> </ol>			

	<p>(d) The allocation of local staff;</p> <p>(e) Working and reception hours for each location;</p> <p>2. Administrative services, including internal administrative services, electronic administrative services, registration, licensing, permits and conciliation schemes, including related document forms, timetables and tariff rates;</p> <p>3. Occupied and vacant positions in the administration;</p> <p>The information, maintained through the IISDA is publicly available at <a href="http://iisda.government.bg">http://iisda.government.bg</a>.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>The administrative register contains information on all administrative structures of the executive power. The Administrative Registry shall provide information on the following bodies of regulatory, supervisory or control functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (EWRC)</li> <li>• The Competition Protection Commission (CPC)</li> <li>• The Commission for withdrawal of criminal assets (CWCA)</li> <li>• The Commission for Public Oversight of Statutory Auditors (CPOSA)</li> <li>• The Commission for Disclosure of Documents and Announcement of Affiliation of Bulgarian Citizens to the State Security and the Intelligence Services of the Bulgarian National Army (CDDAABCSSISBNA);</li> <li>• The Communications Regulatory Commission (CRC);</li> </ul>
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<sup>3</sup> *Comments of the Bulgarian Institute of Legal Initiatives:* 'Although IISDA has improved its functionality, the information contained in the system is not comprehensive enough to provide the public with information on the expired mandates of the designated managers of authorities. We understand the considerations, set out in the additional information to the measure, yet from the point of view of public transparency and civilian mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the work of state authorities, this shows rather a lack of determination for a unified approach to the management of information transparency'.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Financial Supervision Commission (FSC);</li> <li>• The National Insurance Institute (NII);</li> <li>• The National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF);</li> <li>• The Council for Electronic Media (CEM).</li> </ul>
End date	<b>30 June 2018</b>
Next steps	
<p>More information</p> <p>A major challenge to the overall implementation of the measure is that it presents information about authorities, whose composition is elected by the National Assembly or by the President and for which there is no statutory obligation to enter information in the Administrative Register. In this sense, it would be appropriate to reformat this measure by implementing it in partnership with the civil sector.</p>	

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 2

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH FURTHER ENHANCING THE SCOPE OF AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIZATION OF THE INFORMATION PROVISION PROCESSES

**Measure 2.1.7** Establishment of an information system for collection, digitization and storage of the National State Archive of the National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage and introduction of electronic services for citizens, employees of the state and municipal administration through the creation of a digital public archive and electronic register of the immovable cultural values with national and world significance and real archeological cultural values of national significance

**1 July 2016 - 31 December 2017**  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Culture
Persons responsible from implementing agency	1. Margarita Gospodinova; 2. Malinka Tzuparska; 3. Kalina Georgieva
Title, Department	1. Chief Legal Adviser, Legal Services and Public Procurement Directorate, Ministry of Culture; 2. Chief Legal Adviser, Legal Services and Public Procurement Directorate, Ministry of Culture; 3. Legal Advisor, Financial, Administrative and Legal Services Directorate, National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage
Email	<a href="mailto:M.Gospodinova@mc.government.bg">M.Gospodinova@mc.government.bg</a> <a href="mailto:m.tzuparska@mc.government.bg">m.tzuparska@mc.government.bg</a> <a href="mailto:kalina.georguieva@abv.bg">kalina.georguieva@abv.bg</a>
Phone	+359 2 9400946; +359 2 9400987; +359 884 978 835

Other actors involved:	Government; Ministries; Agencies	National Institute for Immovable cultural heritage
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and ets.	Not specified
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		The necessity of introducing electronic services for citizens, employees of the state and municipal administration.
Main objective		Enhancing the accessibility of the provided public information in order to increase the active participation of the society in the activities of control and protection of the immovable cultural heritage.
Brief description of commitment		Establishment of an information system for the collection, digitization and storage of a National documentary archive fund at the National Institute for Immovable cultural heritage.
Relevance		The measure provides extended access to information by increasing the possibilities for exercising civil control over management and protection of immovable cultural heritage.
Ambition		Providing access of information with reference to immovable cultural heritage, as well as electronizing the processes of providing it.

Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		X		
Description of the results	Applying under the Operational Program Good Management with Project Name – “Digitalization of the archives of the immovable cultural properties of world and national significance, building of specialized information system, electronic register and public portal”. The project envisages development and implementation of specialized information system for the registration, collection, digitization, processing and storage of the national document archive of the National Institute for Immovable cultural heritage and creating an electronic public register of immovable cultural properties. The register will ensure an Internet portal providing access to The public digital archive. The system will be used for digitalization on stages of the archives, as on Stage 1 from the Road map "Priority projects for the period 2016-2017", the main priority will be the processing of documents for cultural properties of national and world significance and archaeological cultural properties of national importance.			
End Date	31 December 2017 The term for implementation of the project is December 2018			
Next Steps	Finalizing the project, which will achieve the objectives set out in Measure 2.1.7.			
More information				
Considering the fact that the final outcome of the project corresponds to Measure 2.1.7, we set out the activities envisaged for the implementation of the project as follows:				
Activity 1				
Analysis and design of Specialized Information System, electronic register and public portal of immovable cultural properties;				
Action 2				
Development and implementation of a specialized information system, including an				

electronic register and a public portal of immovable cultural properties;

**Activity 3**

Creating new / updating existing internal rules for the main processes and rules for the provision of electronic services and formulating proposals for the introduction of e-Government;

**Activity 4**

Digitization of a documentary archive of 1490 sites of immovable cultural heritage of national and world importance and real archeological cultural heritage of national importance;

**Activity 5**

Digitization of photogrammetric plates for 350 objects of immovable cultural heritage of national and world importance and real archeological cultural properties of national importance;

**Action 6**

Equipment delivery;

**Activity 7**

Providing information and communication on the project.

### **THEME 3 OPEN CITIES**

**Commitment 3: Bulgarian government will actively cooperate and encourage the local authorities to employ open government practices at local level**

Commitment Completion Template		
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 3</b></p> <p align="center"><b>BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL ACTIVELY COOPERATE AND ENCOURAGE THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO EMPLOY OPEN GOVERNMENT PRACTICES AT LOCAL LEVEL</b></p> <p><b>Measure 3.1.1.</b> Adoption of a program and schedule for opening local government data</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 - 31 December 2017 (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>		
Lead implementing agency		Administration of the Council of Ministers
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Nusha Ivanova
Title, Department		Chief Expert at Department 'Impact Assessment of Legislation', Directorate 'Modernization of Administration'
E-mail:		<a href="mailto:n.ivanova@government.bg">n.ivanova@government.bg</a>
Telephone:		+359 2940 24 45
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	The Municipality of Sofia (Capital) (the MS); The National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	The 'NGO Links' Association

Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	Need for more active use of information, published by municipal open-source information.			
Main objective	Expanding datasets to be published in open-source format by regional and municipal administrations.			
Brief <b>description</b> of the Commitment (140 characters)	Creating a list of open-source data sets to be published by municipal administrations and a timetable for fulfilling the commitment.			
Relevance	This measure will lead to improved access to information and broadening of the scope of published data in an open-source format, which is in line with the principles of the Access to Information Initiative and Accountability of Institutions .			
Ambition	Enhanced transparency of municipal policies, created products and services based on data analysis of published and re-used information.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	

Description of the results	During the reporting period continued the implementation of Decision No. 214 of 2016 of the Council of Ministers on the adoption of a list of data sets on priority areas to be published in an open-source format in 2016. This decision introduced an obligation for district and municipal administrations to publish certain datasets in an open-source format at the portal, following a specified timetable/schedule/. During the reporting period, in 2017 was initiated the prioritization of data to be published on the Open Data Portal. Regional and municipal administrations were included again in the list and should publish certain open-source registers according to the agreed Timetable for 2017.
End date	<b>31 December 2017</b>
Next steps	Publication of the information pursuant to Decision No. 436 of the Council of Ministers for the adoption of a list of data sets on priority areas to be published in an open-source format on the Open-Source Data Portal and launching the prioritization of the information to be published in 2018.
More information	



## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 3

#### BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL ACTIVELY COOPERATE AND ENCOURAGE THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO EMPLOY OPEN GOVERNMENT PRACTICES AT LOCAL LEVEL

**Measure 3.1.2.** Increasing local governmental financial transparency through pilot citizen budget initiative in the municipality of Sofia

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		the Sofia (Capital) Municipality (SM)
Persons responsible from implementing agency		1. Yordanka Stankova; 2. Iliyana Guginska.
Title, Department		Head of Department 'Budget Collection' with the Finance Directorate of the Sofia Municipality; 2. Head of Department 'General Expenditure Balance', Finance Directorate of the Sofia Municipality.
E-mail:		<a href="mailto:jstankova@sofia.bg">jstankova@sofia.bg</a> ; <a href="mailto:iguginska@sofia.bg">iguginska@sofia.bg</a>
Telephone:		+359 2 9377521; +359 29377412
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	The National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Municipalities
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Need to present information on municipal budgets in a language that is understandable to the citizens.

Main objective	Stimulate Citizen Participation by providing understandable information on municipal budgets.			
Brief <b>description</b> of the Commitment (140 characters)	Presentation to the citizens of the complex financial information, making up the municipal budget in an understandable and accessible manner.			
Relevance	This measure is aimed at more active and informed citizen involvement in the management and control processes of municipal budgets. This measure aims at more efficient management of public resources.			
Ambition	Introducing the practice of drafting a 'citizens' budget' at the municipal level.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		X		
Description of results	<p>During the reporting period, the budget of the Sofia Municipality for 2017 was prepared, adopted and discussed.</p> <p>To familiarize citizens and stakeholders with the draft budget, the following activities were carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A public discussion on the Draft budget of the Sofia Municipality was organized and took place on <b>4 January 2017</b>. The citizens, who attended the discussion were informed of the municipality's budget in the form of presentations, given by the authority's deputy mayors. During the discussions, there were debates and questions were asked, which were answered by the deputy mayor of finance, by the Authority's deputy mayors and experts. Some issues,</li> </ul>			

	<p>requiring additional verification and information were answered in writing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Draft Budget before the two major Trade unions in the country - the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria and the 'Podkrepa' Confederation of Labour;</li> <li>• Discussions of the Draft Budget with the Business Advisory Council of the Sofia Municipality and with students and professors from the Faculty of Economics at the Sofia University of 'Kliment Ohridski'.</li> </ul>
End date	<b>30 June 2017</b>
Next steps	
More information	

## THEME 4 CIVIC PARTICIPATION

**Commitment 4A: Bulgarian government will maintain an active dialogue with civil society based on innovative forms of interaction allowing for feedback and co-authorship of policy**

Commitment Completion Template		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Commitment 4A</b>  <b>BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY BASED ON INNOVATIVE FORMS OF INTERACTION ALLOWING FOR FEEDBACK AND CO-AUTHORSHIP OF POLICY</b></p> <p><b>Measure 4A.1.1</b> Improving the quality of public consultation through upgrading the functionalities of the Public Consultation Portal; drafting unified standards for the selection of the members of public and consultative councils, publicity of their operation and decision – making mechanisms; development in conjunction with civil society organizations of training programs for public officials on the organization of effective public consultations, developing guidelines for citizen engagement and provision of feedback</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 July 2016 - 31 December 2017 (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>		
Lead implementing agency	Administration of the Council of Ministers	
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Iskren Ivanov	
Title, Department	State Expert at Department 'Impact Assessment of Legislation', Directorate 'Modernization of Administration'	
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:is.ivanov@government.bg">is.ivanov@government.bg</a>	
Telephone:	+359 2940 20 93	
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	Institute of Public Administration; Council for Administrative Reform

	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Bulgarian Center for Non-Profit Law; Forum 'Citizen Initiatives'
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	Absence of sufficient quality public consultations of regulatory acts and strategic documents, involving active stakeholder participation.	
Main objective	Improving the quality of public consultations and involving the more active participation of stakeholders in the process of policy formulation and drafting of regulatory acts.	
Brief <b>description</b> of commitment (140 characters)	Updating the Bulgarian Portal for Public Consultations - <a href="http://www.strategy.bg">www.strategy.bg</a> through new functionalities to facilitate and improve the process of public consultations; Establishing uniform standards for the selection of members of the public advisory councils; Development of training programs for civil servants for conducting effective and quality public consultations on drafts of normative acts; Facilitating the involvement of stakeholders in the consultation process through the preparation of practical tools (guidelines, a manual for involving citizens in the public consultations process).-	
Relevance	The overall improvement of the public consultations process will lead to greater awareness of the persons, affected by the application of the consulted normative acts and will also create prerequisites for their more active involvement in the process of policy formulation and drafting of normative acts, in accordance with the initiative's principles of civic participation.	

Ambition	Utilization of the benefits of new technologies to expand the scope of stakeholder involvement.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		X		
Description of the results	<p>During the reporting period, a project was prepared and approved for financing under the Operational Program 'Good Governance' under the name of: 'Administration and Civil Society - Partnership in Governance'. The main activity of the project is to upgrade the Bulgarian Portal for Public Consultations - <a href="http://www.strategy.bg">www.strategy.bg</a> and to build new functionalities to facilitate and improve the public consultations process. The actual upgrade of the portal is scheduled to commence in the first half of 2018, and only then it will be possible to assess the impact of technology optimization on the public consultations process.</p> <p>The project also provides for updating the Public Consultation Standards and adapting them to the recent trends and European best practices, by involving stakeholders in decision-making processes. As a result of the project shall be developed Crowdsourcing &amp; Civic Hacking Manuals, as well as a Civic Participation Handbook. On the basis of the developed practical tools, a training program on effective public consultations shall be organized for civil servants. Rules shall be developed to identify representatives of civil society organizations in advisory councils. <sup>4</sup></p>			

<sup>4</sup> *Comments of the Bulgarian Center for Non-Profit Law and the Civic Participation Forum:* 'It is not reasonably justified to postpone the implementation of these measures with the 'launching' of a project to ensure their implementation. Adopted government plans should be implemented within the set deadlines, and the eventual projects should support the correct and timely implementation, rather than justify postponing its implementation. As civil organizations, we have repeatedly proposed to work jointly on the preparation of a

End date	<b>31 December 2017</b> The duration of the project through which the measure shall be implemented will end on 30 September 2018, when the measure is expected to be implemented in its entirety.
Next steps	Selection of contractors to update the Public Consultations Portal and to prepare the resource materials, described above.
More information	

Commitment Completion Template	
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 4A</b></p> <p align="center"><b>BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY BASED ON INNOVATIVE FORMS OF INTERACTION ALLOWING FOR FEEDBACK AND CO-AUTHORSHIP OF POLICY</b></p> <p><b>Measure 4A.1.2.</b> Introducing an option for a national and local electronic petition and reducing red tape and the requisite data for organizing a citizen petition. Adopting the necessary amendments to the Direct Participation Act</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 - 30 June 2018 (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>	
Lead implementing agency	Administration of the Council of Ministers
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Iskren Ivanov
Title, Department	State Expert at Department 'Impact Assessment of Legislation', Directorate 'Modernization of Administration'

particular draft of common standards for conducting public consultations. Our experience has shown that this format is more appropriate than announcing a public procurement contract for the elaboration of standards within a project, funded under the Structural Funds.'

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Telephone:		+359 2940 20 93			
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	Not specified			
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Bulgarian Center for Non-Profit Law; Forum 'Citizen Initiatives'			
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Absence of legally provided opportunities to organize an electronic petition for the implementation of national and local citizens' initiatives.			
Main objective		Mobilize Civic Participation through easing the procedures for the organization of national and local citizen initiatives.			
Brief <b>description</b> of the Commitment (140 characters)		Initiating legislative changes to enable the organization of national and local citizens' initiatives via electronic petition.			
Relevance		The use of new technology solutions helps and facilitates citizen self-organization in view of more active participation in the decision-making process, which is in line with the principles of the Innovations and Civic Participation Initiative.			
Ambition		Expand and optimize the opportunities for citizens to engage in decision-making processes for policies and decisions that affect them.			
Completion Level		Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		X			



Description of the results	During the reporting period, no action has been taken to implement this measure. The tradition in the distribution of the legislative initiative implies that amendments to the Act on the direct participation of citizens in state power should be proposed by members of Parliament.
End date	<b>30 June 2018</b>
Next steps	
More information	

Commitment Completion Template	
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 4A</b>  <b>BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY            BASED ON INNOVATIVE FORMS OF INTERACTION ALLOWING FOR FEEDBACK AND CO-            AUTHORSHIP OF POLICY</b></p> <p><b>Measure 4A.1.3.</b> Establishment of a permanent joint mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of the OGP national action plan implementation</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 - 31 October 2016            (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>	
Lead implementing agency	Administration of the Council of Ministers
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Iskren Ivanov
Title, Department	State Expert at Department 'Impact Assessment of Legislation', Directorate 'Modernization of Administration'
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Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	Not specified
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	The institutions responsible for implementing the measures of the action plan
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		The approach to involving the stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the OGP national action plans of Bulgaria has not been consistent and well - structured.
Main objective		To encourage active citizen involvement and increase the quality of implementation through a structured monitoring mechanism for the OGP national action plans.
Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)		The establishment of a permanent joint monitoring and evaluation mechanism (platform) of the OGP action plans implementation, by the institutions, responsible for the implementation of measures and by the stakeholders, impacted by the implementation.
Relevance		The establishment of a platform for ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the action plans is in alignment with the principle of citizen participation in the OGP, as the platform will enable regular provision of information on the implementation and feedback, which will lead to sustainable forms of cooperation and decision making joint decisions.
Ambition		Improving the quality of implementation of the National Action Plans by receiving regular feedback from stakeholders and by actively involving them in the monitoring and evaluation process.

Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
	X			
Description of the results	<p>During the reporting period a meeting was held between representatives of the institutions, involved in implementing the action plan and representatives of civil organizations. The meeting took place on 6 June 2017. Representatives of 18 civil society organizations, involved in the development of the third national action plan or stakeholders in the implementation of the measures of the action plan attended the meeting. Representatives of the 13 institutions, responsible for the implementation of the measures under the Third National Action Plan were invited and attended the meeting on behalf of the administration.</p> <p>This was the first meeting since the launch of the third Action Plan to express views on the implementation of the action plan and the challenges, faced by the plan. The meeting contributed to identifying the persons, who would report on the implementation of the measures on behalf of the institutions.</p>			
End date	31 October 2016			
Next steps	<p>Structuring the initiative in a way that would allow for regular meetings between representatives of the institutions, involved in the implementation of measures and stakeholders and the establishment of a mechanism to carry out regular monitoring of the implementation of measures.</p>			
More information				

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 4A

#### BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY BASED ON INNOVATIVE FORMS OF INTERACTION ALLOWING FOR FEEDBACK AND CO- AUTHORSHIP OF POLICY

**Measure: 4A.1.5.** Develop and organize forums on the development of a Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy (CSRS)

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2018  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		Ministry Of Labour And Social Policies
Persons responsible from implementing agency		1. Theodora Todorova; 2. Iliya Garaliev
Title, Department		1. State expert at the Department of Living Standard, Labour Income and Social Economy, Directorate 'Strategic Planning and Demographic Policy'; 1. Junior expert at the Department of Living Standard, Labour Income and Social Economy, Directorate 'Strategic Planning and Demographic Policy';
E-mail:		<a href="mailto:tdemireva@mlsp.government.bg">tdemireva@mlsp.government.bg</a> <a href="mailto:i.garaliev@mlsp.government.bg">i.garaliev@mlsp.government.bg</a>
Telephone:		+359 2 8119 547
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	Not specified
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Business organizations

Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	Facilitate businesses to implement corporate social responsibility initiatives. Create opportunities for joint, transparent initiatives to stimulate civic participation in the development of state-relevant documents.
Main objective	Introduce clear mechanisms to promote corporate social responsibility in cooperation with businesses.
Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)	This measure stimulates a collaborative approach, actively involving businesses and civic representatives, transparency in the process of drafting strategic documents, specifically in developing the corporate social responsibility strategy.

Relevance	This commitment enables civil organizations and businesses to take active part in the drafting of strategic documents that have impact on their operations. The measure promotes openness and transparency in the governance of the administration, and encourages participation and dialogue to achieve the joint deliverable. The priorities are developed jointly with stakeholders in the process of developing the strategy, with forums being a way to take into account the views of a wide range of natural and legal entities; the forums also presenting an opportunity for them to be informed about the state policy in this area and to identify the next steps, based on dialogue. Representatives of state bodies, non-governmental authorities and organizations, the civil sector, the business community, the scientific community, the social partners, and others participated in the forums.			
Ambition	The 'Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy' was developed. The measure stimulates a collaborative approach, actively involving business representatives and citizens, and transparency in the process of drafting strategic documents. Expectations are aimed at developing a document that reflects the broadest possible interest from stakeholders.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	

Description of the results	<p>During the reporting period, the following activities were carried out to implement the measure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expert meeting - discussions with international participation on the subject-matter of: 'Prospects for the Development of the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy in the Context of Good International Practices', 27-30 November 2016, Centre for Human Resource Development and Regional Initiatives (CHRDRI). Participants - business, social partners, state institutions, scientific community, civic organizations, representatives from the Czech Republic, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the International Labour Organization (ILO), etc.</li> <li>2. National training on the subject-matter: Current Aspects of Corporate Social Responsibility Policy. Participants - state institutions, academic community, civil sector.</li> <li>3. Established consultative council with the Minister of Labour and Social Policy for coordination, cooperation and consultancy in developing, conducting, controlling the implementation and assessment of state policy in the field of corporate social responsibility. Participants in the Advisory Board are a wide range of representatives from state institutions, businesses, the academic community, the civil sector and the social partners.</li> <li>4. A workshop took place between August 21 and 22, 2017 on the following subject-matter: 'Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) - for a better quality of life'. The seminar presented good practices in the field of CSR, based on the completed Bulgarian-Swiss project 'Promoting Social Dialogue and Improving Working Conditions for Workers and Employees'. The priorities to be included in the new CSR strategy were also discussed.</li> </ol>
End date	<b>30 June 2018</b>

Next steps	Within the framework of the advisory council with the Minister of Labour and Social Policy on Corporate Social Responsibility, has begun the work on the elaboration of a Strategy for Corporate Social Responsibility. Following the work on the document, the Advisory Council will take an active part in the implementation and assessment of the state policy in the field of corporate social responsibility.
More information	

**Commitment 4B: Bulgarian government will strive to improve the environment and provide support for the development of civil society organizations**

Commitment Completion Template	
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 4B</b></p> <p align="center"><b>BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS</b></p> <p><b>Measure 4B.1.1.</b> Updating the Strategy for Developing Civil Society Organizations and adoption of a new action plan thereto and lead institution</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 - 31 December 2017 (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>	
Lead implementing agency	Administration of the Council of Ministers
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Iskren Ivanov
Title, Department	State Expert at Department 'Impact Assessment of Legislation', Directorate 'Modernization of Administration'



E-mail:		<a href="mailto:is.ivanov@government.bg">is.ivanov@government.bg</a>
Telephone:		+359 2940 20 93
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	Not specified
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	The Bulgarian Center for Non-Profit Law; Forum 'Citizen Initiatives'
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		The Strategy for Supporting the Development of Civil Society Organizations needs to be updated and a responsible institution should be tasked with its updating and consequent implementation.
Main objective		To create favourable environment for the civil society organizations and promote their active involvement in decision-making and policy-formulation.
Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)		Draw up a Strategy to Support the Development of Civil Organizations for a New Three Year Period and Define an Institution Responsible for Implementing the Strategy.
Relevance		The measure sets out to create better conditions for the development of civil society and stimulate partnership between them and the institutions at national and local level, which is in alignment with the principles of the active citizenship initiative in the decision-making processes.
Ambition		Creating the conditions for the development of a viable civil sector that actively contributes to improving governance, provides efficient services and develops expertise.

Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
	X			
Description of the results	No action has been taken during the reporting period, largely due to the dynamic political regime, characterized by the ruling of 2 caretaker governments, which also determines the absence of decision to designate a responsible institution for the development and subsequent implementation of the strategy. <sup>5</sup>			
End date	31 December 2017			
Next steps	Designate a responsible institution to develop the strategy; Identify partners from civil organizations to set out strategic goals and measures; Strategy development.			

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<sup>5</sup> *Comments of the Bulgarian Center for Non-Profit Law and the Civic Participation Forum:* "... This is not a reason to delay the implementation of this measure. Many of the proposals in the Strategy can also become part of the implementation of the Open Government initiative. "

## THEME 5 PUBLIC INTEGRITY

**Commitment 5: The Bulgarian government will aim to increase government integrity and improve the internal and external control of the institutions**

Commitment Completion Template		
<b>Commitment 5</b> <b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL AIM TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY AND IMPROVE THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTIONS</b>		
<b>Measure 5.1.1.</b> Establishment of a public register for budget and project control of the e-government efforts		
1 July 2016 - 31 December 2017 (Commitment Start and End Date)		
Lead implementing agency	Administration of the Council of Ministers; The State E-Government Agency (SEGA)	
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Lora Bicheva	
Title, Department	Chief Expert at the Analysis Department, Directorate 'E-Government Policies', SEGA	
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:lbicheva@e-gov.bg">lbicheva@e-gov.bg</a>	
Telephone:	+359 2949 22 51	
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	Not specified
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Companies in the IT sector

Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	The absence of systematic and accessible information on the spending of budget resources in the area of e-government and ICT. Need to improve the tools for strategic planning and implementation of ICT projects.			
Main objective	Ensuring transparency through public access to all project ideas within the e-government.			
Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)	Establishment of a public register for budget and project control of the e-government efforts.			
Relevance	The measure aims to improve access and exchange of information and to improve the transparency and accountability of e-government activities in Bulgaria by providing the technological means to control strategic planning, implementation of projects and activities and the spending of budget resources in the field of e-governance and ICT. It contributes to increasing public integrity and more effective management of public funds.			
Ambition	Making more efficient use of public resources and ensuring transparency and efficiency in budgeting ICT projects. Ensuring the possibility of monitoring the implementation of the measures and activities of the administrative bodies in the field of e-government and ICT; Publish information on ICT projects in an open machine-readable format for full data transparency; Improving the traceability of projects; prevent duplication of ICT activities; Implementation of effective civil control.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		X		

Description of the results	<p>The implementation of the measure will be carried out with the implementation of the project - 'Development of public registers for budget and project control of e-government and portal for access to resources for development of software systems for electronic management' , financed under the Operational Program 'Good Governance', Priority Axis 'Administrative Services and E-Government'.</p> <p>The project started on 13 June 2017. The implementation of the project activities is in the initial stage of preparation of the terms of reference /technical assignment/.</p> <p>The project will help develop and implement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Information System (IS) for preliminary, ongoing and post control as appropriate in the area of E-Government and ICT;</li> <li>• Public register of e-government projects and activities;</li> <li>• An access portal to resources for e-government software development.</li> </ul> <p>The project will provide the technological means to control strategic planning, implementation of projects and activities and the spending of budget resources in the field of E-Government and ICT.</p>
End date	<p><b>31 December 2017</b></p> <p>The measure shall be implemented within the project with duration until 12 December 2018.</p>
Next steps	<p>Conduct a public procurement procedure with subject-matter 'Developing and implementing an information system and selecting a contractor'; Development, implementation and testing of the system.</p>
<p>More information</p> <p>The implementation of the core activities is planned to be carried out by an external contractor. Therefore, procurement procedures shall be carried out for the selection of contractor under the Public Procurement Act.</p>	

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 5

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL AIM TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY AND IMPROVE THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTIONS

**Measure 5.1.2** Development and implementation of an Information System for Corruption Risk Analysis

1 July 2016 - 30 September 2017  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		The Ministry of Justice
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Mira Ivanova
Title, Department		State Expert at Directorate 'Strategic Development and Programs'
E-mail:		<a href="mailto:Mira_ivanova@justice.government.bg">Mira_ivanova@justice.government.bg</a>
Telephone:		+359 2 9237521
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	Center for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption and Organized Crime
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Not specified

Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	The government units tasked with preventing and combating corruption need a tool for corruption risk analysis for high-level public officials. Currently the check and verification process is haphazard, ineffective and requiring manual checks of a large number of facts and registers.			
Main objective	Improving internal control processes and reducing corruption risk			
Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)	The Information System for Corruption Risk Analysis (CRAIS) will be a central system that will also operate at sectoral level and will automatically analyse the corruption risk by integrating and combining information from a variety of sources. The system will support periodic and ad-hoc checks. The system also provides for the functionality of generating a public aggregated report.			
Relevance	By setting up a system for analysing corruption risk and building functionality for generating publicly generated accounts, there is an opportunity for more active citizen control and informed participation of citizens in the efforts to prevent corrupt practices and conflict of interest. The measure aims at improving the integrity of public institutions and more effectively managing public resources.			
Ambition	A fully automated control process.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		X		

Description of the results	<p>The Project proposal 'Implementation of the universal CAIS 'Corruption Risk Analysis' was not developed and submitted within the deadlines, specified by the Operational Program' Good Governance' (End of 2016), in light of the draft, developed and adopted at first reading by Parliament, of the Law on counteracting corruption and confiscation of unlawfully acquired property and providing for the creation of a National Bureau for Prevention of Corruption and Forfeiture of Unlawfully Acquired Property with competencies in evaluation and analysis of corruption risk.</p> <p>In response to an inquiry from the State E-Government Agency (SEGA), by letter of registration No.12-00-1 / dated 12 January 2017, signed by Mrs. Ekaterina Zaharieva - Minister of Justice, information was provided that the project proposal, named 'Implementation of an universal CAIS 'Corruption Risk Analysis' should be developed at a later stage.</p> <p>Currently, a new draft Law on Counteracting Corruption and Removal of Illegally Acquired Property has been prepared by the Ministry of Justice, which has been published for public discussion. It provides for the establishment of a Commission for Counteracting Corruption and for Removing Unlawfully Acquired Property. After the adoption of the Act and its entry into force, action can be taken to implement the measure by the relevant competent authority.</p>
End date	<b>30 September 2017</b>
Next steps	<p>The Legislative Priority of the Ministry of Justice is the drafting of the Law on Counteracting Corruption and Removing of Unlawfully Acquired Property. On July 31 of this year, the project, developed by a widely-represented working group, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice, was published on the website of the Ministry of Justice for public discussion.</p>



### More information

The Draft Law on Counteracting Corruption and Forfeiture of Unlawfully Acquired Property, developed by the Ministry of Justice, provides for the establishment of a single independent anti-corruption body (Commission for Counteracting Corruption and Forfeiture of Unlawfully Acquired Property) to check on the statements on properties and on the conflicts of interest of senior public officials. The amendments seek to continue the fight against corruption and prevent the possibility of unlawful acquisition and disposal of property, guaranteeing the rights of citizens, protecting the information and the sources of its acquisition, and protecting the persons, who have reported offences. The Law would provide for prevention of corrupt practices, expanding the scope of persons, obliged to submit (property and income) statements and the circumstances of these statements. The Law clearly defines the links between the Commission and other competent institutions.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *Comments of the Bulgarian Institute of Legal Initiatives:* 'It is necessary to completely restructure and update the measure for the following reasons: The measure has not been implemented, yet no information is available on its effectiveness or any assessment of what has currently been achieved by the Center for the Prevention and Counteraction to Corruption and Organized Crime regarding information systems, related to the fight against corruption. There are no compelling arguments, linking this measure to the draft Law on Counteracting Corruption and Forfeiture of Unlawfully Acquired Property, as well as the absence of financial assessment of the necessary public resources to build such a system without an analysis of the existing or of the supposed deliverables of its effectiveness. No analysis has been made of the relevance of this measure with regard to the transparency as an anti corruption element of the project 'Independent System for Monitoring Anti-Corruption Measures at National Level', already approved for financing by the Internal Security Fund.

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 5

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL WORK FOR INCREASING INTEGRITY IN THE MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF INSIDE AND EXTERNAL CONTROL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTIONS

**Measure 5.1.3.** Pursuant to Art.10, para 11 of the Customs Act (CA), upon appointment and promotion in the NCA, the persons should have a positive result from the study for professional and psychological feasibility. Draft ordinance was prepared and entered in the Ministry of Finance.

Ongoing  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		National Customs Agency
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Elena Pavlova Kirilova
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Director of directorate in the National Customs Agency, 'HR Organisation and Management' in the Central Customs Directorate
Email		<a href="mailto:Elena.Kirilova@customs.bg">Elena.Kirilova@customs.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 9859 4010
Other actors involved:	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Ministry of Finance
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Not specified
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Reduced corruption risk by active prevention of corrupt practices.
Main objective		Effective prevention of unregulated practices and reduction of the corruption risk by means of measures for selection and internal control of staff.

Brief description of commitment	<p>By means of a regulated procedure for conducting of study of professional and psychological fitness, the NCA aims to check the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the applicant for official in the customs administration in terms of dealing with tasks related to the obligations of the respective position, including in situations, leading to conditions for counter-productive behavior. To hold a position in the customs administration, it is necessary that the applicant possesses probity and attitude to stick to the established legal, organizational, moral and social norms. Art. 10, para 11 reflects the specificity of the customs activity and the high requirements to officials in order to achieve results from its implementation. The results expected of the study for professional and psychological fitness are recruitment and retention of staff, having and able to maintain high standards of integrity and impartiality, and ensuring of adequate training and professional development of customs officials.</p> <p>Only the simultaneous application of tests for professional competence and study for professional and psychological fitness will lead to the creation of a full idea for the profile of applicants, suitable to work in the customs administration.</p>			
Relevance	Improvement of the integrity of public institutions and more effective management of public resources			
Ambition	Turning the National Customs Agency into a model for effective countering of corruption pressure.			
Degree of implementation	Not started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	

<p>Description of the results</p>	<p>REGULATION H-1 of 3.06.2016 on the procedure and order for conducting the study of the professional and psychological fitness upon appointment and promotion in the National Customs Agency', issued by the Minister of Finance, was promulgated in Edition 46 of the State Gazette of 17.06.2016.</p> <p>The study of the professional and psychological fitness is a mandatory part of the following procedures: competition for appointment of civil servants; selection for taking of a position under an employment relationship within the staff number distribution plan; promotion; in the cases under Art. 15, Art.16a and Art. 81a of the Civil Service Act; for the position of head of public relation unit.</p> <p>Depending on the position, for which the study for professional and psychological fitness is conducted, the tests shall include: for managerial positions – personal questionnaire and integrity test; for expert positions – integrity test and/or personality questionnaire, and upon a first appointment to the National Customs Agency – also a test for study of the intellectual capabilities; for a position under an employment relationship – integrity test, and upon a first appointment to the National Customs Agency an additional test for study of the intellectual capabilities.</p> <p>From the introduction of the Regulation until 30.06.2017, 66 competition procedures for 105 vacancies inclusive of a study for professional and psychological fitness were conducted. For the reporting period, a total of 571 applicants who have passed the elimination threshold of the written exam, underwent the study of the professional and psychological feasibility.</p> <p>Following the accurate selection, officials, who meet the expectations set for high integrity standards, were recruited.</p> <p>Opportunities for professional development were made available to customs officials by carrying out 73 competitive selections for 108 job positions. As</p>
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	<p>a result of the competitive selections concluded up until 30.06.2017, fifty nine (59) officials of the National Customs Agency were promoted and, in addition, were awarded higher rank and basic monthly salary.</p> <p>The career development and the update of the monthly remuneration suggest increase in the work motivation, help the prevention of unregulated practices and contribute to the reduction of the corruption risk.</p>
End Date	Ongoing
Next Steps	
More information	

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 5

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL WORK FOR INCREASING INTEGRITY IN THE MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF INSIDE AND EXTERNAL CONTROL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTIONS

**Measure 5.1.4.** Ensuring the transparency of the activity and the processes of managing the customs administration by maintaining different types of channels for the submission of signals by the citizens (hot telephone), the information system of the National Council on Anticorruption Policies, e-mail, written through the registers and boxes alerts) and taking appropriate action on the received signals and suggestions

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2018  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		National Customs Agency (NCA)
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Petko Zahariev
Title, Department		State Inspector in NCA, Inspectorate of the NCA
Email		<a href="mailto:Petko.Zahariev@customs.bg">Petko.Zahariev@customs.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 9859 4569
Other actors involved:	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Ministry of Finance
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Not specified
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Prevention and counteraction to corruption.

Main objective	Reducing the opportunities for corruption and other illegal acts of customs officials, increasing integrity of officials, ensuring of greater transparency and accountability in the activity of customs administration, including by public engagement			
Brief description of commitment	Ensuring transparency of the activity and of the processes of management of the customs administration by maintaining various types of channels for alerts and suggestions by citizens – the so-called ‘hotline’, the Information System of the National Council for Anti-Corruption Policies, e-mail, in writing – by means of the filing offices of the Central Customs Directorate (CCD) and of the customs houses, mailboxes for alerts. Taking respective actions on the filed alerts and suggestions.			
Relevance	A two-way communication with citizens and business representatives is ensured. Measures for prevention and counteraction to corruption and for increasing the integrity of officials in the customs administration are applied, the accountability and transparency in the activity of the customs administration are improved.			
Ambition	Reducing the corruption acts of the NCA officials and improved communication with citizens and business resulting in more efficient fulfilment of the functions and tasks of the Agency.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	

Description of the results	<p>Within 01.07.2016-30.06.2017 period, the following channels for submission of alerts by citizens and business representatives for any illegal acts of customs officials were maintained: the so called 'hotline' in the CCD, the Information System of the National Council for Anti-Corruption Policies, e-mail in the CCD, in writing – by means of the filing offices of the CCD and of the customs houses, mailboxes for alerts in the CCD and in the customs establishments. By these means for alerts, a total of 182 alerts were entered during this period. Respective checks on all these alerts were made, as answers were sent to the senders of the alerts within the deadline under the Administrative Procedure Code. In the cases, in which disciplinary offences by customs officials were found, disciplinary proceedings were initiated, and disciplinary liability of the guilty officials was sought. In the cases, where data for committed offence were found, the materials on the respective case-file were sent to the prosecution authorities.</p>
End Date	<b>30 June 2018</b>
Next Steps	Continued implementation of the measures and approaches mentioned up to now. Challenge – the administrative capacity of the Inspectorate in the NCA.
More information	



## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 5

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL AIM TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY AND IMPROVE THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTIONS

**Measure 5.1.5.** Amendments to the Public Procurement Act introducing an obligation for applicants for large contracts to disclose their beneficial owners and undergo preliminary checks

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2018  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency	Administration of the Council of Ministers	
Persons responsible from implementing agency		
Title, Department		
E-mail:		
Telephone:		
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	The Ministry of Justice
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Not specified
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	The issue of government contracts, especially those for large infrastructure projects, has been quite a sensitive and has triggered off suspicions with regards to the ownership of applicant companies and undue influence.	
Main objective	To improve the internal control in expending public funds and reduce corruption in the public procurement process.	

Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)	Initiate proposals for legislative changes to check tenderers in public procurement procedures above a certain minimum value to reveal the real owners of the bidders / tenderers.			
Relevance	The measure seeks to achieve greater transparency in the procurement process, which is in line with the principles of the initiative on access to information and openness and accountability in the actions of the institutions.			
Ambition	Improving the business environment, reducing the opportunities for companies whose capital is not public to have competitive advantage as compared to applicants with clear ownership.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
	X			
Description of the results	Within the reporting no action has been taken to implement the measure.			
End date	30 June 2018			
Next steps				
More information				

## THEME 6 OPEN DATA

**Commitment 6: The Bulgarian government will continue to publish public information in open format and take steps to improve the quality of published datasets and promote public engagement in data usage**

Commitment Completion Template		
<b>Commitment 6</b> <b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH PUBLIC INFORMATION IN OPEN FORMAT AND TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PUBLISHED DATASETS AND PROMOTE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN DATA USAGE</b>		
<p><b>Measure 6.1.1.</b> Upgrading and improving the Open Data Portal by adding new functionalities – hierarchy of publishing organizations, better search capabilities, issue tracker for low-quality datasets and automatic alerts to data owners, data excellence certificates, feedback, etc.</p>		
1 July 2016 - 31 December 2017 (Commitment Start and End Date)		
Lead implementing agency	Administration of the Council of Ministers	
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Nusha Ivanova	
Title, Department	Chief Expert at Department 'Impact Assessment of Legislation', Directorate 'Modernization of Administration'	
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:n.ivanova@government.bg">n.ivanova@government.bg</a>	
Telephone:	+359 2940 24 45	
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	Not specified

	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Not specified			
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		The need for an Open Data Portal with functionalities that allow easy access to data arrays and their reuse.			
Main objective		To upgrade the Open Data Portal and improve the quality of published information by automated release and publishing processes in machine-readable format.			
Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)		Upgrading and refining the open data portal through new functionalities.			
Relevance		The improved usability through enhanced functionality and higher quality of data will boost public data usage by civil organizations and businesses and create opportunities for active involvement of stakeholders in the processes of decision-making and policy-formulation.			
Ambition		Improved usability of the portal and data in it.			
Completion Level		Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			<b>X</b>		
Description of the results		The project of 'Improving the processes, related to the provision, access and re-use of public sector information' was launched within the reporting period. One of the main activities of the project is the development, implementation and testing of the Open Data Portal.			

	<p>The Open Data Portal (ODP) was established and is maintained pursuant to Art. 15d of the Law on Access to Public Information/the Freedom of Information Act (FIA). The ODP shall be an unified, centralized, public, web-based information system that will provide the publication and management of information for reuse in an open, machine-readable format along with relevant metadata. The design of the portal shall allow for complete retrieval of published information or parts thereof. Public sector organizations will publish public open source information on the portal, access to which will be free. In November 2014 was created the free demo version of the CKAN Open Data Portal. At present, 441 public sector organizations have published 2592 datasets in an open-source format. The existing open data portal is a demo version and does not support some key functionalities for the proper reuse of published information, therefore a new open data portal shall be designed. Following the necessary testing of functionalities and commissioning of the Open Data Portal, all information from the demo portal will be transferred to the new portal. The functionalities of the new portal will be in line with the Ordinance on the Standard Terms for Re-Use of Public Sector Information and its Publishing in open-source format.</p> <p>To facilitate the users and administrators of the portal, the following materials will be prepared after its commissioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User guide, including a short demo video;</li> <li>• A manual for Administrators of Administration Accounts;</li> <li>• Technical guidelines with recommendations and requirements for creating, maintaining and publishing information in open-source format. The technical guidelines shall be available to anyone, who creates and maintains public information in an open-source format.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Along with the development of the portal will be developed, tested and implemented a tool for automated data input by administrations and other public sector organizations on the Open Data Portal</p> <p>Currently, data are published manually and are not updated, they are only valid as of the date of their publication, making it difficult to use the information in a timely manner. The tool will also provide an opportunity for automatic clearing of personal data. This will allow for termination of the practice of manually uploading data, which inevitably leads to their updating over indefinite periods, update inconsistency of data and various technical mistakes in their use, such as incorrect reformatting, etc. The tool will be tested and integrated on the portal, and then automatically linked with a minimum of 100 datasets. Technical guidelines shall be developed for the use of the instrument.</p>
End date	<p><b>31 December 2017</b></p> <p>This measure shall be implemented within the project that will last until 31 May 2018, when we expect to have its complete implementation.</p>
Next steps	<p>Selecting a contractor to develop the portal and the automated data input tool.</p>
More information	

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 6

**THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN THE EFFORTS FOR THE PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION IN OPEN FORMAT AS INTRODUCING MEASURES TO INCREASE THE QUALITY OF THE DATA AND THEIR WIDER USE BY THE INTERESTED PARTIES**

**Measure 6.1.2.** Publishing data from UMIS2020 for programmes and projects, incl. progress and implementation

Ongoing  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		Administration of the Council of Ministers, Central Coordination Unit Directorate
Persons responsible from implementing agency		1.Kiril Ezekiev; 2. Lubomir Stoyanov
Title, Department		1. State Expert at Department 'Strategic planning and programming', 'Central Coordination Unit' Directorate 2.Chief expert at Department 'Strategic planning and programming', 'Central Coordination Unit' Directorate
Email		<a href="mailto:k.ezekiev@government.bg">k.ezekiev@government.bg</a> <a href="mailto:L.Stoyanov@government.bg">L.Stoyanov@government.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 940 2518 +359 2 940 2551
Other actors involved:	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Not specified
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Not specified
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Need for systematic information on programs and projects funded by ESIS funds.

Main objective	Increase the usage of published information and increase of users' scope. Higher quality of analyzes and visualizations, related to the effectiveness of projects and programmes, improved process of programming and planning, based on data, increased transparency and engagement of parties involved.			
Brief description of commitment	Links to the public module of the system for programming period 2007 – 2013 and programming period 2014-2020 have been published on the open data site. The data for programming period 2007-2013 are updated twice per month, while data for programming period 2014-2020 is updated automatically with entering of new information into the system.			
Relevance	Expanding the reach of accessible information in machine-readable format for programs and projects funded by ESIS funds, which is in line with the principles of the Access to Information Initiative and the openness and accountability of the institutions. Improving the integrity of public institutions, achieving more effective management of public resources and better public services.			
Ambition	To ensure an active public control over the implementation of projects and programmes, financed under ESIF through transparency in regards of public funds spending.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	



Description of the results	<p>For Programming period 2014-2020 the UMIS has been developed in a way which corresponds to the new requirements and at present the system is the main working environment for candidates, beneficiaries under operational programmes, as well as controlling bodies of the ESIF system.</p> <p>Currently, the public part of the system provides information in real time on the overall programmes implementation, as well as opportunities for financing; submitted project proposals; granted contracts and reimbursed funds and information for contractors with assigned activities under projects. The system allows public monitoring of each operational programme: information on open procedures and grants, including payments to the beneficiaries as and payments by the EC as well as full information of approved projects, data of engaged partners, contractors and subcontractors. The UMIS provides opportunity to search information on regional level, as well as to filter the data by beneficiary, contractor or subcontractor.</p>
End Date	Permanent deadline
Next Steps	Further development of the system in order to facilitate data processing.
More information	
Commitment Completion Template	
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 6</b></p> <p align="center"><b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH PUBLIC INFORMATION IN OPEN FORMAT AND TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PUBLISHED DATASETS AND PROMOTE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN DATA USAGE</b></p> <p><b>Measure 6.1.3.</b> Organization of public events (conferences, hackathons, competitions) promoting the benefits of open data and collection of case-studies on the economic and social benefits of open data</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ongoing</b> (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>		
Lead implementing agency		Administration of the Council of Ministers
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Nusha Ivanova
Title, Department		Chief Expert at Department 'Impact Assessment of Legislation', Directorate 'Modernization of Administration'
E-mail:		<a href="mailto:n.ivanova@government.bg">n.ivanova@government.bg</a>
Telephone:		+359 2940 24 45
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	the State Agency for Electronic Governance should be involved as a committed institution
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Data owners and data users, IT experts, analysts, media
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Much of the public information created and maintained by the administration is not published in an open-source format. This makes it difficult to reuse, analyse and visualize, which significantly impedes users and leads to the need for extra resources and time for processing. Stakeholders are still not sufficiently informed about the possibilities of using the information already published in open-source format on the Open Data Portal.

Main objective	To promote the use of open data in policy-making, service and product development and exerting control over the public institutions. Introducing stakeholders to the functionalities of the Open Data Portal and encouraging its use.			
Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)	Organize and run public events to promote the benefits of using open data and to learn about the open source Portal functionality.			
Relevance	The measure aims to encourage the active involvement of the citizens and businesses in developing data-based products and services, based on the principle of the access to information initiative.			
Ambition	Derive real economic and social benefits from open data, better awareness of the possibilities of using open source information already published; Exchange of good practices of using open data; Discuss the problems, encountered in reusing information.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		X		

Description of the results	<p>The project of 'Improving the processes, related to the provision, access and re-use of public sector information' was launched within the reporting period. The project plans for the holding of a Conference by the name '<i>Open Data - Challenges and Opportunities for Development</i>', which is expected to involve all stakeholders and discuss which priority data sets will be published on the Open Portal data. The conference will deal with the problems, encountered in the re-use of public sector information, in view of drafting proposals to address them.</p> <p>A new Open Data Portal will be set up within the project, whose functionalities shall be promoted in five public events in the country, held in five of the planning regions. By conducting public events, citizens and businesses will be able to learn about open government, and in particular about the Open Data Initiative.</p>
End date	<b>This measure has a permanent implementation period (ongoing)</b>
Next steps	Implementing the project activities, related to the promotion of the open data initiative.
More information	

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 6

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH PUBLIC INFORMATION IN OPEN FORMAT AND TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PUBLISHED DATASETS AND PROMOTE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN DATA USAGE

**Measure 6.1.4.** Drafting and dissemination of Open Data Usage Manual

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		Administration of the Council of Ministers
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Nusha Ivanova
Title, Department		Chief Expert at Department 'Impact Assessment of Legislation', Directorate 'Modernization of Administration'
E-mail:		<a href="mailto:n.ivanova@government.bg">n.ivanova@government.bg</a>
Telephone:		+359 2940 24 45
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	Institute of Public Administration
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Not specified
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		The need to improve the skills of those, who create and publish open-source information for the use of that information.
Main objective		Improved civil servant skills to handle open-source information.

Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)	Developing a Handbook / a Manual, containing basic guidelines for creating and publishing information in an open-source format.			
Relevance	The measure is in line with the principles of the Access to Information Initiative.			
Ambition	Active use of data in policy development .			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		<b>X</b>		
Description of the results	<p>The project of 'Improving the processes, related to the provision, access and re-use of public sector information' was launched within the reporting period. The project provides for the preparation of technical guidelines, containing recommendations and requirements for creating, maintaining and publishing information in an open-source format.</p> <p>The technical guidelines shall be available to anyone, who creates and maintains public information in an open-source format.. Employees under Art. 8, Para. 3 of the Ordinance and the Portal Administrators will be introduced to the Portal's functionalities, the regulatory requirements, related to open data and their publication on the portal, and with the various methods of keeping the information in an open-source format.</p>			
End date	<p><b>30 June 30 2017.</b></p> <p>This measure shall be implemented within the project that will last until 31 May 2018, when we expect to have its complete implementation.</p>			

Next steps		
More information		
Commitment Completion Template		
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 6</b></p> <p align="center"><b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH PUBLIC INFORMATION IN OPEN FORMAT AND TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PUBLISHED DATASETS AND PROMOTE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN DATA USAGE</b></p> <p><b>Measure 6.1.5.</b> Update, maintenance and development of GIS applications for the register of protected areas in Bulgaria</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 - 31 May 2018 (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>		
Lead implementing agency		Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW), Directorate 'National Nature Protection Service'
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Valya Zhelyazkova
Title, Department		Head of Department Programming and Software Technologies, Executive Environmental Agency
E-mail:		<a href="mailto:zhelyazkova@eea.government.bg">zhelyazkova@eea.government.bg</a>
Telephone:		+359 2 9406419
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	Not specified
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Not specified

Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed	Improve the quality of data on protected territories and protected zones and provide public access for their widespread use by stakeholders.			
Main objective	Preview and location of protected territories and protected zones within the meaning of the Protected Territories Act and the Biodiversity Act.			
Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)	Ensuring quality information services for domestic and foreign users with respect to protected territories and protected zones.			
Relevance	The measure helps increase the available information and its mapping, thus contributing to greater transparency of environmental protection activities			
Ambition	Provide up-to-date information on the location and boundaries of protected territories and protected zones.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
			X	



Description of the results	Updated GIS application in the Public Register of protected territories and protected zones in Bulgaria in connection with the updating of their location and their boundaries. The main features of the application are: layer visualization /preview/, map legend, download (allows downloading of information from selected layers in different formats - gbd, shp, dxf, dwg, dgn), search, print. A new search functionality has been created, grouped into 4 categories (reserves, parks, nature landmarks, protected areas), to facilitate visualization services.
End date	<b>31 May 2018</b>
Next steps	

Commitment Completion Template	
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 6</b></p> <p align="center"><b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN THE EFFORTS FOR THE PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION IN OPEN FORMAT AS INTRODUCING MEASURES TO INCREASE THE QUALITY OF THE DATA AND THEIR WIDER USE BY THE INTERESTED PARTIES</b></p> <p><b>Мярка 6.1.6.</b> To be published a table with data about main indicators from the macroeconomic forecast twice a year.</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 - 30 June 2018 (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Finance
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Lilia Arabadjiiska
Title, Department	Senior Expert, Public Relations and Protocol Directorate
Email	<a href="mailto:press-office@minfin.bg">press-office@minfin.bg</a>
Phone	+ 359 2 9859 2034

Other actors involved:	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Not specified
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Not specified
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Inability to process the data published only in PDF format. At present, the access to information is facilitated.
Main objective		To increase the financial transparency and accountability of the government. Potential users of data in csv-format have the possibility to process table data which includes reported and forecast data for main macroeconomic indicators.
Brief description of commitment		To be published a table with forecast data about main macroeconomic indicators, prepared by the experts of the Ministry of Finance. The table is published twice a year, in April and October, respectively when the macroeconomic forecast for the development of the Bulgarian economy has to be prepared.

Relevance	<p>The commitment increases the volume and quality of the provided financial information. It has the objective to make the management of public resources more efficient. This is the official macroeconomic forecast of the government of the Republic of Bulgaria. The forecast is a base for the preparation of the state budget and is also a part of strategic documents such as The Budget Report, Medium-Term Budgetary Framework, The Convergence Programme, etc. The forecast includes the current year and next three years.</p> <p>The forecast data could be used by economic analysts, NGOs, the media and the citizens when they form their expectations for the development of the Bulgarian economy and for comparison with the forecasts of other institutions. The forecast is also used for comparison of expectations by international organizations such as The European Commission and The International Monetary Fund as well as for specific purposes by Bulgarian state institutions.</p>			
Ambition	<p>Providing data in csv-format will facilitate data processing. The table includes forecast data for main macroeconomic indicators which could be useful not only for macroeconomic analysts but also for the citizens who want to be aware of the economic environment in which the concrete policies are implemented.</p>			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				X
Description of the results	<p>Until June 2016, the macroeconomic forecast was published on the website of the Ministry of Finance only in PDF format, including analysis and graphical images.</p> <p>The successful implementation of the commitment resulted in the creation of data set in csv-format published both on the Open data portal and on the website of the Ministry of Finance over</p>			

	the name "Macroeconomic forecast".
End Date	The commitment was implemented in June, 2016. The start date of implementation is the date of creation of an Open Data Portfolio dataset and the Ministry of Finance website - Macroeconomic Forecast. The measure is implemented every year, every six months, respectively in April and October.
Next Steps	Ministry of Finance continues to publish regularly the relevant information on the respective websites.
More information	

Commitment Completion Template	
<p align="center"><b>Commitment 6</b></p> <p align="center"><b>THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN THE EFFORTS FOR THE PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION IN OPEN FORMAT AS INTRODUCING MEASURES TO INCREASE THE QUALITY OF THE DATA AND THEIR WIDER USE BY THE INTERESTED PARTIES</b></p> <p><b>Measure 6.1.7</b> Publishing of data in open format regarding migration processes</p> <p align="center">1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017 (Commitment Start and End Date)</p>	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Interior of Republic of Bulgaria
Persons responsible from implementing agency	1. Gergana Todorova 2. Vessela Genova
Title, Department	1. State expert, Directorate "Analysis and Policies" 2. State Expert, Directorate "Analysis and Policies"

Email		<a href="mailto:gtodorova.10@mvr.bg">gtodorova.10@mvr.bg</a> <a href="mailto:VYoGenova@mvr.bg">VYoGenova@mvr.bg</a>
Phone		+359 2 982 42 32 +359 2 982 38 47
Other actors involved:	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Not specified
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Institute for Public Environment Development
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Citizen's access to actual information regarding the issue, published in an open format. Increased knowledge of the migration processes of citizens and stakeholders.
Main objective		Facilitation of processing the information and activation of citizen's participation regarding the issue. An open data contributes for easier processing of the information with the objective to elaborate well-grounded analysis, articles, scientific researches and facilitating as well the work of others state institutions engaged with the migration processes in the country.
Brief description of commitment		The information contains data regarding: the level of migration pressure (total arrested foreign citizens entering or leaving across the state border; border's rush; detained inside the national territory), accommodated persons in the centers and facilities of the State Agency for Refugees and settled citizens of third countries in the facilities of Migration Directorate of Ministry of Interior. Forced and voluntary returned citizens of third countries with illegal residence in the national territory.

Relevance	With its participation in the Partnership of Open Governance the Ministry of Interior works for improvement of access to public information with the objective to provide more transparency with the interaction with the citizens and the business.			
Ambition	The measure provides opportunity of easier processing and analysis of public data and informed participation of civil organizations in the formulating on national policies regarding the migration. Elaborating of applications with aim of addressing existing public fears.			
Degree of implementation	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
				X
Description of the results	Providing of transparency of the activities of Ministry of Interior against illegal migration and informing the society regarding the migration situation in the Republic of Bulgaria.			
End Date	June 30, 2017			
Next Steps				
More information				

## Commitment Completion Template

### Commitment 6

#### THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH PUBLIC INFORMATION IN OPEN FORMAT AND TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PUBLISHED DATASETS AND PROMOTE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN DATA USAGE

**Measure 6.1.8** Upgrade of the Crime Prevention Information System and granting public access to the system core. Export of open data and use of system data for provision of integrated administrative services

1 July 2016 - 30 June 2018  
(Commitment Start and End Date)

Lead implementing agency		The Supreme Judicial Council
Persons responsible from implementing agency		Valery Mihaylov
Title, Department		Director of Directorate 'Information Technology and Judicial Statistics' within the administration of the SJC
E-mail:		<a href="mailto:v.mihaylov@vss.justice.bg">v.mihaylov@vss.justice.bg</a>
Telephone:		+359 2 9304936
Other actors involved:	The Government; Ministries; Authorities / Agencies	The Ministry of Justice
	Civil organizations, private sector, international organizations and others.	Not specified
Status quo or problem/issue to be addressed		Data, relating to the work of the law-enforcement authorities are in high demand from analysts, the media and citizens. At the same time this data is a valuable resource for the representatives of the law-enforcement agencies, as their analysis will contribute to improving crime prevention and enhancing the credibility of the institutions of the judicial system.

Main objective	Modernization of the UISCC core, in accordance with the changes in the legal framework and as a result of the experience from its operation, increasing the transparency and efficiency of the Judicial Authorities, the Ministry of Interior, the State Agency of National Security, the Ministry of Defense, The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance, which create, maintain, use and develop departmental information systems that are part of the UISCC or exchange information with the system, as far as it is possible and does not contradict the nature of the data, collected in the UISCC.
Brief <b>Description</b> of Commitment / Measure (140 characters)	<p>The commitment comprises two activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the UISCC;</li> <li>• Providing public access to information in the system's core.</li> </ul> <p>The further development of the UISCC is in essence the modernization of the UISCC core, in line with the amendments in the regulatory framework and the experience, gained from its operation.</p> <p>Providing public access to information in the core of the system is regulated by the Judicial System Act - 'Within the UISCC core, public access contour may be established, containing data specified by law.'<sup>7</sup></p>
Relevance	The measure is designed to enhance the scope of available public information and increase its quality and usability. It addresses the challenges of improving public services and increasing public integrity.

<sup>7</sup> *Comments of the Bulgarian Institute of Legal Initiatives*: 'The foreseen commitment ... is too general and formulated in such a way, it hides extremely high risks. Furthermore, it is unclear to us why such a measure would be included in the OGP. It is not clear what kind of data and in what format would be published or what the access to the UISCC would be. UISCC is a complex system, covering various institutional and information systems from a number of institutions ... Our opinion is that this measure should be dropped out of the OGP. In the event that it remains, the '*aggregated information from the UISCC core*' should be defined with extreme precision. A complete change is required in the structure of this measure in terms of its requisites. As a minimum, it would be necessary to revise the leading institution in light of the project, carried out by the Prosecutor's Office and in light of the provisions of Art. 379, Para. 1 of the JSA'.



Ambition	Introducing new approaches to data-based decision-making; identifying weaknesses in the system performance based on objective data; involving stakeholders in the reform efforts of the authorities of: the Judiciary, the Ministry of Interior, the State Agency of National Security, the Ministry of Defense, The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance, which create, maintain, use and develop departmental information systems that are part of the UISCC.			
Completion Level	Not Started	Limited	Substantial	Completed
		X		
Description of the results	<p>1. Statistical data, related to the work of the judiciary, in the form of tables and charts, are published on the SJC website at <a href="http://www.vss.justice.com/page/view/1082">http://www.vss.justice.com/page/view/1082</a> . Since 2005, these data are currently published in machine-readable format - pdf files, which is one of the formats in which information is published on the site <a href="https://opendata.government.bg">https://opendata.government.bg</a> .</p> <p>2. The <i>Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria</i> implements the project '<i>Introduction of e-Justice at the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria through electronic document flow , provision of open data and electronic services to citizens and institutions</i> ', Operational Program 'Good Governance', priority axis 'Transparent and Effective Judicial System', Budget Line BG05SFOP001-3.001 - Strategic Projects in Implementation of the Updated Strategy for Continuing Judicial Reform and the Strategy for the Introduction of Electronic Governance and e-Justice in the Justice Sector 2014-2020, Contract BG05SFOP001-3.001-0003-C01 / 17 January 2017. The budget of the project is BGN 2,499,469.50 and its duration is 24 months.</p>			

	The project envisages providing public access to aggregated information from the UISCC core in connection with the Open Data Publication initiative. To this effect, upon further study and analysis, a proposal shall be drafted to amend the normative documents, concerning the functioning and operation of the UISCC.
End date	<b>June 30, 2018</b> February 2019, in view of the duration of the project, carried out by the Prosecutor's Office
Next steps	Involvement of a representative (representatives) from the Prosecutor's Office to provide up-to-date information on the implementation of the project activities that affect the implementation of the measure
<p style="text-align: center;">More information</p> <p>The main challenge is related to the fact that the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria should be involved as the responsible institution for the implementation of the measure. This is because the Law on the Judiciary states:</p> <p>'The authorities of the judiciary, the Ministry of Interior, the State Agency for National Security, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance, in compliance with the requirements of Paragraph 3 should establish, maintain, use and develop departmental information systems that are part of the Unified Crime Prevention Information System (UCPIS) or exchange information with the system'</p> <p>'The establishment, maintenance, use and development of the core of the Unified Crime Prevention Information System (UCPIS) shall be the responsibility of the Prosecutor's Office'.</p>	

## 6. Conclusions, other initiatives and next steps

### A. Lessons learned:

The following lessons can be learned from the position of Bulgaria's five-year participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative and the experience gained so far, including the organization, implementation and reporting of the Third National Action Plan

#### On the Internal level:

1. The time has come to institutionalize a mechanism, by which to organize, coordinate, monitor and take into account the process of preparation and implementation of the national action plans. The presence of such a mechanism would ensure sustainability of the initiative and its continuity, despite the change of political government over the years. Such a mechanism would include a platform / system for ongoing monitoring and accountability on the actions of the relevant plan, and would also contribute to establishing a core of people, involved in the initiative and affecting its progress. It would involve experts from the administration, responsible for implementing the specific measures, but also representatives of civil organizations and other stakeholders, who initiate proposals for the implementation of specific measures. The roots of such a mechanism could also be found presently and they are expressed by the presence of representatives of the administration, who have participated in the implementation of previous action plans, respectively recognizing the initiative and generating ideas for measures that build up and develop activities, already carried out as of today. Such 'roots' could also be found in the degree of involvement of stakeholders, which in the past years has been in the range of sporadic nature to the active involvement and counselling in the process of setting up the action plan. All this reveals the need to create a clear mechanism to ensure the transparent and open implementation of the phases of the National Action Plans - from counselling and preparation to implementation and reporting.
2. The third action plan demonstrates even more (compared to the other two plans) that the measures should be formulated in a clear, specific and measurable way. At the same time, however, in the future, it would be necessary to refine the measures, proposed by the stakeholders to the administration (independently the executive, legislative or judicial administration) and the possibilities for their actual implementation only by the executive power administration. For example, when an addressee of a measure is a legislative authority, e.g. the National Assembly) there is no mechanism for the actual implementation of the measure. In this sense, the future plans should be oriented more towards the tightly formulated and actually implemented measures, for which the executive power can be directly responsible through its various structures.

### On the external level:

We should use as valid the lesson, learned from the administration's self-assessment report for 2014-2016, according to which Bulgaria's participation in the initiative needs to find an external focus, i.e. a subject-matter, on which our country can share experience and position as a regional leader within the initiative. In the context of the forthcoming presidency of Bulgaria to the Council of the European Union, from the beginning of 2018, which will coincide with the preparation of the next National Action Plan, it would be necessary to seek and implement such topics in cooperation with civil organisations.

### **B. Next Steps:**

The main step ahead is the creation of an OGP Forum as a direct consequence of the first of the lessons, described above. The creation of a permanent format within which the initiative in Bulgaria will operate and which will actively involve stakeholders is a first and urgent step to ensure a smooth transition to the preparation of the next National Action Plan. Such a forum will incorporate the monitoring and evaluation platform and will include a clear mechanism for the implementation of all phases of the preparation, implementation and reporting of the National Action Plans.

At the time of drafting this report, a meeting is being prepared to discuss and announce the creation of such a format / mechanism in Bulgaria.

### **C. Conclusion:**

The third national plan is a well-structured and ambitious action plan that would, to a great extent, create the basis for future plans, as long as the thematic areas, identified in the action plan will not be exhausted after one its one-year completion. This is because the themes in the action plan are in line with public expectations to obtain, for example, prompt, quality and affordable public services. One of the possible approaches to this is the digitalization of services, which has been reflected in some of the measures in the action plan. Another major theme is empowering citizens and providing them with a real opportunity to be involved in governance. The very process of drawing up and implementing the action plan makes it possible to visually trace and test a similar process. The fact that the action plan (its creation or implementation) is not just a priority or functional commitment of a single administration, but must be accomplished through consultations, mutual concessions or joint decisions with citizens and stakeholders is one of the greatest challenges of the modern forms of management.