

1. Introduction and Background

Briefly explain the national and local context by discussing why open government efforts are important for the country. This section should reflect upon how the National Action Plan and other governance initiatives are contributing to address major social, political, or economic issues that the country.

It should also explain how the country's OGP commitments are relevant to the core open government values (transparency, accountability, public participation, and technology and innovation for openness and accountability)

Norway has a long-standing tradition of transparency in public administration. Norway has its own Freedom of Information Act, and also a Public Administration Act and Act of Archives that help to ensure open and transparent public administration. One of the aims of the instructions for official studies and reports is to ensure early involvement and participation in consultation rounds. This applies to civil society organisations and to individuals.

OGP's core values coincide well with Norway's work on transparency in public administration. The obligations of OGP's action plans help support this transparency work. However, it cannot be said that OGP's action plans have been a prerequisite for transparency or the participation of civil society organisations.

2. National Action Plan Process

A. Participation and co-creation throughout the OGP cycle

Provide a narrative of the government's approach to participation throughout the OGP cycle, and report against the relevant requirements outlined in the Participation and Co-Creation Standards. For this review, consult sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this manual.

Action plan 3 has been prepared in cooperation with the council of the OGP initiative. In the summer of 2015, the OGP council presented the draft action plan. The ministries were then requested to prepare input to the obligations. The OGP council has since followed the work on development and implementation of the commitments.

Each ministry with obligations in the plan has been responsible for the follow-up of the work. The ministries have reported on the progress of the work on their respective commitments along the way.

During the work on the Second Action Plan, the government found that it was difficult to engage civil society to participate in overall transparency work. Based on the experience with the Second Action Plan and following consultation with the council for the OGP initiative, it was agreed not to summon the civil society organisations to their own meetings. These organisations have long since established close cooperative relations with the

public administration in the areas in which they have interest. Norway has therefore not followed-up closely the standards OGP has drawn up for cooperation between public administration and civil society. However, there has been communication with the civil society in particular related commitments 2, 3 and 5.

B. Participation and co-creation when developing the National Action Plan

Provide a narrative of the government's approach to participation during NAP development, and report against the relevant requirements outlined in the Participation and Co-Creation Standards (sections 4 and 5).

The framework and main topics of the Third Action Plan were largely developed by the OGP council at the request of the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation. In addition to the OGP council, the civil society has participated in certain commitments. The Action Plan has been discussed by the government before it was implemented. Follow-up of the plan has been led by the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, represented by the Parliamentary Secretary and the OGP council has also participated.

C. Participation and co-creation when implementing, monitoring, and reporting a National Action Plan

Provide a narrative of the government's approach to participation during implementation, and report against the relevant requirements outlined in the Participation and Co-creation Standards (section 4 and 6).

The OGP council has followed the implementation and follow-up of the work on the Third Action Plan.

3. IRM Recommendations

Briefly explain how the five key recommendations from the latest IRM report were used to improve the process of NAP drafting and implementation in this NAP cycle.

The IRM report on the Second Action Plan criticised Norway for having too many commitments, insufficient measurable commitments, insufficient political involvement, not good enough contact with the civil society and poor quality websites.

In the Third Action Plan, the number of commitments has been reduced. Since the OGP council was established, it has played an active role by proposing commitments, participating in the implementation and following the work the various ministries have done on their commitments. There has not been the capacity to improve the websites.

4. Implementation of National Action Plan Commitments

Provide a complete description of the commitment implementation process, conditions, problems, etc. This may include a summary table of the progress and results on all the

commitments. Any information on modifications or updates on the commitments should be included here.

Additionally, for each commitment write a brief explanation of the commitment and the main results achieved.

The work on the Third Action Plan has followed the agreed plan. Meetings have been held between the ministries and the OGP council as intended. The meetings have been chaired by the state secretary at the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation. The Norwegian Press Association also attended one of the meetings.

See otherwise the attached tables.

5. Progress on Eligibility Criteria (optional)

Governments that have voluntarily taken steps to improve their performance on the OGP eligibility criteria as part of their NAP should identify those actions and outcomes.

Not a current issue

6. Peer Exchange and Learning

Briefly describe involvement in peer exchange and learning activities. For example, please describe the nature and outcome of activities where you provided assistance to other countries or if you received assistance during action plan development and implementation.

Norway is collaborating with Denmark, Estonia, Finland and the Netherlands in a partnership where we exchange experiences on OGP-related matters. Representatives of OGP also attend the meetings. Norway has also had contact with Greece, Paraguay and South Korea on OGP issues.

7. Conclusion, Other initiatives, and Next Steps

A. Lessons learned: *What were overall lessons learned and challenges encountered with respect to the action plan development and implementation?*

The experience from the Third Action Plan also shows that it is difficult to engage civil society in an overall plan. The civil society organisations already have close links with the various parts of the public administration. The OGP work will often be perceived as extra work, but does not provide the civil society with any added value.

Similarly, the public administration is of the opinion that it already transparent, and already has close cooperation with the civil society.

The challenge will be to have a continuation of the transparency work and co-creation between the public administration and the civil society based on the main priorities OGP has given for the Fourth Action Plan.

B. Other initiatives (optional): *Report on any other national initiatives or reforms undertaken to advance OGP values that were not included in the National Action Plan.*

The Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation has no complete overview of this type of initiative in the public administration. However, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is responsible for the work on social entrepreneurship that may come under OGP-related activities.

C. Next steps: *What are next steps with regard to OGP generally?*

Norway will present the Fourth Action plan on 1 July 2018. The work on the plan is underway. The Nordic/Baltic/Dutch cooperation continues. We are planning expanded cooperation with local government, primarily through the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) and the city of Oslo; a contact that has already been established.

D. Conclusion: *Report on the positive impact of the activities and related outcomes with respect to each commitment; this could include a broader assessment that may detail actions taken outside the action plan itself, such as political/electoral developments, cultural changes, and plans for the future.*

Beneficial ownership
Accounting figures

1. User orientation

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<i>Public meeting obstacles caused by lack of users' perception</i>
What is the commitment?	Instructions (called "common routing") from the government to all ministries: In all award letters to government enterprises, the ministries shall include an instruction that the enterprise shall, among other things, survey the users' perception of the enterprise (refer also to "Ambition").
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Improving Public Services
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Civic participation
Additional information	
Completion Level	All government enterprises that receive an award letter with common routing shall report in the annual report by 1 May of the following year on the degree of goal achievement. The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) received the following assignment in the award letter for 2017_ <i>Difi shall survey and assess the reporting on the common routing for 2016.</i> The deadline for the assignment is set to 29 September this year. Difi has requested the Ministry for an extended deadline and the Ministry will allow an extension of the deadline. The new deadline has not been set yet.
Description of the results	
Next steps	The Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation will inform the political staff of the findings Difi makes in the survey and assessment of the reporting on the common routing for 2016. Our

	recommendations to the political staff will depend on Difi's findings. Further action depends on the political wishes and priorities.

Milestone Status	Start Date	End Date	Completion Level
Implementation (award letter) Implementation Reporting in the Annual Report	01/01/2016 2016 March/April.2017		

Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Ola Grønning
Title, Department	Department of ICT and Renewal
Email and Phone	
Other Actors Involved, State actors involved Government Ministries, Department/Agency CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi)
Additional Information	

2. Electronic Public Records (OEP)

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	It is a political decision to make public information easily accessible to the press and public at large and free of charge. The Electronic Public Records (OEP) has been a joint publishing platform for the public records for some government authorities since its launch online in 2010.
What is the commitment?	Develop a new version of the OEP-platform in order to improve the ICT system security, simplify back-office work processes, as well as simplifying procedures to give the public easy and accountable access to information
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Access to information Civic participation Public Accountability Technology and innovation for openness and accountability
Additional information	
Completion Level	
Description of the results	Improved security of the platform, improved and simplified back-office work processes. .
Next steps	

Milestone Status	Start Date	End Date	Completion Level

Lead implementing agency	
Persons responsible from implementing agency	
Title, Department	
Email and Phone	
Other Actors Involved, State actors involved Government Ministries, Department/Agency CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Difi
Additional Information	

3. Transparency regarding environmental information

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Climate and Environment
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Lack of knowledge about and use of the Environmental Information Act. Act relating to the right to environmental information and participation in decision-making processes relating to the environment [Environmental Information Act] of 9 May 2013 no. 31.

What is the commitment?	Improved knowledge and use of the Environmental Information Act. Measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare guides • Internal courses at the Ministry
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Increased knowledge about and wider use of the Environmental Information Act, both by the public and by the public administration, will result in increased transparency and involvement and will help to improve legislation, policies, governance, and thereby also the environment
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Access to information / Civic participation
Additional information	
Completion Level	Courses have been held within the Ministry. Development of the Guide to the Environmental Information Act has been delayed.
Description of the results	Courses have been held within the Ministry. Development of the Guide to the Environmental Information Act has been delayed. The Courses within the Ministry would most probably have been held independently of the OGP commitment as a consequence of lessons learned from the handling of requests for information and appeals of rejected requests. In addition to other facts, OGP commitment contributed to the development of the Guide to the Act being given slightly higher priority.
Next steps	The aim is to have a draft Guide ready for public consultation before the end of 2017.

Milestone Status	Start Date	End Date	Completion Level

Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Climate and Environment
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Beate Berglund Ekeberg
Title, Department	Department for Marine Management and Pollution Control
Email and Phone	Beate-Berglund.Ekeberg@kld.dep.no 22 24 59 78
Other Actors Involved, State actors involved Government Ministries, Department/Agency CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Cooperation with civil society most relevant in the development of the Guide.
Additional Information	The Courses within the Ministry would most probably have been held independently of the OGP commitment as a consequence of lessons learned from the handling of requests for information and appeals of rejected requests. In addition to other factors, OGP

	commitment has contributed to the development of the Guide to the Act being given slightly higher priority.
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4. Disclosure of financial data

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Finance / Finance Department // Government Agency for Financial Management (DFØ)
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Today, the Government Agency for Financial Management (DFØ) publishes central government accounting data by chapter/item equivalent to the annual Report to the Storting no. 3 on government accounts. From January 2016, the publication is supplemented with accounting data according to account type (standard chart of accounts) for gross budgeted central government agencies that report accounting data to DFØ. The published data is difficult to use for analysis and is difficult to access.
What is the commitment?	Facilitate a solution for publishing financial data on an aggregated, 3-digit level according to a standard chart of accounts, for each gross budgeted central government agency, to be published monthly. The solution shall also accommodate future expansions of the basic data (for net budgeted agencies that do not report expense data to the government accounts today).
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The financial data for central government agencies will be more easily accessible to all users (at a portal). The solution shall make it possible to search in published data, and provide a basis for analysis and comparison of resource consumption across agencies and over time in open data format.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Access to information/ Public Accountability
Additional information	
Completion Level	Part 1: Finalized Part 2: October 2017
Description of the results	On 10 October there will be public access to the new financial data portal: https://statsregnskapet.dfo.no/
Next steps	None
	Implemented according to plan.

Milestone Status	Start Date	End Date	Completion Level
	01.01.2016	October 2017	

Lead implementing agency	Government Agency for Financial Management (DFØ)
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Knut Klepsvik
Title, Department	Ministry of Finance
Email and Phone	kkl@fin.dep.no
Other Actors Involved, State actors involved Government Ministries, Department/Agency CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Government Agency for Financial Management (DFØ) Norsk Presseforbund (presse.no)
Additional Information	statsregnskapet.dfo.no

5. Transparency regarding rainforest funds

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Climate and Environment
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Not enough information available about to whom the climate and forest funds have been disbursed and about the strategy of the initiative
What is the commitment?	Reader-friendly summaries on regjeringen.no about how the climate and forest funds are distributed and the underlying strategy of the initiative.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Provides greater openness and transparency into the climate and forest funds. Easier for the public and the press to see where public funds are disbursed, to which countries and to which institutions.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	A. Increasing Public Integrity. Paragraph 6, u) Transparency regarding rainforest funds / Access to information
Additional information	
Completion Level	The work has started, but is not yet completed. The planned technical solution providing for an interactive overview of the funds has been delayed due to resource constraints and for technical reasons.
Description of the results	The website of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative has been improved. It now provides a better overview of how the funds are being spent , and the partnerships included.
Next steps	Work is continuing to implement the planned technical solution providing for an interactive overview of the funds.

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Milestone Status	Start Date	End Date	Completion Level

Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Climate and Environment
Persons responsible from implementing agency	Ane Broch Graver
Title, Department	Department for Climate Change
Email and Phone	abg@kld.dep.no 22 24 58 25
Other Actors Involved, State actors involved Government Ministries, Department/Agency CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	
Additional Information	Transparency concerning development assistance funds in general, including climate and forest funds, is desirable and the OGP commitment has contributed to increased priority.

6. State employees' ownership of shares

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation / Employer Policy Department
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	There is no uniform regulation in the ministries' various policies regarding department employees' ownership and trading in securities
What is the commitment?	Prepare a legal clarification and specify in the ethical guidelines, which duties can be imposed on government employees in each ministry in terms of ownership and trading of securities
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Raise ethical awareness regarding the ownership and trading of securities, and clarify the legal issues that arise
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Public Accountability
Additional information	The OGP commitment has had significant importance for the work, both for the level of ambition and the possibility to implement it.
Completion Level	Finalized

Description of the results	A legal clarification has been made and it has been specified in the ethical guidelines what duties may be imposed on government employees in each ministry in terms of ownership and trading of securities. The Government has fulfilled the commitment.
Next steps	None

Milestone Status	Start Date	End Date	Completion Level

Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation / Employer Policy Department
Persons responsible from implementing agency	
Title, Department	
Email and Phone	
Other Actors Involved, State actors involved Government Ministries, Department/Agency CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Ministry of Justice
Additional Information	

7. Measures in foreign and development policy to promote freedom of expression and independent media

N/A

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department Director, Section for Human Rights and Democracy
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Information is an integral part of freedom of expression. Information is crucial for people to be able to make informed decisions about their own lives, and so that they are able to understand and exercise their rights. Freedom of expression is under pressure from both state and non-state actors. Some trends: Increase in the

	number of attacks against individuals who express themselves, e.g. journalists, bloggers and artists. Legislation is misused to prevent criticism and silence dissent. Public access to information is restricted. Internet censorship, filtering, blocking and monitoring. Increasing self-censorship. Concentration of ownership in media limits diversity. In September 2015, the UN member states adopted the new sustainable development goals (SDGs). Goal 16.10 deals with access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms. Access to information is one of three theme areas in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' new strategy on freedom of expression.
What is the commitment?	Access to information as a priority area in foreign and development policy.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall - initiate the development of international standards for the right to information, - contribute to the development of and compliance with legislation at national level concerning the right to access information.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Access to information
Additional information	
Completion Level	
Description of the results	
Next steps	

Milestone Status	Start Date	End Date	Completion Level

Lead implementing agency	
Persons responsible from implementing agency	
Title, Department	
Email and Phone	
Other Actors Involved, State actors involved Government Ministries, Department/Agency CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	
Additional Information	

8. Study how relevant information related to country-by-country reporting from subsidiaries and support functions in third countries should be presented in the accounts, as well as possible supervisory schemes. (Country-by-country reporting)

Lead implementing agency/actor	The Financial Markets Department
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	The Norwegian Parliament adopted new rules in December 2013 on "country-by-country reporting" (LLR), as proposed by the Ministry of Finance, cf. Prop. 1 LS (2013-2014) Chap. 20. The proposition announced that the Ministry of Finance intends to evaluate the Norwegian country-by-country regulations after three years. In Resolution no. 792 ((2014-2015), the Norwegian parliament asked the government to review the effects of the regulation on LLR reporting, measured against the parliament's goal to highlight adverse tax planning and ensure that relevant information related to the country-by-country reporting from subsidiaries and support functions in third countries is presented in the accounts. Parliament also asked the government to investigate how to establish supervision of entities with obligations to report according to the country-by-country regulations.
What is the commitment?	The government believes that the evaluation of the LLR regulations should be based on LLR reports from at least two financial years, i.e. for the financial years 2014 and 2015, and it should be possible to complete no later than spring 2017. The government will also examine how relevant information related to LLR reporting from subsidiaries and support functions in third countries shall be presented in the accounts, as well as possible supervisory schemes, with the intention to present the necessary regulatory amendments during 2016.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Preparation of the LLR regulations could enhance transparency with respect to capital flows from companies operating in the extractive industries. Increased transparency could provide greater access to information that can help ensure that civil society will be increasingly able to hold the authorities to account for the administration of the country's natural resources in the country where the companies operate. Access to more information about the

	companies/corporations could also contribute to increased transparency, thereby highlighting any tax planning.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Access to information/ public accountability
Additional information	
Completion Level	<p>The Ministry has examined how the relevant information related to LLR reporting from subsidiaries and support functions in third countries shall be presented in the accounts, and on 30 September 2016 sent proposed amendments to the LLR regulations for this purpose for consultation. Amendments to the LLR regulations were adopted on 22 December 2016 and came into force on 1 January 2017, with effect for fiscal years commencing 1 January 2017 and subsequently. Under the new provisions, the entities with an obligation to report shall state more key information about their business, including information about full costs, as well as specific tax matters. The information shall be provided for each country where the entity is established. A new statement of legislative purpose and a new provision on disclosure have been laid down in the LLR regulations.</p> <p>The amendments the Ministry of Finance laid down in the LLR regulations on 22 December 2016 were based on the European Commission's proposal (COM (2016) 198 final) on the amendment of the EU's consolidated accounting directive (2013/34/EU), as well as input from the public sector (Publish What You Pay (PWYP)).</p> <p>In the Official Norwegian Report NOU 2016:2 <i>Amendments to the Securities Trading Act – flagging and periodic reporting – Implementation of amendments to the reporting directive</i>, the Commission on the Securities Trading Act reported on the question of supervision of entities with obligations to report under the LLR provision in section 5-5a of the Securities Trading Act. The report was followed up by the Ministry of Finance in the bill Prop. 76 L (2016-2017), which the Storting adopted, cf. Innst. 296 L (2016-2017)</p>
Description of the results	<p>In accordance with the new statutory rules, the Financial Supervisory Authority of Norway shall supervise compliance with the provision on country-by-country reporting (LLR) in section 5-5a of the Securities Trading Act with corresponding regulations. The legislative amendments came into effect on 1 July 2017.</p> <p>The Ministry of Finance has also conducted an evaluation of the Norwegian LLR regulations.</p>
Next steps	The evaluation report was received on 30 June 2017, and will be distributed for general consultation.

Milestone Status	Start Date	End Date	Completion Level
Consultation			In preparation

Lead implementing agency	The Financial Markets Department
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Other Actors Involved, State actors involved Government Ministries, Department/Agency CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Publish What You Pay (PWYP)
Additional Information	

9. Register for ultimate beneficial ownership

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry of Finance / The Financial Markets Department
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<p>Parliament has asked the government to bring a proposal for a Norwegian public ownership registry to ensure transparency of ownership in Norwegian businesses and to strengthen efforts against tax crime, corruption and money laundering. It is understood that such a registry should follow the Financial Action Task Forces' recommendations from 2012 on international standards for combating money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of WMD, as well as EU regulations in this area.</p> <p>Government has appointed a commission to consider changes to Norwegian legislation in order to follow the Financial Action Task Forces' recommendations and the EU's fourth Money Laundering Directive. The committee second interim report, which includes an assessment of how ultimate beneficial ownership shall be made public, will be presented in autumn 2016. The report will be sent for general consultation and input from civil society will be considered. In parallel with this work, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Finance will work together to facilitate access to information on beneficial ownership in Norwegian limited liability companies. A consultative document with various solution proposals was sent for consultation in winter 2016.</p>
What is the commitment?	Investigate, send for consultation and promote proposals for a publicly accessible register with information about the ultimate beneficial owners in Norwegian companies.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	A publicly accessible register with information about (direct) shareholders and ultimate beneficial ownership will facilitate access to information that is relevant to combat economic crime, both for public bodies, private actors and civil society.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Access to information
Additional information	
Completion Level	The Commission on the Money Laundering Act, which was appointed in February 2015, was mandated to consider amendments to the Norwegian regulations in order to follow-up the Financial Action Task Force's recommendations and the EU's Fourth Money Laundering Directive. The Commission's second interim report was submitted to the Ministry of Finance in December 2016 and has been sent for consultation. At the same time as this work, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Finance is working together on facilitating access to information on beneficial ownership in Norwegian limited liability companies. A consultation paper with various proposed solutions was sent for consultation in the winter of 2016 and is currently being follow-up by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries. The possibility for coordination between the registers is being considered.
Description of the results	The proposals are currently under consideration by the Ministry.
Next steps	

Milestone Status	Start Date	End Date	Completion Level

Lead implementing agency	The Financial Markets Department
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Other Actors Involved, State actors involved Government Ministries, Department/Agency CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	
Additional Information	

