

# **Action Plan on Implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in the Republic of Serbia in 2018-2020**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Open Government Partnership (“OGP”) is an international initiative aimed at enlisting support and ensuring higher involvement of governments across the world to promote integrity, transparency, efficiency and accountability of public administration by building public trust, cooperating with civil society organisations (hereinafter referred to as: CSOs), empowering citizens to participate in governance, combating corruption, enabling access to information and harnessing new technologies, in connection with achieving more effective and accountable work of public administration.

As a participant in this global initiative, the Republic of Serbia supports the core values enshrined in the OGP Declaration, which are aligned with the overall goal of public administration reform in the Republic of Serbia: providing high-quality services to citizens and businesses and creating a public administration that would foster economic stability and increase the standard of living. Taking into account Serbia’s aim to become a modern state that offers good services to its citizens, builds partnerships and provides better support to citizens and the economy, participation in the OGP initiative and implementation of activities aligned with the values promoted by the OGP will significantly contribute to the attainment of these objectives.

The OGP provides an excellent platform for cooperation between the administration and citizens and a powerful instrument for promoting transparency, accountability and efficiency of public administration, as well as for meeting specific criteria in the European integration process.

To date, the Republic of Serbia has developed and presented to the Partnership two Action Plans<sup>1</sup> to undertake commitments which build on the commitments provided for in other strategic documents, aimed at improving the situation regarding the values promoted by the OGP. Throughout the time of developing these action plans, a significant improvement has been made in terms of cooperation with the civil sector which has continued in this third cycle of drafting the Action Plan on Implementation of the Open Government Partnership in the Republic of Serbia in 2018-2020 (hereinafter referred to as “the Action Plan”), which will be discussed in more detail in the section dealing with the process of preparation of the Action Plan.

Taking into account the priorities highlighted by civil society organisations and authorities of the Republic of Serbia responsible for implementing specific commitments in the preparation of the Action Plan, the third Action Plan addresses several topics: Open Data/fiscal transparency (since most of the commitments under Open Data concern fiscal transparency, these two areas have been merged into a single one), government integrity, public services, access to information and public participation.

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<sup>1</sup> The Action Plan on Implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in the Republic of Serbia in 2014 and 2015 (*Official Gazette of RS* No. 14/14) and the Action Plan on Implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in the Republic of Serbia in 2016 and 2017 (*Official Gazette of RS* No. 93/16)

## II. OPEN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO DATE

In the implementation period of the previous AP OGP for 2016 and 2017, and development of the third Action Plan, Serbia has made great efforts to develop all levels of administration in order to improve the business environment and create a favourable business climate, increase legal certainty, transparency, ethical standards and accountability in the conduct of public administration duties, modernise the administration and expedite and debureaucratize processes and procedures, thus improving the quality of the services provided to citizens. On the other hand, Serbia went through a challenging period in terms of a ban on new employment and staff cuts in the public sector. The main priority was to refocus the public sector towards less expensive and more efficient public services. In this context, the emphasis in certain areas was on e-government and digitalisation of various processes.

In the three years of implementation of the first Action Plan for implementation of the Public Administration Reform Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the 2015-2017<sup>2</sup>, one-fifth of the envisaged results (23%) and half of all activities (52%) were achieved. The most significant results have been achieved through improved services in selected areas, e-participation and e-services, beginning of official data exchange, inspection coordination, implementation of a programme budget with elements of gender budgeting, medium-term planning, an improved public procurement system and improved fiscal position of Serbia. All these results have contributed to promoting the values of the OGP.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia has passed the Decision on Amendments to the Public Administration Reform Strategy of the Republic of Serbia with the Action Plan for Implementation of the Public Administration Reform Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the 2018-2020<sup>3</sup>, which provides for a continuation of ongoing activities and implementation of new ones.

In line with the OGP principles, both documents were developed and monitored in a broad participatory approach, with the involvement of all state administration bodies, independent state authorities, representatives of the civil sector and international partners throughout all stages of the planning process. CSO representatives for both action plans were selected either through the existing SCSO<sup>4</sup> mechanism or through public calls with predefined criteria, a bidding committee and a right of bidders to complain against the results of the public call.

As regards open data, it should be noted that this action plan provides only for commitments which build on the existing activities under the open data initiative in Serbia through the project *Open Data – Open Opportunities* implemented by the Office for Information Technologies and e-Government (hereinafter referred to as “ITE”), in

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<sup>2</sup> *Official Gazette of RS* No. 31/15

<sup>3</sup> *Official Gazette of RS* No. 54/18

<sup>4</sup> SCSO (link: <http://www.sekomehanizam.org/default.asp?Category=2>) was initiated by the Serbian European Integration Office (now the Ministry for European Integration) in 2011 as a mechanism for cooperation between the civil society and the public sector with regard to planning and programming, monitoring and reporting of international development assistance funds. In addition to public administration reform, the civil society may participate in seven other sector-level groups: rule of law; civil society, media and culture; competitiveness; human resource development; agriculture and rural development; transport; and environment and energy.

collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as “UNDP”), which supports the development of this initiative in Serbia.

As part of this initiative, in addition to the development and publishing of the national Open Data Portal<sup>5</sup> in October 2016, which was a commitment under the Action Plan for 2016 and 2017, the ITE has cooperated with the UNDP to organise the first Open Data Week<sup>6</sup> from 6 to 11 March 2018. The Open Data Week included a conference entitled *Open Data – Open Opportunities*, as well as a presentation of the national open data initiative, a draft legislative framework for open data, and new data sets published by state institutions on the National Open Data Portal. The Open Data Week featured a series of workshops, lectures and mentoring sessions across Serbia – in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Indija, Šabac, Vršac, Valjevo and Subotica. The participants in the workshops, start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises, researchers, and other stakeholders have had an opportunity to hear about the data posted on the National Open Data Portal and to learn how they are processed, combined with data from other sources, analysed, visualised etc.

In May 2018, the ITE collaborated with the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and the Digital Serbia Initiative to hold #CodeGovernment hackathons in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš, intended to improve user experience of the eUprava (eGovernment) Portal and devise a better and more functional technological solution to improve the user experience of the National eUprava Portal.<sup>7</sup>

In July 2018, the ITE, with the support of the UNDP Office in the Republic of Serbia, held a Workshop which was attended by more than 20 institutions interested in opening their data, while those institutions that had already opened their data stated their interest in the next step, which would enable them to implement cost-efficient ideas/solutions for simple access to data by the public, the so-called *Open Data Challenge*.

Since the official commissioning of the National Open Data Portal in mid-October 2017, when it contained some twenty data sets, the number of available open data sets has seen a manifold increase. Currently, there are 114 data sets available, posted by 28 institutions. These are data relating to traffic accidents, public transport, environment protection, statistics, geospatial data, data on medicinal products etc. Furthermore, interest in data opening has spiked, both within and outside of the administration. The best indicator of the tremendous progress made in this field is the Open Data Index<sup>8</sup>, which ranks the Republic of Serbia as first in the region and 41<sup>st</sup> of all United Nations member states.

To ensure active involvement of citizens in the oversight of public policy implementation and to promote active communication between citizens and institutions, the website *Good Governance* has been launched at [www.dobrauprava.rs](http://www.dobrauprava.rs), intended to inform the citizens about the progress of the public administration reform process and the exchange of data contained in official records. The website *Good Governance* has been designed as an interactive portal through which citizens can obtain information about their rights in administrative procedures regarding the exchange of data contained in official records, to learn details about how the administration functions and to actively participate in the oversight of the work of public administration and thus contribute to its overall reform by

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<sup>5</sup> <https://data.gov.rs>

<sup>6</sup> For more details, see the following link: <http://ite.gov.rs/doc/Program%20Nedelja%20otvorenih%20podataka.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> For more details, see the following links: <https://www.euprava.gov.rs/vesti/264/pobednici-CodeGovernment-Hakaton.html> or <https://startit.rs/e-uprava-hakaton-2018/> or <http://civilnodrustvo.gov.rs/%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%B2/%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%B2-%D0%BD%D0%BD-codegovernment-hackathon.76.html?invitationId=511>

<sup>8</sup> For more details, see the Open Data Index: <https://index.okfn.org/place/?filter-table=serbia>

filling out a questionnaire or sending a letter to the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government (hereinafter referred to as “MPALSG”).

In the past period, significant progress has also been made in the improvement of the legal framework for participation of interested members of the public in the work of the public administration, especially in the process of passing regulations and developing and implementing public policy documents at all levels of government. Acting on the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the National Assembly enacted the Law on the Planning System<sup>9</sup>, the Law on amendments to the Law on Public Administration<sup>10</sup> and the Law on amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government<sup>11</sup>, which introduced new civic participation mechanisms and further improved the existing ones. The first two of these laws were enacted to fulfil a commitment assumed by the Republic of Serbia in the second Action Plan on the OGP.

The Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia and the Law on amendments to the Law on Public Administration have imposed an obligation on state administration bodies to involve interested members of the public in the process of drafting public policy documents and regulations from the earliest stage of their preparation. In addition, the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia enables citizens to initiate themselves the drafting, adoption or amendment of public policy documents by submitting initiatives to relevant proponent and explicitly provides for a possibility of involving the stakeholders who participated in a consultation in the work of a working group tasked with drafting a public policy document. In a move away from earlier legislation, the Law on amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government provides for mandatory public debates on the most important bylaws passed by local self-governments (statutes, budget with regard to investment planning, development strategies, determination of rates of own-source revenue, spatial and zoning plans etc.) and also provides for the option of a qualified number of citizens initiating a public debate of any other bylaw, while imposing a duty on local self-government bodies to publicly announce the beginning of drafting of their bylaws.

In April 2018, the National Assembly passed the Law on e-Government, which establishes a framework for systematic development of electronic governance, with control mechanisms, as well as for open data and reuse of public sector information. To ensure more efficient implementation of the new legal rules, drafting of the secondary legislation provided for in this Law is underway.

In the past period, progress has also been achieved in terms of provision of public services in specific areas. A good example of this is the establishment of an electronic service under the project Welcome to the World, Baby (e-baby), which allows parents to register their newborn child in just 15 minutes at any maternity unit in the Republic of Serbia. To date, more than 109,580 babies have been registered in this way, while some 7 different papers have been abolished. This service is an example of a no-stop shop, where a service is provided at the place where a life event takes place and citizens do not have to visit a one-stop shop. Other services implemented in addition to this one include applying for e-health insurance cards, eNursery (enrolment of children in pre-school institutions) and replacement of old driving licences with new, card-based ones.

As regards implementation of the Strategy for Regulatory Reform and Improvement of the Public Policy Management System 2016-2020, activities have been undertaken to

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<sup>9</sup> *Official Gazette of RS* No. 30/18

<sup>10</sup> *Official Gazette of RS* No. 47/18

<sup>11</sup> *Official Gazette of RS* No. 47/18

establish a Single Public Register of Administrative Procedures and Other Conditions for Pursuing a Business Activity, which was also one of the commitments under the previous Action Plan for 2016-2017. The inventorying of administrative procedures involved 85 authorities and organisations and identified 2500 procedures. The exercise resulted in the Guidance for Analysis of Simplification of Administrative Procedures and the Methodology for Calculating Administrative Expenses for the Purposes of Procedure Analysis. In addition, proposals for simplification, optimisation or abolishment of 73 administrative procedures were prepared and submitted to the competent authorities or organisations for opinion. This was also one of the commitments under the second OGP Action Plan, which continues through the period covered by the present Action Plan.

One of the results and examples of good practice aimed at ensuring equal access to the Internet and electronic services of state and public authorities for all citizens of the Republic of Serbia is the formation of the Serbia-Korea Information Access Centre – SKIAC ([http://skipcentar.rs/en\\_GB/](http://skipcentar.rs/en_GB/)) in 2017. On 6 July 2017, the MPALSG and the National Information Society Agency of the Republic of Korea signed the Memorandum of Cooperation and Understanding in the Field of Communication Technologies, thus creating the institutional framework for the establishment of the SKIAC. Activities of the SKIAC include support to the development of e-government through the provision of free IT trainings for civil servants and all citizens of the Republic of Serbia. Between 15 January and 29 September 2018, in less than nine months of its operation, the SKIAC, in collaboration with numerous international and regional organisations, national institutions, state authorities, public institutions and civil society bodies and organisations, as well as renowned IT companies and numerous economic entities, managed to provide more than 400 different IT programmes, including projects of national importance (address register, digitalisation of cultural heritage, e-Baby service, e-ZUP information system, development of electronic textbooks and e-class registers...) and train more than 10,000 citizens and civil servants free of charge.

Progress has been most notable in the inclusion of the civil society and other stakeholders in working groups and other working and advisory bodies entrusted with drafting and monitoring regulations and public policy documents. In a transparent and inclusive process, the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter referred to as “OCCS”), in cooperation with the competent authorities, has fully completed five public call procedures for the selection of civil society organisations into various working bodies since 2017, with three more public calls initiated in Q2 and completed in Q3 2018. The progress is all the more impressive given that there had been only one such public call in 2016 and no public calls at all in 2015. Among others, these public calls resulted in the selection of civil society representatives in two working groups which are highly relevant for the public administration reform process: representatives of 12 civil society organisations were appointed to the Special Working Group tasked with preparing a Draft Action Plan on Implementation of the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2018-2020, while representatives of six civil society organisations were appointed to the Special Interministerial Working Group tasked with preparing this Action Plan. This progress was recognised by the European Commission as a good practice in the Operational Conclusions from the meeting of the EU-Serbia PAR Special Group held in May 2018.<sup>12</sup>

There is also visible progress in terms of the number of calls issued by state administration bodies through the OCCS to civil society organisations for their participations in various forms of public consultations and public debates. In 2017, the OCCS published 30

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<sup>12</sup> Conclusions of the PAR Special Working Group, <http://www.mduls.gov.rs/reforma-javne-uprave.php>, p. 2

calls for public debates and other forms of consultation, which was eight public calls more than in 2016 and eleven public calls more than in 2015. In the first two quarters of 2018, there were 17 public calls issued for various types of consultation through the OCCS. One such process conducted in the reporting period was a broad consultative process concerning amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia as it pertains to the judiciary.

One of the general recommendations of the Independent Reporting Mechanism (hereinafter referred to as “IRM”) was to increase visibility of the OGP process. To that end, the Working Group held a number of consultative meetings during the drafting of the Action Plan, including *inter alia* to promote the OGP initiative and inform the public and CSOs outside of Belgrade about this initiative (section III of the Action Plan). In addition, as part of Sector Budget Support, a project was launched in 2018 to increase visibility of EU support to Serbia and communicate objectives and progress in connection with public administration reform, which will also focus on promoting the OGP initiative in the Republic of Serbia.

### III. ACTION PLAN PREPARATION PROCESS

The process of preparing this Action Plan officially began in March 2018 with the formation of the Special Interministerial Working Group on Drafting of the Third Action Plan for the Period from 2018 to 2020 and Realising Serbia’s Participation in the Open Government Partnership Initiative<sup>13</sup> (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”). Tasks of the Working Group include: preparation of the Draft Action Plan on Implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in the Republic of Serbia in 2018-2020; holding consultations with the civil society about the Draft Action Plan; monitoring implementation of the activities provided for in the Action Plan and compliance with the set timeframe; proposing amendments and supplements to the Action Plan; and compiling interim and final reports on implementation of the activities provided for of the Action Plan.

As regards the composition of the Working Group, taking into account one of the general IRM recommendation which calls for a regular and continuous stakeholder forum, it should be noted that it largely ensures continuity with the composition of the working group in charge of the previous cycle of the Action Plan. Changes of its members were mainly due to staff changes at certain authorities.

The Working Group consists of 37 members in total, representing numerous Ministries, Government’s offices, services of the Government, the Delivery Unit – IT & eGovernment - Office of the Prime Minister, special organisations, independent bodies, the National Assembly, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, local self-governments and CSOs.

The representatives of CSOs in the Working Group were selected in a transparent procedure. In cooperation with the OCCS, in December 2017 the MPALSG issued a public call<sup>14</sup> for all CSOs to participate in the Working Group. The OCCS also sent the public call to all CSOs on its mailing list. In addition to all information relevant for applying, the public call also listed the criteria for CSO selection. These criteria reflected the intention to involve in the Working Group and the preparation of the Action Plan those CSOs that dealt with and had experience and expertise in various areas of the OGP values: data accessibility, freedom of information, media and provision of information, fiscal transparency, public advocacy and policies, strengthening the rule of law and raising civic awareness, fight against corruption,

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<sup>13</sup> Decision number 119-01-244/2017-06 of 15 March 2018

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.mduls.gov.rs/partnerstvo-za-otvorenu-upravu.php>; <https://bit.ly/2D28JNs>



development of new technologies and innovation for information exchange, improvement of public services and public participation in decision-making, open data, public administration reform and Open Government Partnership. Given the large number of CSOs in the Republic of Serbia which cover various areas, it was necessary to set these criteria in order to ensure efficiency in the work of the Working Group. The public call was addressed to CSOs from all over Serbia. The public call was open from 22 December 2017 to 19 January 2018. After the final date for submission of applications, once the selection process was completed and the period for complaints expired, a Commission comprised of representatives of the OCCS and the MPALSG passed a final decision on the selection of members and deputy members from CSOs in the Working Group. The list of received applications, the ranking list and the Decision on Proposals of CSOs for Membership in the Working Group were published on the websites of the MPALSG and the OCCS<sup>15</sup>.

Representatives of all CSOs which replied to the public call were appointed members of the Working Group, i.e. there are six representatives of CSOs in total, including: Civic Association for Democracy and Civic Education *Civic Initiatives*; Belgrade Open School (BOS); Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA); Media and Reform Centre Niš; Association of Online Media; and Association *People's Parliament*, Leskovac.

As a result of promotional activities carried out by the members of the Working Group and CSOs, in this cycle of preparation of the Action Plan, the Working Group was joined by representatives of local self-government, including the city of Novi Pazar, the municipality of Ruma, the city municipality of Vračar, the city of Šabac and the municipality of Paraćin.

In March 2018, the Multi-Donor Trust Fund of the OGP issued a public call for support to the CSOs involved in the preparation of the Action Plan to ensure its successful joint completion. The MPALSG supported two groups of CSOs that replied to the public call, one of which received funding from the OGP. The CSO consortium which was awarded funding is led by Civic Initiatives, while the remaining CSOs include Transparency Serbia, the Association of Online Media, *People's Parliament* of Leskovac, Education Centre Leskovac and Media Reform Centre Niš. The consortium will be entrusted with coordinating the involvement of civil sector and business stakeholders, nationally and locally, in the process of designing the Action Plan, coordinating consultations with the civil society and other stakeholders during the preparation of the Action Plan and monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan.

The first meeting of the Working Group, held on 30 March 2018, determined cooperation modalities, steps involved in the preparation of the Action Plan and the calendar of activities. Although most of the members had already participated in the preparation of the previous Action Plan, at this meeting the members were once again introduced to the OGP initiative and its values; they were provided with instructions for preparing action plans, explained the purpose of establishing the IRM and given recommendations for this cycle of Action Plan preparation. In compliance with the key recommendation IRM 1, the Working Group adopted the Rules of Procedure of the Interministerial Working Group, which have been published on the MPALSG website<sup>16</sup> and which, in addition to the operating and

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<sup>15</sup> <http://civilnodrustvo.gov.rs/vest/partnerstvo-za-otvorenu-upravu:-rezultati-javnog-poziva-za-izbor-ocd-u-osebnu-me%C4%91uministarstvu-radnu-grupu-za-izradu-ap-20182020.37.html?newsId=908>;  
<https://www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs/vest/partnerstvo-za-otvorenu-upravu:-kona%C4%8Dna-odluka-o-izboru-ocd-u-osebnu-me%C4%91uministarstvu-radnu-grupu-za-izradu-ap-20182020.37.html?newsId=912>;  
<http://www.mduls.gov.rs/partnerstvo-za-otvorenu-upravu.php>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.mduls.gov.rs/partnerstvo-otv-upravu-2018.php>

decision-making procedures of the Working Group, also set out rules for the succession of members in the case of staff changes, to ensure continuity in the work of the Working Group.

In line with the principles of the OGP, to ensure a broad consultative process and involve all stakeholder CSOs from the very beginning of Action Plan preparation, the Working Group held a consultative Round Table with all stakeholder CSOs before preparation of the working version of the text of the Action Plan, in order to determine priorities and proposals for commitments which would be included in the Action Plan. Public notice of the meeting was published on the websites of the MPALSG<sup>17</sup> and the OCCS<sup>18</sup> on 2 April 2018. The following documents were also published together with the public notice: Instructions for the Preparation of the Action Plan, Guide to OGP Values, IRM Recommendations, Agenda for the consultative meeting and forms used for defining proposed commitments and submitting written proposals.

The consultative meeting was held on 13 April 2018. It was attended by 27 civil sector representatives. In the opening part of the meeting, the attendees were introduced to the OGP initiative, its values, the method of preparing action plans and structures, the IRM and all other facts relevant for the preparation of the Action Plan. The results of implementation of the second Action Plan were also presented, to ensure continuity. After the opening part of the meeting, the attendees were split into groups which addressed specific issues, where they proposed, discussed and defined proposals of commitments which could be included in the third Action Plan. As a result of joint efforts of Working Group members and CSO representatives, the meeting came up with twenty proposed commitments, falling under the following topics: Public Participation, Freedom of Information, Open Data, Government Integrity, Fiscal Transparency and Public Services. A report of the meeting, together with all proposals, has been published on the MPALSG website<sup>19</sup>.

All proposals made by CSOs were discussed at Working Group meetings and with the relevant state authorities whose purview includes the proposed commitments. While most of the proposals have been included in the Action Plan, some were found to be unfeasible within the framework of this Action Plan and substantiated explanations were provided for their rejection. Minutes of all Working Group meetings were published on the MPALSG website,<sup>20</sup> to allow all stakeholders to keep up with its activities.

In addition to the consultative meeting with CSOs, in 2018 the Working Group held 4 meetings with all of its members present: on 30 March, 26 April, 7 June and 9 October. At the meetings, the attendees discussed the proposed commitments and the possible solutions for their inclusion in the Action Plan. One of the lessons learned in the previous cycles of Action Plan preparation was how to increase efficiency of the Working Group when only its core members meet to discuss specific issues, as well as in meetings with specific authorities responsible for implementing specific proposed commitments. In this context, in addition to the meetings with the attendance of all members which have already been listed, the Working Group also held four meetings with only its core members in attendance: a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Culture on 25 June 2018; two meetings at the MPALSG, on 9 July and 22 August 2018; and a meeting with representatives of the ITE on 30 August 2018. These meetings addressed specific commitments and possible solutions and steps for their implementation.

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<sup>17</sup> <http://www.mduls.gov.rs/partnerstvo-za-otvorenu-upravu.php>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs/%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%B2/%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%B2.76.html?invitationId=497>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.mduls.gov.rs/partnerstvo-otv-upravu-2018.php>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.mduls.gov.rs/partnerstvo-otv-upravu-2018.php>



Key recommendation IRM 5 concerns a more focused communication approach and awareness raising and strengthening of cooperation with CSOs at central and local levels. To that end, in addition to the already mentioned meetings in Belgrade, two meetings were also held with representatives of CSOs outside of Belgrade – one in Niš on 5 October 2018 and one in Šabac on 8 October 2018 – to promote the OGP initiative at the local level. These meetings were organised by the CSO consortium which was awarded funding as support in the preparation of the Action Plan and they provided an opportunity to present the results of implementation of the second Action Plan and the proposed commitments for the third one. Also, during consultations on the Draft Action Plan, a round table will be held with CSOs in Belgrade and there will be at least two consultative meetings outside of Belgrade.

In addition, representatives of the MPALSG attended the Conference on the Open Government Partnership at the Local Level, which was held on 8 November 2018 in Belgrade, under the auspices of the OSCE Mission to Serbia. The goal of the Conference was to present the opportunities and advantages of including local self-government units in the Open Government Partnership. The attendees were presented with the results achieved by Serbia at the national level and the commitments which would be included in the third Action Plan.

During the preparation of the Action Plan, a representative of the MPALSG attended the Conference *Creativity and Innovation towards Active Youth Participation in the Balkans*, which was held on 15 May 2018 in Skopje, under the auspices of the European Association for Local Democracy, where she presented Serbia's participation and activities in the OGP initiative.

A delegation of the Republic of Serbia led by the Prime Minister attended the Open Government Partnership Global Summit held on 17-19 July 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The aim of the summit was to promote and exchange information and further the open government agenda, as well as to address challenges faced by states in their efforts to improve the lives of their citizens across the world. It was attended by 96 states. At the panel discussion during the ceremonial opening of the Summit, the Prime Minister highlighted Serbia's achievement in the OGP initiative. At the meeting of OGP coordinators, which was part of the Summit, a representative of the MPALSG presented several commitments Serbia intends to assume through the new Action Plan. The Regional School for Public Administration (ReSPA) supported the participation of certain members of its working groups in the Summit and held a Regional Panel Discussion on the OGP, where a representative of the MPALSG presented Serbia's achievements under the open data initiative.

In line with key recommendation IRM 2, to improve fiscal transparency, the Action Plan also includes the commitment of publishing the national budget of the Republic of Serbia in a machine-readable format. It should be noted that publishing of local-level budgets is the responsibility of local self-governments and a proposal for this commitment could therefore not be included in the national Action Plan.

In line with key recommendation IRM 3, continuity of high-impact commitments has been achieved in certain areas, such as open data, while certain commitments which were not fully met during the implementation of the second Action Plan have been included once again so they could be fully implemented.

In line with key recommendation IRM 4, this Action Plan also provides for the continuation of certain commitments from the second Action Plan, which pertain to public participation mechanisms and improving public accountability, for example the commitment *Simplification of administrative procedures and regulations – ePAPER*, while certain commitments, in line with the general IRM recommendations, have been developed further

based on past experience, such as the commitments *Support to the improvement of cooperation between public administration bodies and civil society organisations in the process of drafting, enacting and monitoring the application of regulations.*

A working draft of the Action Plan was published on 13 November 2018, two weeks before the start of the public consultation, together with an announcement of the starting date of the period of public consultation, on the websites of the MPALSG<sup>21</sup> and the OCCS.<sup>22</sup> The public consultation took place between 28 November and 12 December 2018.

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.mduls.gov.rs/latinica/partnerstvo-za-otvorenu-upravu.php>

<sup>22</sup> <http://civilnodrustvo.gov.rs/%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82/%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%B2-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D1%83%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%9B%D0%B5-%D1%83-%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BC-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%81%D1%83%D0%BB%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B0-%D0%BE-%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%BC-%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%83-%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%83-%D1%83%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%83-20162017.74.html?newsId=743>

## IV. COMMITMENTS

### A. OPEN DATA/FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

<b>COMMITMENT 1: Publishing of the Law on Budget of the Republic of Serbia in a machine-readable format</b>		
Q4 2018 - Q1 2019		
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Finance	
<b>Description of Commitment</b>		
Problem addressed by the commitment	The budget of the Republic of Serbia is not published in a machine-readable format.	
Main objective	The Ministry of Finance will also publish the Law on Budget of the Republic of Serbia in WORD and EXCEL formats, in addition to the existing presentation in PDF format.	
How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?	<p>The Law on Budget will be published in WORD and EXCEL formats on the official website of the Ministry of Finance. This would facilitate access to the content of the Law on Budget for the general public, in accordance with the principle of state administration transparency, thus simplifying its downloading and electronic processing for subsequent presentation.</p> <p>This would improve interpretation of publicly available data and consequently facilitate the use of such data.</p>	
The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values	Publishing of the budget in a machine-readable format is fully compliant with the open government principles proclaimed by the Open Government Partnership. Publishing data in a machine-readable format would improve availability of data.	
Additional information	Implementation of this commitment does not require additional budget funds.	
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Law on Budget published also in a machine-readable format on the official website of the Ministry of	After the adoption of the Law on Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2019	After the adoption of the Law on Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2019

Finance		
<b>Contact information</b>		
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency	Branislav Stipanović, Head of the Group for IT Support to Budget	
Title, Department	Budget Sector	
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Other actors involved	Administration	
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	

**COMMITMENT 2: Development of an e-Calendar of public calls for financing of projects and programmes of civil society organisations from budget funds of public administration bodies of**

<b>the Republic of Serbia</b>	
Q4 2018 - Q1 2020 (October 2018 – January 2020)	
Lead implementing agency	Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	
Problem addressed by the commitment	<p>Since 2013, at the beginning of each calendar year the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society (“the Office”) has been collecting information from state and provincial administration bodies on planned public calls for financing of projects/programmes of civil society organisations (CSOs) and, in accordance with collected data, has been preparing and publishing the <a href="#">Calendar of Public Calls</a> for financing of projects and programmes of associations and other civil society organisations from budget funds of state administration bodies of the Republic of Serbia and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (“the Calendar of Public Calls”). The Calendar is prepared as follows: the Office distributes to state and provincial administration bodies a form consisting of an Excel sheet where they enter titles of and fields covered by public calls, participants, provisional deadlines and allocated funds and other relevant data and then return forms to the Office. All collected forms are processed and entered into a single Excel sheet and are published on the official website of the Office in the form of the Calendar of Public Calls in a machine-readable format.</p> <p>The new Regulation on Funds to Support Programmes or Missing Amount of Funds for Programmes of Public Interest implemented by Associations (<i>Official Gazette of RS</i> No. 16/18) introduces important novelties aimed at increasing transparency of funds awarding process from the moment such funds are planned, by establishing a duty to publish an annual plan of announcement of public calls by 31 January at the latest and to submit information to the Office, which then publishes the Calendar of Public Calls of all competent authorities on its official website. In addition to introduction of the mandatory Calendar of Public Calls, these provisions also include local self-government units among bodies which must submit data to the Office (so far, data have been collected from state and provincial administration bodies on a voluntary basis).</p> <p>Also, since 2011, the Office has been monitoring the execution of public calls for the award of budget funds to associations and other civil society organisations through preparation of the Annual Summary Report on spending of funds provided and paid to associations and other civil society organisations from the budget of the Republic of Serbia as support to programme activities (“the Annual Summary Report”). This Report is</p>

	<p>prepared on the basis of data provided to the Office by administration bodies at all three government levels (national, provincial and local) through online questionnaires, which are then processed and integrated in summary data on the amount of funds awarded, the number of supported projects and programmes, their scope, the manner of funds awarding etc.</p> <p>According to the most recent data made available by the Office, notwithstanding the duty to publish results of public calls on official websites of competent authorities, these results were published in only 77% of all cases; notice boards of authorities are used as an additional manner of publication, while in 8% of cases results are not published.</p> <p>However, although a high percentage of the results is published, it has been observed in practice that they are most often not published in a machine-readable format, which prevents research and analytical actions and further cross-checking of data. Practical implementation has also revealed there is a need for a central location (a single database) where data on all public calls planned, published and implemented by public administration bodies and their results would be available in a machine-readable format.</p>
Main objective	<p>The commitment includes development of the Calendar of Public Calls as an application through which competent authorities at all government levels would publish the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data on planned public calls intended for financing CSOs in the current year, in accordance with the Regulation (before they are announced, at the beginning of the year);</li> <li>• Issued public calls with all bidding documents (or a link to a web address where it is available);</li> <li>• Results of announced public calls, including main data on supported projects/programmes and beneficiaries;</li> </ul> <p>Also, results of the search of the Calendar could be downloaded in a machine-readable format (open data). Apart from being a database, the application would also contain the Calendar itself, which could be searched based on various criteria (field of public call, competent authority, time limits etc.), while downloading of search results in a machine-readable format would enable further processing of contained data for analytical purposes.</p> <p>The general objective is to increase the transparency of budget funding of CSOs throughout the entire process and to create a single record of all public calls issued by public administration bodies on a single location.</p>



	<p>Accordingly, it is expected that compliance with this commitment would significantly increase the transparency of CSO funding, facilitate availability of all public calls and data about them to the interested public and strengthen the capacities of government bodies in the field of e-government in Serbia.</p>	
<p>How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?</p>	<p>The electronic calendar of public calls will significantly improve the process of monitoring all planned public calls intended for financing CSOs which has been used so far, including preparation of the Calendar and the Annual Summary Report, and improve their availability for use and simplify their further analysis.</p> <p>In addition, it will facilitate and improve access to information about planned and announced public calls and, most importantly, about their results, by creating a single record of all such information.</p> <p>Overall, this commitment will increase transparency and visibility of support to CSOs by all administration bodies, as well as the full amount of planned funds allocated by the Republic of Serbia at all levels to finance associations and other CSOs.</p>	
<p>The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values</p>	<p>The commitment is relevant for fiscal transparency of public authorities because it involves publishing of more information, improvement in the quality of published information and increased availability of information on public calls and funding of programmes and projects of CSOs from budget funds in general. Publishing of data in a machine-readable format provides an additional value for this commitment, which ensures further processing of data and their use for analytical purposes.</p> <p>Finally, the commitment also involves the use of new technologies and innovation, which additionally increases its relevance for further advancing the OGP values.</p>	
<p>Additional information</p>		
<p>Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date</p>	<p>Start Date:</p>	<p>End Date:</p>
<p>1. Structuring of the questionnaire</p>	<p>Q4 2018 (October 2018)</p>	<p>Q4 2018 (December 2018)</p>

and development of software for data collecting		
2. Provision of support to public administration bodies in completion of the questionnaire	Q4 2018 (December 2018)	Q1 2019 (January 2019)
3. Promotion of the e-Calendar of Public Calls	Q1 2019 (February 2019)	Q1 2019 (March 2019)
4. Monitoring and support to public administration bodies in publishing of results of public calls	Q1 2019 (March 2019)	Q4 2019 (December 2019)
5. Analysis of the use of the e-Calendar of Public Calls for 2019	Q4 2019 (December 2019)	Q1 2020 (January 2020)
<b>Contact information</b>		
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency	Danilo Rodić	
Title, Department	Junior Advisor at the Department for Planning and Creating Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development	
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Other actors involved	Administration	Office for Information Technology and e-Government
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	UNDP, CSOs, SCTM

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<b>COMMITMENT 3: Ensuring availability of data on planned and spent amounts within local funds for environmental protection</b>	
Q4 2018 - Q2 2020 (December 2018 - June 2020)	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Environmental Protection
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	
Problem addressed by the commitment	<p>With the aim of ensuring funds for improvement of environmental protection and achieving EU standards in that field, the Law sets out the duty for local self-government (LSGUs) to found budget funds for environment protection. It also provides that budget funding is to be used for financing protection and improvement of the environment on the basis of spending programmes, subject to prior approval by the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Local budget funding is provided from environment protection fees. In addition, there is also a duty to submit reports on the use of budget funding (Law on Environment Protection, <i>Official Gazette of RS</i> Nos. 135/04, 36/09 and 14/16, Article 100, paragraphs 1, 3 and 4). Analyses carried out so far have shown there is no balance between revenue from fees and funds spent for activities and projects in the field of environment protection. On the other hand, planning and spending of funds for these purposes is not transparent and publicly available in most of the LSGUs. Spending programmes and reports on spending of local funds of LSGUs are submitted to the Ministry only in hard copy and are not published. Given that Serbia faces a tremendous challenge in its efforts to ensure compliance with high EU standards and that this requires stable and sustainable funding at all government levels, planning and spending of such funds must be transparent and must involve consultation with all interested parties on the basis of publicly available data.</p>
Main objective	<p>The commitment includes opening of data on planned and spent amounts within local funds for environment protection.</p> <p>The aim of the commitment is to improve the financing system</p>

	<p>for environment protection through establishing responsible spending of public funds.</p> <p>The expected result of this commitment is achieving of transparent management of funds allocated for environment protection.</p>	
How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?	<p>Opening of data on planned and spent amounts from local budget funds for environment protection and their availability in a machine-readable format will ensure access to, control and analysis of data for all interested parties. Such availability of data will ensure improved participation for civil society organisations, the private sector and citizens and thus contribute to more responsible decision-making by LSGUs on spending of public funds.</p>	
The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values	<p>Introduction of this commitment contributes to the following proclaimed Open Government Partnership principles: transparency, accountability and use of new technologies and innovation.</p>	
Additional information	<p>Improvement of fiscal accountability is one of the key priorities of the Government's Programme. Establishing of a sustainable financial framework in the field of environment protection, which implies efficient use of public and private funds, is set out in the Action Plan on Implementation of the Government's Programme and constitutes the basis for implementation of a multi-annual investment plan related to implementation of the Serbia's National EU Accession Strategy. In addition, compliance with this commitment will contribute to improvement of accountability and transparency of the work of public authorities in accordance with objectives of the Public Administration Reform Strategy, the e-Government Development Strategy and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.</p>	
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Passing of a bylaw which specify in detail the manner of submission of data in electronic format	Q4 2018 (December 2018)	Q2 2019 (April 2019)
2. Preparation of technical specifications and conducting a	Q1 2019 (February 2019)	Q2 2019 (April 2019)

public procurement procedure for services of development of an application for the submission of programmes and reports on the use of local funds for environment protection		
3. Development and testing of an application for submission of programmes and reports on the use of local funds for environment protection	Q2 2019 (April 2019)	Q4 2019 (October 2019)
4. Implementation of training in the use of the application for employees in LSGUs	Q3 2019 (September 2019)	Q4 2019 (October 2019)
5. Deploying the application into production	Q4 2019 (October 2019)	Q4 2019 (November 2019)
6. Provision of support to users for entering data in the new system	Q4 2019 (November 2019)	Q2 2020 (June 2020)
7. Publishing of the first data in a machine-readable form on the National Open Data Portal	Q2 2020 (June 2020)	Q2 2020 (June 2020)
<b>Contact information</b>		
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency	Darinka Radojević	
Title, Department	Head of the Strategic Planning Unit, Sector for Strategic Planning and Projects	
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Other actors involved	Administration	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-

		Government
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities

<b>COMMITMENT 4: Opening of data from public calls for financing the work of associations and co-financing of development of the media content of public interest</b>	
Q4 2018 - Q1 2019	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government Office for Information Technologies and e-Government
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	
Problem addressed by the commitment	<p>Public data on the funding of projects in the public, business and civil sectors have garnered much interest from the public. It is estimated that almost RSD 17 billion was spent in 2016 from the budget line 481 for financing of projects alone, while RSD 2 billion was spent on co-financing of projects for development of the media content of public interest.</p> <p>These data are available on the basis of the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance. However, the procedure of accessing information is time-consuming and data are not machine-readable. Data on projects financed by citizens' money must be published in an open format so they could be easily accessible and comparable. Adoption of the Law on e-Government and the planned Regulation on Detailed Requirements for Development and Maintenance of Official Websites of Authorities is an excellent opportunity to introduce the duty to publish data from public calls for financing projects for achievement of the public interest implemented</p>



	by associations and public calls for financing of projects for co-financing of development of the media content of public interest in a machine-readable form.	
Main objective	Publishing of data from public calls for financing projects for achievement of the public interest implemented by associations and public calls for financing of projects for co-financing of development of the media content of public interest in a machine-readable form.	
How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?	Introduction of the duty to publish public data on projects financed (fully or partially) by public authorities in an open format on their official websites and on the Open Data Portal ensures almost full transparency in this field. When these data are published in an open format, it will no longer be necessary to submit requests to access information of public importance, which will facilitate the work of public authorities and the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection. In addition, open data on projects financed by public money will ensure easier analysis and reuse of public data which may provide additional value for state institutions and the business and civil sectors.	
The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values	Introduction of this commitment will contribute to improvement of transparency of public authorities, and the expected result is achievement of almost full transparency of public data held by public authorities on the funding of projects implemented by associations and projects for the development of the media content. This will also increase accountability of public authorities and the quality of projects which pursue public interests.	
Additional information		
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Adoption of the Regulation on the Content of Websites of Public Authorities, which introduces the duty to publish public data on financed projects in an open data form	Q4 2018	Q4 2018
2. Preparation of a guide	Q1 2019	Q1 2019

Contact information	
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency	Natalija Pavlović Šiniković Mihailo Jovanović
Title, Department	Assistant Minister, MPALSG, Sector for Development of Good Governance Director, Office for Information Technologies and e-Government
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Other actors involved	Administration
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups
	CSOs that are members of the OGP Working Group

<b>COMMITMENT 5: Preparation of reports/indicators on CSOs (associations, foundations and endowments) in an open format</b>	
Q4 2018 - Q2 2019 (October 2018 – April 2019)	
Lead implementing agency	Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	

<p>Problem addressed by the commitment</p>	<p>In its everyday work, the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society (“the Office”) receives numerous inquiries about the civil sector by various actors, from citizens, through the media and public administration bodies to civil society organisations themselves and other interested parties. Inquiries mainly relate to the number of CSOs, data on organisations at specific levels of territorial organisation (usually at the levels of districts and local self-government), in certain spheres of activity, inquiries about the year of their formation and other aspects. These data are necessary for various reasons - from sector surveys through sending invitations to civil society organisations to attend various events and participate in various Government’s working bodies to the need for networking within the civil sector.</p> <p>The Business Registers Agency (BRA) is responsible for registration of associations, endowments and foundations and only this Agency holds comprehensive data about them. The Office and BRA signed in 2018 the Agreement on Downloading Data through Web Service, “Web Service for Keeping up with Changes and Downloading Data from BRA Registers” (PLWS), which ensured automated updating and downloading of data from BRA status registers (associations, endowments and foundations) in the performance of regular activities of the Office.</p> <p>Data obtained through this web service allow the Office to prepare reports/indicators on all civil society organisations (associations, endowments and foundations) – Overview of CSOs, which would be based on searches by much more features.</p>
<p>Main objective</p>	<p>The commitment includes preparation of reports/indicators on CSOs (associations, foundations and endowments) in the Republic of Serbia and an appropriate web application through which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employees in the Office could search CSOs according to certain criteria in order to prepare various analyses and reports and to keep up with trends in the civil society;</li> <li>- Interested parties, primarily representatives of the civil society themselves, state authorities and local self-government units, could request reports/indicators on CSOs according to various criteria and download results of such searches in a machine-readable format (open data).</li> </ul> <p>The Office for IT and e-Government would keep data on CSOs and supporting applications using all necessary security measures.</p> <p>Reports/indicators on CSOs would be available on the Open Government Portal at <a href="http://data.gov.rs">data.gov.rs</a> and could be downloaded as open data files.</p> <p>Open data or a machine-readable format would enable further processing of data for analytical purposes.</p> <p>The general objective of preparation of reports/indicators on CSOs is improved transparency and availability of information on the civil sector, as well as meeting the need to search data on CSOs according to various criteria.</p>

	<p>Overview of data on CSOs will over time be expanded by other information of relevance for keeping up with the situation in the civil sector, such as financing of CSOs from budget funds, as well as other relevant data which will be defined on the basis of consultations with users and will be available to users through the broader set services provided by the Office.</p> <p>Implementation of this commitment is expected to make data on registered CSOs transparent and easily accessible for the interested public.</p>
<p>How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?</p>	<p>Overview of data on CSOs and supporting web application for the Office will be used as a tool for all interested actors that cooperate or plan to cooperate with CSOs.</p> <p>Their preparation will make available data on registered CSOs to public administration bodies through the Office, by a very simple search, if they want to include CSOs in working bodies, invite CSOs to public debates in a specific field covered by a regulation or to cooperate with them in other ways, while the option of viewing a list of all associations active in their territories will be particularly valuable for local self-governments. Overview of data on CSOs will be particularly useful given that the new legislative provisions introduced by of the Law on the Planning System and amendments to the Law on Public Administration and the Law on Local Self-Government set forth a duty for administration bodies at all levels to ensure much greater involvement of the public, and thus also CSOs, than is currently the case in the passing of regulations and public policy making. In addition, this will ensure greater availability of various data to the media, CSOs and other stakeholders through the Office, on the basis of which various analyses, researches and updates on the situation in the sector could be conducted, CSOs could be invited to attend various events and cooperation with them could be improved, while citizens could more easily find and contact associations they want to join or ask for help.</p> <p>The overview of data on CSOs available through the Office could be used by donors to invite CSOs to info sessions on open public calls and in general to expand the circle of CSOs to which they can award funds for projects/programmes.</p> <p>In addition, the Office would be able to perform its day-to-day activities more efficiently in establishing cooperation and dialogue between public administration and CSOs if it had available daily updated, comprehensive and full data on CSOs.</p>
<p>The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values</p>	<p>The commitment is relevant for open data and transparency because it involves publishing more data about CSOs and easier access to various pieces of information on associations, foundations and endowments in the Republic of Serbia. Reports/indicators on CSOs published in a machine-readable format can be processed further and used for analytical purposes.</p>

	In addition, this commitment also involves the use of new technologies and innovation, which further increases its relevance for OGP values.	
Additional information		
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Provision of advisory support to the Office for use of the web service and formation of a CSO database	Q4 2018 (October 2018)	Q4 2018 (December 2018)
2. Stage one - preparation of reports/indicators which can be useful for CSOs and the public	Q4 2018 (December 2018)	Q1 2019 (January 2019)
3. Development of a dedicated subdomain on the official website of the Office at <a href="http://civilnodrustvo.gov.rs">civilnodrustvo.gov.rs</a> where reports/indicators will be available	Q4 2018 (December 2018)	Q1 2019 (January 2019)
4. Stage two - testing of the Overview of Data on CSOs within the Office, development and defining of a set of data which will be available on the Open Data Portal and for the Open Data Challenge	Q4 2018 (December 2018)	Q1 2019 (February/March 2019)
5. Announcement and implementation of the Open Data Challenge (opening of the first level of data on CSOs)	Q2 2019 (April 2019)	Q2 2019 (May 2019)
6. Opening of additional reports/indicators on CSOs for the public and promotion	Q2 2019 (April 2019)	Q3 2019 (August 2019)
<b>Contact information</b>		
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency	Tijana Stojiljković Rolović	
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Other actors involved	Administration	Business Registers Agency Office for Information Technologies and e-Government

	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	UNDP, CSOs

<b>COMMITMENT 6: Amending of the Bylaw on Documentation Enclosed for Registration of the Media with the Media Register and technical improvement of presentation of data in the Register</b>	
Q1 2019 - Q4 2019 (January 2019 - October 2019)	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Culture and Information Business Registers Agency
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	
Problem addressed by the commitment	<p>The proposed commitment should ensure greater transparency of data on the spending of budget funds in the media sector.</p> <p>Information on the total budget funding allocated to the media sector is not fully available to the public because there is no official data which would comprehensively present the total amount of public funds allocated for the co-financing of projects and the media through public calls, individual allocations, through marketing or otherwise (public procurement, advertising etc.).</p> <p>The Law on Public Information and Media provides for the establishment of the Media Register as a central spot which would ensure public availability of data on the media.</p> <p>However, it is evident from the current state of operation of the Media Register shows the need to amend the Bylaw on Documentation Enclosed for Registration of the Media with the Media Register in order to address the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money awarded to the media by the state is classified either as “funds awarded as state aid” or as “funds not awarded on the basis of state aid rules” (funds received by public authorities), which means that these two very wide categories of financial allocations are not defined in detail,</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documents containing data on funds are clearly defined only for funds awarded according to the state aid rules (a decision on distribution of funds is submitted), while any document could be used for the other categories of financial allocations,</li> <li>• Data presentation is not satisfactory because an average user is not able to easily find relevant data on financial allocations to the media and cross-checking of data is not possible,</li> <li>• The data on financial allocations in the Media Register are not updated,</li> <li>• The supervisory mechanism for compliance with the duty to submit data on the amount of awarded money has several issues, while sanctions are inadequate and not efficient enough.</li> </ul>
Main objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To amend the Bylaw on Documentation Enclosed for Registration of the Media with the Media Register (lead implementing agency: Ministry of Culture and Information) – It is necessary to: define in detail the type of public funds awarded to the media; to define time limits for submission of data to the registrar; to define in detail the documents required to be submitted to the Media Register and categories of data (in accordance with the Recommendation 2 on improvement of technical performances of the Register);</li> <li>2. To improve technical performance and presentation of data in the Media Register (lead implementing agency: BRA).</li> </ol> <p>Categories of data which would be publicly available would include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification data on the providers of state aid or contracting authorities in public procurement procedures;</li> <li>• The number, date and title of a decision on award of state aid or the number, date and title of a decision on contract award in public procurement procedures;</li> <li>• Legal basis for the passing of a decision on award of state aid or a decision on contract award;</li> <li>• The amount of state aid or the value of contracts in public procurement procedures;</li> <li>• The source of funding (specific budget item from which state aid or public procurement is financed);</li> <li>• Other data as appropriate.</li> </ul>
How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?	<p>Transparency of state subsidies is the first, key step in evaluation of the total amount of money allocated to the media sector.</p> <p>In addition, only full data and facilitated access to information on money flows can ensure control of spending, i.e. whether the</p>

	<p>money has been spent for intended purposes and what effect it had in terms of provision of information.</p> <p>Access to information is also one of the most important anti-corruption mechanisms.</p>	
The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values	<p>The proposed commitment contributes to the achievement of several key values and topics which are priorities of the OGP: it ensures to the public and all interested parties access to information of public importance, enables control of budget money spending and also encourages accountability of public authorities which handle budget money.</p>	
Additional information	<p>The basis for proposed changes, relevant researches, documents and specific reasons for amendments to laws and secondary legislation are available in the document titled Transparency of Data on State Spending on Media Sector at: <a href="https://kazitrazi.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/TRANSPARENTNOST-PODATAKA-DRZAVNA-POTROSNJA.pdf">https://kazitrazi.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/TRANSPARENTNOST-PODATAKA-DRZAVNA-POTROSNJA.pdf</a></p>	
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Implementation of a consultative process	Q1 2019 (January 2019)	Q1 2019 (January 2019)
2. Preparation of amendments to the Bylaw	Q1 2019 (February 2019)	Q1 2019 (March 2019)
3. Passing of the Bylaw	Q1 2019 (March 2019)	Q1 2019 (March 2019)
4. Start and end date for development of software for keeping the Media Register at the BRA	Q1 2019 (March 2019)	Q4 2019 (October 2019)
<b>Contact information</b>		
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency	<p>Slavica Trifunović</p> <p>Ružica Mačukat</p>	
Title, Department	<p>Assistant Minister, Ministry of Culture and Information</p> <p>Deputy Registrar of the Business Registers Agency, BRA</p>	

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Other actors involved	Administration	
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	BIRN Serbia, Tanja Maksić (011-40-30-319, <a href="mailto:tanja.maksic@birn.eu.com">tanja.maksic@birn.eu.com</a> )  Primarily, media and journalist organisations and associations; the media; secondarily, other civil society organisations engaged in prevention of corruption, monitoring of budget spending and related issues

## B. GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY

<b>COMMITMENT 7: Assistance with and monitoring of adoption of LAP</b>	
Q1 2019 – until full compliance with the commitment – passing of LAP and establishing of monitoring bodies in all LSGUs <sup>23</sup>	
Lead implementing agency	Anti-Corruption Agency
Description of Commitment	
Problem addressed by the commitment	<p>Assemblies of the city of Belgrade and of cities/towns and municipalities have a duty to pass local anti-corruption plans (LAPs) on the basis of strategic documents. They also must establish mechanisms to monitor the implementation of LAPs by a body designated by the city/town or municipal assembly on proposal of a Commission which consists of persons independent from local self-government bodies;</p> <p>The following has been observed in practice: insufficient participation and visibility of the process of citizens’ participation in the performance of tasks of interest for the functioning of the local community; insufficiently developed anti-corruption mechanisms at the local self-government level, as well as lack of independent monitoring of implementation of anti-corruption plans at the local self-government level.</p> <p>Local self-governments are extremely vulnerable to corruption, and adoption of local anti-corruption plans should improve systematic addressing of the issues. Adoption of these plans is largely delayed, and no authority at the central government level is authorized to address this issue by imposing measures against local self-governments which failed to comply with their duties.</p> <p>The Action Plan for Chapter 23 includes activity 2.2.10.37. “Assemblies of autonomous provinces and local self-governments shall adopt local action plans and form standing working bodies to monitor and implement local action plans”. According to the most recent report available, the Anti-Corruption Agency received reports on adoption of local anti-corruption plans (LAPs) and formation of bodies for their monitoring from a total of 118 local self-government units (LSGUs) and the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina until 25 September 2018. According to the data in</p>

<sup>23</sup> Taking into account that compliance with this commitment depends on compliance with duties at the local level, it is impossible to define the implementation period. The commitment will be implemented continually.

	<p>received reports, a total of 82 LSGUs (57% of the total of 145 LSGUs, excluding the territory of Kosovo and Metohija) adopted these plans from early April 2017, when the Agency published the Model LAP, to the abovementioned date. Of 82 adopted plans, 75 were prepared on the basis of the Agency’s Model, while seven are not in line with the Model neither by their form nor by their content. However, eleven self-government units simply copied the Model, while two have not submitted enough data to evaluate whether their LAPs have been prepared according to the Model. The remaining 62 are mostly in line with the Model, although they depart from it to as greater or lesser extent, either in terms of the document itself or with regard to its preparation. Representatives of the civil society were not included in working groups for preparation of certain LAPs, in some reports on adoption of LAP local self-government units did not appropriately explain why certain measures from the Model were not undertaken etc.</p> <p>Fifteen LSGUs designated a body responsible for monitoring the implementation of LAP, of which six were formed mostly in accordance with the Agency’s Model. Six departed from the model to a certain extent, while there is not enough data available to evaluate the compliance of three bodies.</p> <p>Six LSGUs adopted their LAPs and formed bodies to monitor their implementation mostly in line with the Agency’s Model and thus complied with their duty under activity 2.2.10.37. of the Action Plan for Chapter 23.</p> <p>In 2018, the Anti-Corruption Agency allocated funds for five civil society organisations for implementation of five projects with the aim of supporting development and strengthening of integrity, public accountability and transparency of the work of local self-government units. These CSOs will provide assistance in development of LAPs and formation of bodies to monitor their implementation, in accordance with the Agency’s Model. Limited support to towns and municipalities will also be available within donor projects.</p> <p>Such situation is a serious problem for all government levels, given that the time limit for adoption of such plan expired on 30 June 2017.</p>
Main objective	<p>The commitment under this AP includes the following:</p> <p>A) Development of a Model Methodology to Monitor Implementation of LAP – Anti-Corruption Agency</p> <p>B) Collecting data on compliance with the commitment within the</p>

	<p>context of national and European integration planning documents – by the Anti-Corruption Agency and (until competences are transferred to the Agency through amendments to the Law) the Government’s Council for Monitoring the Implementation of Chapter 23 of negotiations between Serbia and the EU</p> <p>C) Promotion of information on adopted LAPs and established mechanisms for monitoring their implementation – Anti-Corruption Agency</p> <p>This commitment contributes to higher inclusion of local communities in Serbia’s EU accession process through joint actions of local self-government, state bodies and civil society organisations as a catalyst of the reform process at the local level.</p> <p>This commitment is implemented through activities planned under the Action Plan for Chapter 23 of Serbia’s EU Accession Negotiation, as well as the Action Plan for implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (adoption of local anti-corruption plans, establishing of bodies to monitor implementation, collecting data on compliance with the commitment and promotion of good practice).</p> <p>Compliance with this commitment will also help link measures implemented at the central level and at the local self-government level, which will improve communication between decision-makers and citizens and contribute to increased openness of anti-corruption reform processes and reforms implemented during negotiations with the EU.</p>
<p>How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?</p>	<p>Collecting and promotion of data on the implementation of this commitment by competent authorities and promotion of good practice, while highlighting examples of bad practice by civil society organisations and state bodies, can ensure that more local self-governments comply with their duties under strategic documents.</p> <p>In addition, civil society organisations at the local level have an opportunity to be more actively involved in development and monitoring the implementation of public policies at the local level through implementation of these commitments of local self-governments, which ensures assumptions for more accountable government in all fields.</p>
<p>The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values</p>	<p>Openness of local self-government when passing and implementing decisions and enabling civic participation are prerequisites for greater integrity of authorities at the local level,</p>



	<p>increased accountability of those authorities and opportunities for citizens and civil society organisations to become more active participants in the fight against corruption.</p> <p>The current Model LAP developed by the Anti-Corruption Agency contains numerous measures aimed at strengthening integrity, reducing scope for discretion, transparency of the decision-making process and improved openness of government bodies at the local level for civic initiatives. In addition, the Model also contains arrangements which should ensure that citizens and civil society organisations provide a crucial contribution to development of high-quality LAPs and ensuring their implementation.</p> <p>Taking into account that monitoring the implementation of LAPs should be performed by a body consisting of citizens of local communities who may not have any experience in monitoring the implementation of public policies, it is necessary to strengthen their capacities for this task. The Anti-Corruption Agency will assist them with this by developing a model methodology and documents, as well as civil society organisations which assist with the monitoring of compliance with these duties or are actively involved in monitoring the implementation of LAP in their communities.</p> <p>Implementation of this commitment will contribute to increased visibility of issues at the local level and accountability of local actors in the reform process. And, most importantly, policy-making at the local level, as part of the European integration process, will be more visible for citizens and will be more suitable for actual needs of local communities. Furthermore, implementation of this commitment will contribute to strengthening of anti-corruption mechanisms of the country as a whole, because the LAP is linked with the implementation of numerous anti-corruption laws.</p>	
Additional information		
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Development of a Model Methodology to Monitor Implementation of LAP	Q1 2019 (January 2019)	Q1 2019 (March 2019)

2. Provision of assistance to interested local self-governments in the passing and monitoring of implementation of LAPs (daily advisory assistance by the Agency, assistance provided by LSGUs to five NGOs which implement projects supported by the Agency, as well as other entities within their projects)	Ongoing	Q3 2019 (July 2019)  (for all current support projects implemented by NGOs)
3. Collecting data on implementation of activities in the preparation of LAPs and publishing of such data	Periodically, every three months	* Until full compliance with the commitment – passing of LAP and establishing of monitoring bodies in all LSGUs <sup>24</sup>
4. Promotion of data on adopted LAPs and their monitoring	Continually, after collection of data and publishing of every other report on implementation of the measure (semi-annual)	* Until full compliance with the commitment – passing of LAP and establishing of monitoring bodies in all LSGUs <sup>25</sup>
<b>Contact information</b>		
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency	Marijana Obradović	
Title, Department	Assistant Director for Prevention Tasks, Anti-Corruption Agency	
Email and phone number	marijana.obradovic@acas.rs	
Other actors involved	Administration	

<sup>24</sup> As compliance with this commitment depends on compliance with duties at the local level, it is impossible to define the implementation period. The commitment will be implemented continually.

<sup>25</sup> As compliance with this commitment depends on compliance with duties at the local level, it is impossible to define the implementation period. The commitment will be implemented continually.

	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	“Transparency Serbia”, “Bečej Youth Association”, “Centre for the Development of a Democratic Society EuroPolis”, “Centre for Democratic Activities” and “Bureau for Social Research”, National Coalition for Decentralisation

<b>COMMITMENT 8: Updating of electoral roll</b>	
Ongoing - Q2 2019	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	
Problem addressed by the commitment	<p>As regards eligibility of Serbian nationals to vote in Serbian presidential and parliamentary elections while living in foreign countries, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has observed certain issues in practice in connection with the submission of requests to register with the single electoral roll as voters who will vote abroad in the election. The practice used so far has revealed numerous difficulties with registering, and thus also with the processing, when requests were submitted by e-mail. This fact was also highlighted by the Ombudsman, who gave a recommendation to improve the regulations pertaining to the electoral roll so that the eligibility to vote would not be limited for Serbian nationals living abroad.</p> <p>In addition, since the practice used so far meant that data from other official records (registry books) which could result in changes in the electoral roll had to be sent by mail, there was a possibility that such changes would not be registered in the electoral roll in due time, which meant that the electoral roll was not always up to date.</p>

<p>Main objective</p>	<p>In order to improve the legislative framework pertaining to the electoral roll, certain provisions of the Instructions on Implementation of the Law on Single Electoral Roll have been improved in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure normal exercise of the right of Serbian nationals to vote in a foreign country by specifying a clear procedure for the submission of requests to register in the single electoral roll the fact that they will vote abroad in those elections and for deciding on those requests by competent authorities;</li> <li>- This, in turn, requires the inclusion of a separate page in the electoral roll system which would specify the exact responsibilities of all entities involved in deciding on the requests, which would ensure legal certainty in the exercise of this right;</li> <li>- Ensure electronic linking of the Registry of Deaths with the single electoral roll to enable timely keeping and updating of the single electoral roll.</li> </ul>	
<p>How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?</p>	<p>Implementation of this commitment will, on the one hand, ensure easier, more efficient and faster exercise of rights of Serbian nationals in terms of voting of persons who are not able to exercise their right to vote in their permanent place of residence and instead vote in their temporary place of residence in a foreign country. On the other hand, the introduction of electronical linking of registers will ensure a legal and regular procedure for making changes to the electoral roll and for the passing of decisions, in order to ensure the electoral roll is accurate, complete and up to date. This would also ensure the effective exercise of citizens' rights in this field.</p>	
<p>The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values</p>		
<p>Additional information</p>		
<p>Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date</p>	<p>Start Date:</p>	<p>End Date:</p>
<p>1. Introduction of a separate page within the electoral roll system for</p>	<p>Q1 2019</p>	<p>Q2 2019</p>

the submission of requests to vote abroad		
2. Establishing an electronic link between the Registry of Deaths and the single electoral roll – development of a web service	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
<b>Contact information</b>		
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency	Marina Dražić	
Title, Department	Assistant Minister, MPALSG, Sector for Registry Books and Registers	
Email and phone number	marina.drazic@mduls.gov.rs	
Other actors involved	Administration	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	

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### C. PUBLIC SERVICES

<b>COMMITMENT 9: Simplification of administrative procedures and regulations – ePAPER</b>	
Ongoing - Q1 2021	
Lead implementing agency	Public Policy Secretariat
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	
Problem addressed by the commitment	<p>There is no integrated database of currently applicable administrative requirements (procedures) in the existing public administration system. For this reason, economic operators and citizens wishing to start their own business often do not know where to ask or how to find information about administrative procedures and other conditions for pursuing a business activity and costs of services provided by state administration bodies. This often leads to unjustified additional expenses and waste of time for public service users. In 2016, administrative expenses of businesses equalled 3.46% of GDP. Once this commitment is implemented, administrative expenses of businesses should be cut by 15-20%, to 3% of GDP. A comprehensive and up-to-date electronic database of administrative procedures and requirements would give citizens and businesses ready access to necessary information, thereby avoiding the incurrence of these additional expenses.</p>
Main objective	<p>A single public register is an objective pursued by the project implemented by the Government of the Republic of Serbia entitled ePAPER. The single public register of administrative procedures is being established in parallel with a process of simplification of administrative procedures and soliciting initiatives from businesses and citizens for changes and improvements to the existing processes. This public register will give citizens and businesses access to all administrative requirements and procedures that need to be achieved and met in order to exercise a right or obligation. The register will</p>

	<p>provide all necessary information on the selected procedures – the required documentation, the timeframe and the admissibility of appeals, including all expenses in the form of fees, surcharges etc. Simplification of the procedure, slashing of unnecessary levies and digitalisation of the most common procedures will reduce the business expenses of economic operators in the pursuit of their business activity. This will increase predictability and transparency of business. Communication with economic operators is key for compliance with this commitment, with recommendations and proposals for simplification, modification or improvement of administrative procedures, because it will be the best way to identify procedures which lead to wasteful spending of resources of economic operators, i.e. those that create the heaviest administrative burden in terms of frequency, complexity or expenses.</p>
<p>How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?</p>	<p>The register will be a publicly available database of all administrative procedures and other conditions for pursuing a business activity imposed by public administration bodies and organisations. Economic operators and citizens will have a one-stop-shop where they will obtain all necessary information relevant for a specific procedure, including: whether there is an application form (to download); to whom the application should be submitted and if it may be submitted electronically; what other documentation is required, in what form and whether there are steps to be completed before that (certification by a notary public etc.); what are the financial expenses (fees, surcharges etc.); the timeframe for deciding on applications; the validity term of the issued document and the possibility of appeal.</p> <p>Such publicly available information will help economic operators save resources, leaving them more time to focus on the pursuit of their business activity. Simplification of procedures will reduce administrative burden by eliminating obstacles to simple compliance of economic operators with their obligations, which will make the business climate in the Republic of Serbia more favourable and attractive to prospective investors.</p> <p>Implementation of this commitment began in June 2016, when the Working Group held its first meeting. The following results have been achieved to date: 84 authorities and organisations actively participated in the inventorying of administrative procedures; 35 trainings have been held for the representatives of all authorities which participated in the inventorying of administrative procedures, with 16 trainers of civil servants and</p>

	<p>479 civil servants from 107 authorities and organisations trained; 2500 procedures have been inventoried in a uniform manner; and an analysis has been made of almost all procedures (99%), as a first step in the process of issuing recommendations for simplification of administrative procedures.</p> <p>In addition, a set of documents comprising the Methodology for Simplification of Administrative Procedures has been prepared (Guidance for Analysis of Simplification of Administrative Procedures and Methodology for Calculating Administrative Expenses). The first 254 recommendations for simplification of procedures have been made. Five recommendations have been accepted, which marks the beginning of implementation; three of those recommendations will be fully implemented as of 1 January 2019, resulting in the abolishment of three procedures and the saving of 3.6 billion dinars in expenses for the economy in 2019.</p> <p>The Draft Law on the Single Public Register is currently being developed. It will constitute the legal basis for the establishment of the Register and will set forth the obligations and duties of state authorities in terms of data entry and updating.</p> <p>A form for inventorying administrative requirements and other conditions for the pursuit of business activity has been prepared and trainings have been held for the civil servants who will be inventorying these requirements.</p> <p>The portal <a href="http://www.epapir.rs.jp.gov.rs">www.epapir.rs.jp.gov.rs</a> has been launched to solicit initiatives for improvement and modification of existing procedures and to ensure the necessary cooperation with businesses.</p>
<p>The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values</p>	<p>Compliance with this commitment will improve the quality of public services and improve the reputation of public administration, facilitate communication between authorities and enable data exchange. The Register will contribute to greater transparency in the actions of public administration, bring about to fewer opportunities for abuse and corruption and facilitate day-to-day operations of economic operators.</p>
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>Funding for the implementation of this commitment has been secured from the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to improvement of the business environment, an EU Project (IPA 2013) worth EUR 2,301,120.</li> <li>• Improving the Business Environment, a project of the UK Good Governance Fund implemented by the International</li> </ul>



	<p>Financial Corporation (IFC), worth EUR 4,072,085.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPA project – Implementation of the Services Directive 2006/123/EC and establishment of a single electronic contact point. The total approved amount is EUR 2,000,000 and the tendering procedure is underway.</li> <li>• GIZ project Support to Public Administration Reform in Serbia, worth EUR 200,000</li> </ul> <p>This commitment is planned in the Action Plan on Implementation of the Strategy for Regulatory Reform and Improvement of the Public Policy Management System 2016-2017</p>	
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. The Bill on Single Public Register adopted	May 2017 – forming of the Working Group on preparation of the Draft Law	Q1 2020
2. Inventory of administrative procedures at autonomous province level completed	Q1 2019	Q4 2019
3. Soliciting of initiatives from businesses and citizens for modification, improvement or abolishment of procedures or ineffective regulations	Q2 2018 (May 2018)	Implemented continually
4. 500 most frequent and most expensive procedures simplified or abolished	Q1 2018	Q1 2021
5. 100 procedures for the issuing of licences, permits etc. digitalised	Q1 2018 (February 2018)	Q1 2021
6. Single public register of administrative procedures and other conditions for the pursuit of business activity established	Q1 2016 (March 2016)	Q1 2021
Contact information		
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency	Ninoslav Kekić	
Title, Department	Acting Assistant Director, Sector for Quality Assurance of	

		Public Policies
	Email and phone number	Ninoslav Kekić, 333 4203
Other actors involved	Administration	Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia All interested economic operators

<b>COMMITMENT 10: Establishment of an e-Notice Board for all state administration and local self-government bodies</b>	
Q2 2019 – Q3 2019	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	

<p>Problem addressed by the commitment</p>	<p>The Law on General Administrative Procedure sets for the procedure and ways of public service of writs on parties. One of the ways is publishing of writs on the websites and notice boards of authorities.</p> <p>However, many administration bodies do not have a dedicated e-notice board on their websites, which makes it difficult for parties in proceedings to find information. In addition, there is no legal certainty for parties in administrative procedures (natural and legal persons) who are served writs in this way, because they are unable to find the required documents on the websites, while deadlines begin on the date of publishing of a writ on a notice board.</p> <p>Furthermore, state administration bodies and LSGUs also have an obligation to publish on their notice boards other documents relating to various public calls, amendments to planning documents and public procurement; individual documents, general bylaws of local self-governments etc.</p> <p>At present, the only way to publicly serve other documents and gain access to them is on the notice boards placed inside the buildings of the relevant administration bodies, which are in practice not readily accessible to natural and legal persons and are often difficult to read due to the sheer number of documents posted.</p>
<p>Main objective</p>	<p>Implement e-Notice Boards on the websites of all state administration and local self-government bodies</p>
<p>How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?</p>	<p>In accordance with the principle of legality, protection of rights of parties and effectiveness and cost-efficiency for parties in an administrative procedure, natural and legal persons will be able to see in one place (on an e-Notice Board), free of charge, all documents served by a body on the parties. Administration bodies will be able to serve more efficiently those writs that must be publicly served under the law. Citizens and businesses will have access to all documents published in hard copy on internal notice boards by state administration bodies and LSGUs, when they exercise delegated state administration tasks within the scope of rights and duties of the Republic (including information relating to various public calls, amendments to planning documents and public procurement; individual documents, general bylaws of local self-governments etc. will also be posted). All of these will be available in one place – on an e-Notice Board.</p>

The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values		<p>This commitment concerns improved access to information and freedom of information.</p> <p>It is relevant for transparency and contributes to legal certainties (a party in an administrative procedure will know they can find a document addressed to them on the website of the relevant authority). Based on documents served in this way, the party may initiate further proceedings, file complaints etc.</p> <p>This commitment will contribute to openness and accountability of government through the use of new technologies and innovation.</p>	
Additional information			
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date		Start Date:	End Date:
1. Working Group formed		Q2 2019	Q2 2019
2. Amendments to the Regulation on Office Operations of State Administration Bodies prepared or a new Regulation drafted		Q2 2019	Q3 2019
3. Amendments to the Regulation on Office Operations of State Administration Bodies adopted		Q3 2019	Q3 2019
<b>Contact information</b>			
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency		Natalija Pavlović Šiniković	
Title, Department		Assistant Minister, MPALSG – Sector for Development of Good Governance	
Email and phone number		natalija.pavlovic@mduls.gov.rs	
Other actors involved	Administration	Office for Information Technologies and e-Government	

	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	CSOs that are members of the OGP Working Group

#### **D. ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

<b>COMMITMENT 11: Improving proactive transparency – Information Booklet</b>	
Ongoing – upon expiry of fourteen months of the date of when the new Instructions come into force	
Lead implementing agency	Implementing agency for activities 1,3,4,5,6 : MPALSG Implementing agency for activity 2: Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	
Problem addressed by the commitment	The Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance, which came into force in 2004, provides that transparency in the work of public administration bodies can be achieved in two ways: proactively and reactively. Proactive transparency implies timely publishing of documents and availability of understandable information for citizens. Information booklets on the work of public authorities and their content are defined by the by the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance and they include information used or generated by public administration bodies in their work. The currently applicable arrangement for publishing the Information Booklets (in <i>Word/PDF</i> formats) and the updating system lead to insufficient data, make any attempt at oversight an arduous task and provide limited possibilities for comparison of information, which reduces citizens' overall awareness of the issues.

	<p>The results of a survey carried out by the Belgrade Open School at the local self-government unit level showed that information booklets generally tend to lack the most sensitive information, especially information about the budget, which was observed in 69% of all cases. Only 16% of all municipalities published information about public procurement, while 11% published information about awarded state aid and various forms of financial support to public and other enterprises. About a half of all information booklets of LSGUs in Serbia (47%) do not contain information about e.g. documents and requirements necessary to exercise a social security entitlement or about the issuance of a certificate of registration with the register of births.</p>
<p>Main objective</p>	<p>The planned amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance, namely its Article 39 and Article 3 that defines the concept of a public authority body and the concept of a government body within the meaning of this Law, to which category of authorities refers obligation to publish the Information Booklet, as well as amendments to the Instructions on Preparation of Information Booklets, will see the information contained in those Information Booklets reformatted with the aim of opening the data contained therein, improving proactive transparency and expanding the circle of administration bodies subject to the legal requirement of publishing Information Booklets. This will entail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Development of a single IT system to access, process and present the Information Booklet;</li> <li>2) Designing a segment of an online platform that would serve as an Information Booklet, coupled with an obligation for public authorities to publish information booklets in <i>PDF</i> format;</li> <li>3) Training of employees in government bodies for the use of a single IT system;</li> <li>4) Piloting the use of the application;</li> <li>5) Promotion of the application (single IT system) for the public, civil sector, business sector and the media.</li> </ol> <p>Effectiveness of the amendments to Article 39 of the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance would be delayed until the online platform is designed (until technical requirements are complied with).</p>
<p>How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?</p>	<p>The planned amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance, namely its Article 39 and Article 3 that defines the concept of a public authority body and the concept of a government body within the meaning of this Law, to which category of authorities refers obligation to publish the Information Booklet, as well as amendments to the Instructions on Preparation of Information Booklets, will see the information contained in those Information Booklets reformatted with the aim of opening the data contained therein and improving proactive transparency. In addition, harmonisation of these two documents would encourage the administration at all levels to open data in accordance with the “Open Data Readiness Assessment” published in December 2015.</p> <p>In order to increase civic participation, it will first be necessary to</p>

	<p>raise citizens' awareness, both in quantitative and in qualitative terms. In this context, the level of comprehensibility of information made available to citizens by the public administration should also be taken into account. Only if citizens fully comprehend information that is provided to them proactively can it be considered that citizens have been properly informed. Reformatting of the information booklets would entail changes in the data entry and updating arrangements, which in turn would have direct effects on citizens' awareness and facilitate the work of civil servants and oversight of compliance with the Law.</p> <p>If adopted, this measure would ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public administration bodies would be able to prepare their Information Booklets in a more efficient and faster manner because they would be prepared exclusively electronically;</li> <li>- Information booklets would contain absolutely all data specified by the law, i.e. there would be no incomplete information booklets – the application would not be able to close if all specified data have not been entered;</li> <li>- The number of freedom of information requests would be reduced because all pieces of information would be available in a single central database and because expanding the circle of persons subject to the duty to apply the law would have impact on the availability and quality of published information;</li> <li>- Public administration would be significantly improved because all pieces of information would be available in a single central database, both for other authorities and for citizens;</li> <li>- Updating of data in information booklets would be improved because of the duty to register changes within a much shorter time limit;</li> <li>- The system used for overseeing compliance with the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance would be more efficient because oversight procedures would be more expedient and the oversight activities would be conducted to a higher standard of quality;</li> <li>- Interested parties would have easier and faster access to the required information, which they would be able to download in an open format, compare, cross-check and use for further analysis, research and development of various applications;</li> <li>- Civic participation would improve significantly, as would the <i>watchdog</i> role of the media and citizens' oversight of the work of public authorities.</li> </ul>
<p>The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values</p>	<p>The proactive transparency principle is fully compliant with the open government principles, which are also proclaimed by the OGP initiative. Timely provision of information in an open format would directly improve data accessibility, which will ensure transparency and accountability in the work of public administration and foster civic participation and influence on the work of public administration.</p> <p>Provision of information in an <i>open data</i> format would enable subsequent processing of information and easier development of services and digital solutions for certain social services or social changes (e.g. development of a web or mobile application which</p>

	would provide necessary information on required documentation to citizens.	
Additional information		
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance (the “Law”)	Ongoing	Q2 2019
2. Passing of new Instructions on Preparation and Publishing of Information Booklets (the “Instructions”)	On the date when the Law comes into force	Two months of the date when the Law comes into force
3. Development of a single IT system to access, process and present Information Booklets	On the date when the new Instructions come into force	Upon expiry of one month of the date when the new Instructions come into force
4. Training of employees at government bodies in the use of a single IT system	Two months of the date when the new Instructions come into force	Upon expiry of fourteen months of the date when the new Instructions come into force
5. Piloting the use of the application	At the beginning of the fourth month of the date when the new Instructions come into force	Nine months of the date when the new Instructions come into force
6. Promotion of the application (single IT system) for the public, civil sector, business sector and the media.	Two months of the date when the new Instructions come into force	Fourteen months of the date when the new Instructions come into force
<b>Contact information</b>		
Name of a responsible person in the implementing agency	MPALSG: Ivana Antić Commissioner: Slavoljupka Pavlović	
Title, Department	MPALSG: Assistant Minister, Sector for Human and Minority Rights and Freedoms Commissioner: Assistant Secretary General, Sector for Complaints and Enforcement – Access to Information	



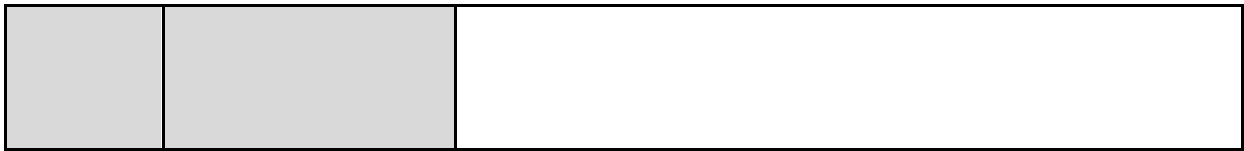
Email and phone number		<a href="mailto:ivana.antic@mduls.gov.rs">ivana.antic@mduls.gov.rs</a> , 011-2641-495  <a href="mailto:slavoljupka.pavlovic@poverenik.rs">slavoljupka.pavlovic@poverenik.rs</a> , 064 847-9-111
Other actors involved	Administration	
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	CRTA – Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability Belgrade Open School (BOS) UNDP

<b>COMMITMENT 12: Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance</b>	
Ongoing - Q2 2019	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government - MPALSG
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	
Problem addressed by the commitment	The Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance is currently being revised. The current revision aims to address certain deficiencies that have been observed in the implementation of the Law in practice. The Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance dates back to 2004. The Law has been praised as excellent in terms of its legislative arrangements, but its implementation in practice has revealed certain deficiencies. It has been observed in practice that there is a need to develop the Law in other directions as well, since certain issues are not properly regulated

	<p>or are not regulated at all. This includes in particular the issue of proactive publishing of information by the authorities on their websites, improving and increasing the transparency of data published in the information booklets, expanding the scope of persons subject to the law, clarifying the procedure for appointment and removal from office, administrative enforcement and other amendments which would comprehensively regulate the application of the right to access information of public importance.</p> <p>The Commissioner for Information of Public Importance received a similar number of complaints in 2016 and 2017 – about 3,500 – mostly in cases of the so-called administrative silence. This shows that the legal enforcement mechanisms cannot be fully implemented in practice.</p> <p>However, the last two years saw progress in this regard, with the institution of infringement proceedings against a number of entities.</p> <p>The Special Working Group on preparation of the Draft Law Amending the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance was formed on 3 November 2016, and many meetings have been held with the competent authorities, as well as with representatives of the Commissioner’s Office, at which the Draft Law was endorsed. In compliance with the proclaimed principles of transparency in the passing of regulations and involvement of the non-governmental sector in the process, a public consultation was held from 5 and 15 February 2018, where representatives of the public and civil sectors made more than 100 suggestions and proposals. A public debate was held from 22 March to 19 April 2018. It included a Round Table held on 27 March, which was attended, in addition to the members of the Special Working Group, also by representatives of state authorities, economic operators, academia and professional associations, eminent experts in this field and representatives of more than 30 civil society organisations. Many suggestions and proposals were received, and it was determined upon analysis that they can be grouped around a certain number of Articles and proposed provisions. Taking into account the importance of this law in the coming years, all these comments will be discussed in great detail through written or direct communication with the participants in the public debate and the Draft Law will be finished and submitted to the competent authorities for opinion and then presented to the Government for adoption.</p>
Main objective	<p>The Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance must be amended to ensure respect of the right to access information and compliance with time limits set by the law. The duty to proactively publish information should also be established.</p> <p>The future Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance must include the following provisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure efficient oversight of lawfulness of operations of public administration bodies and other entities subject to administrative oversight and inspection for violations of the</li> </ol>

	<p>right of access to information of public importance, in compliance with the principle of independence of oversight authorities and the principles of good governance;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. To expand the circle of authorities/persons subject to the law, both newly founded and existing which have not been subject to the law so far although their sphere of competences requires so;</li> <li>3. To reduce reasons for rejecting requests because of abuse of rights specified in the Law, such as frequent submission of requests and volume of information;</li> <li>4. To improve the selection procedure and termination of office of the Commissioner, the position of the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner's Office;</li> <li>5. To introduce the obligation to obtain an opinion of the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection in the process of passing laws, to the extent that those regulations fall within the remit of this authority;</li> <li>6. To improve the situation regarding enforcement of decisions passed by the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection;</li> <li>7. To bring the amount of fines in compliance with the Law on Misdemeanours and to establish a protective mechanism to ensure the achieved level of freedom of information cannot be reduced by other regulations;</li> <li>8. To impose a duty on the authorities subject to this Law to proactively publish information of public importance</li> </ol>
<p>How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?</p>	<p>Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance would address the issues which arose in the implementation of this Law in practice. Proper oversight of implementation of the Law and of the institute of enforcement of the Commissioner's decisions would improve the exercise of the right of access to information and would raise awareness of the importance of this right among the entities subject to this Law. In addition, amendments to the Law which would vest the Commissioner with the power to give opinions in the process of enactment of laws would ensure that the existing level of protection of rights is not reduced by other laws and regulations. Amendments to the Law regarding proactive publishing of information would help reduce the number of appeals filed to the Commissioner due to violations of the right to free access to information of public interest, and improve respect for the right of access to information, which is also enshrined in the Constitution.</p>
<p>The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values</p>	<p>Improvement in the access to information of public importance through amendments of the Law will ensure a higher level of freedom of information, which is also one of the core values of the Partnership. Also, genuine advocacy of improved public administration and fight against corruption must entail transparency in the work of public authorities. The above</p>

	amendments to the Law would ensure that these issues are properly addressed.	
Additional information		
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Finalisation of the work on draft amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance	Ongoing	Q4 2018
2. Submission of the Draft Law to the Government for review and adoption of the Bill	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
<b>Contact information</b>		
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Other actors involved	Administration	Special Working group on preparation of the Draft Law Amending the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	CRTA – Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability



## E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

<b>COMMITMENT 13: Support to improved cooperation between public administration bodies and civil society organisations in the process of drafting, enactment and monitoring of application of regulations</b>	
Q4 2018 - Q2 2020 (December 2018 - June 2020)	
Lead implementing agency	Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	
Problem addressed by the commitment	<p>In 2017, the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society carried out its regular annual survey of cooperation between state and provincial administration authorities and independent bodies and civil society organisations (CSOs) in 2016. The survey included 63 authorities: 47 state administration authorities, 12 provincial administration authorities and 4 independent bodies. The results reveal that 22 of the surveyed authorities have an organisational unit or person in charge of cooperation with the civil society, and as many as 16 of them are state administration authorities. During the observed year, 26 of the surveyed authorities (41.3%) submitted at least one act (draft law, development strategy or action plan) to the Government and 15 of them (57.7%) conducted a public debate. There were 48 public debates in total, meaning that the average number of public debates per authority which held such debates was 3.2. Of the 15 authorities that held public debates, 14 involved CSOs, i.e. representatives of CSOs took part in the public debates on 45 acts. Evidently, national-level administration authorities tend to involve CSOs more in their public debates and the existence of resources for cooperation with CSOs correlates positively with increased participation of CSOs in more organised public debates. The authorities reported that 29 of them (46 %) had other forms of cooperation with CSOs in the passing of regulations, including provision of information, counselling, inclusion or partnership, with provision of information highlighted as the most commonly used approach. As regards inclusion of CSOs in the work of working/project groups and other temporary or ad hoc bodies tasked with drafting regulations, 17 authorities reported they had formed at least one such body which included civil society representatives; the total number of such bodies in 2016 was 48. Compared with previous surveys, the replies received for 2016 vary depending on the segment; however, they are also indicative of a need and scope for further</p>

improvement of cooperation between public administration authorities and CSOs, especially at levels below the national administration.

As part of implementation of the commitments set out in the Action Plan on Implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in the Republic of Serbia in 2016 and 2017, the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society held a total of 6 trainings in 2017 on application of the Guidelines for the Inclusion of CSOs in the Process of Enacting Regulations, which were attended by 108 representatives of local self-governments and CSOs in total. These included 2 trainings for employees at local self-government units (39 participants from 24 local self-governments and 5 city municipalities) and 4 trainings for CSOs (69 participants from 55 civil society organisations active primarily at the local level). The reports of these trainings, which are available at <http://civilnodrustvo.gov.rs/почетна.122.html>, reveal that training objectives have been attained, that the level of satisfaction with the training among the participants is high, that a moderate increase in knowledge of the issues was achieved after the completion of training and that there is a need for further improvement of cooperation between the two sectors. One of the recommendations made in those reports, as well as in the report of the Independent Reporting Mechanism on Implementation of the Action Plan for 2016 and 2017, is to continue strengthening the capacities for cooperation exactly through joint trainings for employees of public administration bodies and representatives of CSOs, as well as through the preparation of a new Manual on Application of the Guidelines for the Inclusion of CSOs in the Process of Enacting Regulations, focusing on good practice examples at the local level. In the three years of application of the Manual on Application of the Guidelines, which was developed by the Office in 2015, it has been found that certain models and levels of cooperation have become common practice in the relations between public administration and CSOs, although there are mechanisms for CSO involvement which would have to be developed further. As a result, numerous examples of good practice have been developed in the meantime for the involvement of CSOs, or the public at large, in the preparation, enactment and monitoring of application of regulations, especially at the local level, with which the general public is not familiar. It has been shown in practice that such examples can be particularly motivating and that they provide additional encouragement for other administration bodies to recognise the importance of CSOs, their potential contribution and cooperation with them.

<p>Main objective</p>	<p>This commitment comprises two parts. The first part is to hold up to 7 trainings which will be jointly attended by employees of public administration bodies and representatives of CSOs. The minimum planned number of participants in the trainings is 140, with approximately equal representation of both sectors. Representatives of public administration bodies will primarily be chosen from among employees in charge of drafting regulations and cooperating with CSOs, focusing on the managerial level, while representatives of CSOs will be selected on the basis of a public call posted on the website of the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society and the partners in the implementation of this activity. The second part of the commitment is to compile, publish and distribute the new Manual on Implementation of the Guidelines for the Inclusion of CSOs in the Process of Enacting Regulations.</p> <p>It is expected that joint trainings for representatives of public administration bodies and CSOs will allow participants to learn more about one another and put themselves “in the other’s shoes”, thereby improving mutual understanding between the two sectors and increasing the level of trust between them, which is one of the core principles and prerequisites for proper inter-sector cooperation. On the other hand, the second edition of the Manual, enriched with practical experiences gathered both by the Office and the public administration bodies themselves, will further motivate and encourage other administration bodies, including in particular local self-government units, to improve their cooperation with CSOs. Unlike the practice followed in the preparation of the current Manual, it is planned to include CSOs in the preparation of the new edition, so they could make suggestions and provide good practice examples to be incorporated in the Manual. Furthermore, it is expected that updating of the list of regulations relevant for cooperation between public administration bodies and CSOs and highlighting of their key provisions will raise awareness of the obligations, as well as opportunities for cooperation, both among public administration bodies and among CSOs.</p> <p>The overall objective of this commitment is to build the capacities of public administration bodies and CSOs to establish sustainable models and mechanisms of cooperation in the process of drafting, enactment and monitoring of application of regulations and public policy documents.</p>
<p>How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?</p>	<p>As indicated in the description of this commitment, capacity building through acquisition and exchange of knowledge and experiences between public administration bodies and CSOs will</p>



	<p>contribute primarily to their better mutual knowledge and understanding and contribute to a relationship of trust between them. Such conditions create potential for more effective application of already established cooperation mechanisms and development of new ones and contribute to greater participation of citizens and CSOs themselves in the drafting and implementation of regulations and public policies, while also ensuring their quality and more efficient application.</p> <p>Designing a proper Training Programme (activity 1) which defines their key elements (objectives, topics and work programme, target groups, training calendar, agenda etc.) is a major cornerstone for all further activities under this commitment. The central activity (activity 2), i.e. organisation and provision of the trainings, will directly concern the problem addressed by the commitment. Specifically, the one-day trainings will provide employees of public administration bodies and representatives of CSOs with information relevant for improving cooperation with CSOs and they will participate in practical exercises, which will provide them with an opportunity to apply the knowledge they acquire during the theoretical part of the training. In addition, both groups of participants will be able to learn first-hand how the other side sees their current cooperation and to jointly propose mechanisms for its improvement. When they complete the training, participants will have a clearer understanding of the importance, potential and advantages of greater public participation in the process of drafting, enacting and monitoring the application of regulations. Reports of trainings (activity 3) will specify the number of participants, the topics covered and key observations and achievements. These reports will also contain recommendations for future activities aimed at improving inter-sectoral cooperation, and the first effects of it will be visible through the evaluation forms and “knowledge quizzes” at the beginning and end of the trainings. Finally, the preparation, publishing and distribution of the Manual on Implementation of the Guidelines (activities 4 and 5) will be an additional form of support, both to public administration bodies and to CSOs, to improve their mutual cooperation.</p>
<p>The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values</p>	<p>This commitment is relevant for citizens’ participation in the drafting, enactment and monitoring of implementation of regulations, as a value promoted and fostered by the Open Government Partnership. Building the capacities of public administration bodies to understand the role and potential of CSOs and possible ways of cooperation with them increases their willingness for and openness to cooperation with the civil sector and with citizens in general. On the other hand, better understanding of legal and other possibilities of cooperation with</p>

	public administration bodies will contribute to greater interest and involvement of CSOs, and through them also citizens, in the work of the administration and drafting of better regulations.	
Additional information	In its report covering the first year of execution of the Action Plan on Implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in 2016 and 2017, the Independent Reporting Mechanism recommended a commitment which would involve joint trainings for public administration bodies and CSOs on ways to improve their cooperation and compiling of a Manual with good practice examples of cooperation between public administration and the civil sector, especially at the local level.	
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Preparation of Training Programme	Q4 2018 (December 2018)	Q1 2019 (March 2019)
2. Execution of trainings	Q2 2019 (April 2019)	Q4 2019 (November 2019)
3. Compiling and publishing of reports with recommendatins	Q4 2019 (November 2019)	Q4 2019 (December 2019)
4. Compiling of the second edition of the Manual	Q1 2020 (January 2020)	Q2 2020 (April 2020)
5. Publishing and distribution of the second edition of the Manual	Q2 2020 (April 2020)	Q2 2020 (June 2020)
<b>Contact information</b>		
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Other actors involved	Administration	
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	CSOs, SCTM

<b>COMMITMENT 14: Creating legal basis and implementing an electronic system for e-civic engagement</b>	
Q2 2018 - Q2 2020	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government Office for Information Technologies and e-Government
<b>Description of Commitment</b>	
Problem addressed by the commitment	The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia guarantees citizens the right to propose laws. On the other hand, the Law on Referendum and Civic Initiatives guarantees citizens the right to propose amendments to the Constitution, laws, other regulations and general acts within the purview of the National Assembly and the assemblies of autonomous provinces, municipalities or cities, to call for referendum on specific issues and submit other petitions in accordance with the Constitution, laws and statutes. However, citizens have no means of swift, ready and simple participation in these processes. The currently applicable law from 1994 imposes very strict conditions for citizens' participation in these processes.

	Citizens therefore rarely opt to exercise their rights by submitting civic initiatives or supporting certain civic initiatives.	
Main objective	As the Law on Referendum and Civic Initiatives is currently being amended, one step further should be made and all existing forms of civic engagement should be enabled electronically. Developed online models for civic participation should be copied and citizens should be allowed to submit initiatives and/or petitions themselves, using a single platform.	
How will this commitment contribute to problem solving?	<p>According to a survey conducted by the organisation CRTA, very few citizens believe their personal engagement can change anything in their society and their environment. On the other hand, the same survey reported a mild increase in the share of citizens who stated a desire and willingness to actively influence decision-making processes (from 25%, in 2014 this share increased to 34% in 2016). Accordingly, it should be made possible for citizens to participate in social processes in an easy, simple and efficient manner.</p> <p>A specific aspect of this commitment is that it would allow citizens to submit initiatives and/or petitions by themselves using this mechanism, which would be forwarded to the competent institutions for discussion and decision-making if they are supported by sufficient online signatures.</p>	
The way in which this commitment is relevant to further advancing OGP values	Implementation of electronic forms of civic engagement would improve citizens' participation in the decision-making process. The existing forms of civic engagement do not keep up with the trends in terms of electronic participation and e-communications and has been shown on several occasions to be too complicated for broad civic participation.	
Additional information	The Action Plan on Implementation of the Public Administration Reform Strategy 2018-2020 provides for the commissioning of a comparative practice study and subsequent amendments to the Law on Civic Initiatives and Referendum in order to improve mechanisms for civic engagement.	
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Drafting and enactment of a new Law on Referendum and	Q2 2018	Q4 2019

Civic Initiatives or amendment of the existing one to improve mechanisms for civic engagement so that the existing forms of civic engagement can be made electronically.		
2. Drafting of secondary legislation and development of e-application(s) which would accurately enable electronic civic engagement in accordance with the amended or new Law on Referendum and Civic Initiatives.	Q4 2019	Q2 2020
<b>Contact information</b>		
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Other actors involved	Administration	
	Civil sector organisations, private sector,	SDC, GIZ, CRTA

	working groups	
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**The Government recommends that the National Assembly implement these activities<sup>26</sup>:**

<b>Increasing transparency and participation at sessions of parliamentary committees of the National Assembly outside of its headquarters</b>	
Q4 2018 - Q1 2020 (October 2018 - February 2020)	
Lead implementing agency	National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
<b>Description</b>	
Problem addressed by the activity	Public opinion surveys and focus group results indicate there is a need to improve knowledge of the public participation mechanisms which exist under the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. An improvement in this area would help build trust in the parliament. The mechanism of sessions outside the headquarters of the National Assembly should ensure greater participation of the civil sector (citizens and civil society), to improve as much as possible access to information on the work of representative bodies. So far, citizens and civil society representatives have not sufficiently participated actively in the discussions during the sessions of parliamentary committees outside the headquarters, nor have they made sufficient use of the opportunities to make proposals and ask questions to members of parliamentary committees, national deputies and representatives of the executive who attend parliamentary committee sessions.
Main objective	To establish two-way communication with citizens via a separate section of the National Assembly website dedicated to sessions outside of the headquarters, in order to give citizens and representatives of the civil society opportunities to raise issues they

<sup>26</sup> This Action Plan also recommends that the Anti-Corruption Agency, the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection and the Business Registers Agency implement the required measures and activities.

	<p>observed in their local communities. Specifically, the National Assembly will develop a subpage through which citizens and civil society representatives will be able to contact the relevant parliamentary committee and submit their proposals or questions in this way. Parliamentary committees of the National Assembly will plan their sessions outside the headquarters on the basis of such proposals.</p> <p>Parliamentary committees of the National Assembly will enable attendance and participation of representatives of citizens and civil society organisations at committee sessions outside of the headquarters when specific issues within the purview of the relevant committee are discussed. Participation will be ensured through a contact form on the subpage dedicated to sessions outside the headquarters, which will create an opportunity for citizens and at least one representative of the civil society to attend sessions outside the headquarters.</p>
<p>How will this activity contribute to problem solving?</p>	<p>In line with the principle of parliamentary transparency, the general public would have access to parliamentary committees of the National Committees, which would ensure two-way communication with citizens. This would give citizens and civil society representatives an opportunity to highlight specific issues, which could potentially result in legislative amendments.</p> <p>Attendance at parliamentary committee sessions would enable them to participate in the discussion, make proposals and ask questions to members of parliamentary committees, national deputies and representatives of the executive who attend parliamentary committee sessions.</p>
<p>The way in which this activity is relevant to further advancing OGP values?</p>	<p>This activity is relevant for civic participation, transparency and public accountability, as values promoted and fostered by the Open Government Partnership. Implementation of the activity will lead to greater involvement of civil society organisations and citizens in decision-making, allowing them to highlight specific issues through two-way communication so that legislative provisions could be amended as appropriate, as well as to greater visibility of issues at the local level. Two-way communication promotes and contributes to greater interest and involvement of civil society organisations and citizens and awareness of the parliament's work, which is conducive to further development of mutual understanding and citizens' trust of the government.</p>
<p>Additional information</p>	<p>No additional budget funds are required to implement this</p>

	commitment.	
Activity with a verifiable deliverable and completion date	Start Date:	End Date:
1. Development of a portal for communication between the National Assembly and citizens within the subpage of the National Assembly  (development, testing and Beta version)	Q4 2018 (October 2018)	Q1 2019 (February 2019)
2. Development of result mapping of all sessions held outside the National Assembly headquarters by cities and municipalities:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research;</li> <li>- Data collection;</li> <li>- Application development;</li> <li>- Infographics;</li> <li>- Testing.</li> </ul>	Q4 2018 (October 2018)	Q2 2019 (June 2019)
3. Development of organisational parameters when preparing and holding sessions of parliamentary committees of the National Assembly outside the headquarters	Q4 2018 (October 2018)	Q1 2020 (February 2020)
4. Minimum five sessions of parliamentary committees of the National Assembly attended by at least two civil society representatives <sup>27</sup>	Q4 2018 (October 2018)	Q1 2020 (February 2020)

<sup>27</sup> Holding of sessions outside the headquarters may depend on other activities of the National Assembly based on the Constitution and laws. In such cases, sessions may be rescheduled.



Contact information		
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Other actors involved	Administration	Office of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
	Civil sector organisations, private sector, working groups	UNDP Serbia, project Strengthening the Oversight Function and Transparency of the National Assembly – stage 2. Network of Serbian civil society organisations, depending on the relevant committee.