

2016-2018 LITHUANIA'S  
ACTION PLAN FOR  
PARTICIPATION IN  
INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE  
OF OPEN GOVERNMENT  
PARTNERSHIP

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# **2016-2018 LITHUANIA'S ACTION PLAN FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE OF OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Relevance of Open Government Partnership Initiative for Lithuania.** Over the past two decades, Lithuania has made significant progress towards a more efficient public administration. Today, many endeavours have been exerted to increase civic awareness and to encourage citizens' participation in public governance. Through its engagement in the international initiative of the Open Government Partnership, Lithuania seeks to support Government's efforts to promote an open and inclusive policy-making and implementation, as well as to improve the government-citizen relationship. Having joined the initiative back in 2011, Lithuania has focussed on delivering its open government partnership commitments in different areas (for example, digital government, accessibility of information, public participation in governance, increased accountability and transparency, and anti-corruption).

Recognizing the importance of the application of the principles of open government in public governance, the Government has defined ambitions commitments leading towards greater openness, transparency, accountability and closer dialogue with the citizens. One of the 2017 Government's priorities is to increase the quality of public services and the efficiency of the public sector, as well as to promote open government and public participation in governance.

Lithuania's strategic documents, such as the national progress strategy Lithuania's Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030' (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy 'Lithuania 2030'), 2014-2020 National Progress Programme, Public Governance Improvement Programme for 2012-2020, the National Anti-corruption Programme of the Republic of Lithuania for 2015-2020, the Information Society Development Programme for 2014-2020 'Digital Agenda for the Republic of Lithuania', etc., also provide for the increased open government goals and implementing measures. Lithuania's participation in the Open Government Partnership initiative reinforces the national aspiration to build an open, transparent and participatory public governance, at the same time promoting the implementation of best practice-based open government initiatives shared by advanced economies. Our preference of the Open Government Partnership initiatives has been greatly affected by our country's decision to join the Economic Organisation of Co-operation and Development (hereinafter referred to as the OECD). The OECD welcomes the participation in the international Open Government Partnership initiative, and international cooperation in sharing best practices in public governance. This is a compelling incentive for the improvement of government openness and government-citizen dialogue.

### **Preparation of 2016-2018 Lithuania's Action Plan for participation in the international Open Government Partnership Initiative (hereinafter referred to as the Plan)**

The Plan will adhere to the public governance goals provided for in Lithuania's strategic documents, particularly focussing on the challenges of today and ways to address them.

The Plan was worked out by the Working Group having resumed its activities under Order No V-34 of the Chancellor of the Government of 7 March 2016 "On Setting up a Working Group". New

members from the non-governmental sector joined the Working Group, namely: from the Civil Society Institute, Transparency International, NGO Information and Support Centre.

A mid-term review of the Open Government Partnership Action Plan was presented, together with non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as NGOs), in the extended meeting of the Working Group, with recommendations for increased Government openness and development of a new Open Government Partnership Action Plan. A discussion was held on potential open government partnership initiatives and new trends in the Action Plan.

The Working Group members also presented the progress of Lithuania's participation in the international initiative of Open Government Partnership and the guidelines of the new Open Government Partnership Action Plan to the NGO Board (hereinafter referred to as the NGO Board), which consists of NGOs and public institutions.

Following the discussions with the stakeholders and members of the Working Group, public consultations were opened on the Draft Action Plan: <http://epilietis.lrv.lt/lt/konsultacijos/pasiulymai-atviros-vyriausybes-partnerystes-veikloms>.

## **COMPLETED OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES**

2014-2016 Lithuania's Action Plan for Participation in the Open Government Partnership Initiative provides for the following guidelines with regard to the latest developments and initiatives: 1) citizen-focused public services, 2) public participation in governance, 3) openness to the public of the activities of government institutions (open data), 4) preventing corruption, and promoting transparency. The Plan was drafted in consideration of achieved results.

### **Initiative: citizen-focused public services**

A centralized administrative and public services directory, public and administrative services portal and analytical information system have been developed. In collaboration with 217 national and municipal institutions and agencies, detailed information about locally delivered services was collected, which has resulted in the inventory of more than 9 000 services. A methodology for the assessment of service delivery has been worked out, together with service monitoring indicators.

A methodical publication "Service Benchmarking. Recommendations for Public Service Providers" was drawn up. The recommendations lay down practical instructions for public service providers on appropriate preparation of citizens' charters, adequate service standards, and their relevance to institutional performance targets and measurement criteria

In 2014-2015, a project "Bringing Municipal Services Online" was implemented, which has resulted in online service availability across 64 Lithuanian municipalities. They are all accessible via Lithuania e-government gateway: [www.epaslaugos.lt](http://www.epaslaugos.lt).

Resolution No 630 "On Approval of the Action Plan for Reduction of Administrative Burden in 2014–2015" of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 2 July 2014 provides for an increase in the number of electronic services rendered by public institutions. In 2014, all the 8 services for business and 8 from 12 services provided to the population were bought online (i.e., 16 from 20 key e-services, or 80 per cent, were fully accessible via Internet).

### **Initiative: public participation in governance**

NGO Board became operational as of December 2014. Since then it has approved a declaration of impartiality, drew up and approved NGO Board's Activity Plan for 2015-2016 and the priorities, set up working groups for individual NGO-related issues (NGO legal regulation,

programming and monitoring of investments under EU Structural Support 2014-2020, development of NGO registry/database, overseeing the creation of the Civil Society Fund and national programmes, cross-sectoral cooperation).

The Programme for Self-Government of Local Communities for 2013-2015 involved 60 municipalities. For the implementation of the Programme in 2014, LTL 8 mln allocation was earmarked. The majority of the projects focused on improvement of public spaces and the overall quality of the environment, cultural-educational activities and increased involvement in extracurricular activities of children and the youth. The 2015 programme has received Eur 2,606,580 euros (LTL 9 mln.); it involved all the 60 municipalities in Lithuania. The Programme for Self-Government of Local Communities for 2013-2015 encouraged local actors to cooperate for common goals, take active part in local decision-making, and increased their responsibility for the common matters.

Following the extensive discussion, in 2015, general programmes of the Lithuanian language and literature in primary and basic education for all Lithuanian ethnic communities have been drafted. They are expected to be approved this autumn and practically introduced as of 2016. The reviewed programmes aim to provide pupils with education fundamentals in humanities required for a young individual's moral, intellectual, national and civic maturity.

Two methodical Lithuanian language-learning tools for pre-school and pre-primary schoolteachers have been developed. They provide methodological advice to teachers on how to develop pupils' competence to consciously use the Lithuanian language, as well as how to develop civic and national self-awareness under the conditions of bilingualism, in a multicultural environment.

In 2015, the Civic Education Programme was updated and supplemented with improved methodical material for teachers (published on the website of the Education Development Centre). The Ministry of Education has also carried out a variety of citizenship projects, and continues to do so. The most important development areas include media literacy and social activities (the 2015 project on media and information literacy fosters openness and critical approach, the 2014 project "Building a Republic" promoted honesty, mutual assistance, and love for the country by trying to know it better).

General education plans for 2015-2016 feature an increased number of social-civic activity lessons (hours): from 5 to 20 or more over the school year (depending on the age of pupils). Instructions have been issued as regards school's obligation to provide for pupils in secondary education to voluntarily engage in social -civic or other socially useful activities.

Civic society institute conducted a civic empowerment study, which revealed the growing civic empowerment among students (in 2012, it scored 47.6 points from 100 possible, while in 2014 it went up to 52.4 points), which is much higher than the overall national index.

#### **Initiative: preventing corruption, promoting transparency**

In 2015, the recast Rules for the Examination of Individual Applications and Individual Service in Public Administration Institutions, Agencies and Other Public Administration Entities were approved. The new provisions were to facilitate the process of individual application to public administration institutions and agencies, and for public administration institutions and agencies – a more efficient and better procession and examination of applications and service rendering. Greater possibilities for the people to access public administration institutions and agencies electronically, recorded filing of applications and clearer process of application examination increases transparency

of these procedures and reduces the likelihood of the manifestation of corruption factors in public administration institutions and agencies.

The Law Amending Articles 13 and 15 of the Law on Local Government No I-533 enabled the establishment of anti-corruption commissions in the responsible municipal institutions, preparation of questionnaires designed to help civil service employees recognize the potential conflicts of interests, deepen theoretical and practical knowledge in this area.

With a view to increasing public intolerance of corruption, the SIS officers, on a regular basis, deliver lectures to different social groups, a new system of information about the liability for corruption-related violations of law has been introduced in all ministries and their subordinate institutions, training related to anti-corruption activity is organized for employees of all state and municipal institutions and agencies. For several years on a regular basis the Public Institution Lithuanian National Radio and Television has been broadcasting reports and programmes on anti-corruption, social video advertisements have been created and broadcasted via television or outdoor screens. Also, anti-corruption education has been introduced and is actively implemented in general education and higher education schools, also, youth social actions, drawing, essay-writing and filmmaking contests on the topic of corruption prevention are held on a regular basis.

Incentives for illegal payments in the area of health care have been reduced, including setting of a standard for provision of information to patients (indicating what kind of information should be provided on the information boards and websites of health care institutions as well as criminal liability for payment (unofficial) of a bribe, phone numbers of responsible persons of the institution, phone number of the Special Investigation Service, confidential phone number of the Ministry of Health. Medical Staff Code of Conduct has been introduced in health care institutions. The Ministry of Health, together with SIS, held meetings-discussions with the management and medical personnel of personal health care institutions. As shown by the survey conducted in 2015, the number of persons who visited a health care institution and paid unofficial fees to the medical personnel has decreased to 17 per cent of the total number of visitors to health care institutions (in 2013, persons offering unofficial payments accounted for 21 per cent)

Transparency International Corruption Perception Index demonstrated visible growth: in 2013 – 57, in 2014 – 58, in 2015 – 59, in 2016 – 60. The result was better than expected: in 2015 Corruption Perception Index (CPI)<sup>1</sup> survey, Lithuania scored 61 point from 100, making to the 32<sup>nd</sup> place among 168 countries on the list (in 2014, Lithuania scored 58 points and was 39<sup>th</sup> among 174 countries). Last year Lithuania was 16<sup>th</sup> among the EU Member States, and 18<sup>th</sup> – among the EU and Western European countries. This result shows that the state is attributable to the group of countries able to better control corruption and seeking to become more transparent.

## **OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP FOCUS AREAS AND ACTIONS**

Open Government Partnership values include transparency, efficiency and accountability.

Lithuania's vision of Open Government Partnership includes open, transparent and citizen-focused Lithuanian Government, putting efforts to increase citizens' participation in public affairs, to improve public services and decision-making/implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> CPI is one of the world's most famous annual corruption perception survey. This index is an important source of information for the international political institutions, business and financial organisations, considering investment and new business development in a country.

Lithuanian Open Government Partnership mission is to change behavioural culture among public governance institutions, with a view to achieving closer civic participation in governance, greater publicity in decision-making and improved service quality.

**I. Openness to the public of the activities of government institutions:**

1. To create Lithuania's open data portal, and integrate into the European single digital market.
2. To develop and implement measures for publicizing information about government activities and civic participation in governance.

**II. Preventing corruption and promoting transparency:**

1. To publish online information about revenues and spending of national and municipal institutions.
2. To create and broadcast social advertisements that target corruption in the healthcare system.
3. To create legal, organizational and technical tools to easily access detailed information about election and voting procedures, participation in the elections, donations to political campaign participants.

**III. Increased civic participation and engagement in public governance:**

1. To create a public consultation mechanism.
2. To foster open public governance culture in public sector by introducing values of Open Government Partnership.
3. To create a NGO database.
4. Create a NGO fund.

<b>I. Openness to the public of the activities of government institutions:</b>		
1. To build Lithuania's open data portal, and integrate into the European single digital market.		
Commitment Start and End Date		31 May 2016 – 31 December 2018.
Lead implementing institution/agency		Information Society Development Committee under the Ministry of Transport and Communications.
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Ministries and their subordinate bodies.
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	
Status quo or problem addressed by the commitment		<p>Opening of public sector data encourages effective re-use of public sector information for the development of innovative e-services, and it also serves as significant potential for business development, being particularly relevant for small and medium businesses. So far, no adequate conditions have been provided in Lithuania for full-fledged use of information collected by public institutions. Although the state has stored volumes of digital information resources capable of ensuring smooth inter-institutional communication and communication with citizens and businesses, there are no required conditions for opening up public data for private use.</p> <p>Only a small part of the institutions supply data files in open formats suitable for creation of machine-reading and further processing services. Most of the data are supplied in fragmented transcripts or formats unsuitable for machine reading, or they are not supplied at all, as they are related to personal data, or national economic, social, judicial or other interests, data subject information or other information of legally restricted public use. EU Member States and the Europe are developing open data access tools that allow EU Member States to access and dispose of information resources of other EU Member States. However, Lithuania has not as yet had the necessary infrastructure for supplying open data to EU Member States, or for accessing and disposing of other EU Member States' open data, as it integrates in a single European digital market.</p>
Main objective		Create centrally managed technical tools enabling people and businesses to have, without preconditions, a convenient access to public sector data for business development and non-governmental initiatives.
Brief description of commitment		The EU policy trends, related strategic documents, as well as the latest developments in the area of open data in Lithuania, have necessitated the development of IT infrastructure, the open data portal for opening Lithuanian public data to business and people, which would enable a

	<p>free and convenient access to data managed by Lithuanian and EU public institutions, for the purpose of business development as well as non-governmental initiatives.</p> <p>The open data portal would centrally store and distribute the metadata of open data, provide for central handling of open data in terms of their preparation, procession, compilation, retrieval and convenient delivery to users, which would otherwise require more resources from individual institutions, and the entire public sector to that matter; it would also make available all open data-based applications. Centrally handled anonymization of the information, removal of commercial information or other legally protected information, conversion to open formats would enable a more flexible and relatively cheaper implementation of technological solutions improving access to open data. The national open data portal will be integrated with the <i>EU Open Data Portal</i> providing access to the open data spaces.</p>			
Relevance to OGP values	Transparency	Efficiency	Accountability	
	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Expected outcomes	<p>Creation of centralized access to the Lithuanian public sector open data metadata and data sets.</p> <p>Creation of convenient technical possibilities to find and get open data.</p> <p>Introduction of advanced metadata management techniques.</p> <p>Development of public sector capacity in the field of open data.</p> <p>Integration of Lithuanian open data into the EU single digital market.</p>			
Progress achieved	Not started	Started (1–2/4)	Halfway/completed (3/4)	Completed (4/4)
Description of specific outputs	<p>Creation of an open data portal combining requisite technological means of metadata management, data anonymization and elimination, other statutory access restrictions, data conversion to open formats, finding semantic relationships, data retrieval and presentation management.</p> <p>Creation/application of the existing interface required for an automated data delivery.</p> <p>Development of metadata management guide, training of professionals in state institutions.</p> <p>Integration of the open data portal with the EU Open Data Portal.</p>			
Additional information				



Major challenges facing the implementation of the commitment: involvement of ministries and their subordinate institutions into open data initiative, the collection of data in open formats, and the integration of the open data portal with the EU Open Data Portal.

<b>Openness to the public of the activities of government institutions</b>	
2. To develop and implement measures for publicizing information about government activities and civic participation in governance.	
Commitment Start and End Date	31 December 2016 – 31 December 2017.
Lead Implementing Agency	Office of the Government.
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups
Status quo or problem addressed by the commitment	<p>Currently, there is a lack of uniform communication and measures for shaping a positive image of the activities of public institutions, enabling appropriate and efficient communication of the message about the value of public consultations for the population. What is missing as regards the uniform communication, is common visual identity, messages communicating the proposal of the value and other means of communication to ensure uniform and high-quality delivery of information to the people on public consultations, and to motivate involvement in public governance.</p> <p>First, government-accountable institutions and agencies lack common standards for publicizing information about government activities; second, communication is effected by different institutions with different communication skills and resources, which prevents uniform message of Government activities.</p> <p>A more effective and faster public communication calls for the use of the public information channels that are in line with the latest communication trends. Social networks currently claim strong positions in this regard. 65 per cent of the average age of Lithuania's population use the Internet every day, most of them have Facebook accounts. 37 per cent of the population aged 15-74 access Facebook on daily basis (TNS data 2016). Effective communication in social networks requires an active generation of interesting content and high-quality visual presentation.</p>
Main objective	To increase accessibility to information about governmental activities and civic engagement in governance.
Brief description of commitment	Public information about the activities of the Government should be easily accessible and presented in a clear and understandable form in most appropriate for them communication channels. At the same time, the public has to have access information on public governance processes

	and participation possibilities. It is necessary not only to systematically publicize this information, but also to ensure methodological assistance to institutions and strengthen their capacities needed for greater openness of public governance processes.			
Relevance to OGP values	Transparency	Efficiency	Accountability	
	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Expected outcomes	Information about the activities of the Government will be accessible to the public and presented it in a clear and understandable form. It will produce common standards for publicizing governmental activities and provide methodological assistance to institutions in terms of building their capacities needed to increase openness of public governance processes.			
Progress achieved	Not started	Started (1–2/4)	Halfway/completed (3/4)	Completed (4/4)
	Yes			
Description of specific outputs	Development of the guidelines (recommendations) for the publicity of governmental activities with a view to ensure appropriate for the people publicizing of governmental activities, focusing on a common standard, interactivity, feedback and efficiency, through the application of the latest uniform communication standards, methods and tools. Creation of an interactive electronic newsletter on governmental activities. Development of a <i>PowerPoint</i> template for the presentation of governmental activities. Creation of templates for publicizing government activities "Open Government" publicity campaign in "Facebook" social network.			
Additional information				

<b>II. Preventing corruption, promoting transparency</b>		
1. To publish online information about revenues and spending of national and municipal institutions.		
Commitment Start and End Date		Commitment Start and End Date
Lead Implementing Agency		Lead Implementing Agency
Other Actors Involved	Other Actors Involved	Information Society Development Committee under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Special Investigation Service, Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania.
Status quo or problem addressed by the commitment		
Main objective		To publish regular information in the electronic media about the revenue and expenses of the State

	and municipal authorities and agencies in order to prevent conditions for corruption and corruption risks.			
Brief description of commitment	The objective is to create legal basis, which will provide conditions for the provision of information and data electronically to citizens about the revenue and expenses of the State and municipal institutions and agencies, and fund recipients. Also, an information system to make public the revenue and expenses of the State and municipal institutions and agencies, and fund recipients, will be created and launched.			
Relevance to OGP values	Transparency	Efficiency	Accountability	
	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Expected outcomes				
Progress achieved	Not started	Started (1–2/4)	Halfway/completed (3/4)	Not started
		Yes		
Description of specific outputs	Legal acts regulating electronic provision of data and information on the revenue and expenses of the state and municipal institutions and agencies, and fund recipients, to the public have been drafted. An information system to make public the revenue and expenses of the State and municipal institutions and agencies, and fund recipients, has been created and launched.			
Additional information				
The commitment has been planned as a separate measure in the Interinstitutional Action Plan for 2015-2019 of the National Anti-Corruption Programme for 2015-2025.				

<b>II. Preventing corruption, promoting transparency</b>		
2. To create and broadcast social advertisements that target corruption in the healthcare system.		
Commitment Start and End Date		1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016.
Lead Implementing Agency		Ministry of Health.
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Special Investigation Service.
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	
Status quo or problem addressed by the commitment		Until now, awareness has been raised only across healthcare institutions, by handing out stickers with a slogan: “The best gratitude to a doctor is a smile of a patient and a word of thanks”. It had no effect, however, on the general public and potential patients.

Main objective	To reduce factors for the rise and spread of corruption in healthcare system. To publish regular information about measures for corruption prevention in order to reduce informal payments and eradicate conditions for the rise of corruption, as well as the risks for the rise of corruption in healthcare system.			
Brief description of commitment	<p>Publicity on corruption prevention in healthcare system will be created and will be broadcast every year by 31 December 2019.</p> <p>In order to apply targeted anti-corruption measures, a strategy to implement anti-corruption publicity (corruption prevention in healthcare system) will be created.</p> <p>A plan of measures will be drawn up: aims and objectives for anti-corruption publicity will be set, specific entities responsible for drafting and provision of anti-corruption information to its disseminators will be appointed, broadcasting intensity will be scheduled, and budget for drafting and dissemination of information will be planned. The anti-corruption publicity implementation system (strategy) is necessary to seek that awareness-raising and education campaigns were carried out systemically and involved several mass media technologies, in order to achieve larger coverage of the information disseminated. A package of audio-visual measures will be developed.</p>			
Relevance to OGP values	Transparency	Efficiency	Accountability	
	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Expected outcomes	<p>It is believed that the number of Lithuanian citizens, who think that they are asked or expected to pay a bribe in return for services, will come down.</p> <p>The number of Lithuanian citizens, who think that they are asked or expected to pay a bribe in return for services (percentage of all the Lithuanian population): In 2016: 27 per cent, in 2017: 26 per cent, in 2018: 25 per cent, in 2019: 24 per cent.</p>			
Progress achieved	Not started	Started (1–2/4)	Halfway/completed (3/4)	Completed (4/4)
	Yes			
Description of specific outputs	A package of audio-visual measures to prevent corruption in healthcare system has been drafted.			
Additional information				

The commitment has been planned as a separate measure in the Interinstitutional Action Plan for 2015-2019 of the National Anti-Corruption Programme for 2015-2025.

<b>II. Preventing corruption, promoting transparency</b>				
3. To create legal, organizational and technical tools to easily access detailed information about election and voting procedures, participation in the elections, donations to political campaign participants.				
Commitment Start and End Date				
Lead Implementing Agency		Central Electoral Commission.		
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Ministry of Justice.		
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups			
Status quo or problem addressed by the commitment		At present, there is no access to detailed information on elections and voting procedures, participation in elections, and donations to a political campaign participant. Both the society and the State and municipal institutions indicate a need to obtain and make use of this information for the purposes of their activities.		
Main objective		To provide public access to detailed information on elections and voting procedures, participation in elections, and donations to the political campaign participants.		
Brief description of commitment		A system will be designed and launched to provide access to detailed information on elections and voting procedures, participation in elections, and donations to a political campaign participant.		
Relevance to OGP values		Transparency	Efficiency	Accountability
		Yes	Yes	Yes
Expected outcomes		Access to detailed information on elections and voting procedures, participation in elections, and donations to a political campaign participant will be given both to the general public and the State and municipal authorities.		
Progress achieved		Not started	Started (1–2/4)	Halfway / completed (3/4)
Expected specific outputs		A system will be designed and launched by the deadline to give access to detailed information on elections and voting procedures, participation in elections, and donations to a political campaign participant.		
Additional information				
The commitment has been planned as a separate measure in the Interinstitutional Action Plan for 2015-2019 of the National Anti-Corruption Programme for 2015-2025.				

<b>III. Increased civic participation and engagement in public governance.</b>				
1. To create public consultation mechanism.				
Commitment Start and End Date		31 December 2016 – 30 June 2018		
Lead Implementing Agency		Office of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.		
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	Ministry of the Interior.		
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups			
Status quo or problem addressed by the commitment		Currently, civic participation in public administration processes is considerably weak. For more active engagement of the public in administration processes, institutions need shared public consultation mechanism regulation and practice of its application. At present, there is no shared methodology for public consultation, no key consultation principles, terms, nor standards have been set, consultation methods have not been described, and institutions lack methodological aid and targeted competences to carry out proper public consultation. It is necessary not only to encourage civic participation, but also to monitor the participation efficiency.		
Main objective		To encourage more active civic participation in public administration processes.		
Brief description of commitment		The commitment to create a public consultation mechanism is linked to the objective to regulate the public consultation procedure, and, having drafted methodological documents, to set a shared consultation practice among institutions.		
Relevance to OGP values		Transparency	Efficiency	Accountability
		Yes	Yes	Yes
Expected outcomes		<p>1. Following analysis of public consultation practice in Lithuania and abroad, public consultation methodology will be drafted, and institutions and agencies accountable to the Government will jointly apply it. Municipal institutions and agencies will be recommended to apply the methodology as well. Public consultation principles, procedure for the organisation and execution of consultations, and participants to the public consultation process, as well as their functions, will be laid down in the methodology.</p> <p>Target outcome: in compliance with the methodology provisions, joint public consultation</p>		

	<p>practice will be shaped, and more active civic engagement will be encouraged.</p> <p>2. In order to ensure proper application of the provisions of the public consultation methodology, guidelines for its application will be drafted. The guidelines will give practical recommendations for institutions on planning, organisation, and execution of public consultation, as well as analysis, assessment, and publication of public consultation results in accordance with the methodology provisions.</p> <p>Target outcome: the guidelines will help institutions achieve optimal way of consultation and will help, through concrete examples, shape joint practice of public consultation.</p> <p>3. In order to encourage institutions to actively apply provisions of the public consultation methodology and to use its application guidelines, an electronic publication will be launched to make these methodological documents public. In order to encourage the society to take part in public consultation, an awareness-raising video clip will be created.</p> <p>Target outcome: an electronic publication and an awareness-raising video clip will be presented (made public) to institutions and the society through various channels of communication, hence encouraging institutions to make use of the methodological documents, and the society to take part in consultations.</p> <p>4. To assess the effect of various means of civic participation on public administration processes, a methodology for monitoring civic participation in public administration processes will be drafted and practically tested. The methodology will provide recommendations for carrying out monitoring, assessment, and publication of results on application of measures for public consultation and other methods of civic participation in public administration processes.</p> <p>5. In compliance with the methodology provisions, regular monitoring and assessment of efficiency of civic participation in public administration processes will be carried out.</p>			
Progress achieved	Not started	Started (1–2/4)	Halfway / completed (3/4)	Completed (4/4)
	Yes			

Expected specific outputs	<p>1. Public consultation methodology has been drafted, 1 psc.</p> <p>2. Guidelines for application of public consultation methodology have been drafted, 1 psc.</p> <p>3. Measures for publication of public consultation methodology and guidelines for its application have been drafted, 2 psc.</p> <p>4. Methodology for monitoring civic participation in public administration processes has been drafted, 1 psc.</p>
Additional information	

<b>III. Increased civic participation and engagement in public governance</b>	
2. To foster open public governance culture in public sector by introducing values of Open Government Partnership.	
Commitment Start and End Date	31 December 2016 – 30 June 2018
Lead Implementing Agency	Office of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups
Status quo or problem addressed by the commitment	Often civil servants and employees fail to grasp full importance of open government and open public administration. Even those civil servants, who understand this, lack knowledge and skills as regards application of the open public administration principles.
Main objective	To build competencies of civil servants and employees, to foster open public administration culture, and to create a forum for cooperation between the State and municipal institutions and civil society devoted for sharing best practices in application of the open public administration principles.
Brief description of commitment	It is important that civil servants and employees, who deal with citizens in their daily tasks, understood well the essence and methods of open public administration, and correctly apply the principles of open public administration in their daily work. It is necessary that the State and municipal institutions had a platform for an organised cooperation with the civil society, which would help understand the essence and methods of open public administration, and create preconditions



	for the public institutions and civil society representatives to cooperate in their daily activities.			
Relevance to OGP values	Transparency	Efficiency	Accountability	
	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Expected outcomes	1. To strengthen capacities of civil servants and employees in the field of open public administration. 2. To create a forum for cooperation between the State and municipal institutions and civil society.			
Progress achieved	Not started	Started (1–2/4)	Halfway / completed (3/4)	Completed (4/4)
	Yes			
Expected specific outputs	1. Conferences and seminars with the civil society have been held. 2. Training for civil servants has been organised.			
Additional information				

<b>III. Increased civic participation and engagement in public governance.</b>		
3. Creation of NGO database.		
Commitment Start and End Date	30 September 2016 – 31 December 2017.	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Justice.	
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency	State Enterprise Centre of Registers (hereafter referred to as “Centre of Registers”), Ministry of Social Security and Labour.
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	NGO Council, National NGO Coalition.
Status quo or problem addressed by the commitment	<p>The NGO database is at the disposal of the main body – the Centre of Registers since 2004 but the organizations that comply with the concept of NGO defined in Law on Development of Non-governmental Organisations are unidentified in this data base. The State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance also has a certain database (containing data on non-profit legal entities having the status of beneficiary) but NGOs are not divided by the nature of independence and the definition of NGO provided for in the Law. Therefore, a single information system for data collection on NGOs is needed which would not only distinguish the <i>actual</i> NGOs but would also allow for reducing the administrative burden and expenditure related to change in management bodies or reporting.</p> <p>The main problem is that up to date the number of registered and actually functioning NGOs is unclear, i. e. there is no concrete database on NGOs and their activities. According to the data of the Centre of Registers currently there are over 20 000 NGOs registered in Lithuania (associations, charity</p>	

	<p>and support funds, public enterprises). This number is inaccurate due to 2 reasons: 1) it is unknown which organizations are indeed operational, as they might have been registered many years ago but do not perform actual activities; 2) it is not clear whether organizations established on the basis of these legal forms can be treated as NGOs. The indicated number of the NGOs registered in Lithuania does not show neither the actual scale of operation nor compliance with the NGO definition provided for in the Law. Under such uncertainty for the majority of potential supporters and even NGOs themselves it is unknown how many and what type of these organizations are actually operational in Lithuania.</p>		
Main objective	<p>The objective of a single NGO data base (including data on potential applicants seeking state funding and reporting on the funds paid) is to create an exclusive data system that would provide standardised information on the non-governmental sector of Lithuania and its involvement in the implementation of the programmes financed by public state / municipal institutions through an open tender. This database would enable the creation of an instrument of collection and dissemination of consolidated information for the department of Statistics of Lithuania, representatives of the non-governmental sector and public institutions, academic community and the society as a whole.</p>		
Brief description of commitment	<p>The objective of the creation of the database is to create a basis for the implementation of more effective practical instruments for the cooperation between the NGO and the public sector, and with the use of specific examples to demonstrate the possibilities of ensuring quality and transparent process of implementation of national programs and reporting on achieved results. Such a database would save time and financial resources both in the public institutions responsible for the preparation and administration of programs and NGOs that each time when participating in tenders of different institutions face the same requirements to prove their eligibility to apply. Data on an organization (statute, list of board members, contacts of the sole holder, etc.) would be kept in the database with a possibility to update the contact details or management information by connecting via electronic means (e-bank, e-signature, etc.).</p>		
Relevance to OGP values	Transparency	Efficiency	Accountability
	Yes	Yes	Yes
Expected outcomes	<p><b>NGO data base was created where the registered users are:</b>  - NGOs applying to participate in various project tenders and aiming to get financial support for their activities;</p>		

	<p>- the public institutions (managers of appropriations) financing the NGO projects through various national and/or international programs.</p> <p>By implementing this instrument NGO data base would be created (its <i>beta</i> version has already been developed) with the purpose of creating an NGO data base of all NGOs functioning in Lithuania according to 2 criteria:</p> <p>1) <u>publicly available information</u> on the organization (contact details, short description of activities and available human resources (members, employees and volunteers). From this information, a statistical view will be available of all organizations and citizens involved in the activities of organizations or volunteering activities. Such information will allow seeing the actual outlook of the NGO sector for the first time and the constantly changing environment of organizations/ people.</p> <p>2) <u>data base of limited use</u> for which NGOs will supply their financial data (balance sheets, financial and activity reports), registration certificates, statutes and other documents that will be available for the state and municipal managers of appropriations; as a result NGOs submitting applications for financing will not need to supply this information every time. This way the principle of transparency of the NGO sector will be ensured and the administrative burden will be reduced (incurred by the public institutions), as well as the financial burden (incurred by NGOs for paying fees for the provision and updating of data to the Centre of Registers). For the creation and implementation of this database, cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Centre of Registers is needed.</p>			
Progress achieved	Not started	Started (1–2/4)	Halfway / completed (3/4)	Completed (4/4)
		Yes		
Expected specific outputs	<p>By adopting the best practices of the European Commission NGO database was created (including data on potential applicants for public financing and reporting on funds received). The objective of this exclusive system in Lithuania is to provide standardized and objective information to the public institutions financing NGO projects through various national and/or international programmes.</p> <p>The functionality of the data base includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- publication of operational and financial reports of NGOs on a voluntarily basis;</li> <li>- publication of the description of the functions of the organization, and other relevant information directly related to the eligibility for implementation of the public financing projects;</li> <li>- potential data base manager – the Centre of Registers, users</li> <li>– the State Tax Inspectorate under the Ministry of Finance,</li> </ul>			

	<p>municipal and other state institutions, academic community for whom this data base would be an instrument of collection and dissemination of consolidated information by involving NGOs to the implementation of public and municipal programs / provision public services.</p> <p><b>NGO data base is created based on the following principles:</b></p>	
	<p><b>NGO contacts data base (PUBLIC)</b></p>	<p><b>NGO data – documents data base (LIMITED ACCESS)</b></p>
	<p><u>Includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• name;</li> <li>• code of the company;</li> <li>• address;</li> <li>• telephones, e-mail; webpage;</li> <li>• type of activities and short description.</li> </ul> <p><u>Additionally:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management (members, venturers, employees);</li> <li>• volunteers;</li> <li>• annual reports (free format);</li> <li>• other information.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all contact details (see on the left);</li> <li>• annual activity reports (according to the format established by laws);</li> <li>• annual balance sheets – financial reports;</li> <li>• statutes, registration certificate;</li> <li>• management documents (list of members, board);</li> <li>• table of financial resources and income proportions;</li> <li>• other statistical data.</li> </ul>
Additional information		

<b>III. Increased civic participation and engagement in public governance.</b>	
4. Creation of NGO fund.	
Commitment Start and End Date	31 December 2016 – 31 December 2017.
Other Actors Involved	Government Ministries, Department/Agency.
	Ministry of the Interior.
	NGO Council, National NGO Coalition.
Status quo or problem addressed by the commitment	Based on the recent studies, it can be concluded that the development of the Lithuanian NGO sector and its cooperation with the public institutions remains fragmented and underdeveloped. This is due to several key aspects such as underdeveloped legal environment, unclear role of NGOs in the mechanism of state governance, insufficient opportunities for NGOs to get

	<p>involved into the decision-making process, uncertain number of registered and active NGOs.</p> <p>Unstructured self-regulation of NGOs limits the possibilities for developing the partnership between NGOs and the state and municipal institutions, as well as possibilities for including NGOs to the public decision-making process. The performance of the NGO Councils established on the basis of the Law on Development of Non-governmental Organisations of 2013 at the national and municipal levels is still poor and does not meet the possibilities for influencing the decision-making processes of the public institutions provided for by this Law. This is due to the closed nature of the public institutions, lack of inclusion of the NGO sector to the public decision-making and the public policy making.</p>		
Main objective	<p>The purpose of this instrument is to create a National civil society fund (NGO development programme). The fund for strengthening the civil society (of the NGO sector) is dedicated to strengthening the national and umbrella organizations for the sake of their operational efficiency in representing the interests of their members (NGOs) in the public institutions, improving the legal and tax environment of NGOs, developing advocacy skills, performing a continuous monitoring of the development of the NGO sector and assessment of the policies implemented by the public institutions as regards to the provision of public services and the inclusion of the citizens to the decision-making process.</p>		
Brief description of commitment	<p>The purpose of the fund is to finance the strengthening of institutional capacities of NGOs required for participation in the public decision-making process, as well as drafting of proposals by NGOs on decisions of public governance and presentation to the interested institutions and the public; strengthening of competences of NGO representatives required for the drafting and presentation of such proposals. The fund will promote the creation of the self-regulation mechanisms of the NGO sector, creation of transparency and accountability standards, communication of its activities by various means to the public, cultivation of competences and skills for participation in the public policies and their implementation with the aim to provide high-quality public services for the population.</p>		
Relevance to OGP values	Transparency	Efficiency	Accountability
	Yes	Yes	Yes
Expected outcomes	<p>The action plan for the NGO development was created. The National civil society fund would be</p>		

	<p>designed to finance NGO programmes. These programmes would contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- boosting the NGO expert potential and professional involvement in the cooperation with the public and municipal institutions that are competent and skilled in separate areas of public policy; mechanisms such as consultancies and development of mentoring activities (for example, dissemination of knowledge and skills between the professional NGO practices, development of new cooperation forms, etc.);</li> <li>- organization of special training according to needs in order to transfer the provision of public services to the NGO sector, by strengthening the NGO capacities to draft and implement strategic plans and strengthening the representation skills;</li> <li>- development of advocacy activities with particular regard to advocacy training, mentoring, provision of consultancy and participation in the decision-making processes, creation and strengthening of cooperation networks and coalitions, strengthening of the partnership between NGOs and the state and municipal institutions by formulating, implementing and assessing the provision of the public services in various areas of public policy;</li> <li>- provision of comprehensive support to the NGO sector with particular regard to the provision of information and communication between NGOs themselves and the members of their networks (between themselves) as regards to improvement of quality and development of the activities of this sector; consolidation of the role of the NGO sector between the decision-makers and the public service operators;</li> <li>- implementation and development of databases and information systems.</li> </ul>			
Progress achieved	Not started	Started (1–2/4)	Halfway/ completed (3/4)	Completed (4/4)
	Yes			
Expected specific outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Action Plan on Development of NGOs was prepared and approved in 2016 by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.</li> <li>- The budget not less than EUR 2 million allocated for 2017 for the implementation of this programme.</li> <li>- The implementers of the projects participate in the working groups, councils, commissions, etc. of the state institutions (provide reasoned opinions and proposals in specific areas of public policies with the respective competences of each area).</li> </ul>			
Additional information				

**The proposed instrument contributes to the implementation of the following strategic documents of the state:**

- Strategy “Lithuania 2030”;
- National Progress Programme for 2014-2020;
- Public Governance Improvement Programme for 2012-2020;
- OECD recommendations for Lithuania;
- Public Education Strategy for 2013-2022.