

# Southern Europe

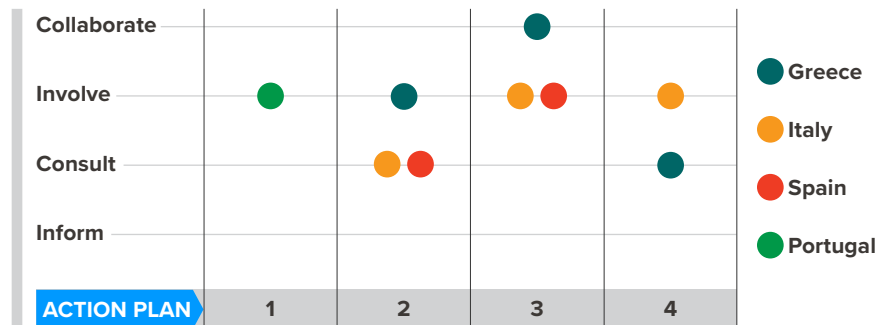
Most commitments on open government from Southern European countries are more ambitious than the European average. However, most would benefit from commitments that increase civic participation in policy making, tackle the risks of corruption in public procurement (particularly following the response to COVID-19), and introduce stronger integrity mechanisms. Greater collaboration with civil society could ensure action plans are more relevant to national priorities.

	<b>GREECE</b> Joined: 2011 Action Plan: 1,2,3,4
	<b>ITALY</b> Joined: 2011 Action Plan: 1,2,3,4
	<b>SPAIN</b> Joined: 2011 Action Plan: 1,2,3
	<b>PORTUGAL</b> Joined: 2017 Action Plan: 1

## Overview

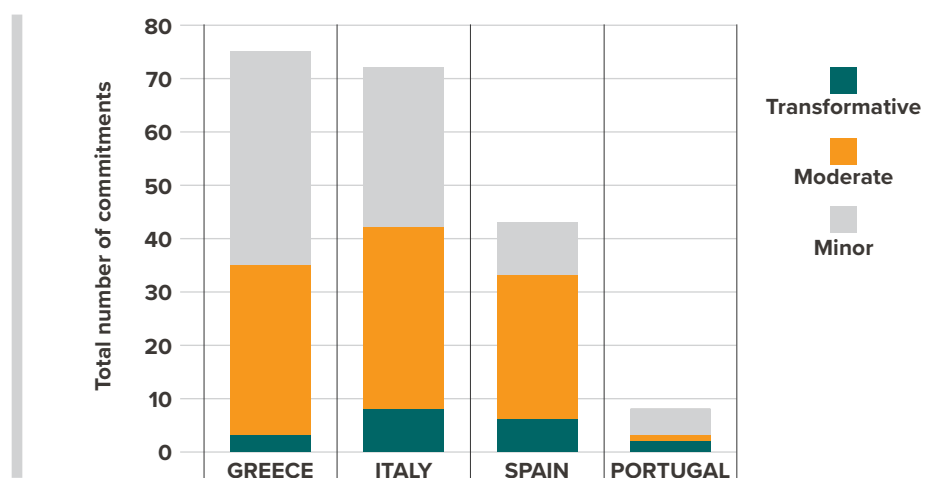
### Co-Creation and Decision-Making

Spain and Italy made progress on improving civil society engagement to develop their latest action plans. The multi-stakeholder forum was an innovation in the Portuguese context. The latest process in Greece was weaker than previous rounds. All countries would benefit from allowing more time for meaningful and ongoing dialogue with civil society to produce action plans which reflect national priorities.



### Commitment Ambition

Notably, over 50% of Italian commitments have been particularly ambitious, and over 75% in Spain. A quarter of the commitments in Portugal's first action plan are potentially transformative, but the country has far fewer commitments in total than Spain, Italy and Greece.



The data for this snapshot is accurate from the date of publication (Nov 3, 2020). Data was taken from IRM assessments that were published before the date of publication of this snapshot. Recommendations in this snapshot therefore may already have been considered or implemented by countries prior to this snapshot being published.

## Noteworthy Commitments from Latest Action Plans

### PORTUGAL

#### Strengthening transparency in public procurement

Publish open data on the entire public procurement cycle, reducing drastically the use of Direct Award Contracts, and developing and implementing civic monitoring mechanisms.

### ITALY

#### Regulation of Stakeholders

Establish and pilot a common procedure regulating interactions between public officials and lobbyists. Setting targets on the number of ministries and ensuring a broad interpretation of lobbying, would help to increase the impact of implementation.

### SPAIN

#### Creation of Open Government Forum

Formally constitute a multisectoral open government forum as a space for debate and consultation, made up of all levels of government and civil society, ensuring iterative dialogue among stakeholders throughout the co-creation and implementation process.

### GREECE

#### Open access to data of the Ministry of Immigration Policy

Engaging with migrant groups, and local, national and international organizations could ensure that published information is relevant to the implementation of policy on migrants and asylum seekers arriving in Greece.

## Commitment Recommendations for Southern Europe



### Public procurement transparency

Implement public procurement transparency so that information is free to access, publicly available and in open formats such as the Open Contracting Data Standard. Transparency around the procurements related to the COVID-19 pandemic should be prioritized.



### Participation in policy-making

Just as the development of open government action plans require meaningful engagement with civil society and the public, Southern European countries would benefit from exploring enhanced engagement methods in other areas of policy-making. This could include the use of digital and/or deliberative methods.



### Right to Information

Ensure that following the COVID-19 pandemic, responses to access to information requests are made in a timely manner. Ensure that public officials are effectively trained in how to deal with requests and that methods for making requests are simple to use.



### Whistleblower protection

Enhance the impact of whistleblower laws by broadening the scope of whistleblower legislation, provide protections against retaliation, and apply penalties for failures to properly implement the rules. Ensuring effective implementation will also be essential to the measures being successful.

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