

Open Government Partnership

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1 March 2022

Kalina Konstantinova
Deputy Prime Minister for Good Governance
Government of Bulgaria

Dear Deputy Minister Konstantinova,

We welcome the Government of Bulgaria participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 78 countries and 76 local governments working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy-making.

As outlined in my letter dated February 7 2020, Bulgaria has been placed under Procedural Review by the Criteria & Standards Subcommittee due to failing to deliver an action plan for two consecutive action plan cycles since 2018 (a copy of previous correspondence is attached for your reference). Bulgaria was encouraged to meet the established deadlines in order to avoid the possibility of further review. Due to the onset of the covid-19 pandemic in 2020, there were no further implications for not delivering an action plan that year, but countries had to deliver new plans by December 31, 2021 in order to avoid the risk of being designated as "Inactive" in OGP.

Unfortunately, the OGP Support Unit has not received Bulgaria's new action plan and Bulgaria is therefore now being recommended for inactivity by the Criteria & Standards Subcommittee. The OGP Steering Committee will review this recommendation and make a final determination on Bulgaria's participation status at its next meeting on March 24, 2022.

Countries designated as inactive continue to receive OGP assistance towards regaining active status. However, inactive members are not eligible to vote or run in Steering Committee elections, and may only attend OGP events as observers for learning purposes. Inactivity will also be noted on the OGP website and public information materials, where appropriate. The specific terms of the resolution will be agreed by the Steering Committee and shared with you once its deliberations are finalized.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support the Government of Bulgaria in whatever way possible to remain an active member of the Partnership.

Best regards,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer

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OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

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Tomislav Donchev
Deputy Prime Minister
Government of Bulgaria

7 February 2020

Dear Deputy Prime Minister Donchev,

We welcome the Government of Bulgaria's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 78 countries working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy making.

As you are aware, the OGP Articles of Governance state that all participating governments are expected to co-create an action plan outlining a concrete set of open government reforms, in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation standards. Governments that are more than four months late in submitting their action plan will be considered to have acted contrary to OGP process for that action plan cycle.

As of 1 January 2020, the Government of Bulgaria has not submitted its action plan, four months after the deadline of 31 August 2019. As a result, Bulgaria has been shifted from the "odd year" to the "even year" cohort of OGP participants, and considered to have started a new action plan cycle with a deadline of 31 August 2020 to submit its action plan.

In addition, Bulgaria has now acted contrary to OGP process for two consecutive action plan cycles. A copy of the letter notifying the previous occurrence is enclosed for your records. In line with OGP procedures, Bulgaria will be placed under review by the OGP Criteria & Standards Subcommittee (C&S). This review process involves enhanced support by the C&S, the OGP Support Unit and the OGP Steering Committee in order to try to resolve the issues that have caused the delays in submitting the Action Plan.

We encourage the Government of Bulgaria to provide an update on the status of the action plan co-creation process to inform the deliberations of the C&S.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support you in whatever way would be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact the Support Unit if you require any assistance in the finalization of your action plan.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership

Rumyana Bachvarova
Chief of Cabinet
Government of Bulgaria

15 January 2019

Dear Minister Bachvarova,

We welcome the Government of Bulgaria's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which now comprises 79 countries and 20 local governments working to implement open government commitments to promote greater transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in policy making.

As you are aware, the OGP Articles of Governance state that all participating governments are expected to co-create an action plan outlining a concrete set of open government reforms, in line with OGP Participation and Co-Creation standards. Governments that are more than four months late in submitting their action plan will be considered to have acted contrary to OGP process for that action plan cycle.

As of 1 January 2019, the Government of Bulgaria has not submitted its action plan, four months after the deadline of 31 August 2018, and therefore has acted contrary to OGP process. As a result, Bulgaria has been shifted from the "even year" to the "odd year" cohort of OGP participants and considered to have started a new action plan cycle with a deadline of 31 August 2019 to submit its action plan. In order to avoid the possibility of future review by the Criteria and Standards Subcommittee of the OGP Steering Committee, we recommend that the Government of Bulgaria makes every effort to deliver its action plan by the established deadline.

The OGP Support Unit and Steering Committee stand ready to support you in whatever way would be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact the Support Unit if you require any assistance in the finalization of your action plan.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Pradhan
Chief Executive Officer
Open Government Partnership