4th NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT 2019 - 2021

Final evaluation report

November 2021

SUMMARY

Premise

Over the past two years, everyone's attention has been - rightly - dedicated to the population's health. The pandemic has disrupted the lives of people worldwide with tragic consequences in terms of human loss and suffering. The emergency has changed the priorities of democratic institutions, centred, especially in the first phase, mainly on the promotion of measures for the protection of health, the containment of contagion, support for the world of work, the economic and productive sectors.

The "years of the pandemic" largely coincided with the implementation period of the fourth Italian action plan for open government (2019-2021). The Plan's implementation was undoubtedly affected by the context and the changes caused by the pandemic emergency; first of all, the abrupt termination of the collaboration relationship successfully started in previous years between public institutions and between these and civil society organizations.

Despite this, the experience of implementing the fourth Italian action plan for open government was nevertheless relevant. First of all, it testifies that - despite the global and national situation - open government policies now represent a widespread and convinced commitment of central and local institutions, as demonstrated by the number of commitments fulfilled in any case (over 66%). There was no shortage of difficulties, of course.

But also, the critical issues found in the implementation of the Plan represent a helpful lesson that - with this final report - is intended to be shared with all the actors involved in the process of opening public policies. The meticulous reporting process that ends with the publication of this report is not just a formal fulfilment required by the rules of the Open Government Partnership.

Instead, it is necessary to resume the collaboration process in an even more conscious and profitable way. In particular from the point of view of the method. Sharing the lessons learned in the last two years aims to stimulate participatory reflection and feed the collaboration process between institutional subjects, experts, and civil society representatives. The reaction to the difficulties caused by the pandemic and the emergency measures can only be the resumption of a process aimed at promoting ever wider and more qualified participation.

Ten years after Italy's accession to the global OGP initiative, the next action plan can represent the founding moment of a new and more mature phase of opening up public policies and the ways of functioning of administrations, which can only be focused on the country's priorities in conjunction with the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Reading this report is therefore of interest to all those who want to be protagonists of this new phase already underway, which aims to fully implement the principles of transparency, corruption prevention, participation, inclusion, and digital rights. A path to be undertaken together with openness and trust.

Sauro Angeletti, DG UISC

Executive summary

The cycle of the 4th National Action Plan for Open Government 2019-2021 was finalized on 31 July 2021 after a two-year period characterized by unprecedented events. This report highlights the results achieved by public administrations involved in its implementation.

The 4th Action Plan consists of 10 actions, in addition to 11 digital services to be published in the period 2019-2021. During the Plan's implementation, 3 of these services were divided into 5 sub-services. Overall, it monitors 184 commitments, 16 digital services for a total of 200 interventions.

By the end of the cycle, more than **66%** of the objectives set by 184 commitments and **56%** of the digital services have been completed.

The results of the monitoring carried out at the end of the implementation phase of the fourth plan highlight the achievements but also the challenges already implicit in the formulation of the commitments that administrations, particularly the central ones, have faced during the implementation of certain actions.

Low-performing actions reveal the challenges which are linked, above all, to the governance of commitments, shortcomings, and changes in the proposed organizational structures, and legislative or preparatory constraints. In some cases, the identified implementation difficulties constitute so many "lessons" to refine the planning processes of the interventions.

On the other hand, the commitments completed constitute an indicator of "continuity of action" of the administrations that have proposed and implemented them, often through a joint and collective effort of several administrations or across multiple organizational levels of the same administration. For these administrations, it was not a question of "implementing a plan", but of carrying out, through the planned initiatives, strategic actions to best implement the institutional mission; the Plan, however, constitutes, in many cases, a showcase of commitments and objectives that often find little space in the performance plans of the respective administrations. In this sense, the capacity of public administrations to implement Legislative Decree 150/2009 in terms of civic participation in the evaluation of public organizational performance is to be envisaged in the Performance Measurement and Evaluation Systems (SMVP).

The end-of-term report is structured in two parts. The first part is more descriptive and concerns the co-creation process and the civil society initiatives in the definition and implementation of actions. The second part is more analytical and reports the progress of the actions and commitments associated with them. Finally, the detailed sheets on each of the 10 actions of the Plan are attached to the report.

The evidence suggests how necessary it is for harmonization, standardization, effective governance, and the development of digital and regulatory tools to become part of an overall strategy that aims to spread the culture of openness based on participation and a model of public action on integrity.

The dissemination of Open Government principles and core values conveyed by the Open Government Partnership through the National Action Plans play an even more critical role in light of the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and, in perspective, of the new opportunities arising from the launch and implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NPRR).

Introduction and context

The 4th National Action Plan for Open Government 2019 - 2021 has been an important challenge for Italy: alongside the thematic areas of Open Government – open data, transparency, participation, digital services and skills – the Plan included new interventions on the compilation of the register of beneficial owners and on the regulation of stakeholders, which mark a more mature and conscious commitment in the transformation of the relationship between PA and citizens.

Compared to the past, the fourth Italian cycle in OGP has become more ambitious thanks to the commitment of the Government with a number of important actions and many general and system-wide initiatives that involved central, regional and local administrations in the implementation and monitoring, together with civil society associations.

The health emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic a few months after the launch of the fourth Plan that tied up a lot of administrations' resources and changed planning, slowed down activities and interrupted the dialogue with the representatives of civil society participating in the Open Government Forum, a permanent round table for discussion and common work established within the 3rd National Action Plan.

Despite the difficulties, the OGP initiative also interested other PAs, not initially involved. So, between June and August 2020, the Ministry of Education has included additional commitments to the ten actions of the original Plan, including the response to the COVID-19 emergency.

In this context, the commitment of the Italian Government in the final phase of the 4th Action Plan cycle mainly aimed at overcoming the identified challenges by restarting the dialogue with civil society associations and relaunching discussions with administrations which lay the foundation for a participatory process of co-creation of the 5th National Action Plan for Open Government 2021 - 2023.

The assignment of the Co-President role at the OGP Steering Committee in 2021/2022, makes Italy strengthen its commitment in support of Open Government values - such as transparency, participation, fight against corruption and involvement of the civil society in collective decision-making - and make them part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) initiatives, developed by Italy to boost its economy after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Action plan process

The 4th National Action Plan for Open Government 2019-2021 was built to continue the process undertaken by the previous action plans and achieve impactful and ambitious objectives over the following two years. The document represents an overall strategy that - through the implementation of a limited number of transformative initiatives - aims to achieve significant results in transparency, civic participation, fight against corruption, simplification, and innovation in the public sector.

Compared to the previous action plans, the 4th National Action Plan for Open Government 2019-2021 is characterized by some specific decisions:

- in line with the indications of the OGP Steering Committee, the number of actions is limited due to the decision to focus on more ambitious and significant commitments;

- each action foresees the involvement of several administrations for a structured collaboration that allows maximizing the activities' impact;
- in the elaboration of actions, the proposals presented by civil society organizations at the preliminary consultation were taken into account as much as possible.

The development of the 4th National Action Plan for Open Government 2019-2021 results from a collective work of all institutional actors and civil society. In particular, the OGP Team involved a working group that invited all interested central, regional, and local administrations to commit themselves to the 2019-2021 actions and the Open Government Forum.

Approach to participation and co-creation throughout the cycle of the OGP initiative

The elaboration of the 4th National Action Plan for Open Government 2019 - 2021 results from a complex work with active involvement and coordination of all institutional and civil society representatives. More specifically, the OGP Team of the Department for Public Administration involved:

- a working group that invited all interested central, regional and local administrations to commit themselves to the 2019-2021 actions;

- a Forum (Open Government Forum) with around one hundred organizations (the complete list is available at http://open.gov.it/opengovernment-partnership/open-government-forum/).

In line with the principles of Open Government, the Action Plan is the result of:

a) a cooperation process between various administrations involved in the institutional working group that defined the actions of the 2019-2021 strategy underlying this document.

b) a participation process of civil society organizations that, at an earlier stage, were asked to put forward proposals and, at a later stage, improved through consultation the actions planned by administrations.

After the start of preparatory meetings with administrations and civil society organizations of the Open Government Forum, during June and July 2018 were collected first action proposals for the new plan.

The Minister of Public Administration Giulia Bongiorno summoned the institutional Working Group on 19 November 2018, inviting the representatives of the central PAs, main public bodies, Regions and Cities. The institutional Working Group prompted the discussion on the possible actions for the new Action Plan, considering the proposals put forward by civil society. The second meeting of the institutional Working Group took place on 8 January 2019.

The Open Government Forum of civil society was summoned by Minister Bongiorno on 28 November 2018. The meeting, attended by the Minister, was the first opportunity to discuss the themes of transparency, participation, accountability and innovation. It also allowed presenting the 4th Plan development process. The attending organizations were invited to submit any further proposals to the Plan.

On 23 January 2019, the Department for Public Administration hosted the thematic tables (dedicated to transparency and open data, participation and accountability, and innovation and digital skills) with representatives of both the PA and civil society. The OGP Team proposed ten areas that would bring together civil society recommendations, within which administrations could collect their proposals.

10 areas proposed for the actions of the 4th Action Plan:

1. Open data
2. Transparency
3. Register of Beneficial Owners
4. Support to participation
5. Regulation of stakeholders' access to PA decision-makers
6. Culture of Open Government
7. Corruption prevention
8. Simplification
9. Digital services
10. Digital citizenship and skills

The working groups provided administrations and civil society an opportunity to discuss the possible formulation of actions within the pre-determined areas. The OGF presented 50 proposals.

During February 2019, PAs were invited to define the commitments to be made to civil society and to be presented internationally and, thus, to elaborate the first draft of the Action Plan, shared with the Support Unit of OGP for a preliminary check.
Between 11 and 17 March 2019, during the Open Government Week, a one-and-a-half-month public consultation on the draft of the 4th Plan was launched on open.gov.it.

Overall, six meetings were held during this phase: 3 sessions of the interinstitutional Working Group and three meetings of the Open Government Forum.

The public consultation

The public consultation process, leading to the elaboration and adoption of the 4th National Action Plan, was carried out in two phases, each of different duration, aiming to gradually increase participation.

PHASE 1 CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ON PRIORITIES (November 2018 - February 2019)

In this period – in addition to the physical debate with the Forum member organizations – over 50 proposals for actions were received on the themes of transparency, participation, anti-corruption and innovation, and simplification in the public sector. Administrators developed a draft action plan based on the received proposals and made it available for public consultation.

PHASE 2 ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT 4NAP (15 March 2019 - 30 April 2019)

During this phase, the draft action plan was open for commenting, aiming to collect valuable contributions to improving actions and commitments. The consultation was open to all (citizens, businesses, associations, administrations) on the dedicated website open.gov.it. Two hundred eighty-one comments by 38 different users were collected during the consultation.

On 18 June 2019, at the end of the consultation process, the final version of the Action Plan was published on the website open.gov.it [http://open.gov.it/attuzione-quarto-nap/] together with the final report on the process and results of the consultation.

Participation and co-creation in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Action Plan

The implementation period of the 4th Plan started on 1 July 2019 with the deadline of 30 June 2021, extended to 31 July 2021.

Halfway through the implementation period, between June and August 2020, the Administrations had the opportunity to introduce additional commitments to the 10 Actions of the 4th Plan. This time frame coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic, which employed a lot of resources and changed the planning of many Administrations. The Ministry of Education decided to include specific commitments into the Plan, including the response to the COVID-19 emergency.

The Italian and English versions of the 4th Action Plan, updated in August 2020, are available online on the website open.gov.it http://open.gov.it/attuzione-quarto-nap/.

To raise awareness and increase the involvement of citizens during the Plan implementation, there were promoted initiatives of Open Government culture and practice (e.g. within the editions of the Open Government Week and the OpenGov Champion Award). Based on civil society proposals, the implementation and monitoring of the Plan was made as open and participatory as possible.

To this end, the Open Government Team of the Department for Public Administration assisted the contact persons appointed by civil society associations to monitor each of the ten actions and follow the progress on the commitments through the organization of regular thematic tables on Open Data and Transparency, Participation and Accountability, Digital Citizenship and Skills, together with the Lead administration and with the involved administrations.

In 2020, due to the health emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, physical meetings of the thematic tables were suspended and replaced by online sessions to continue the discussion between the organizations of the Open Government Forum and the Administrations committed to the Plan. The organized online meetings of the thematic tables are listed below:

Table Action 5
N meetings: 2 (29 July and 11 December 2020)

Table Action 8
Nr. meetings: 1 (26 March 2020)

Monitoring of the 4th Action Plan

Monitoring of the progress on the actions and single commitments of the 4th Action Plan is carried out online through the "Monitora" section [http://open.gov.it/monitora-quarto-nap/] of the portal open.gov.it, which is regularly updated on the basis of the progress made on each commitment, communicated by the Lead Administrations. The last update is indicated within each commitment. The section contains a page for each action with the following information:

- description of the action with specific commitments and appointed Lead Administrations.
- implementation status with detailed information on objectives achieved or not completed for every single commitment.

In order to facilitate the monitoring process and encourage cooperation with Lead administrations, the page of each action indicates the Open Government Forum organizations that expressed their willingness to be points of contact for monitoring and implementation.

The Open Government Week

The Open Government Week is a collective initiative, promoted and coordinated by the Department for Public Administration in the context of the Italian participation in the Open Government Partnership, which consists of seven days dedicated to the culture and practice of transparency, participation and accountability, both among public administrations and the society.

During the implementation phase of the 4th National Action Plan, three editions of the Open Government Week took place:

- OGW 2019, III edition, 11 – 17 March 2019;
- OGW 2020, IV edition, 2-8 March 2020: this edition was cancelled due to a health emergency, maintaining some of the initiatives foreseen by the public administrations.
- OGW 2021, V edition, 17-21 May 2021.

The OpenGov Champion Award

The OpenGov Champion Award is organized and promoted by the Department for Public Administration in collaboration with the Open Government Forum. It aims at recognizing and enhancing the adoption by Italian public organizations of the practices inspired by the fundamental principles of open government.

During the 4th National Action Plan implementation, two editions of the OpenGov Champion Award took place in 2019 and 2021. In 2020, the Award did not occur because of the health emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Participation in the actions of the 4th NAP

Within the 4NAP, the Italian government has committed to promoting online public consultation in PA as a useful tool for public decision-makers to improve the quality of decisions and provide an online consultation platform (ParteciPa) for public administrations interested in implementing participatory processes.
Overall, eight online consultations were carried out during the 4th National Action Plan on ParteciPa. Out of eight, two particularly refer to the commitments undertaken within Action 4 "Support to participation".
Between 2019 and 2020, the Department for Public Administration, together with the Department for Institutional Reforms, promoted a public consultation on ParteciPa to collect comments and proposals for improving the Consultation guidelines, an operational document targeting public administrations which decide to hold consultations on their decision-making, and those who decide to participate in a consultation promoted by administration [https://partecipa.gov.it/processes/linee-guida-consultazione]

In 2020, in collaboration with the Department for Public Administration, the Ministry of Health carried out an online consultation on ParteciPa [https://partecipa.gov.it/processes/salute] to collect inputs useful for the implementation of the "Sustainability in Health" platform.

IRM recommendations

During the 4NAP cycle, the Independent Evaluation Mechanism (IRM) elaborated the evaluation report on the co-creation process (conception and design) of the 4th Action Plan and on the level of relevance and potential impact of its commitments compared to the OGP values. As required by the OGP rules, the draft report was subject to a public consultation from 22 October to 5 November 2020.

The opinion expressed by the IRM in the evaluation report highlights the specificity and relevance of the actions identified in the 4NAP to the OGP values, it underlines some new areas of attention, even if many have been taken from previous action plans, as well as new promising areas of interest, such as measures to enhance civic participation. It positively assesses the fact that the Plan addresses key areas such as regulation of stakeholders, beneficial owners, and corruption prevention.

In view of the 5th National Action Plan, the final recommendations expressed in the report represent an essential element to improve both the development and the implementation of the Action Plan. In particular:

● to strengthen cooperation by increasing active participation of the Open Government Forum in the selection and definition of actions;
● to co-create fewer, but more ambitious, targeted and coherent actions;
● to establish a network of open data managers within public administrations;
● to ensure that all public administrations adopt the regulation of stakeholders;
● to develop and implement a monitoring system to ensure the transparent allocation and use of the funds related COVID-19 response measures.

Implementation of the action plan commitments

The 4th National Action Plan for Open Government 2019 - 2021 consists of 10 thematic actions linked to detailed commitments:

N° Action	Action	N° commitments
1	Open Data	41
2	Transparency	17
3	Register of Beneficial Owners	5
4	Support to participation	15
5	Regulation of stakeholders	7
6	Culture of Open Government	8
7	Corruption prevention	5

8	Simplification, performance and equal opportunities	8
9	Digital services	37
10	Digital citizenship and skills	41
Total		184

The Plan includes an additional annex of 11 digital services to be published in 2019-2021. During the Plan's implementation, 3 of these services were divided into five sub-services.

Overall, the 4th National Action Plan monitors 184 commitments, 16 digital services for **200 interventions.**

Progress on the commitments of the 4th Action Plan

During the 4th Action Plan development, Lead Administrations agreed to set a deadline for each commitment within the actions. Public Administrations were able to choose the deadlines based on their internal planning and in compliance with the deadline of 30 June 2021 set for meeting the objectives of the 4th Plan. This deadline was subsequently extended to 31 July 2021 to allow administrations to finalize the actions close to completion, blocked or slowed down in implementation due to the health emergency caused by Covid-19.

The commitments linked to the 10 actions result:
a) **"completed"**, when fully accomplished;
b) **"in progress"**, when accomplished after 31 July 2021, but by the end of 2021;
c) **"not completed"** if entirely missed, or no longer presenting the priority due to contextual changes, or postponed to uncertain dates or in any case after 2021.

At the end of the cycle of the 4th Action Plan for Open Government 2019-2021, more than **66%** of the objectives set by 184 commitments were completed, and **56%** of the digital services.

Chart 1. Completed commitments
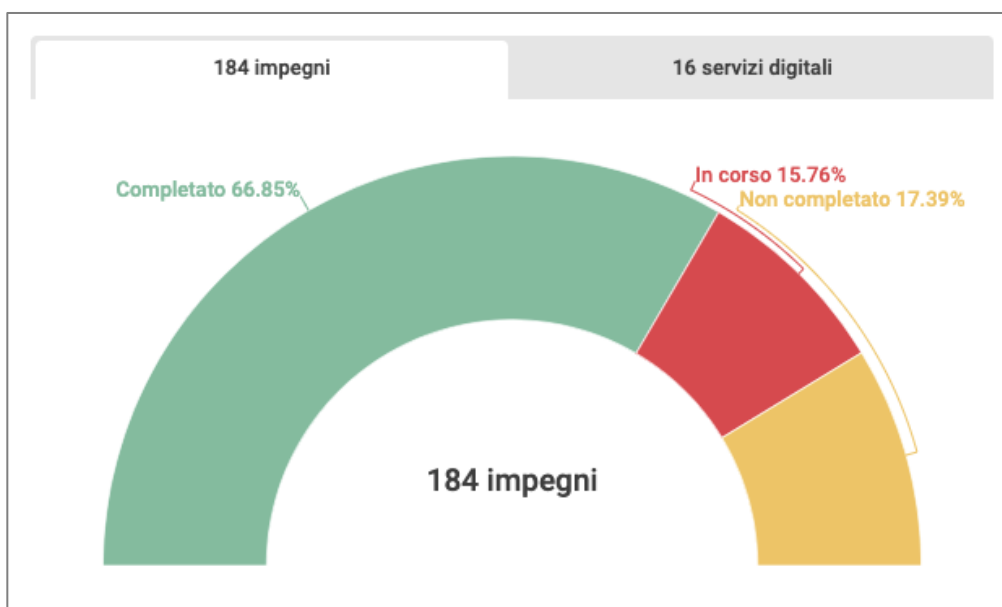
Chart 2. Completed digital services
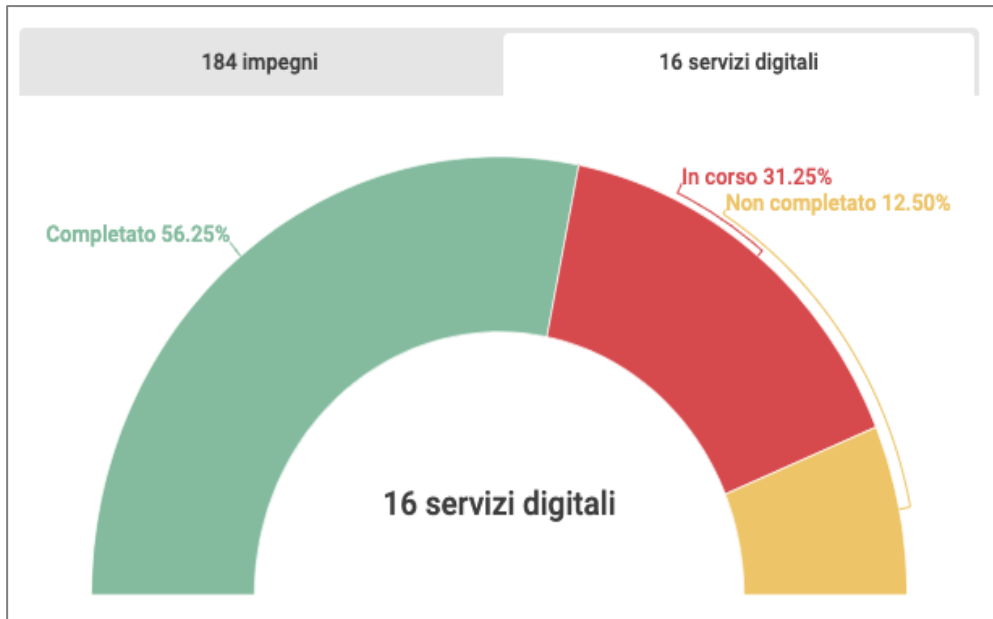
Table n° 1 - Progress on the actions of the 4th OGP national plan and completed commitments

N° Action	Action Title	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total	% completed	% in progress	% not completed
1	Open Data	**17**	5	19	41	**41,46%**	12,20%	46,34%
2	Transparency	**15**		2	17	**88,24%**	0,00%	11,76%
3	Register of Beneficial Owners	**1**	4		5	**20,00%**	80,00%	0,00%
4	Support to participation	**13**	1	1	15	**86,67%**	6,67%	6,67%
5	Regulation of stakeholders	**1**	2	4	7	**14,29%**	28,57%	57,14%
6	Culture of Open Government	**5**	3		8	**62,50%**	37,50%	0,00%
7	Corruption prevention	**1**	3	1	5	**20,00%**	60,00%	20,00%
8	Simplification, performance and equal opportunities	**8**			8	**100,00%**	0,00%	0,00%
9	Digital services	**29**	6	2	37	**78,38%**	16,22%	5,41%
10	Digital citizenship and skills	**33**	5	3	41	**80,49%**	12,20%	7,32%
Total		**123**	**29**	**32**	**184**	**66,85%**	**15,76%**	**17,39%**
Annex 1 - Digital services		9	5	2	16	**56,25%**	**31,25%**	**12,50%**
Total objectives		132	34	34	200	**66,00%**	**17,00%**	**17,00%**

135 institutions are involved in the implementation of the commitments of the 4th Action Plan with various levels of responsibility**: 59** represent Public Administration (PA), **76** - civil society organizations (CSO), businesses and universities.

For specific commitments and more details on the state of implementation, please refer to Annex 1 containing Action info sheets with accurate descriptions of each single commitment.

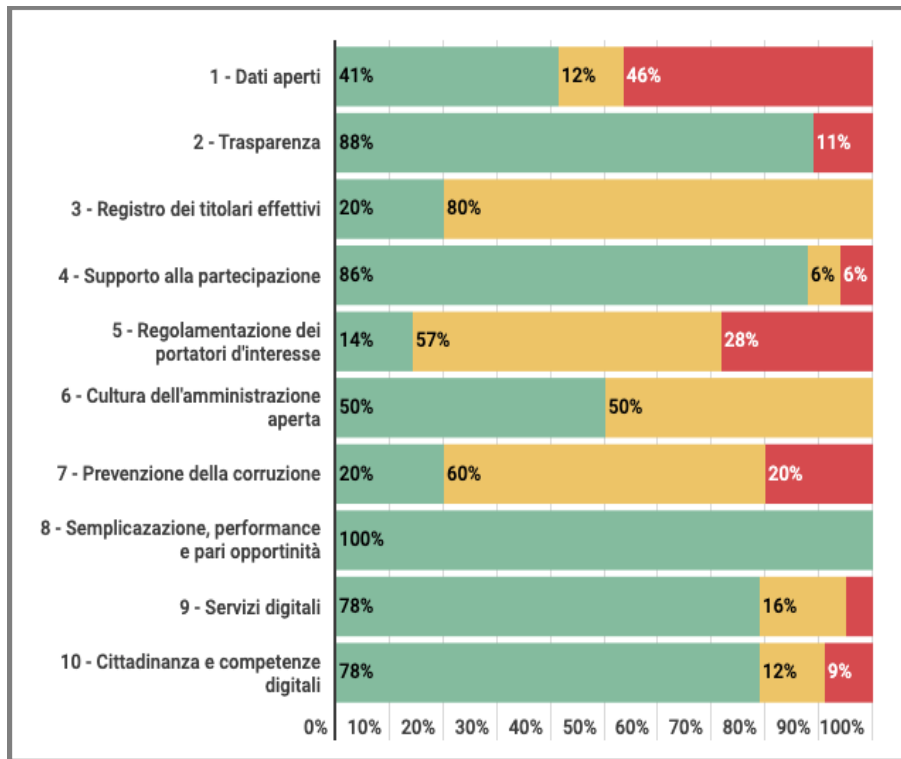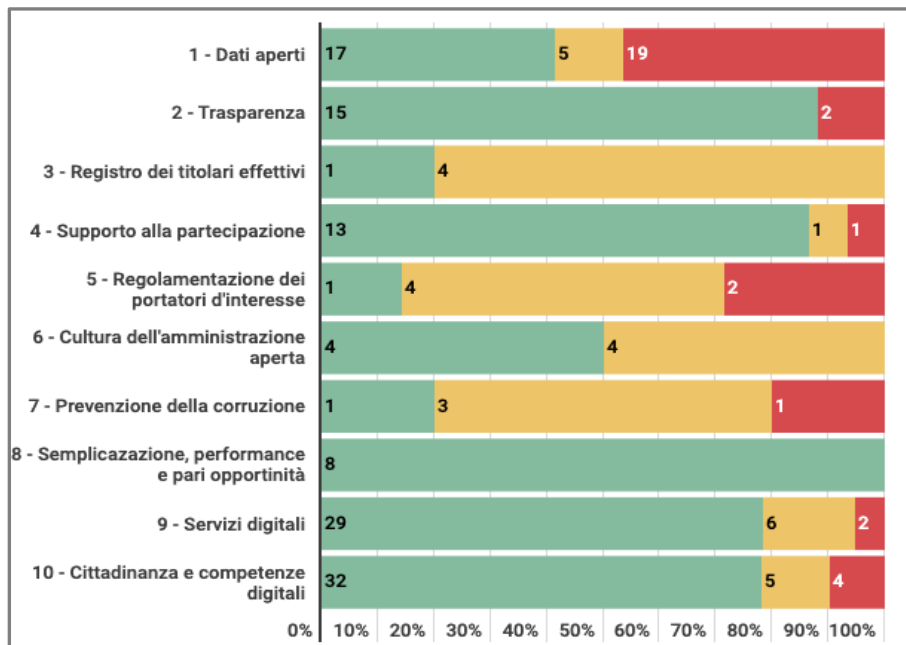Chart n° 1 – Progress on actions - Percentage of commitments

Chart n° 2 Progress on actions - Number of commitments

The dynamic view of the results of the 4th Plan is available online [1].

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[1] Link to the infographic with numerical data of the 4th NAP https://infogram.com/stato-avanzamento-4-national-action-plan-nap-ogp-1hxr4zxo1wyoq6y

For specific commitments and detailed information on the state of implementation, please refer to Annex 1, containing Action info sheets with the related commitments. Each info sheet includes a dedicated table with basic information, a brief description of the action purpose and a detailed description of the state of play for each objective and its deadline.

Action 1 – Open Data

http://open.gov.it/monitora/1-dati-aperti/

Lead Administration
Ministry for Digital Transformation MITD (DTD - Department for Digital Transformation)

Other administrations involved
Agency for Digital Italy (AGID), Department Casa Italia (PCM – DCI), Department for Cohesion Policies (PCM – DPCoe - NUVAP), Department for programming and economic policy coordination (PCM – DIPE), Italy's Statistical Institute (ISTAT), Ministry of Culture (MIBAC), Union of Chambers of Commerce (Unioncamere), Regions and Autonomous Provinces, City of Milan

Monitoring contact person from the Open Government Forum
Cittadini Reattivi

Background and objectives

According to DESI – Digital Economy & Social Index 2019, Italy significantly improved its ranking concerning open data. However, there are still difficulties that affect the possibility of reusing that stock of information. One of the major barriers is the mismatch between demand and supply, which includes a lack of knowledge about open data and the potential of data reuse, the release of low-quality datasets, making reuse too costly for citizens and businesses.
Add to that non-compliance with data representation standards to integrate and compare them.
In this scenario, besides the need to continue promoting data reuse, we should identify shared rules and publish high-value open datasets, both for the potential contribution in terms of transparency and for the reuse in the business sector.

IRM recommendations on the action during the Plan's presentation

IRM assessment of the action design	
Relevant for OGP values:	Access to information, Civic participation
Potential impact:	Moderate

IRM comment:	Although releasing a series of datasets on key themes is essential, a strategic approach is needed to address issues affecting the Italian open data landscape. In the next action plan, open data commitments could focus on one/two high-level strategic objectives that would help eliminate quality and standardization issues that prevent reuse. Including set targets for implementation in the text of the milestones would help ensure commitments are ambitious but at the same time specific enough to be measurable. The overarching commitments included by DFP and AgID in this plan represent a good starting point. This could be accompanied by equally strategic and ambitious initiatives to raise awareness on the potential of open data to gradually change the open data culture within administrations and among the population. In addition to this, facilitating "learning-by-doing" through more practical collaboration around the use of open data to address specific issues could also be useful. Finally, the high-level commitments could be accompanied by an Annex, listing datasets that individual administrations commit to releasing.

Analysis of the progress on commitments under Action 1.

Action 1 Open Data consists of **41 commitments, 41**% completed.

N° Action	Action Title	Lead Administration of commitment	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
1	Open Data	City of Milan	1	2		3
		ISTAT	1		2	3
		MiC - Ministry of Culture		2		2
		MITD-DTD/AgID			11	11
		PCM - DCI			1	1
		PCM - DIPE	3			3
		PCM - DPCoe - NUVAP	3		1	4
		PCM - DPCoe- NUVAP, ANBSC	5	1	3	9
		Regions and Autonomous Provinces	3		1	4
		Union of Chambers of Commerce	1			1
	Total Open Data		17	5	19	41

Action 1 "Open Data" is one of the actions most affected by the contextual changes due to the new framework of responsibilities on open data at the government level, resulting from the establishment of the **Minister for Innovation** and the creation of the Department for Digital Transformation[2] in 2019. They act as a support structure to the Prime Minister for promotion and coordination of the Government's actions aimed at defining a single strategy for the digital transformation and modernization of the country

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[2] Minister for Innovation and Digital Transition MITD (DTD - Department for Digital Transformation) https://innovazione.gov.it/

through digital technologies, including open data policy. Action 1 "Open Data", initially entrusted to the Department for Public Administration (PCM - DFP), had to adapt to the changes in the government competence structure.

Currently, Action 1 is under the responsibility of the Ministry for Digital Transition MITD (DTD - Department for Digital Transformation) also due to the ministerial mandate in terms of Open Government and enhancement of public information.[3] .

The new framework also affected the operational role of the Agency for Digital Italy (AgID) which is currently under MITD. Another crucial contextual aspect was the inclusion of measures for digitalization promotion into the NRRP[4], which directly affect data governance, speeding up the introduction of the national interoperability model [5] and providing for the revision of data interoperability standards, in compliance with the provisions on open data and personal data processing. Changes are envisaged for the current procedures of data exchange between public administrations in order to simplify the procedures and therefore speed up the database interoperability.

The action's commitments, requesting a stronger governance of public data policy in Italy, are the subject of the future National Data Strategy (Article 34 of Legislative Decree n. 76/2020[6]) which will be open for public consultation organised by MITD. Another contextual aspect is that Directive (EU) 2019/1024[7] identifies only several thematic "macro-categories" and requests a specific procedure by a "Committee" to identify high-value datasets within each of these categories.

As of the reporting date, this procedure has not been completed and the list of high-value datasets has not been defined. Furthermore, as of 22 September 2021, the Directive [8] did not result adopted at national level[9], since on 14 September 2021 the Commission I of the Chamber suspended the examination of the new PSI Directive transposition, pending the opinion of the Personal Data Protection Authority, received today with a positive outcome[10]. Therefore, awaiting further updates on the strategy and the final adoption of the EU directive, the commitments 1.01-1.11 were considered as "not completed".

The Open Data actions remain of high interest for civil society, however, it is necessary to strengthen the focus on dataset types, domains and accessibility, most useful for monitoring or for encouraging participation in public policies, as urged by civil society (e.g. mobilization for data

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[3] https://innovazione.gov.it/ministro/competenze-e-deleghe/
[4] National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) – Intervention "Data and Interoperability" - 649 million euro https://italiadomani.gov.it/it/investimenti/dati-e-interoperabilita.html
[5] https://www.agid.gov.it/it/infrastrutture/sistema-pubblico-connettivita/il-nuovo-modello-interoperabilita
[6] D.L. n. 76/2020 https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/07/16/20G00096/sg)
[7] Directive (EU) 2019/1024 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:4405374
[8] Draft legislative decree implementing Directive (EU) 2019/1024 on open data and the re-use of public sector information (284) https://www.camera.it/leg18/682?atto=284&tipoAtto=Atto&idLegislatura=18&tab=1#inizio .
[9] List of EU countries that have adopted the Directive 2019/1024 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/NIM/?uri=CELEX:32019L1024
[10] https://www.senato.it/leg/18/BGT/Schede/docnonleg/43104.htm#

request [#datiBeneComune](https://www.datibenecomune.it/)[11], with actions aimed at transparency and accessibility of public data, both on the COVID-19 emergency, and on the implementation of the NRRP[12].

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[11] https://www.datibenecomune.it/
[12] First NRRP monitoring https://italiadomani.gov.it/it/news/in-consiglio-dei-ministri-il-monitoraggio-dell-attuazione-del-pn.html

Action 2 - Transparency

http://open.gov.it/monitora/2-trasparenza/

Lead Administration
Department for Public Administration (PCM – DFP)

Other administrations involved
CONSIP, INAIL, Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), Regions and Autonomous Provinces, City of Milan, City of Rome

Monitoring contact persons for the Open Government Forum
Cittadinanza Attiva, Fondazione Etica

Background and objectives of the action
Although the capacities of administrations towards transparency have been enhanced, many obstacles persist in launching virtuous processes. Many of these are due to operational choices and limits to the management of data and information by administrations.

In particular, there is a need to take simplification measures in managing information's disclosure obligations as established by Legislative Decree no.33/2013 to facilitate citizens and stakeholders' access to the information published in the Transparent Administration section of the institutional websites and to encourage the reuse for monitoring and comparing public actions, optimizing the commitment of public administration which is often required to comply with the same information obligation repeatedly and according to different modalities.

Moreover, generalized civic access needs to be further encouraged by developing mechanisms to facilitate its use by citizens and help administrations to manage requests more effectively and efficiently.

IRM recommendations on the action during the Plan's presentation

IRM assessment of the action design	
Relevant for OGP values:	Access to information
Potential impact:	Moderate
IRM comment:	Upon full implementation of the commitments, the government could consider promoting the publication of data on access requests in fully reusable formats. Studies show that the quality of data published in registers of accesses varies significantly across administrations. This could be a matter for further consideration in the future.

Results of the analysis on the progress of the commitments of action 2.
Action 2 consists of **17 commitments**. 88% completed.

Action No.	Action Title	Lead Administration of commitment	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
2	Transparency	City of Milan	4			4
		CONSIP	2			2
		INAIL	1			1
		ISPRA	4			4
		PCM – DFP	2		2	4
		City of Rome	2			2
	Total Transparency		15		2	17

Action 2 Transparency involved both central and local administrations. The commitments on the creation of tools to facilitate the use of generalized civic access (FOIA) through the FOIA Competence Center project (www.foia.gov.it) of the Department for Public Administration (DFP) were slowed down, while the commitment to create a guided procedure (wizard) requires a more advanced solution and more time than initially planned, and, therefore, result as not completed as of the reporting date.

Referring to the commitments by the City of Milan, the Regulation on Transparency was assimilated and surpassed by the Three-Year Plan for corruption prevention and transparency (PTPCT), while the Regulation on Participation was approved by the City Council in July 2021 after a participatory and collaborative work. The City of Milan also created and tested a solution for the digitalization of the civic access register, which intersected with piloting the use of the Register developed by the Department for Public Administration. Piloting an advanced solution to consult the Official Noticeboard was launched and completed, while it was decided not to develop the app Milan@Work; however, the functionality will be available within the updated app Fascicolo del Cittadino[13] presented by the administration of Milan in August 2021.

The administration of the City of Rome completed the "Regulation for the right of access to documents, data and information" which governs the types of access envisaged and approved by Resolution of the Capitoline Assembly n. 6 of 12 February 2019. Regarding the Register of Accesses to electronic document management systems, the City of Rome has implemented its pre-existing application compliant with the directives of the Department for Public Administration, Circular No. 2/2017.

The commitments attributed to ISPRA have been completed: a single system of access to environmental information is online[14], and the guidelines were made available.

Additionally, interventions to provide the public with information on the regulatory provisions regarding access to environmental documents and information were carried out, also via compilation and

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[13] https://www.comune.milano.it/-/trasformazione-digitale.-nuovi-servisi-sull-app-del-fascicolo-del-cittadino

[14] https://www.snpambiente.it/si-urp/

submission of a single online form for access to documents, data and environmental information or a request for review. The first register of accesses has been developed – based exclusively on the requests received through the online form – which contains individual requests received by each member agency of the National System for Environmental Protection (SNPA) and the network of the "Si-URP" project (Network of Public Relations Offices).

ISPRA also organised trainings among operators for analysis of the challenges, application of the recent legislation and planning communication and dissemination actions on environmental topics aimed at raising awareness and respect for the environment among young people.

Action 3 - Register of Beneficial Owners

http://open.gov.it/monitora/3-registro-dei-titolari-effettivi/

Lead Administration
Ministry of Economic Development (MISE)

Other administrations involved
Ministry of Economics and Finance (MEF), Unioncamere

Monitoring contact person from the Open Government Forum
Transparency International

Background and objectives of the action
The fight against money laundering and international terrorism are the two common objectives for all democratic countries of the world. At the European level, the latest EU Anti Money Laundering Directive (5th AMLD) focused on data transparency regarding beneficial owners, the physical person who is the ultimate beneficiary of transactions carried out.

A significant evolution towards greater market transparency lies in the choice made within the Italian legislation to create a special section of the company register. The company register will include all beneficial owners of limited liability companies which, by definition, are already registered. The same register will also include the beneficial owners of private legal persons (included in prefectural registers) and trusts.

The key novelty is that anyone can access the section. Transparency runs parallel to market protection and data sharing. The regulation of these complex systems ensures that the market can make fully informed choices thanks to the transparency offered by open government.

IRM recommendations on the action during the Plan's presentation

IRM assessment of the action design	
Relevant for OGP values:	Access to Information
Potential impact:	Moderate
IRM comment:	To ensure comprehensive access to information in the register for all, the government could consider making access to the register free of charge for all. The creation of a monitoring and verification mechanism for the data published in the register could also be considered. Finally, some additional considerations or a strategy could be put in place by the government on how to make the best use of the gender disaggregated data collected.

Results of the analysis on the progress of the commitments of action 3.
Action 3 consists of **5 commitments**. **20%** completed.

Action No.	Action Title	Lead Administration of commitment	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
3	Register of beneficial owners	MISE, MEF, Unioncamere	1	4		5
	Total Register of beneficial owners		1	4		5

The results of Action 3, "Register of beneficial owners", particularly relevant due to their transversal nature, are bound to external and organizational factors. While the commitment related to the transposition of the 5th AMLD[15] (Anti-Money Laundering) has been completed, the other commitments were still in progress as of the reporting date.

The slowdown is caused by the difficulties encountered during implementing Regulation of art. 21 of the Legislative Decree n. 231/2007. The Legislative Decree on the transposition of the 5th AMLD was published in Gazzetta Ufficiale Serie Generale 252 on 26 October 2019. The organizational changes within the MEF prompted further discussions after the release of the opinion of the Council of State, which practically blocked its implementation[16].
As of the reporting date, the text of the inter-ministerial decree was under revision[17] envisaged by art. 21 of the Legislative Decree 231/2007 and the approval process was estimated to be concluded by December 2021.

The deriving constraints block the implementation of the other commitments envisaged by Action 3, which, therefore, have not been concluded by the deadline of the 4th NAP; however, MISE, MEF and Infocamere remain available to carry them on.

The data of the beneficial owner must be available through multiple channels.

The FATF (or FATF - Financial Action Task Force) evaluates the centralization of information on the beneficial owner through the national register tool. According to par. 1 of art. 21 of the Legislative Decree no. 231/2007, which provides that "enterprises endowed with legal personality subject to registration in the Company Register [...] and private legal entities subject to registration in the Register of private legal entities [...], should communicate information on their beneficial owners, exclusively online and free from stamp duty to the Business Register for storage in the relevant section," the register of beneficial owners will be a section of the company register.

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[15] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018L0843

[16] https://www.giustizia-amministrativa.it/web/guest/-/il-consiglio-di-stato-ha-reso-il-parere-sullo-schema-di-decreto-in-materia-di-dati-e-informazioni-relativi-alla-titolarit-c3-a0-effettiva-di-imprese-a&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1622098622168000&usg=AOvVaw3IHxURfOcYv5D4U-SHI6e0

[17] https://www.ipsoa.it/documents/fisco/accertamento/quotidiano/2021/03/22/antiriciclaggio-interminabile-registro-titolari-effettivi

As an EU member state, Italy will develop the national register of beneficial owners; the obligation deriving from the EU acquis (AMLD directives) has been already transposed by the national legislation (Legislative Decree 231/2007, amended by Legislative Decree 125/2019). Italy has decided to wait for the 5th AMLD, which has already been transposed through Legislative Decree 125/2019, in force since 10 November 2019.

From the primary legislation (Art. 21, par. 5) derives the obligation to issue a special inter-ministerial regulation–the responsibility of MEF and MISE -dedicated to the register of beneficial owners. The inter-ministerial decree approval process started immediately after the primary legislation entered into force. After the public consultation and following the positive opinion (required by law) of the Personal Data Protection Authority, the draft decree is currently under consideration by the Council of State. As highlighted before, the MEF / MISE relevant departments are working on the text, including the CoS. Upon the decree's approval, the register will be established in a special section of the business register. Not particularly challenging, the feeding phase will be shorter, which will help make up for the delay in the transposition phase. However, the extra time will ensure better functionality of the register and the collected data, taking into account the sensitive issues, first and foremost, transparency and privacy.

There is no precise date for the register launch, but such obligation derives from the EU law and the FATF standards. The latest FATF evaluations are positive, Italy's rating on transparency is substantial, the technical compliance is guaranteed.

The data is available for competent authorities through alternative channels, which have proved to be equally valid; see the Customer activity in the private sector and the related customer information stored In Italy for ten years. The technical rules for registration in the beneficial owner register have also been developed. The new features of the business register generally meet the standard; all subjects will have to report the beneficial ownership both to the register/trust, etc. The reporting obligation will become operational by the end of 2021. The Chambers of Commerce are preparing internal training activities. Some problems may occur, and if, on the one hand, the delays are justified, civil society expects that the section will be populated by the end of the year. So, it is proposed to resume monitoring of the Register's implementation and population within the 5 NAP.

The inputs from civil society on the draft inter-ministerial implementing decree could be helpful. Although the activists have been already engaged, it remains to decide who will access the register data within PA. Action 3 will remain a crucial action in the future since the Register is a multifunctional tool, also beneficial for the NRRP in terms of corruption prevention, crime, and money laundering and guarantees high-level economic operators and reliable performers.

Action 4 – Support to participation
http://open.gov.it/monitora/4-supporto-alla-partecipazione/

Lead Administrations
Department for Public Administration (PCM – DFP)
Department for Institutional Reforms (PCM – DRI)

Other administrations involved
Ministry of Health, Regions and Autonomous Provinces, City of Milan, City of Rome

Monitoring contact person from the Open Government Forum
Mappi-na[18]

Background and objectives of the action
Public consultation activities addressed to citizens or specific categories can cover the different phases of public policymaking from drafting to implementation and assessment and help the public decision-maker make better decisions.
Opening decision-making processes to the participation of relevant stakeholders allows for the inclusion of potential recipients of an intervention or public policy and restores citizens' trust in institutions.
It addresses the limitations of traditional decision-making processes, which often generate conflicts on the territory because they do not involve the different actors and local communities.

The major obstacle to participation in consultation activities is rooted in the fact that they are carried out by public administrations sporadically, autonomously, and of various quality levels.

IRM recommendations on the action during the Plan's presentation

IRM assessment of the action design	
Relevant for OGP values:	Civic Participation, Access to information
Potential impact:	Moderate
IRM comment:	Overall, the commitment stops short of setting specific targets for a measured increase in civic participation through public consultations as a result of its implementation. This also makes its potential impact less measurable. Future steps in this field should go in this direction. Furthermore, the government should consider a parallel design and implementation of a concrete communication strategy to promote the use of the existing services both at citizen and administration level. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that citizens and administrations understand the differences between the single access portal and the open source public consultation platform the DFP

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[18] The contact person is not active since May 2021.

		and the DRI developed so that they both can be used to the best of their potential. Finally, the IRM encourages reflection on the participatory instruments proposed and verification that they are as inclusive as possible, taking action to ensure that participation is open to all segments of the population, including those for which the use of digital systems might constitute a barrier rather than an advantage. The creation of the Handbook and the setting up of the platform and portal can also provide the government with the opportunity to expand its approach beyond consultation and begin reflecting on co-creation between citizens and government as the goal of participation.				

Results of the analysis on the progress of the commitments of action 4.
Action 4 consists of 1**5 commitments**. **86**% completed.

Action No.	Action Title	Lead Administration of commitment	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
4	Support to participation	City of Milan	5			5
		Ministry of Health	1			1
		PCM – DFP, PCM – DRI	3	1		4
		Regions and Autonomous Provinces	2			2
		City of Rome	2		1	3
	Total Support to participation		13	1	1	15

Action 4 "Participation" was divided into a number of commitments undertaken by central, regional and local administrations targeting participatory processes and public consultations. The commitments results demonstrate the complexity of ensuring effectiveness, not only in the practical implementation of participatory processes promoted by public administration but also in the use of digital technologies. The participation and consultation platform ParteciPa was launched in December 2019. The inputs on the Consultation Guidelines were gathered from 5 December 2019 to 31 March 2020. The report on the consultation results was published in June 2020; it included the feedback of the Departments (DRI and DFP) to the participants' observations. Overall, eight participatory processes were carried out on ParteciPa, promoted by various administrations, using different platform tools (e.g. questionnaire, collecting ideas and proposals, commentable text). In July 2020, the ParteciPa code was published in the open-source software catalogue available to public administration on the Developers Italia portal and thus downloadable for administrations and entities wishing to use it. An interesting example of the use of ParteciPa is the consultation by the Ministry of Health to collect information and best practices on sustainable development actions with health impact in various working environments (in particular, on the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, in terms of nutrition and psycho-physical well-being envisaged in the 2030 Agenda). Thanks to the PA and citizens' contributions, the Ministry of Health developed on its portal a specific HUB Exchange platform, "Sustainability in Health", and reported on the results of the consultation, providing quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the participation.

This platform also included information about the initiative promoted by the Ministry of Health within the "CCM CLIMACTIONS" project. The Survey, "SOStenibilità in salute", was considered one of the Smart Actions chosen to combat malnutrition, applying a partnership and multi-stakeholder approach as required by the UN Decade of Nutrition (learn more about the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition).

The City of Milan launched a participatory air and climate plan process on the online platform "Milano Partecipa". It is also working on the Decidim code to carry out online referendums and petitions and participatory institutes. Thus, citizens will be able to gather online signatures for a referendum or a petition. The City of Milan has institutionalised digital participation processes with specific rules, and other consultations are also active (Code of conduct for employees). A draft document has been prepared for the design of the software platform to support civic participation with mapping of the administration's participatory processes, process modelling and possible scenarios for the identification of functional requirements. As of the reporting date, the participatory platform was in an advanced development phase.

The City of Rome has completed almost all the commitments. Its Regulation on new participation tools and citizens' initiatives has been subject to recent major revisions with regard to a consultative referendum and quorum zero, to citizens' initiative resolution and citizens' petitions, including electronic ones. Within the "Partecipa" area of the institutional portal, which hosted the first city-wide piloting on the Participatory Budget, an "information dashboard" was created, a tool for further support to citizen participation. The new platform for discussion of citizens' initiative proposals is about to be released.

The City of Rome commitment to piloting e-voting using blockchain technology was also not initiated due to the administration's overly burdensome costs.

Action 5 - Regulation of stakeholders

http://open.gov.it/monitora/5-regolamentazione-dei-portatori-di-interessi/

Lead Administrations
Department for Public Administration (PCM – DFP)
Ministry of Economic Development (MISE)

Other administrations involved
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism (MIPAAFT), Ministry of the Environment (MATTM) (now Ministry for the Ecological Transition - MITE), City of Rome

Monitoring contact person from the Open Government Forum
The Good Lobby

Background and objectives of the action
Currently, the management of relations between stakeholders and public decision-makers does not rely on the same level of transparency as inside administrations. Therefore, public decision-making is not transparent and traceable enough. Furthermore, the past initiatives developed to overcome this obstacle led to an inhomogeneous situation among administrations, making the system inefficient and causing complications for both stakeholders and, as far as data accessibility is concerned, citizens. Hence, there is a need to develop a shared solution to establish a transparent Register of Stakeholders, in cooperation with different Ministries and with a standardized implementation procedure.

IRM recommendations on the action during the Plan's presentation

IRM assessment of the action design	
Relevant for OGP values:	Access to information, Civic participation
Potential impact:	Moderate
IRM comment:	Despite several attempts over the years, Italy lacks national lobbying regulations and a unified lobbying register. The creation of a solution for the regulation of stakeholders as proposed in this commitment would therefore represent a significant step forward in increasing transparency in Italy in this area. The commitment does not set fixed targets in terms of the number of Ministries expected to adopt the new solution that will be identified, and in that sense, its ambition falls short. Nevertheless, informal conversations between the lead administration and civil society confirm the intention to extend the provision to all public administrations. At the same time, there is awareness that adoption by all would also depend on the creation of legislation making implementation mandatory. 3 In light of the lack of set targets, the overall potential impact of this commitment is moderate. If successful in extending the register to all public administrations, the impact of the initiative would be transformative.

Results of the analysis on the progress of the commitments of action 5.
Action 5 consists of **7 commitments**. **14%** completed

Action No.	Action Title	Lead Administration of commitment	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
5	Regulation of stakeholders	MISE, PCM – DFP, MATTM, MIPAAFT		2	2	4
		City of Rome	1		2	3
	Total Regulation of stakeholders		1	2	4	7
Total 5			1	2	4	7

Based on the gathered evidence, Action 5 appears to be one of the most complex and significant actions of the plan. The Ministry of Economic Development (MISE) has developed a Public Register of stakeholders whose structure is designed to be potentially reused by all public administrations, and other administrations can adopt the model. However, a high-level coordination effort would be necessary, which could, anyway, not result in a primary norm. Civil society, especially activists committed to stakeholder regulation, the promotion and standardization of the Register have underlined the difficulties related to fragmentation resulting from the use of registers by each administration, with no single standard (which could be that of MISE) for stakeholders who must sign up manually in the registers of the bodies they are interested in.

It is proposed for a single, standard register with a taxonomy of stakeholders by theme. MISE has upgraded the platform to enable a cluster of registers, acting as owner. In this case, a technical solution is required; however, coordination at the decision-making and political level remains the primary need.

Another example comes from the City of Rome, where a draft proposal of the resolution related to the "establishment, maintenance and management of the register of stakeholders" was presented as the result of the activities of the Ad hoc Working Group, whose approval process has not yet been completed. The implementation of the commitment activities required prior approval of the Regulation by the City Assembly and the launch of the relative application, which explains the non-completion of the commitments.

Action 5 certainly remains one of the actions ensuring continuity in the next Action Plan, considering the strategic and transversal objectives of the topic. In the future, the Register will represent an important item of the information structure also in terms of NRRP implementation and adoption of appropriate codes of conduct for decision-makers in the institutional environment.

Action 6 - Culture of Open Government

http://open.gov.it/monitora/6-cultura-dellamministrazione-aperta/

Lead Administration
Department for Public Administration (PCM – DFP)

Other administrations involved
Department for Information and Publications (PCM – DIE), Ministry of Culture (MIBAC)

Monitoring contact person from the Open Government Forum
FERPi – Federazione Relazioni Pubbliche Italiana

Background and objectives of the action
The values of open government imply a cultural change, a new relationship between citizens and public administration.

On the one hand, feelings like suspicion, contradiction, distrust, and self-centeredness, indifference, negligence on the other, undermine this relationship and facilitate the proliferation of privileges, sometimes leading to illegality.

It is crucial to pair the action plan with a thorough dissemination process of the values of open government, making it possible for citizens to have direct contact with the spaces of public administration where such values and principles are best represented. Both physical and digital areas will be highlighted, communicated, explained, made known and included in an overall communication strategy targeting citizens, with particular attention paid to disadvantaged categories.

IRM recommendations on the action during the Plan's presentation

IRM assessment of the action design	
Relevant for OGP values:	Civic Participation, Access to information
Potential impact:	Minor
IRM comment:	Although several of these milestones give continuity to positive activities such as the Open Government Week and the Open Gov Champion Award, further efforts in this field could focus on more meaningful actions, such as implementing interactive forums for public engagement, in particular for specific target groups such as youth or the elderly. The additional focus could also be placed on how administrations concretely plan to engage citizens in promoting their open government activities. Without a concrete strategy in that direction, the risk is that initiatives remain an example of self-promotion without really bridging the gap with citizens. This was also raised as a critical point by civil society stakeholders. Finally, increasing the specificity of the commitment, for example, through the inclusion of set targets for implementation, could help improve its potential impact.

Results of the analysis on the progress of the commitments of action 6.

Action 6 consists of **8 commitments**. **62%** completed.

Action No.	Action Title	Lead Administration of commitment	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
6	Culture of Open Government	MiC – Ministry of Culture		1		1
		PCM - DIE	1	1		2
		PCM – DFP	4	1		5
	Total Culture of Open Government		5	3		8

Action 6 is composed of a series of commitments aimed at effective implementation of the culture of open government. The involved bodies have planned and developed initiatives and events; however, their implementation was heavily limited because of the pandemic.

The 2021 edition of OGW was planned and implemented in parallel to the OGP week (17-21 May 2021). Regarding the OpenGov Champion Award, the call for proposals targeting civil society associations was opened in May 2021. It aimed to identify projects or initiatives responding to the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The restyling of the OpenGov Italia website, undergoing reconstruction at the time of the report drafting, is included in the activities of the project "Opengov: methods and tools for Open Government" developed by FormezPA on behalf of the Department for Public Administration. Three pilot administrations (the Tuscany Region, the City of Mazara del Vallo, the City of Vicenza) were supported in the design of their social media strategies. The administrations were also supported in the definition of their external and internal social media policies. Finally, the communication staff were trained on the professional use of social media through tailored support activities.

A cycle of webinars organised aimed to provide public administrations with strategic and operational indications for professional use of social media. The training cycle included alternating webinars focusing on cross-cutting aspects of social media communication and the use of single platforms. Over the years, the Department for Information and Publications (DIE) has carried out communication campaigns supporting the OGW, the last one organised in 2019. In 2020, due to the pandemic, the communication actions were linked to Covid-19. In 2021, the activities also resumed on other topics. A webinar has been promoted by the DIE during the OGW 2021.

Action 7 – Corruption prevention

http://open.gov.it/monitora/7-prevenzione-della-corruzione/

Lead Administrations
MIMS - Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructure and Transport
University of Messina
City of Palermo
Sicily Region

Other administrations involved
Agency for Territorial Cohesion, Agency of State Property, Department for Planning and Coordination of Economic Policy (PCM – DIPE), CONSIP, Ministry of Economics and Finance (MEF)

Monitoring contact person from the Open Government Forum
FONDACA – Fondazione per la cittadinanza attiva

Background and objectives of the action
This action aims at preventing corruption by adapting open contracting standards and introducing tools like the Advanced Integrity Pacts.
The Public Contracts Service (SCP) is a platform of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (today MIMS - Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructures and Mobility) developed in cooperation with the Conference of Regions and Autonomous Provinces and ITACA, in compliance with the publication obligations under Legislative Decree 50/2016.
It also includes open data on notices, calls for tender and outcome of public contracts for works, services and supplies, information on biennial programmes for the purchase of goods and services and the triennial programmes for public works and related annual updates. It also includes the register of unaccomplished work as envisaged by the Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport of 13 March 2013, no. 42.
Data are updated on a daily basis and published on the Ministry's open data platform http://dati.mit.gov.it/catalog/dataset.

IRM recommendations on the action during the Plan's presentation

IRM assessment of the action design	
Relevant for OGP values:	Access to Information, Civic participation
Potential impact:	Moderate
IRM comment:	One Open Government Forum stakeholder criticized the limited ambition of the commitment in applying IPs only in Sicily. In the future, the government could

| | | | | consider extending the practice more broadly across the national territory, especially in light of the promotion of the instrument in the National Anti-Corruption Plan 2019–2021 as a participatory mechanism for monitoring the assignment and implementation of public contracts. |

Results of the analysis on the progress of the commitments of action 7.
Action 7 consists of **5 commitments**. **20%** completed.

Action No.	Action Title	Lead Administration of commitment	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
7	Corruption prevention	City of Palermo	1			1
		MIMS (exMIT) – DIPE - CONSIP		2		2
		Sicily Region			1	1
		University of Messina		1		1
	Total Corruption prevention		1	3	1	5

Concerning adopting open contracting framework in the Public Contracts Service database, the MIMS, after having analysed the possible options, has launched an internal administrative process to put the identified technical solution into operation. It took more time than expected, in particular, due to the joint responsibility of various departments of the Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructures and Mobility (MIMS) on public contracts and information systems. The commitment has been initiated, but not yet concluded. It's included as an ordinary activity envisaged by the renewed agreement on the database with ITACA. The commitment to open data of the IT Archives of Public Works (AINOP) which started in November 2019, has encountered a delay due to the quality and completeness of data, rather than technical difficulties. Although the system is enabled to generate by default data from the AINOP database both in view-only mode[19], and as open data in the ministerial catalogue[20], it was decided to postpone the launch of the dataset by the end of 2021 to improve the data consistency.

Another important pillar of action 7 "Prevention of corruption" is the Integrity Pacts in Sicily to which the three administrations - the University of Messina, the Sicily Region and the City of Palermo - have committed themselves in December 2019.

The activity envisaged in the 4th National Plan concerned the City of Palermo was integrated into the action OGP LOCAL[21]. Thus, part of the commitment was directly completed, while the rest will be part of OGP LOCAL related activities of the City of Palermo. The other entity involved, the University of Messina, is pursuing its membership of Libellula [22] - the civic monitoring laboratory for procurement

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[19] https://ainop.mit.gov.it/portale#/

[20] Open data catalogue of the ministry http://dati.mit.gov.it/catalog/dataset

[21] https://www.comune.palermo.it/palermo-informa-dettaglio.php?id=31988&tipo=1#

[22] https://libellulalab.it/

through the application of an advanced integrity pact [23] signed on 19 December 2019[24]. The commitment of Sicily Region (testing the main tools of the Advanced Integrity Pact and establishing a Regional Register of Civic Monitoring Bodies) lacks an update and therefore results as not completed.

The topics covered by Action 7 are very important for the integrity policies required by the OGP[26] , it is therefore necessary to encourage discussions in the future OGP plan, to involve important stakeholders working on these issues in order to move from testing to action backed by an appropriate operational support to all involved bodies.

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[23] https://www.unime.it/it/informa/notizie/presentato-ateneo-il-laboratorio-di-monitoraggio-civico-libellula

[24] http://parliamentwatch.it/2019/12/20/la-firma-del-patto/

Action 8 - Simplification, performance and equal opportunities

http://open.gov.it/monitora/8-semplificazione-performance-e-pari-opportunita/

Lead Administration
Department for Public Administration (PCM – DFP)

Other administrations involved
Agency for Digital Italy (AGID), administrations involved in the Pilot Labs with the Performance Assessment Office (UVP) of the Department for Public Administration, Department for Equal Opportunities (PCM – DPO)

Monitoring contact person from the Open Government Forum
FONDACA – Fondazione per la cittadinanza attiva

Background and objectives of the action
The digital transition of performance plans for administrative simplification is a process to improve public organizations' capacity and the forms and ways they use to express themselves.

Meeting performance obligations is very burdensome for administrations and causes the production of many documents, which hinders management and decision-making. There is also a need to simplify technical language and operational tools and make the organizational performance comparable by setting common indicators.

A key measure is the digitalization functions due to their strategic relevance in connection with the ability of administrations to innovate processes according to the guidelines laid down in the Triennial Plan for IT in PA.

There is also a need for greater transparency and objectivity in presenting results achieved by administrations using the principle of accountability and fostering equal opportunities as a cross-cutting organizational performance dimension that ensures "inclusiveness" in a public administration able to deliver better services to citizens.

IRM recommendations on the action during the Plan's presentation

IRM assessment of the action design	
Relevant for OGP values:	Civic Participation
Potential impact:	Minor
IRM comment:	Although the commitment is largely introspective and focused on improving processes internal to the administration, the proposed guidelines for the administration cycle to strengthen citizen participation are commendable and in line with OGP values. However, the IRM suggests a stronger participatory

		focus so that the government ensures that public consultation processes are put in place in the future when such key documents are designed. This would also align with the efforts to strengthen citizen participation promoted under Commitment 4.

Results of the analysis on the progress of the commitments of action 8.

Action 8 consists of **8 commitments**. **100%** completed.

Action No.	Action Title	Lead Administration of commitment	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
8	Simplification, performance and equal opportunities	PCM – DFP	5			5
		PCM – DFP - AGID	1			1
		PCM – DFP, PCM - DPO	2			2
	Total Simplification, performance and equal opportunities		8			8

For Open Government, the issue of public accountability is linked to the final part of the performance management cycle, as described in art. 4 of the legislative decree n°150/2009[25,] namely, "to report the results to the internal control and political-administrative bodies, decision-makers, competent internal and external control bodies, citizens, stakeholders, users and service recipients".

The Action, led by the Department for Public Administration, focused on five specific commitments to improve the performance cycle, all of them completed. A model was developed, together with AgID, to measure and compare digitalization projects by clusters of administrations regarding simplification.

Finally, the DFP and DPO[26] have worked on the Directive on equal opportunities and strengthening the Guarantee Committees (CUG) in public administrations[27] and the subsequent monitoring.

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[25] https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legislativo:2009-10-27;150

[26] PCM - Department for Equal Opportunities - DPO

[27] http://www.funzionepubblica.gov.it/articolo/dipartimento/27-06-2019/direttiva-recante-%E2%80%9Cmisure-promuovere-le-pari-opportunita-e

Action 9 - Digital Services

Lead Administration
Agency for Digital Italy (AgID)

Other administrations involved
Agency of Customs and Monopolies, CONSIP, Department for EU Policies (PCM – DPE), PCM - Department for Family Policies, MUR Ministry of University and Research - DG for Students, Development and Internationalization of Higher Education (DGSINFS), INPS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Economics and Finance (MEF), Unioncamere, the Puglia Region, City of Rome, Ministry of Public Education (MI).

Monitoring contact person from the Open Government Forum
Lab Diritto di Accesso Civico - Osservatorio OCIPA - University of Salerno

Background and objectives of the action
Digital technologies are gradually transforming organizational processes into public administrations and online service delivery. Such a transformation requires strong central government support and an adequate involvement of an active, professional community and civil society.
Process re-engineering is the primary objective of a digitalization process, with citizens and businesses at the core.
The "once only" principle (citizens cannot be vehicles of data for public administrations that are unable to talk to each other) has to be the compass orienting a more human digitalization process every day, a process based on common sense, satisfaction and real efficiency of the services we work to deliver.

IRM recommendations on the action during the Plan's presentation

IRM assessment of the action design	
Relevant for OGP values:	Access to Information
Potential impact:	Minor
IRM comment:	To avoid redundancy, activities in digital services could focus on one or two macro commitments of a strategic nature. These commitments must be created with OGP values in mind. As mentioned above, the current commitment does not reflect OGP values in their entirety, focusing rather on e-government services. Digital services specifically focused on providing public accountability mechanisms in key areas could be considered a starting point for new strategic macro-objectives. The Annex of digital services to be

			published in conjunction with the action plan cycle is a useful overview and should be sufficient to present existing strategies to promote digital services.

Results of the analysis on the progress of the commitments of action 9.
Action 9 consists of **37 commitments**. **78%** completed.

Action No.	Action Title	Lead Administration of commitment	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
9	Digital services	Agency of Customs and Monopolies	1	2		3
		AGID	4	1		5
		AGID, MUR – DGSINFS	1			1
		MAECI	2			2
		MI - (Ministry of Education)	5			5
		PCM - Department for Family Policies	3		1	4
		PCM – DPE	3			3
		Puglia Region	5	3		8
		City of Rome	2		1	3
		Unioncamere	3			3
	Total Digital services		29	6	2	37

The pandemic has highly demanded digital services in PA, not only in the health and education sectors. The new priority has affected the citizens' perception of the use of digital public services. Today citizens are more aware of the paramount importance of access to digital public services than two years ago. For example, the App IO [28], launched in April 2020 to get a single access point for direct interaction with local and national public services from a smartphone (Notifications, Bonus, State Cashback, certificates such as the Green Pass[29]), is reorienting online service policy of both central and local public administrations.

The first part of this action involved AgID in the promotion and improvement of digital services, in particular, digital identity such as SPID[30] . This activity also required coordination in the new context, namely, the Minister for Innovation - through the Department for Digital Transformation[31], becoming the body in charge of digital services governance.

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[28] https://io.italia.it/

[29] COVID-19 (EU Digital Covid Certificate)

[30] https://www.spid.gov.it/

[31] https://innovazione.gov.it/

Overall, the administrations involved in this action completed services that can be considered e-government, highly appreciated by citizens, but subject to obligations deriving from the Triennial Plan for IT in Public Administration 2020 - 2022[32,] such as adaptation of services to the national platforms PagoPA, SPID. For example, The City of Rome and Puglia Region have tried to increase the number of digital services through "performance" commitments, which led to diverse outcomes. Other administrations such as Unioncamere, MAECI[33], PCM-DPE[34], Agency of Customs and Monopolies and MUR[35], developed and promoted sectorial digital services dedicated to specific target users or Apps based on blockchain technology.

The commitments of the Ministry of Education, added to the 4NAP in August 2020 and aiming at tackling the digital divide in schools, have been completed.

Action 9 "Digital Services" is linked to the digital services listed in the paragraph "A. List of digital services to be published in the period 2019-2021".

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[32]https://pianotriennale-ict.italia.it/ aggiornato nel luglio 2020
[33] MAECI - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
[34] PCM - Department for EU Policies - DPE
[35] MUR - Ministry of University and Research

Action 10 - Digital citizenship and skills

http://open.gov.it/monitora/10-cittadinanza-e-competenze-digitali/

Lead Administrations
Agency for Digital Italy (AGID)
Department for Public Administration (PCM – DFP)

Other administrations involved
Department for Youth and National Community Service (PCM-DGSCN), INPS, INAIL, Ministry of Culture (MiC), Unioncamere, Regions and Autonomous Provinces, City of Rome, Ministry of Public Education (MI).

Monitoring contact person from the Open Government Forum
Lab Diritto di Accesso Civico - Osservatorio OCIPA - University of Salerno

Background and objectives of the action
As shown by recent DESI – Digital Economy & Social Index 2019 data, the low level of digital skills is a critical issue for Italy and is considered as one of the leading causes of the delayed digital transformation process in the public sector.
According to DESI, Italy needs strategic digital skills initiatives for the different population groups, such as elderly people, the unemployed, and the young.
Businesses increasingly need to simplify their relationship with public administration, including access to services and meeting requirements.
With the scarce pervasiveness of digital skills, there is equally low awareness of digital citizenship rights. Therefore, it is crucial to develop tools and initiatives to raise awareness about digital citizenship rights and the added value of digital services among citizens.

IRM recommendations on the action during the Plan's presentation

IRM assessment of the action design	
Relevant for OGP values:	Access to information, Civic Participation
Potential impact:	Moderate
IRM comment:	This commitment seeks to help increase the pervasiveness of digital skills and awareness of digital citizenship rights through various activities. This is a complex commitment, structured around eight clusters of milestones under the responsibility of AgID (10.1–10.2), DFP (10.3–10.6), INPS (10.7–10.10), MIBAC (10.11), DGSCN (10.12–10.21), Unioncamere (10.22–10.23); Regions and Autonomous Provinces (10.24–10.26); City of Rome (10.27–10.32).

			The commitment is complex, and several sets of milestones are relevant only for the implementing agency, contributing to furthering the impression that the commitment lacks coherence.
			Nevertheless, clusters of milestones (like those under the leadership of the DFP and the DGCSN) are relevant and ambitious. If fully implemented, they could contribute to a moderate change in practice regarding the level of digital skills in public administrations on the one hand and youth digital citizenship on the other.

Results of the analysis on the progress of the commitments of action 10.

Action 10 consists of **41 commitments**. **80%** completed.

Action No.	Action Title	Lead Administration of commitment	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
10	Digital citizenship and skills	AGID	1	1		2
		INPS	1	2	1	4
		MI - (Ministry of Public Education)	9			9
		MiC – Ministry of Culture			1	1
		PCM - DGSCU	10			10
		PCM – DFP	2	2		4
		Regions and Autonomous Provinces	3			3
		City of Rome	5		1	6
		Unioncamere	2			2
	Total Digital citizenship and skills		33	5	3	41

Action 10 includes commitments on two specific objectives: digital skills and digital citizenship. Likewise, for open data and digital services, the contact for citizens regarding digital skills is the Department for Digital Transformation. That is why several commitments made by AGID were shared in the course of implementation with MITD.

The Department for Public Administration pursued digital skills in the public sector through 4 commitments related to the launch of an online platform for self-assessment of digital skills of public employees (complementary digital skills), which have been put online. The subsequent dissemination activities have been, however, delayed. Other administrations followed this topic, such as INPS, the City of Rome and Unioncamere. In August 2020, the Ministry of Public Education committed itself to developing the digital skills of the teaching staff, starting with newcomers and managed to complete it.

On digital citizenship for young people aged 14 to 35, the Department for Youth and National Community Service of PCM[36] has completed a series of commitments related to the opportunities promoted by the

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[36] https://www.politichegiovaniliserviziocivile.gov.it/

youth policies[37] The MiC[38] invested in digital content for public libraries of the new BIBLIOMEDIATECA in Potenza. The Regions committed themselves to the coordination of initiatives on digital citizenship. At the same time the City of Rome completed the commitments on establishment of "Punti Roma Facile" (Easy Rome Points)[39] and the activities of the "Scuola Diffusa per la Partecipazione e la Cittadinanza Digitale" (Diffused School for Digital Citizenship and Participation)[40].

[37] https://giovani2030.it/
[38] MiC – Ministry of Culture https://www.beniculturali.it/
[39] https://www.comune.roma.it/web/it/partecipa-punti-roma-facile.page
[40] https://www.comune.roma.it/web/it/partecipa-scuola-diffusa.page#:~:text=La%20Scuola%20Diffusa%20%C3%A8%20stata,associazioni%20partner%20del%20progetto%20Mindsharing.

List of digital services to be published in the two-year period 2019-2021

The 4th National Action Plan envisages the launch of 11 digital services. Of 11, three services currently under construction, have been divided into 5 sub-services. Now, 16 digital services are being monitored within the plan. **56%** completed.

This list of services is linked to Action 9 and to the related commitments made by the involved administrations.

Lead administration	Cod. service	Completed	In progress	Not completed	Total
Total Agency of Customs and Monopolies		1	2		3
Total AGID, DGSINFS - MIUR, CIMEA		1			1
Total CONSIP		1			1
Total INPS			1		1
Total MAECI		1			1
Total MEF			1		1
Total Ministry of Defence		1			1
Total PCM- DGSCN		1			1
Total PCM- DPE		1			1
Total Puglia Region		1		1	2
Total City of Rome		1	1	1	3
Overall total		**9**	**5**	**2**	**16**

For more detailed information on the state of implementation, please refer to Annex 1.

Peer exchange/ Peer learning

The pandemic, spreading over Italy several months after the launch of the 4NAP, reduced communication and peer-to-peer exchanges, both national and international, as public administrations were primarily focused on emergency response measures.

This brought, for example, at the national level, to the cancellation of such an important recurring event envisaged in the 4th NAP, like the Open Government Week scheduled for March 2020. The event was created to give visibility to the ongoing actions promoting the culture of Open Government by offering physical and virtual spaces for discussion and practice exchange between administrations, civil society organizations and citizens.

Gradually, communication and exchange activities related to the 4NAP were resumed. Between the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, national and international events on practice exchange and dissemination of knowledge took place.

At the national level, the fourth edition of the Open Government Week (OGW) was held from 17 to 21 May 2021, simultaneously with the "Open Gov Week". A total of 61 online events were held, engaging 1400 participants, taking into account that the Department for Public Administration and FormezPA organized only 9 webinars.

At the international level, the Contact Point and the Task Force for Open Government (TF OG), established in 2021 by the DFP, took part in the "Democracy and Governance Practice Retreat 2021: In Crisis and Beyond" on 21-25 June 2021.

The event, hosted by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of Europe and coordinated by the Open Governance Network for Europe, presented and discussed new approaches to decision-making processes to increase citizens' trust and strengthen democracy. The sessions were focused on the themes of participation, civic space, the rule of law, transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, Italy participated in the first OGP meeting to better use the outcomes of the international government network meetings for an in-depth exchange with the member countries on the priority areas. The meeting, held on 23 June 2021, involved the OGP-G7 countries in addressing the theme of anti-corruption, which has become a top priority for governments worldwide due to the pandemic and extraordinary support measures to the current economic crisis.

At the national level, there is a collaboration on this central topic with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), currently steering the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group (ACWG). Therefore, the Italian delegation to the meeting included experts from both MAECI and DFP who shared with other colleagues (the UK, Canada, Germania, Francia, the USA, and Korea) the elements of national analysis.

Finally, at the level of OECD, Italy participated in the Working Party on Open Government (WPOG), a Public Governance Committee organization, active in various thematic subgroups. In this context, best practice exchange took place on several occasions. One meeting, in particular, was focused on the recent experiences of Finland, Canada and Portugal in strengthening civic space for minorities and disadvantaged groups, including women, mainly affected by the global pandemic crisis.

The exchanges in 2021 and the dialogue initiated with some OGP member States particularly active in the areas of interest for Italy recommended as well by the Support Unit may impact the next NAP, developed through a more advanced co-creation process than the prior ones.

Besides the exchanges described above, the TF OG experts carried out policy area analysis of the NAPs of all current members of the OGP Steering Committee.

At the same time, in collaboration with the Support Unit, best practices were collected and discussed to begin the co-creation process for the new national plan, which, following several preparatory activities, was officially launched on 30 July 2021 and will be completed by the end of the year. The exchanges that took place in 2021, and the dialogue initiated with some OGP member States particularly active in the areas of interest for Italy recommended as well by the Support Unit, may impact the next NAP, developed through a more advanced co-creation process than the prior ones.

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Conclusions, initiatives, next steps

Regarding the relevant initiatives and reforms identified in Italy after the adoption of the 4NAP, national interventions are noted in the following policy areas relevant to the implementation of the Open Government principles:

- functioning of the public sector (simplification, IT development, digital transformation)
- promotion of digital skills in the public and private sectors (employees, students, citizens)
participation of citizens and stakeholders in decision-making processes

Each national intervention tool approved during the 4NAP implementation period, and described below, can render the interventions promoting the culture of Open Government more effective and implement its principles within the next NAP.

The 2020-2023 Simplification Agenda (L.D. n.76 of 16 July 2020) envisages measures for the Government, Regions and local authorities to simplify and eliminate bureaucratic constraints and reduce costs for businesses and citizens.

The 2020-2022 Triennial Plan for IT in Public Administration (DPCM 17 July 2020) is an essential tool to promote the digital transformation in Italy and, in particular, among Italian public administrations. The Plan's guiding principles are digital and mobile-first, cloud-first, inclusive and interoperable services by design, privacy by design, user-centric, data-driven and agile, once only, public data as a common good, open code.

The National Strategy for Digital Skills (21 July 2020) has been developed to reduce the gap with other European countries, to eliminate the digital divide between different areas within the country, to support as much a possible digital inclusion, and to encourage future technologies in education. The Strategy consists of four areas of action: higher education and training, employment, ICT skills, citizens. The Strategy is expected to be implemented by 2025 through the **Operational Plan**, which was subject to a public consultation on the ParteciPa platform in 2021.

The **Public Debate** was introduced into the Italian legal system (Prime Minister Decree 76/2018) as a process of public discussion with citizens of opportunities and project solutions for public works of particular strategic and economic importance and impact. The Decree also established the timeframe for the debate procedure and set up **the National Commission for Public Debate,** which provides timely information and recommendations and ensures a smooth debate procedure. The methodology is essentially based on listening to all stakeholders impacted by the implementation of specific public works. The public debate accelerates the process of verifying a public work project through a very substantial and accurate conversation, which should involve as many actors as possible. Two years after the Decree entered into force, on 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport instituted the Commission composed of representatives of the administrations involved in various ways into the decision-making processes on large national infrastructure facilities, including Regions and local authorities, which would guarantee the best strategic choices for the country at a local level.

Finally, due to the economic and social consequences of the pandemic, a new important public reform instrument - the **Next Generation EU** - was introduced at the European and national levels. Namely, the fund approved by the European Council in July 2020 aims to support the Member States affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The **National Recovery and Resilience Plan** (**NRRP**), developed by Italy and largely financed from this fund, gathered all the strategic interventions that will be implemented in the 2021-2026 period.

The **NRRP** is a number of actions and interventions designed to overcome the economic and social impact of the pandemic. The relaunch of economic activity is connected to three strategic priorities of crucial importance for Italy and agreed at the European level: digitalization and innovation, ecological transition and social inclusion. They indicate the main structural axis for intervention to restart growth and improve economic competitiveness, the quality of work and people's lives, keeping track of the challenges, which should guide the economic development of the country. At the same time, the interventions of the Plan will be outlined to maximize their positive impact on three themes related to major long-term inequalities: gender equality, the issue of youth and the "Southern Question". The NRRP addresses these fundamental issues through an integrated and horizontal approach, which aims at empowering women and combating gender discrimination, improving skills, competencies and employment opportunities for young people and developing Southern Italy.

The NRRP objectives of reducing inequalities, together with those of digital transformation, promote a new alliance between the government and citizens invited to perform a motivating and monitoring function through appropriate open data mechanisms, information and decision-making processes to ensure transparency in project implementation and also to reduce corruption risks related to a large amount of public funding involved.

The situation determined by the outburst of pandemic world-wide and in Italy, which initially was hit particularly heavily, brought about an internal reflection on the achievements of the 4 consecutive NAPs which have been the main instrument for the implementation of the Open Government principles at the national level since 2011.

Certainly, the achieved results vary, starting from initiatives implemented by schools, also internationally, such as OpenCoesione, passing to the Open Government Week, the Open Government Partnership Award or the creation of a Register of Stakeholders at the ministerial level, to name a few. Important progress has been made on the regulatory level, and last but not least, the adoption of the FOIA legislation and the following creation of a national Competence Center to support its application by public administrations at different governmental levels.

The important progress was made not only due to the significant political commitment of the pro-tempore decision-makers, but also due to the active participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) united in the OG Forum.

Since 2016, on behalf of the Department for Public Administration, it has been bringing together representatives of civil society, the academic world, businesses and consumer protection organisations. During the pandemic, a considerable number of CSOs participating in the OG Forum have united to solicit the two governments that, subsequently, were addressing the emergency nation-wide. In particular, their initiative "Restart with Open Doors" asked the Government and the Minister of Public Administration to participate more actively in the development and implementation of the initiatives included in the NRRP; they also rendered themselves available to monitor the implementation of the Plan which is requested by the European Commission from the Member States benefitting from the Next Generation EU fund further to ordinary social funds.

The debate, initiated to manage the closure of the 4NAP, unfolded an important convergence in the reflections proposed by the DFP in response to the common need of strengthening collaboration

between stakeholders for a wider dissemination and more effective implementation of the Open Government principles.

Shared with the CSOs and the PAs involved so far, there is the need to both start the process of transformation of the OG Forum into a Multistakeholder Forum (MSF) in line with the actions of various OGP member countries, and to discuss the co-creation of future commitments to be implemented both at the national and local levels, in the new context of the NRRP implementation.

The MSF will represent a permanent forum with equal representation for the discussion of civic participation in public decision-making processes and democratic life. It should be created through a transparent process of selection, carried out with a clear mandate and laying down shared operating rules.

With this in mind, the DFP has launched a process that represents a new collaboration with CSOs and PAs at the national level, as Italy's participation in the OGP initiative aims at a wider promotion of the culture of Open Government, which should be the backbone of any public sector reform policy.

To this end, the first discussion took place in July to define the process of the 5NAP development, seen as an opportunity to put into practice a truly participatory approach and therefore aimed at implementation of a co-creation process compared to the previous NAPs, when CSOs participated mainly in the final consultations on the NAP contents. It is expected, also by the CSOs, is that a NAP includes a limited number of challenging commitments, aimed at creating necessary conditions for a transparent and participatory implementation of the NRRP. In addition to the already mentioned transformation of the current OG Forum into a Multi-Stakeholder Forum, it is envisaged to develop a **National Strategy for Open Government** as the central element of the 5NAP, also for the purposes of ensuring a shared national vision.

The co-creation process will be implemented starting from September 2021 and will be based on the collaboration model between all levels of government (central, regional and local), civil society, public and private stakeholders, and on the joint definition of priorities and actions to be implemented.

In this process, suitable tools and methods of work will be used to facilitate active participation and listening to different points of view, with the aim of attaining shared choices and increasing the quality of the process in the initial creation phase, but also through establishment of appropriate mechanisms that ensure shared implementation and monitoring and final evaluation of the results.