

THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

**FOURTH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**  
**OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE**

July 2022 - December 2024

## CONTENTS:

I. INTRODUCTION .....	3
II. Efforts to date under the Open Government Partnership Initiative .....	4
III. National Action Plan Development Process .....	5
IV. Commitments (measures) .....	7
1. Thematic area "Transparency and Access to Information" .....	7
Measure No. 1 "Conceptual Framework for Open Governance" .....	7
Measure No. 2 "Implementation of the standards of the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (CETS 205) and subsequent accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to it" .....	10
Measure No. 3 "Conducting a national assessment of Internet development in Bulgaria through the adopted framework of UNESCO Internet Universality Indicators, supported by the Council of Europe" .....	12
2. Thematic Area "Good Governance and Anti-Corruption" .....	15
Measure No. 4 "Implementation of various forms of effective public dialog for the development of common standards in the use of artificial intelligence in the digitalization process in order to ensure guarantees of equal access and respect for human rights" ....	15
Measure No. 5 "Implementation of effective public control during inspections in livestock and other animal breeding facilities" .....	19
Action No. 6 "COVID-19 Task Force" .....	24
3. Thematic area "Open Data" .....	28
Measure No. 7 "Construction of a National Metrological Network" .....	28
Measure No. 8 "Publication of information on the Open Data Portal" .....	32
Measure No. 9 "Study of the needs of citizens and businesses for the publication of information from the public sector in an open format" .....	34
4. Thematic area "Civic participation" .....	36
Measure No. 10 "Development of proposals for changes to the Law on Direct Citizen Participation in State Power and Local Self-Government" .....	36
Measure No. 11 "Improving the regime of volunteering in the Republic of Bulgaria" .	40
Measure No 12 "Developing a template for sending online petitions to state bodies and its adaptation on the official Internet page for sending online petitions to the government and parliament" .....	45
Measure No. 13 "Strengthening the participation of non-governmental organizations in the process of resolving disputes arising between consumers and traders in connection with complaints received in the CPC" .....	49
Measure No. 14 "Forums for public discussion of the Education Quality Inspection Framework with stakeholders: representatives of the professional community, scientific circles, nationally represented parent and non-governmental organizations" .....	53

## I. INTRODUCTION

*“Tell me and I’ll forget. Show me and I’ll remember. Include me and I will understand,”*  
*Confucius*

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative is based on the principles of transparency, citizen empowerment, anti-corruption and technological innovation.

Citizen empowerment is a process that allows citizens to influence management decision-making. Civic participation is an invariable attribute of deliberative democracy, and it is based on the belief that those affected by a decision have the right to participate in its making.

According to the Civic Participation Index (2021)<sup>1</sup> Bulgaria is in a state of developing civic participation, and compared to previous editions of the Index (2019 and 2017), the environment for civic participation - one of the indicators of the index - has suffered a decrease. To a large extent, this is due to the assessment of the ineffective dialog between institutions and civil organizations, regardless of the fact that the Index states that the various forms of civil participation are regulated at the legislative level.

On the tenth anniversary of its participation in the Initiative, Bulgaria is making civic participation the main focus of its National Action Plan. Most of the proposed activities are in this thematic area.

Following the scale of levels of civic participation from information, through public consultations to dialog and partnership, the last two are the forms that imply the most active participation, based on two-way communication between institutions and organizations, based on mutual interests and shared goals in the development of specific policy. Partnership is the highest level of civic participation, insofar as its implementation implies shared responsibility in decision-making. The innovation of the Fourth National Plan is that the activities foreseen in it envisage their joint implementation by a state institution and a civil organization. This is an indisputable achievement not only compared to the previous three plans, but also in a comparative aspect compared to other action plans of countries participating in the initiative.

With the Fourth National Action Plan, the principle of civil participation is given a real expression by realizing its highest level of manifestation - partnership.

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<sup>1</sup><https://index.fgu.bg/>

## II. Efforts to date under the Open Government Partnership Initiative

Since joining the Initiative in 2012, the Republic of Bulgaria has implemented three National Action Plans. In the three national plans adopted by the Bulgarian governments, the permanently present areas are good governance, transparency and access to information and open data.

Through the various initiatives included as measures in the implemented plans, new institutes were introduced or existing ones were developed. Legislation was improved by introducing the institute of impact assessment, (pre- and post-) and fixing public consultations as a mandatory element of the composition of the adoption of a normative act.

In the field of access to information, a number of changes have been made, from the expansion of the categories of information that public institutions are obliged to publish, the improvement of the regime with the reuse of information to the regulation and subsequently the creation of the one-of-a-kind Platform for Access to Public Information, such as a unified centralized information system for submitting applications for access to information and receiving answers to them.

Through various initiatives, the plans also push for the wider publication of data in an open, machine-readable format and its reuse by an unlimited number of users. Initially, for demonstration purposes as a planned activity, an Open Data Portal was created (2014), on which more than 150 data sets were published in one year, which allowed Bulgaria to be placed among the ten countries in a European Data Portal study, which define open data trends. Subsequently, a completely new Open Data Portal was built, with whom the information systems operating in the country are integrated. Commitments related to open data occupied a high percentage of the activities under the second and third National Action Plans.

With each of its plans, the Republic of Bulgaria has sought to focus on one or several of the principles of the Initiative. In the previous plans, through the measures, emphasis was placed on activities related to technological renewal, access to information, decency and integrity of institutions. Stakeholder involvement in the implementation of the plans was characterized by low to medium activity in their development and almost none in their implementation. The measures related to civil participation also did not constitute a high percentage, or in the cases in which there were some, they were partially implemented or with unfinished implementation. To a large extent this is also the reason to ensure the active participation of civil organizations, and subsequently their partner involvement in the implementation of the measures in the plan during the preparation of the Fourth National Plan.

### III. National Action Plan Development Process

In April 2021, Decree No. 132 of the Council of Ministers was adopted, which provided for the creation of a Council for the coordination of the participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Partnership for Open Government Initiative.

The creation of the Council aims to establish a permanent forum within which to conduct dialog between the government, other authorities and stakeholders on issues related to the formulation of national commitments under the OGP and their implementation. The main functions of the Council are:

- to prepare and ensure the process of planning, development and adoption of the national action plans;
- to provide ongoing monitoring of the implementation of specific measures from the relevant national plan;
- to act as a mechanism for monitoring and control by both stakeholders and the general public of the implementation of the plan's measures;
- to support the processes of joint decision-making and implementation of decisions by the administration and stakeholders, as the highest degree of realization of the principles of civil participation.

The composition of the Council will include representatives of the administration and of non for profit legal entities for public benefit, which have participated in the development and/or implementation of a measure from an active national action plan. The Council will meet up to 4 times a year. Its mandate will coincide with the duration of the relevant national action plan and will expire after its reporting. Rules are provided to ensure continuity and transition from one plan to the next.

In accordance with the principles of the initiative, the Council will be jointly chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, designated by the Council of Ministers as the national coordinator of the Initiative, and by a representative of the non-profit legal entities that are members of the Council.

For the development of the Fourth National Action Plan, the Decree envisages the convening of a transitional composition of the Coordination Council to discuss the received proposals for measures in the plan. Participants in the transitional composition of the Council can be the initiators of measures or those designated as their executors by state institutions and civil organizations.

After the adoption of the decree, the specific activities for the preparation of the Fourth National Action Plan included:

- publication of a schedule for the preparation of the plan - May 2021;
- invitation and collection of proposals for plan measures - June, July 2021;
- public discussion of received proposals for measures for the Fourth National Action Plan - September 2021;
- convening of the first meeting of the transitional composition of the Coordination Council - 15.11.2021;
- activity of the working groups on civil participation, transparency and access to information, honest governance and the fight against corruption and open for discussion and finalization of the received proposals - 18.11-8.12.2021;
- final meeting of the transitional composition of the Council to approve the measures to be included in the 4th NAP – 9.12.2021;

- public discussion of the measures approved for inclusion in the plan - 10.12.2021 - 10.01.2022.

During the preparation of the plan, 38 proposals for measures in the plan were received, 19 initiated by state institutions and 19 by civil organizations. As a result of the activity of the working groups, 18 measures were proposed to the transitional composition of the Council for approval at its final meeting.

In the following months, given structural or other changes regarding the institutions/organizations - initiators of the measures, it was necessary to assess the compliance of the proposed measures with the goals and principles of the Initiative, including requesting a reconfirmation of the proposed commitments. As a result of the received confirmations and/or refusals of the implementation of measures from all institutions/organizations involved in the process in July 2022, the **final number of measures that will be included in the plan is 14**, distributed by thematic areas as follows:

The thematic area "Transparency and Access to Information" includes 3 measures;

The thematic area "Good Governance and Anti-Corruption" includes 3 measures;

The thematic area "Open Data" includes 3 measures;

The a thematic rea "Civic Participation" includes 5 measures.

## IV. Commitments (measures)

### 1. Thematic area "Transparency and Access to Information"

<b>THEMATIC FIELD "TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION"</b>	
Measure No. 1 "Conceptual Framework for Open Governance"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure 01.10.2022 - 31.03.2024	
Leading institution/organization	The Administration of the Council of Ministers
<b>Description of the measure:</b>	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	Lack of a systematic approach to follow the principles of open management, presence of numerous and different strategic documents in which these principles are embedded as a whole and partially, but at the same time there is a lack of a conceptual basis on which to define the goals, tasks and activities to be carried out at the national level for the implementation of the principles of transparency, accountability, integrity and civil participation in decision-making processes.
What does the measure consist of?	<p>A review will be made of the current strategic documents and their relevance to the principles of open government and the open state, and depending on the result, completely new parts will be added or further developed, with which the conceptual foundations of open government will be laid.</p> <p>The specific activities to implement the measure will be carried out by an interdepartmental working group created by the Administration of the Council of Ministers. Representatives of civil organizations with opinion or interest in the topic will also participate in the working group. During the activity of the working group, developing an entirely new strategy document or complementing an existing strategy, citizen participation will be encouraged using innovative methods such as organizing a hackathon or a citizen jury.</p>

How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	The implementation of the measure will lay the conceptual foundation of open government, synchronize the various documents governing its principles and lay the foundation on which to define the goals, policies and activities leading to transparent and open government.	
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	The measure is relevant to the values of the transparency and civil participation initiative, as its implementation includes the active participation of the interested civil organizations.	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	<p>The following resources are needed to implement the measure:</p> <p>Human resource, expressed in the activity of the members of the working group, the representatives of civil organizations, students with degrees in public administration, international relations and other volunteers.</p> <p>Material – expressed in a base for holding the meetings of the group and the hackathon or the civil jury.</p> <p>Indicative budget for the implementation of the measure - BGN 10,000.</p>	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
<p>1. Invitation and selection procedure for stakeholders (civil organizations with expertise in the subject, industry and other professional organizations) for inclusion in the working group for developing the conceptual framework for open governance.</p> <p>Results: procedure for nomination and inclusion of stakeholders in the interdepartmental group</p>	1.10.2022	15.11.2022
<p>2. Convening an interdepartmental working group with the participation of civil organizations with expertise on the subject and conducting group meetings.</p>	15.11.2022	15.03.2023



The tasks of the working group are to review the current strategic documents and their relevance to the principles of open government and the open state.		
3. Organizing and holding a hackathon on the topic of open government.	1.04.2023	1.05.2023
4. Drafting proposals to supplement/amend existing strategic documents or prepare a new strategic document for open management.	1.06.2023	1.09.2023
5. Review of existing action plans containing open governance measures and their synchronization with the concept of open governance.	1.09.2023	31.3.2024
Partners for the implementation of the measure	Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law	
Interested organizations	Access to Information Program Foundation Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria	
Contact information:		
Name of the contact person(s) from the leading institution/organization	1. Ralitsa Velichkova; 2. Nadia Shabani	
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THEMATIC AREA "TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION"	
Measure No. 2 "Implementation of the standards of the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (CETS 205) and subsequent accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to it"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure 01.11.2022 – 30.06.2023	
Leading institution/organization	Administration of the Council of Ministers
Description of the measure:	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	<p>The Convention on Access to Official Documents - CETS 205 of the Council of Europe is the first and so far the only international agreement on access to information of an intergovernmental organization of which the Republic of Bulgaria is a member. At the moment, 18 Member States of the Council of Europe have signed the Convention and 11 of them have ratified it. The Convention entered into force on December 1, 2020. The Republic of Bulgaria has not ratified the convention.</p> <p>Regardless of the fact that the Law on Access to Public Information was adopted and is in effect more than 20 years ago and Bulgaria has extensive experience in its implementation, for the accession to the leading international act in this matter, it is necessary to assess whether all the requirements of the Convention are met in our national legislation.</p>
What does the measure consist of?	The aim of the measure is to bring the Bulgarian legislation in line with the requirements of the Convention on Access to Official Documents. A possible consequence of its implementation will be the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to this international act.
How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	With the implementation of the measure, actions will be taken to bring the Bulgarian legislation in line with the principles and standards of the Convention, which will be a guarantee that Bulgaria can take the path of joining the Convention.
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	The measure is related to the values of the Initiative to empower citizens to form an opinion about the state of society and about state institutions and to participate in an informed manner in the making of public policies; to support the integrity, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of public institutions, thus strengthening their legitimacy.

More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	Indicative budget for the implementation of the measure– BGN 10,000.	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
1. Preparation of an analysis of the conformity of the requirements of the Convention and the current Bulgarian legislation	1.11.2022	1.05.2023
2. Preparation of proposals for legislative changes as a result of the findings of the analysis and their public discussion (optional)	1.05.2023	1.10.2023
3. Creation and activity of an interdepartmental working group for the preparation of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Convention on Access to Official Documents - CETS 205	1.10.2023	30.06.2023
Partners for the implementation of the measure	Access to Information Program Foundation	
Interested organizations	Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Justice	
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THEMATIC AREA "TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION"	
Measure No. 3 "Conducting a national assessment of Internet development in Bulgaria through the adopted framework of UNESCO Internet Universality Indicators, supported by the Council of Europe"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure in the period from 30.07.2022 - 31.12.2024	
Leading institution/organization	Ministry of E-Government
Description of the measure:	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	In Bulgaria there is no regulation of the Internet and we do not have consolidated and up-to-date information about the network and the quality of services, which is essential for the national policy for information society, which is horizontal and should take into account the state and processes of development of technologies and society in a timely manner.
What does the measure consist of?	Assessing the development of the Internet in Bulgaria through the adopted framework for Internet Universality of UNESCO. The Internet Universality Indicators allow anyone to voluntarily assess their national internet environment, bridge the digital gaps and improve the connectivity of business and society. The framework is a valuable tool that takes human rights into account and creates a framework for multi-stakeholder cooperation. Implementing the framework requires careful planning, sufficient time and resources to effectively collect and analyze data and discuss findings and recommendations.
How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	Through transparency, awareness and effective cooperation of many stakeholders (governments, civil society, private sector, academia, the technical community, the journalistic community, etc.), for an open, globally connected, secure and reliable Internet.
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	The measure is related to the principles of the Initiative: transparency, civic participation, accountability and technological innovation. UNESCO's Internet Universality Framework is a multi-stakeholder research tool designed to produce substantive and far-reaching findings that will be of real value to policymakers,

	regulators and other stakeholders to improve the quality of digital policy development and implementation.	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	Funding of BGN 90,000 is included in the three-year budget forecast of the MEG	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
1. Establishment of an Advisory Council/Board of all stakeholders	30.07.2022	
2. Building a joint research team		
3. Development of a research action plan		
4. Data and sources collection		
5. Data analysis		
6. Preparation of report/summary and recommendations		
7. Organizing a national workshop of all stakeholders for validation and conducting related support activities		31.12.2024
An additional activity that can be carried out after the planning period is Impact Assessment and Monitoring.		
Partners for the implementation of the measure	Media 21 Foundation; Law and Internet Foundation; National Commission for UNESCO; Electronic Communications Association; Communications Regulation Commission; National Statistical Institute	

	and others.
Interested organizations	State institutions, civil society, private sector, academia, the technical community, the journalistic community, etc.
<b>Contact information:</b>	
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## 2. Thematic Area "Good Governance and Anti-Corruption"

<b>THEMATIC AREA "GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION"</b>	
Measure No. 4 "Implementation of various forms of effective public dialog for the development of common standards in the use of artificial intelligence in the digitalization process in order to ensure guarantees of equal access and respect for human rights"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure June 2023 - December 2024	
Leading institution/organization	Ministry of E-Government
<b>Description of the measure:</b>	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	<p>With the increasing introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) into various decision-making processes that directly affect people, more and more issues related to the protection of human rights arise such as: "Who is responsible when human rights are violated as a result of an AI-based decision?"; "Is it possible for AI-based systems to be unbiased and non-discriminatory?" etc. AI-based systems are also finding their place in the public sector, with increasingly ambitious tasks assigned to them – automating the distribution of social benefits, assisting people looking for work, assessing the risk of gender-based domestic violence, etc.</p> <p>In 2019, the Council of Europe published 10 steps to protect human rights when using artificial intelligence (AI). The document places first the need for a legal framework to regulate the performance of human rights impact assessment when introducing AI systems in the public sector. Second in the guidelines is the conduct of meaningful public consultations before the introduction of AI systems in the public sector. Establishing safeguards for the accessibility, rights and safety of AI systems developed and implemented by companies should also be subject to analysis and regulation, in line with the European</p>

	<p>Commission's 2019 White Paper on AI and the Guidelines on Ethical Aspects of Trusted AI.</p> <p>In Bulgaria, the adoption of legislation regulating AI and guaranteeing the protection of human rights in connection with the use of AI systems is still on a basic level. (Broadly speaking, it ends with the Data Protection Act, which introduced EU data protection legislation.) At the end of 2020, a Concept for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Bulgaria until 2030 was adopted.</p> <p>With the creation of a new Ministry of E-Government, which is the successor of the policy for information society and information technologies from the Ministry of Transport, IT and Communications, the constitution of a Public Council for Information Technologies and Information Society under the Minister of the E-Government is envisaged. Thematic working groups will operate at the Public Council, one of which will be dedicated to Artificial Intelligence.</p> <p>As a guarantee that national plans will be adopted in accordance with the basic principles and international standards in the protection of human rights, it is necessary to ensure the participation of human rights organizations in the Public Council or at the level of working groups.</p>
<p>What does the measure consist of?</p>	<p>The measure consists of the following specific areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the working group "Artificial Intelligence" at the Public Council for Information Technologies and Information Society under the Minister of E-Government, to attract human rights organizations that are relevant to the subject of human rights in the process of digitization and the use of AI systems in the implementation of the Concept for the Development of AI in Bulgaria by 2030.</li> <li>• Development of common standards in the use of Artificial Intelligence in the digitization process in order to ensure</li> </ul>



	<p>guarantees of equal access and respect for human rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of various forms of public dialog on discussing the standards for the use of Artificial Intelligence</li> </ul>	
How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	The participation of civil organizations that protect the rights of citizens in the working group is necessary to ensure the application of standards for the protection of human rights in the adoption of a regulatory framework and the development of practices in the development and use of AI systems.	
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	The measure directly affects the increase of honest governance, because it will lead to more transparency in general in the process of developing and using AI in both the public and private sectors. It will ensure a broad public debate, which is necessary to remove various fears in society related to new technologies.	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	No additional budget is required.	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
Inclusion of human rights civil organizations with an opinion on the topic of human rights in the process of digitization and use of AI systems in the working group "Artificial Intelligence" at the Public Council for Information Technologies and Information Society under the Minister of Electronic Government	06.2023	
Development of common standards in the use of Artificial Intelligence in the digitization process in order to ensure guarantees of equal access and respect for human rights	06.2023	05.2024

Implementation of various forms of public dialog on discussing the standards for the use of Artificial Intelligence	05.2024	12.2024
Partners for the implementation of the measure	Bulgarian Center for Non-Profit Law	
Interested organizations	Human rights civil organizations	
Contact information:		
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## THEMATIC AREA "GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION"

Measure No. 5 "Implementation of effective public control during inspections in livestock and other animal breeding facilities"

Start and end date for implementation of the measure

01.09.2022 – 31.05.2023

Leading institution/organization

Ministry of Agriculture

### Description of the measure:

What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?

The provisions of Art. 57 in connection with Art. 58, item 5 of the Civil Code and Art. 170, para. 2 of the Law on Veterinary Arrangements (LVA) provide for the right of non-profit organizations for the protection of animals to carry out public control by participating in the inspections of the control authorities. However, the legal framework lacks an order for the exercise of the said right. In practice, the control authorities refuse to include the organizations in the orders for carrying out inspections or in another act that would ensure their admission to the inspected site, due to the lack of an explicit legal basis for this. This way, the assessment of whether an organization should participate in an inspection is left to the inspected person, regardless of the rights expressly recognized by law. The inspected person, on their part, in most cases refuses to allow non-governmental organizations into their facility.

In view of the above, the legally provided rules for public control, through participation in inspections, are not applied in practice.

The implementation of the measure will ensure a clear order for public control to be carried out together with the control authorities. This way, transparency will be guaranteed when inspections are carried out under the order of the Law on Animal Protection (LAP) and LVA and the long-standing obstruction of civil participation in activities to ensure humane treatment of animals

	<p>will be ended. It is necessary to take into account that non-profit organizations do not perform the functions of an administrative punitive body when they participate, in the sense of the LAP and LVA, in inspections, and their presence guarantees transparency and legality in the implementation of state control in relation to animal welfare.</p> <p>The control body's declaration of will, with which its act includes representatives of the organizations to participate in an inspection, would only certify the existence of the legal grounds for a specific organization to participate in a specific inspection. Such a declaration of will would not create control powers within the meaning of administrative penal law.</p>
What does the measure consist of?	<p>The measure consists in carrying out the following activities:</p> <p>Creation of a special working group under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, with the participation of the interested state expert and control bodies and the representatives of the non-governmental sector, with the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Preparation of an analysis of the effect of the application of the current legislation for the implementation of public control, through participation/presence during inspections of the control bodies in livestock and other facilities for raising animals on the basis of Art. 57 in connection with Art. 58, item 5 of the Civil Code and Art. 170, para. 2 of LVA.</li> <li>✓ Development of a project for amendment and supplement of the LVA and LAP, which would provide for an order for participation in inspections of the control bodies in animal breeding and other facilities for raising animals on the basis of Art. 57 in connection with Art. 58, item 5 of the Civil Code and Art. 170, para. 2 of LVA.</li> </ul>

	<p>Conducting public discussion and public debate on the developed project.</p> <p>Coordination within the Council of Ministers and submission of the project to the Council of Ministers for consideration and acceptance.</p>
How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	The implementation of the measure will enable the National Assembly to consider and adopt an amendment and supplement to the current legislation, which will overcome the gap in the legal provisions and the established difficulties in law enforcement.
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	<p>The measure is mainly related to the values of the Initiative – transparency, civic participation and accountability.</p> <p>The legal rules for public control, expressed in the possibility of participation of non-governmental organizations in inspections of the control bodies under the LVA and the LAP, are an important tool that can guarantee transparency and legality in the exercise of the powers of the control bodies. Public control has been introduced in the regulatory framework in order to enable interaction between control bodies and non-governmental organizations and civil participation in ensuring the protection of animal welfare. On one hand, non-governmental organizations can assist the competent authorities with expertise and assistance to injured, neglected or abused animals, and on the other, it is a protective mechanism that allows the public to be informed whether animal protection and welfare rules are actually being followed and, accordingly, whether the necessary measures are taken when there are established violations.</p> <p>The real implementation of public control ensures transparency of the execution of the powers of the control bodies, prevents corrupt practices and provides additional guarantees for timely and adequate intervention in the protection of animals and ensuring the required humane treatment. Last but not least, public scrutiny will help build public confidence in animal welfare control and increase accountability.</p>

More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	No additional budget is required.	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
1. Preparation of an analysis of the effect of the application of the present legislation for the implementation of public control through participation/presence during inspections of the control bodies in livestock and other facilities for raising animals on the basis of Art. 57 in connection with Art. 58, item 5 of the Civil Code and Art. 170, para. 2 of LVA.	01.09.2022	31.12.2022
2. Development of a project for amendment and supplement of the LVA and LAP, which would provide for an order for participation in inspections of the control bodies in animal breeding and other facilities for raising animals on the basis of Art. 57 in connection with Art. 58, item 5 of the Civil Code and Art. 170, para. 2 of LVA.	31.11.2022	31.03.2023
3. Conducting procedures for public discussion and public debate on the prepared project.	31.01.2023	30.06.2023
4. Conducting a coordination of the project within the Council of Ministers and its submission to the Council of Ministers for consideration and adoption.	30.06.2023	30.07.2023
Partners for the implementation of the measure	Campaigns and Activism for Animals in the Industry Association	

Interested organizations	Bulgarian Food Safety Agency; Non-governmental organizations
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Title/Position	1. Director of the Animal Husbandry Directorate; 1.1 Chief Expert of the Animal Husbandry Directorate 2. Chairman of the Campaigns and Activism for Animals in the Industry Association
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<b>THEMATIC AREA "GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION"</b>	
Action No. 6 "COVID-19 Task Force"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure 01.09.2022 – 31.12.2024 <sup>2</sup>	
Leading institution/organization	National Council on Anti-Corruption Policies at the Council of Ministers
Description of the measure:	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	<p>Overcoming the crisis caused by the pandemic is a long process that requires huge resources. At the national level, and especially at the EU level, finances of an unprecedented scale have been foreseen. Many funds are inevitably associated with increased control over their spending. In countries like Bulgaria, where there is systematic corruption, the risk of losing and/or inefficiently spending funds is high, and hence the socio-economic recovery is in question. To this must be added the urgency of the measures that are taken and their quick implementation, which reduce control and transparency /especially in the case of public procurement/. The set of these circumstances reduces the possibility of real monitoring carried out both by the responsible institutions and by civil society.</p> <p>In a dynamic environment, it is often difficult for the administration to control the spending of funds, and in some cases the rules for investing them change and make control even more difficult. From the point of view of the overriding public interest in publicity, transparency, efficiency, accessibility and timeliness of public resources to deal with the pandemic, there should be high standards that prevent the corruption risk in spending the funds.</p>
What does the measure consist of?	<p>The measure has two components.</p> <p>On the one hand, it envisages the creation of a multidisciplinary team of representatives of public institutions, industry and employer organizations, trade unions and civil organizations at the National</p>

<sup>2</sup>The term refers to the specific realization of the activities under the measure. Once the board is established and the information consolidated accordingly, the expectation is that they will operate as an integral part of the overall anti-corruption state institutional framework.



	<p>Council for Anti-Corruption Policies, whose task will be to carry out monitoring, analysis and preparation of recommendations in relation to anti-corruption measures in the spending of public funds (European and national) to address the health and socio-economic aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The multidisciplinary team will be established as a permanent working group of the Council. Through the activity of this team, the NCAP will be able to offer to the attention of the Council of Ministers and other relevant institutions standards and protocols for the work of the bodies to reduce the corruption risk and increase institutional accountability and transparency, and will function as part of the National Council on Anti-Corruption Policies at the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>Another activity of the team is the collection of information and its publication in the Unified Information Portal - COVID-19   coronavirus.bg., for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- expenses incurred by central and local government bodies, including contracts under Art. 13 of the Law on Measures and Actions during the State of Emergency (LMASE);</li> <li>- donation details;</li> <li>- payments under socio-economic measures, payments made to deal with the health aspect of the crisis and other current information.</li> </ul>
How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	<p>The implementation of the measure will increase transparency in the spending of funds and lead to a significant reduction of the corruption risk. A side result will be increased trust in institutions at the national and local level.</p> <p>The implementation of the measure will be a proactive activity on the part of the state authority aimed at citizens, media and business. The transformational effect will be that it offers an innovative tool for increasing transparency and accountability.</p>
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	<p>The measure is relevant to all four principles of the Initiative. It works towards transparency and accountability (of the spending of public resources on</p>

	a socially sensitive topic such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the socio-economic recovery from it); envisages citizen participation and technological innovation (through the consolidated real-time registry).	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	The measure does not provide for the allocation of financial resources. Participation in the National Anti-Corruption Policy Council is free of charge, and the administration's activity under the proposed measure will not require additional/overtime work.	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date <sup>3</sup>	Date of completion of activity:
Creation of a multidisciplinary team in the form of a working group at the National Council for Anti-corruption Policies	01.09.2022	30.11.2022
Inventory, cataloging and indexing of state agency structures and type of payments in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic	01.12.2022	28.02.2023
Receiving and summarizing information received from state agency structures	01.01.2023	Continuing until 31.12.2024.
Start the process of publishing information on the costs of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic on the Unified Information Portal - COVID-19, including in a machine-readable and open format.	01.02.2023	28.02.2023
Public presentation of the measure	01.03.2023	31.03.2023
Partners for the implementation of the measure	Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives	
Interested organizations	Access to Information Program as well as other civil organizations	
Contact information:		
Name of the contact person(s) from the leading institution/organization	1. Maria Tsankova 2. Bilyana Gyaurova-Vegertseder, Teodor Slavev	

<sup>3</sup>The start and end dates are indicative as they depend on administrative institutional decisions.

Title/Position	1. State expert, Administration of the Council of Ministers (ACM) 2. Director, Researcher - Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives
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### 3. Thematic area "Open Data"

<b>THEMATIC AREA "OPEN DATA"</b>	
Measure No. 7 "Construction of a National Metrological Network"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure 30.07.2022 - 31.12.2024	
Leading institution/organization	Bulgarian Institute of Metrology
<b>Description of the measure:</b>	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	<p>According to Art. 4 of the Measurements Act (MA), one of the main tasks of the Bulgarian Institute of Metrology (BIM) is to ensure the traceability of measurements in the country by creating, storing and improving national standards and by creating a national system for certified reference materials. BIM, General Directorate "National Center of Metrology" (GD NCM), distributes the units from the national standards to the next most accurate standards in the country through calibration. The main clients of BIM - GD NCM, are accredited and non-accredited calibration laboratories and testing laboratories, as well as large manufacturing enterprises.</p> <p>The construction of a national metrology network will ensure unambiguous, secure, reliable and tamper-proof measurements for both BIM and its customers.</p>
What does the measure consist of?	<p>Using the format of "working groups", composed of representatives of BIM partners and experts of BIM - GD NCM, basic elements of a system for managing resources and measurement processes in calibration laboratories and testing laboratories are being built. The goal is to provide a system of work: machine input-automated processes-machine output. The elements of the system selected for development under the measure are from the "automated processes" stage. These are internal to the laboratory processes, but their presence, development and necessary data for work will predetermine the machine outputs and inputs, which will remain the subject of future work.</p>
How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	<p>Joint activities between BIM experts and partners will allow building unified elements of an automated system, as well as to select an optimal format of machine-readable data in the field of metrology. The construction of a national metrology network will provide the possibility of machine exchange of data between the various laboratories and their customers, and work in an automated laboratory environment will reduce</p>

	the risk of errors in processing and transfer of measurement results. This will increase the reliability of the measurements, reduce the processing time and limit the possibilities of manipulation.	
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	It provides conditions for the business to take a direct part in developments and implement in practice solutions related to a main direction in the development of metrology on international level.	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	Indicative budget for the implementation of the activity - BGN 350,000.	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
Activity 1. – Construction of a centralized system for monitoring the surrounding environment in the laboratories	01.08.2022	31.12.2022
Activity 2: Building a system for authorized access to the information managed by the system	01.11.2022	30.06.2023
Activity 3: Renewal of IT equipment.	01.01.2023	30.06.2023
Activity 4: Construction of a centralized database (register) of reference and auxiliary equipment	01.03.2023	31.03.2024
Activity 5: Construction of a centralized input/output register of the client's measuring devices	01.04.2024	31.12.2024
Partners for the implementation of the measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union of Metrologists in Bulgaria;</li> <li>• Transport Infrastructure and Construction Institute</li> <li>• Club 9000;</li> <li>• Union of Construction Laboratory Specialists in Bulgaria.</li> </ul> <p>All partners will participate in working groups on determining the specific parameters of the elements of the</p>	

	system, organizing and participating in trainings and conferences in order to popularize the measure and support the laboratories for their integration into the network.
Interested organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union of Metrologists in Bulgaria;</li> <li>• Institute of Transport Construction and Infrastructure;</li> <li>• Club 9000;</li> <li>• Union of Construction Laboratory Specialists in Bulgaria;</li> <li>• Accredited and non-accredited calibration laboratories and testing laboratories and their supervising bodies.</li> </ul>
<b>Contact information:</b>	
Name of the contact person(s) from the leading institution/organization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Eng. Antoaneta Yovcheva</li> <li>2. Tsvetomir Petkov</li> </ol>
Title/Position	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chief Director of GD NCM</li> <li>2. Chief Expert</li> </ol>
Contact email and phone number	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. a.yovcheva@bim.government.bg, 0884 301 737</li> <li>4. ts.petkov@bim.government.bg , 0886 842 147</li> </ol>
Union of Metrologists in Bulgaria (UMB)	
Name of the contact person(s) from the civil organization – partner of the measure	Assoc. Dr. Eng. Georgi Sashov Milushev
Title/Position	Chairman of the UMB
Contact email and phone number	office@smb-bg.org, 02 989 39 46; 0888 501 235
Transport Infrastructure and Construction Institute (TICI)	
Name of the contact person(s) from the civil organization – partner of the measure	Dr. Eng. Hristo Grozdanov

Title/Position	TICI Director
Contact email and phone number	grozdanov@institute-tsi.com, 0888 91 91 71
Club 9000	
Name of the contact person(s) from the civil organization – partner of the measure	Prof. Dr. Elka Vasileva
Title/Position	Club 9000 Chairman
Contact email and phone number	club9000chairman@gmail.com, 0888 668 700
Union of Construction Laboratory Specialists in Bulgaria (UCLSB)	
Name of the contact person(s) from the civil organization – partner of the measure	Eng. Iliyan Iliev
Title/Position	Chairman of the UCLSB
Contact email and phone number	<a href="mailto:sslsb@abv.bg">sslsb@abv.bg</a> , 0885 144 413

THEMATIC AREA "OPEN DATA"		
Measure No. 8 "Publication of information on the Open Data Portal"		
Start and end date for implementation of the measure 30.07.2022-31.12.2024		
Leading institution/organization	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Culture	
Description of the measure:		
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	Until now, part of the information on the execution of the state budget is published in the Open Data Portal, but information on the fiscal reserve is not published. The public part of the Register of Museums is not published in a structured, machine-readable format, which makes it difficult to access and use it. Publishing these resources in an open format will ensure greater transparency and public awareness and increase the use of the data.	
What does the measure consist of?	1. Monthly publication of information on the implementation of the state budget and the state of the fiscal reserve in the Open Data Portal. 2. Publication in open format of the public part of the Register of Museums	
How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	Improving the integrity of public institutions, more efficient management of a public resource and better public delivery and services based on open data. Higher quality and usability of datasets, more active engagement of users and more effective communication with them.	
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	It is relevant to the values of the initiative because it promotes transparency, increases accountability and provides information in different formats.	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	No additional budget is needed to implement the measure.	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
Published datasets	30.07.2022	31.12.2024
Partners for the implementation of the measure		



Interested organizations	civil organizations and citizens, institutions
<b>Contact information:</b>	
Name of the contact person(s) from the leading institution/organization	MF: 1. Tsvetelina Tsvetanova 2. Alexandra Meshkova MC: 1. Yuliyana Gradinarska 2. Desislava Azmanova
Title/Position	MF: 1. Chief Expert 2. Junior Expert MC: 1. Chief Expert 2. Junior Expert
Contact email and phone number	MF: <a href="mailto:ts.tsvetanova@minfin.bg">ts.tsvetanova@minfin.bg</a> , 02/98592024 <a href="mailto:a.meshkova@minfin.bg">a.meshkova@minfin.bg</a> , 02/98592027 MC: <a href="mailto:j.gradinarska@mc.government.bg">j.gradinarska@mc.government.bg</a> 02/9400937 <a href="mailto:d.azmanova@mc.government.bg">d.azmanova@mc.government.bg</a> 02/9400885

THEMATIC AREA "OPEN DATA"	
Measure No. 9 "Study of the needs of citizens and businesses for the publication of information from the public sector in an open format"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure 30.07.2022-31.12.2024	
Leading institution/organization	Ministry of E-Government
<b>Description of the measure:</b>	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	Insufficient citizen participation in open data policy, as well as in the prioritization of new datasets of high value for publication on the open data portal in an open format
What does the measure consist of?	<p>The purpose of the measure is to periodically study the needs of citizens and businesses for publishing information from the public sector in an open format. To define specific high-value datasets that fall into the thematic categories included in the Annex to the Open Data Directive (geospatial, earth and environment observation, meteorology, statistics, ownership of companies and businesses, mobility), based on of an interactive process involving multiple cycles and the inclusion of specific datasets from the DCAT-AP topics (a common vocabulary for harmonizing dataset descriptions initiated by the European Commission in order to realize a common vision for European data portals), which are important with a view to adopting a European approach, as well as data related to the national specificity of Bulgaria.</p> <p>To expand the range of entities involved in determining the priority topics of information from the public sector for publication in an open format and to promote the open data policy and the role of the MEG in its implementation.</p>
How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	Civil organizations will be actively involved at all stages, including planning, implementation and monitoring. The focus of published data will change, emphasizing the needs of users
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	It is relevant to the initiative's values as it promotes transparency, increases accountability and stimulates citizen participation
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	Indicative budget for the implementation of the measure - up to BGN 50,000.

Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
Activity 1. Formulation of requirements for preparation of methodology	30.07.2022	
Activity 2: Developing a methodology, conducting a sociological survey and preparing a comparative analysis of the results of open data in Bulgaria and the current trends in international policy in the field of open data		.
Review and discussion of the results in view of preparing recommendations and a facilitated mechanism for conducting regular surveys and observations of the needs of citizens and businesses		31.12.2024
Partners for the implementation of the measure	NGO Links	
Interested organizations	civil organizations with expertise in OD - will be specified upon implementation of the measure	
Contact information:		
Name of the contact person(s) from the leading institution/organization	1. Reni Borisova 2. Teodora Gandova	
Title/Position	1. State Expert 2. Chairman, NGO Links	
Contact email and phone number	1. <a href="mailto:r.borisova@egov.government.bg">r.borisova@egov.government.bg</a> 02 9492283 2.gandova@hotmail.com	

#### 4. Thematic area "Civic participation"

<b>THEMATIC AREA "CIVIC PARTICIPATION"</b>	
Measure No. 10 "Development of proposals for changes to the Law on Direct Citizen Participation in State Power and Local Self-Government"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure 01.01.2023 - 30.10.2024	
Leading institution/organization	Administration of the Council of Ministers
<b>Description of the measure:</b>	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	<p>Although it was adopted after the democratic changes in the country, the Law on Direct Citizen Participation in State and Municipal Governance (LDCPDMG) does not create sufficient conditions to promote direct participation. In order for it to provide an opportunity to Bulgarian citizens for effective direct participation in decision-making, it is necessary to adopt changes in the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce the number of required signatures and facilitate the procedures for initiating a referendum;</li> <li>- Reduce the amount of personal data that is collected for the initiation of a referendum and a citizen's initiative;</li> <li>- Lower the threshold for recognizing the validity of the referendum result;</li> <li>- Introduce the possibility of national electronic petition for national and local civil initiative;</li> <li>- Expand the scope of topics that can be submitted to a referendum;</li> <li>- Introduce machine voting in referendums;</li> <li>- Specifying the procedure, deadlines and sanctions for the implementation of the decisions of the referendums and initiatives.</li> </ul>

<p>What does the measure consist of?</p>	<p>The following activities are foreseen in order to implement the measure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a work group with the participation of the stakeholders. The initiator of the work group will be the Administration of the Council of Ministers or a Ministry chosen by it.</li> <li>2. Analysis of the practices and results from the application of the Law in Bulgaria and comparative analysis with the practices and legislation in other countries, and preparing recommendations.</li> <li>3. Preparing a concept for the changes in the Law based on the recommendations made.</li> <li>4. Conducting a wide public consultation through the use of various channels and forms of public consultation with the stakeholders - forums, focus groups, written online consultations etc.</li> <li>5. Conducting an information campaign for the need and proposition of changes in the Law.</li> <li>6. Preparing and coordinating in the CM of a final draft of a Law on Amendments and Supplements (LAS) and conducting a public consultation.</li> <li>7. Introducing the LAS and the results of the consultation in the NA. Discussion with the members of the Public Council.</li> </ol>
<p>How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?</p>	<p>By definition, public consultation and adoption of changes in the LDCPDMG, its implementation by Bulgarian citizens, civil groups, local authorities, initiative committees and others will be facilitated. The specific changes to which the measure would lead are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Citizens will actively and effectively use their constitutional right to direct participation in decision-making at the local and national level;</li> <li>- Local and national authorities will be open to citizens' proposals on issues important to them and will comply with the citizens' "agenda";</li> <li>- Bulgarian society will be familiar and well informed about the possibilities of direct participation in decision-making.</li> </ul>

How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	The direct participation of citizens in local and national governance is a right guaranteed by the Bulgarian constitution. Civic activity and involvement guarantees transparency and openness of governance. Conducting a broad consultative process of development and adoption of the LAS will create and establish standards for effective public consultations in the process of proposing and adopting legislative changes.	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	The implementation of the measure requires: - Human resources for the definition of the LAS of the LDCPDMG: legal support for the development of LAS; - Expert support - analysis of experience and practices in other countries; - Conducting public discussions and public consultation on the proposed LAS; - Advocacy and information campaign; Indicative budget for the implementation of the measure - BGN 50,000.	
Activities for measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
Formation of a working group	January 2023	February 2023
Analysis of practices in Bulgaria and other countries	February 2023	July 2023
Preparing a concept for the changes in the Law based on the recommendations made	July 2023	November 2023
Conducting a wide public consultation through the use of various channels and forms of public consultation with the stakeholders - forums, focus groups, written online consultations etc.	November 2023	April 2024
Conducting an information campaign for the need and proposition of changes in the Law.	April 2024	May 2024

Preparing and coordinating in the CM of a final draft of a Law on Amendments and Supplements (LAS) and conducting a public consultation.	May 2024	June 2024
Introducing the LAS and the results of the consultation in the NA. Discussion with the members of the Public Council.	June 2024	October 2024
Partners for the implementation of the measure	Citizen Participation Forum Association	
Interested organizations	Citizen Participation Forum, "Balkan Assist" Association, Institute for Direct Democracy, Bulgarian Association for the Promotion of Citizen Initiative, "European Institute" Foundation, etc.	
Contact information:		
Name of the contact person(s) from the leading institution/organization	1. Ralitsa Velichkova 2. Georgi Petrov	
Title/Position	1. State expert, Directorate "Modernization of Administration" 2. Executive Director, Citizen Participation Forum	
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THEMATIC AREA "CIVIC PARTICIPATION"	
Measure No. 11 " Improving the regime of volunteering in the Republic of Bulgaria"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure 01.10.2022 - 30.11.2023	
Leading institution/organization	Council for the Development of Civil Society
<b>Description of the measure:</b>	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	<p>Since 2003, organizations that work with volunteers have been proposing to the state to adopt a Law on Volunteering - to have more clarity, guarantees and validation for volunteer work. 5 draft laws have been developed, submitted to 4 different National Assemblies, but such a law has not yet been adopted. The lack of government policy and responsibility on this topic leaves the efforts of civil organizations and self-initiated groups without support and appreciation for the help they give to the most needy in society, as well as for the activity of civil organizations in general, whose life force are the volunteers. Only 10% of the population in our country (data from an omnibus survey by Alpha Research for 2021) participated in volunteer initiatives. The lack of definition for the legal status of volunteers, the validation of skills acquired as a result of volunteer work, the obligations of the organizations and institutions working with them, related to the requirements for ensuring the health and life of workers in the relevant environment are some of the factors that influence negatively civic activity realized through volunteering. This, in the medium and long term, is reflected in a poorly developed culture of solidarity and participation in public life.</p>
What does the measure consist of?	<p>Encouraging volunteerism through appropriate legal regulation will lead to wider civic participation and activation of more citizens in dialog with institutions and joint decision-making.</p> <p>The following activities are foreseen in order to implement the measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- making the Council for the Development of Civil Society a place to attract a wide range of civil organizations to discuss the subject of volunteerism;</li> <li>- identifying stakeholders and conducting a volunteering needs assessment;</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organizing discussion forums in order to create a framework for a possible future Law on Volunteering</li> <li>- creating a working group for the CDCS with the participation of stakeholders (institutions, civil organizations, business - with opinion and competence on volunteering).</li> <li>- Preparation of a preliminary assessment of the impact and a draft legislative framework of volunteering in Bulgaria - in an open process and a regime of constant public consultation, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting various forms of public consultation with stakeholders during the preparation of the preliminary assessment and during the development of the draft of normative texts;</li> <li>- Organization of a public forum, in which representatives of interested persons from the entire spectrum of volunteer activity, and above all - volunteer organizations and representatives of the volunteers themselves, participate.</li> <li>- Preparation of an analysis of the legislative framework in the field of volunteering in several leading European countries and those with similar demographic and socio-economic characteristics.</li> <li>- Public consultation on the developed and agreed draft legislation with the preliminary impact assessment.</li> <li>- Submitting the draft legislation with the results of the public consultations to the National Assembly.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Throughout this period of implementation, the stakeholders carry out activities related to the inclusion of national representatives to the idea and the specific draft law, in view of creating preparation for the subsequent discussions in the National Assembly and an attitude of support for its adoption.</p>
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How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	The development of draft legislative changes as a result of an open process with various forms of public consultation ensured at the various stages of project preparation will fulfill the mandatory conditions for the adoption of the proposed legal changes by the National Assembly at the next stage. During the preparation of the preliminary impact assessment, various options will be discussed for addressing the needs of specific legal incentives and rules in the field of volunteering, which will prepare the contents of the debate in the National Assembly in the adoption of the regulation. The open and inclusive process of developing the legislative changes will be a clear sign on the part of the state institutions that they want to develop an encouraging policy of voluntary activity in support of good governance in partnership with civil organizations and businesses.	
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	The regulation of public relations in the field of voluntary activity in the country with the aim of its promotion and sustainable development is necessary to achieve wider civic participation. The majority of civil organizations are made from volunteers and/or involve volunteers in their activities to varying degrees. Civil organizations are among the most active representatives of civil society, which are engaged in activities as required by the institutions of public information and its popularization among the general public, participation in various forms of consultation, dialog and partnership with state authorities.	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	Time and human resources are necessary for the preparation of the preliminary assessment of the impact, the respective analyses and public consultations during the development of the proposal for legal regulation.	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
Formation of a working group	October 2022	March 2023
Preparation of a preliminary assessment of the impact and the development of draft legal regulation, including identification of stakeholders and assessment of their needs	March 2023	May 2023

Conducting public consultations when developing the draft legal regulation	May 2023	June 2023
Intradepartmental coordination of the draft legal regulation	June 2023	July 2023
Adoption of the draft legal regulation by the Council of Ministers	July 2023	September 2023
Public consultation on the developed and agreed draft legislation	September 2023	October 2023
Submitting the draft legislation with the results of the consultations to the National Assembly	October 2023	November 2023
Partners for the implementation of the measure	National Youth Forum	
Interested organizations	Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law, Bulgarian Red Cross, National Alliance for Work with Volunteers, Time Heroes, National Association of Volunteers in the Republic of Bulgaria, CVS Bulgaria, representative organizations of community centers, health, medical, social, sports and environmental organizations, international organizations, etc.	
Contact information:		
Name of the contact person(s) from the leading institution/organization	1. Ralitsa Velichkova 2. Miroslav Tsekov	
Title/Position	1. Member of the CDCS secretariat; 2. Chairman of the National Youth Forum	
Contact email and phone number	1.r.velichkova@government.bg 02/94029 18;	

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THEMATIC AREA "CIVIC PARTICIPATION"	
Measure No 12 "Developing a template for sending online petitions to state bodies and its adaptation on the official Internet page for sending online petitions to the government and parliament"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure August 2022 - February 2024	
Leading institution/organization	Ministry of E-Government /MEG/ Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law
Description of the measure:	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	The citizens have the constitutional right to submit petitions with requests of public importance to the state bodies. The institutions are obliged to guarantee and create conditions for the citizens to be able to exercise their rights. The development of contemporary public relations requires the implementation of the petition right to also be possible online. Currently there are private unrecognized by the state bodies platforms, which the citizens use to initiate petitions and gather support for them. These platforms don't guarantee the commitment of the respective state body to get acquainted with the request, there are no rules what actions the respective body will take in case of a given number of collected signatures for a petition. So the lack of conditions set by the institutions for exercising this right makes it an inefficient tool for civil participation.
What does the measure consist of?	<p>The measure consists of the following specific areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of a work group by order of the Administration of the Council of Ministers headed by the MEG and with the participation of representatives of the administration of the Council of Ministers, the National Assembly, civil organizations and IT specialists with experience in the development of tools for civil participation,</li> <li>• Analysis and development of a task (specification) with the relevant functionalities necessary to fulfill the objectives of the platform.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a template with the functionalities of the platform to allow its use by various administrations of state bodies at the national and local level.</li> <li>• Adapting the portal template for online petitions to government and parliament</li> <li>• Construction and adoption of uniform rules and security in the procedures for exercising the right to online petitions</li> <li>• Conduct an information campaign to promote the page for submitting online petitions to the government and parliament</li> </ul>	
How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	Citizens will have access to a secure online petition platform, which is recognized by government authorities as a tool for realizing their constitutional right to send their requests to them and gather additional public support. State bodies will have direct access to citizens' proposals and requests, which they will use as a source for the policies and legislative changes needed and desired by citizens. The platform will guarantee predictability and transparency in the behavior of government bodies when sending an online petition to them.	
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	The measure directly affects the increase of citizen participation, as it includes the necessary creation by the state of appropriate conditions for the exercise of the rights of citizens to participate in decision-making.	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	Indicative budget for the implementation of the measure up to BGN 60,000.	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
Creation of a work group by order of the Administration of the Council of Ministers headed by the MEG and with the participation of representatives of the administration of the Council of Ministers, the National Assembly, civil organizations and IT specialists with experience in the	08.2022	09.2022

development of tools for civil participation		
Analysis and development of a task (specification) with the relevant functionalities necessary to fulfill the objectives of the platform	10.2022	12.2022
Carrying out a procedure for awarding the development of a template and concluding a contract with a selected contractor, according to the Law on Public Procurements (LPP)	01.2023	04.2023
Development of a template with the functionalities of the platform to allow its use by various administrations of state bodies at the national and local level.	05.2023	09.2023
Adapting the portal template for online petitions to government and parliament	10.2023	12.2023
Construction and adoption of uniform rules and security in the procedures for exercising the right to online petitions	10.2023	12.2023
Planning and conducting an information campaign to promote the page for submitting online petitions to the government and parliament	10.2023	02.2024
Partners for the implementation of the measure	Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law Administration of the Council of Ministers	
Interested organizations	Representatives of the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers; Citizens Association in developing the specification and rules of the platform.	
Contact information:		
Name of the contact person(s) from the leading institution/organization	1. Ivanela Andreeva  2. Nadia Shabani	

Title/Position	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chief Expert, Department "Information Systems", Directorate "Systems and Components of Electronic Government"</li> <li>2. Director of BCNL</li> </ol>
Contact email and phone number	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I.Andreeva@egov.government.bg 0886350220</li> <li>2. nadya@bcnl.org ; 0897788889</li> </ol>



## THEMATIC AREA "CIVIC PARTICIPATION"

Measure No. 13 "Strengthening the participation of non-governmental organizations in the process of resolving disputes arising between consumers and traders in connection with complaints received in the CPC"

Start and end date for implementation of the measure

In the period of implementation of the plan 01.08.2022 - 31.12.2023

Leading institution/organization

Consumer Protection Commission

### Description of the measure:

What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?

Development of the process of examining consumer complaints with the purpose of promptly /within a reasonable period of time/ receiving advice for the protection of their rights and interests or resolving the dispute through negotiations with the relevant economic operator.

The Consumer Protection Commission as an administrative body - an executive body, should not administer justice and, in connection with this, should not consider consumer complaints against traders when legal disputes arise between them, because they are civil disputes. The CPC should consider signals of violations of consumer legislation and impose the provided sanctions in the event of a proven violation, accept proposals for improving the organization and its activities, as well as give advice to consumers on how to protect their rights. Users submit numerous complaints to the CPC /about 20,000-25,000 per year/, which does not have the authority to resolve them, thus generating substantial public dissatisfaction, as well as blocking the Commission's activity and reducing the resources for carrying out the activities for

	<p>which in fact the commission has powers - control functions. If human and organizational resources are freed up by dropping complaints of little material interest, we believe that the CPC will increase its effectiveness many times over.</p>
What does the measure consist of?	<p>Development of a procedure for assigning the consideration of consumer complaints related to disputes with traders, and providing assistance in the resolution of disputes, in which the activities will be described, in order to test the possibility of their implementation by consumer protection associations /NGOs - consumer protection associations in Bulgaria, such as: Bulgarian National Association "Active Consumers", "Association for Legal Assistance to Consumers" - city of Plovdiv and Federation of Consumers in Bulgaria/ .</p> <p>The purpose of the measure is to establish the effectiveness of the outsourcing of NGO complaint handling activities and impact assessment in the event of a possible future proposal to amend the consumer protection legislation /Law on Consumer Protection and Law on the Provision of Digital Content and Digital Services and for sale of goods/.</p>
How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?	<p>Ensuring higher consumer satisfaction with the actions taken, as well as broadening the scope of consumer awareness regarding their expectations.</p>
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	<p>The proposed measure is related to the principles of the initiative, including joint actions with the civil society /NGO/ in its planning and implementation and would have a transformative potential for the</p>

	functioning of the institution in terms of freeing up administrative resources. Also, the measure is concrete, with measurable results, executable within the national plan period and with certain financial parameters.	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	Indicative budget for the implementation of the measure - BGN 140,000.  State funding of consumer representative associations is carried out in accordance with Article 196 of the Law on Consumer Protection /LCP/ according to the volume and public importance of the work performed in the interest of consumers.	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
Development of a procedure for assigning the consideration of consumer complaints related to disputes with traders, and providing assistance in the resolution of disputes	08.2022	10.2022
Trial assigning the consideration of consumer complaints to NGO	11.2022	08.2023
Analysis of the effectiveness of the outsourcing of complaint handling activities to NGO	08.2023	09.2023
Impact assessment for a future proposal to amend consumer protection legislation	09.2023	10.2023

Preparation of draft proposals for initiating legislative changes /Law on Consumer Protection and Law on the Provision of Digital Content and Digital Services and on the Sale of Goods/	10.2023	12.2023
Partners for the implementation of the measure	Bulgarian National Association "Active Consumers" Association for Legal Assistance to Consumers - city ofPlovdiv Federation of Consumers in Bulgaria	
Interested organizations	All associations for the protection of consumer rights in Bulgaria	
Contact information:		
Name of the contact person(s) from the leading institution/organization  Name of the partner's contact person(s) for the implementation of the measure	1. Ivan Frenkev 2. Bogomil Nikolov	
Title/Position	1. Chairman of the CPC 2. Executive Director of Bulgarian National Association "Active Consumers"	
Contact email and phone number	1. 02/9330500; <a href="mailto:i.frenkev@kzp.bg">i.frenkev@kzp.bg</a> 2. 02/9890106; <a href="mailto:bnap@bnap.org">bnap@bnap.org</a>	

THEMATIC AREA "CIVIC PARTICIPATION"	
Measure No. 14 "Forums for public discussion of the Education Quality Inspection Framework with stakeholders: representatives of the professional community, scientific circles, nationally represented parent and non-governmental organizations"	
Start and end date for implementation of the measure 15.01.2023 - 30.06.2024	
Leading institution/organization	National Inspectorate of Education
Description of the measure:	
What is the public problem being addressed by the measure?	<p>Over the past decade, the OECD has reviewed assessment frameworks in over 30 education systems to identify factors associated with improving the quality of education across countries. As a result of the evaluation for Bulgaria, the experts recommend ways in which the country can strengthen its evaluation framework in the field of education, in particular to facilitate the coherent presentation of the goals of the reform in secondary education, to ensure better feedback, to identify how policy initiatives perform in different settings, and to enable a more prudent use of resources.</p> <p>Assessing the quality of preschool and school education is a new process in the secondary education system (as of 2019), it is not yet well known to civil society, which is why citizens do not take an active part in both the process of discussion and adoption of criteria and indicators, as well as in activities to improve the quality of the inspection process (such as constant feedback).</p> <p>A significant part of the general public and participants in the educational process continues to believe that school quality is evidenced by students' results in national examinations, which are often determined by factors beyond the school's control. Bulgaria needs to gradually socialize a more modern and comprehensive understanding of school</p>

	<p>quality to ensure that key stakeholders will engage with the work of the NIE and embrace national education reforms.</p>
<p>What does the measure consist of?</p>	<p>Organization by the NIE of an open public discussion in a combined format (attendance and online) of a forum with representatives of the professional community, of the scientific circles, with previously prepared proposals by the NIE for a Framework for Inspecting the Quality of Education; presentation of criteria and indicators that are used in the process of preparing a complete independent expert assessment of the quality of the education provided by the kindergarten or school.</p> <p>Creation of a platform - an open forum with discussions for constant feedback between the NIE and the nationally represented parent and non-governmental organizations, regarding the conduct and results of the assessment of the quality of the education provided by the kindergarten or school through the annual inspection process.</p>
<p>How will the implementation of the measure contribute to solving the problem?</p>	<p>The NIE will work to build a common understanding of the quality of schools, to create a framework for evaluating schools related to common educational goals, with consensus criteria and indicators. This will improve objectivity and activate citizen participation in the assessment of the quality of preschool and school education.</p> <p>The platform for constant feedback and discussions with nationally represented parent and non-governmental organizations will increase the quality of the inspection process, promote the activity of the NIE and familiarize all participants in the process (teachers, parents and students) with the entire inspection process.</p> <p>Increased transparency in the implementation of the activity of the NIE, regarding the toolkit that is used in the inspection process.</p>

	<p>Involvement of a greater number of stakeholders.</p> <p>Identifying and correcting weaknesses in the inspection process. The measure stimulates the active involvement of representatives of parents and non-governmental organizations in the inspection process and guarantees the promotion of the activities of the NIE.</p>	
How does the measure relate to the values of the initiative?	The measure will work to activate citizen participation and achieve more transparency in the processes of evaluating the quality of school education	
More information (including budget for implementation of the measure)	<p>Indicative budget for the implementation of the measure -: 15870</p> <p>Description of costs</p> <p>1. One forum - Conference conference:</p> <p>2. Study "Satisfaction of Parents and Students" 1 study BGN 9,000</p>	
Activities for and measurable results of the implementation of the measure:	Starting date	Date of completion of activity:
<p>Conference on Validation of Criteria and Indicators and Adoption of Inspection Framework.</p> <p>Presentation of survey results</p> <p>Result: Criteria and indicators for quality assessment discussed and validated by representatives of the professional community and the scientific community. Current Inspection Framework</p>	<p>01.06.2023</p> <p>Establishing joint working groups to update criteria, indicators and tools</p>	30.11.2023
<p>Survey of satisfaction of parents and students from the conducted quality assessment (inspection)</p> <p>Result: Surveyed satisfaction degree from the inspection process, results and quality</p>	15.01.2023	30.09.2023

Partners for the implementation of the measure	National Children Network; Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"; Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"
Interested organizations	Professional organizations of teachers: Union of Mathematicians in Bulgaria, Association of Bulgarian Primary Teachers, Social Partners  NGOs Association of Parents, Center for Inter-Ethnic Dialog and Tolerance "Amalipe", etc.
<b>Contact information:</b>	
Name of the contact person(s) from the leading institution/organization	1. Dr. Aneliya Andreeva 2. Georgi Bogdanov
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