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## OGP Newsletter | EU for Integrity Programme

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## July 2022

This newsletter comes to you at a time when the far-reaching consequences of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine is testing the democratic, economic and social resilience of countries across the region. Nations already grappling with the economic and public health impacts of the pandemic now face further existential security challenges and a refugee crisis.

The Eastern Partnership framework is also in flux: Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia were given the perspective of EU membership. What remains constant and brings hope is how ordinary people are rising to the occasion to look after each other and their neighbors and how reformers are fighting fiercely to defend the principles of open government and democracy across the region. We try to put the spotlight on some of these efforts in this edition of the newsletter.

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Find the latest open gov updates, opportunities, resources and more supported by the EU for Integrity Programme for the Eastern Partnership, funded by the European Union. In between editions, find updates [here](#) and on social media through OGP's accounts and the hashtag #EU4Integrity.

Going forward we will provide the newsletter translations into official languages of the Eastern Partnership member countries and discontinue the Russian translation.

Чтобы прочитать этот информационный бюллетень на русском языке, нажмите [здесь](#).

 [EU for Integrity Page \(OGP Website\)](#)

 [EU For Integrity Page \(EU Neighbours East Website\)](#)

## FACES OF OPEN GOV



OGP Local membership in the Eastern Partnership region has been growing in the past couple of years. In this [interview](#), we talk with the government points of contacts for Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine; Ozurgeti, Georgia; and Vanadzor, Armenia to learn how their first OGP action plans are going.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM DAVOS



At the World Economic Forum in Davos in May, OGP CEO Sanjay Pradhan met with [Armenian President Khachaturyan](#), Moldovan Prime Minister Gavrilă, and Georgian PM Garibashvili and discussed how OGP could be helpful in their present challenging geo-political and domestic contexts. All three countries are facing complex challenges while advancing much-needed reforms. CEO Pradhan - who also received the [Social Innovator of the Year award](#) - underlined OGP's readiness to assist in revitalizing the compact between the state and citizens through ambitious open government initiatives and help shine a light on meaningful advances.

## MEMBER UPDATES

## Armenia

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As the co-creation process for Armenia's 5th OGP action plan continued apace, the OGP Support Unit met with stakeholders to support the process in May and June. The multi-stakeholder forum advanced 12 draft commitments on topics like beneficial ownership, open contracting through participatory budgeting, and eJustice and shared inputs for OGP's [2023-2028 strategy](#). Follow [OGP Armenia on Facebook](#) for all latest updates.

### Highlights

- [Reformers in Armenia](#) used Open Gov Week to recognize the women behind key open government reforms and acknowledge the far-reaching benefits of diversity and gender parity in leadership and decision-making.
- OGP participated at the [launch](#) of the Open Budget Survey in Yerevan, where Armenia was included for the first time ever. Read the country summary [here](#).
- Check out [these infographics](#) outlining Armenia's OGP co-creation process and key outcomes designed by Freedom of Information Center of Armenia (FOICA). The infographics were produced within a joint project with Armavir Development Center (ADC) and the Armenian Lawyers' Association (ARMLA).
- AMRLA [launched](#) two monitoring reports: [one](#) on the Judicial and Legal Strategy and [one](#) on the Anti-Corruption Strategy reforms.
- Read the [2021 CSO Meter report for Armenia](#).

## Azerbaijan (suspended)

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The research for the IRM report has concluded and the draft report will be available for pre-publication review in the coming months.

*Note: Azerbaijan is currently suspended in OGP, and this assessment will inform OGP Steering Committee decisions on next steps in the Azerbaijan Response Policy case. Read more [here](#).*

## Georgia

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Awaiting the inaugural OGP High-Level Council meeting, the Support Unit met with key stakeholders and participated in a [conference](#) on the consequences of the Ukraine invasion on the regional anti-money laundering systems. Stay tuned for news and updates on the [OGP Georgia website](#).

### Highlights

- IBP's Open Budget Survey [ranked](#) Georgia as global number one in terms of budget transparency. Public participation, especially around budget implementation monitoring lags.
- Civil society reacted to the recent [opinion on the EU membership application by Georgia](#) with a [set of recommendations](#), including on OGP.
- OGP partners Civil Society Institute (CSI), the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) and the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) presented the [2021 CSO Meter report for Georgia](#).
- IDFI evaluated the state of [access to public information in Georgia in 2021](#).

Six years after launching OGP Local we have to wonder, what have we learned in this time?

During Open Gov Week, the Independent Reporting Mechanism shared a [report](#) with a few lessons from some of the original Local members, including Tbilisi, Georgia.



## Republic of Moldova

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The new General Secretary of the Government, Mr. Dumitru Udrea became the new high-level point of contact for OGP. The Support Unit is working with the Moldovan government to reinvigorate the co-creation process of the next action plan, stalled since 2021. After the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, Moldova has faced a refugee and a security crisis. Many civil society and government organizations of the OGP community had to refocus their activities and deal with these challenges.

### Highlights

- The Council of Europe and the Government of the Republic of Moldova [signed](#) the revised Roadmap for Local and Regional Democracy in the Republic of Moldova.
- On July 14, OGP met with the CSOs of Moldova to discuss the open governance context in the country, opportunities that EU candidate status could bring, prospects for OGP process relaunch and OGP's 2023-2028 strategy.

## Ukraine

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Ukraine is on pause with implementation of its fifth OGP action plan due to the full-fledged war in the country and shifted priorities. The co-creation of the sixth action plan has not yet started.

### Highlights

- Despite the ongoing conflict in the country, reformers in Ukraine [came together](#) during Open Gov Week to identify open government tools and mechanisms needed right now.
- In an [OGP strategy conversation](#), the Ukraine open gov community outlined emerging priorities due to the full-scale war, like access to information, transparency and accountability in humanitarian aid inflow and distribution, and reconstruction of Ukraine.
- [Rise Ukraine](#), a coalition of Ukrainian and international organizations working on anti-corruption and open government was launched at a conference on [Ukraine Recovery](#) earlier this month. OGP has endorsed the coalition's principles.
- The Ukrainian government has also presented its [plan](#) for the recovery.
- The United Nations [awarded Ukraine](#) the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service — the United Nations Public Service Awards.



OGP Local's Rudi Borrman met with Oleksandr Slobozhan, the CEO of the Association of Ukrainian cities to discuss possible cooperation between the program and Ukrainian municipalities.

## BLOGS, STORIES, RESOURCES



### Creating OGP's Future Together

Discover all the materials you need to host and join conversations and share your views on how OGP can tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow on our strategy landing page [here](#).

- **Thursday, July 28, 9:00 AM Chişinău/Kyiv | 10:00 AM Yerevan/Tbilisi**  
[Join us](#) and other key open government thought leaders to discuss the most significant challenges and opportunities that open government approaches can positively influence in the coming years in the Asia and the Pacific region.



### [New EU Hopefuls Need to Ramp Up the Fight Against Corruption](#)

With the European Council granting EU candidate status to Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova and potentially Georgia, all three countries need to do their homework on fighting corruption, an important prerequisite for EU membership. In this [blog](#) we highlight the track record of each country and recommend next steps on fighting corruption within OGP.

## OpenStories

- Find the [recordings](#) from our storytelling workshops and [other resources](#) to help you develop your story and add it on our OpenStories website.
- Watch this [video](#) about Moldova's transparent e-procurement system, MTender, from the Open Contracting Partnership (Moldova) now available on OpenStories.



## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### European Regional Meeting

OGP's [Europe Regional Meeting](#) (including EaP countries) is taking place October 11-12, 2022, in Rome, Italy, with a dedicated sub-regional EaP convening following on October 13-14.



The [EaP Civil Society Virtual Exchange](#) will take place on July 20, 12:00 PM Chişinău/Kyiv, 1:00 PM Yerevan/Tbilisi. Join our civil society conversation on the Eastern Partnership context and developments to hear fellow champions on their challenges, lessons and ideas, and share yours.

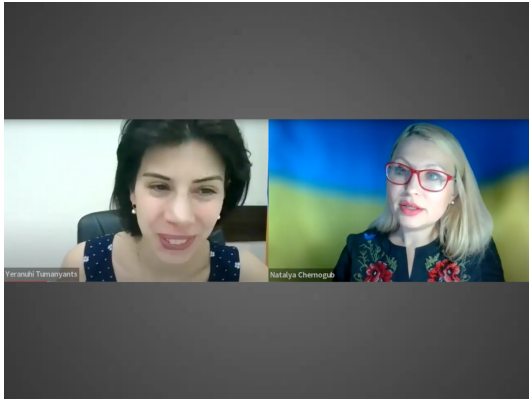


### Open Door Grants

Submit your proposal for an [Open Door Grant!](#) Let us know how you will use OGP to expand civil society engagement and build cross-sectoral partnerships in the areas of integrity, anti-corruption, public service delivery, justice, COVID-19 response and recovery, and civic space. The proposals are reviewed quarterly, with a deadline for submission at the end of each quarter. Learn more [here](#).

### EaP Youth Conference

The Support Unit was invited to the [4th EaP Youth Conference](#) on revitalizing democracy in Prague (July 10-12), where OGP discussed the effects of shrinking civic space on youth activists and human rights defenders, and presented open gov solutions and good practices to overcome them. Young activists from all EaP countries also took part in an input session for OGP’s upcoming [2023-2028 strategy](#).





### Beneficial Ownership Leadership Group

Armenia (Yeranuhi Tumanyants, Deputy Minister of Justice) and Ukraine (Natalya Chornogub, YouContol) were featured at the Beneficial Ownership Leadership Group’s latest event, “New global horizons: raising ambitions for beneficial ownership transparency”. Notably, Armenia, together with Latvia are the [first countries in the world to publish data in line with the Beneficial Ownership Data Standards](#). Watch the [recording](#).

## OGP LOCAL

### Welcome to OGP!

We’re excited to welcome four new [OGP Local](#) members from the region:

-  Armenia: Armavir, Yerevan
-  Georgia: Kutaisi, Rustavi

Access OGP Local key materials [here](#).

In between editions of this newsletter, you can find updates from OGP Local in their Slack workspace [here](#).



### A Look Inside OGP Local Action Plans from the Eastern Partnership

In 2020, we welcomed eight local jurisdictions in the Eastern Partnership region to OGP Local. See how they’re engaging marginalised communities, opening up budgets, expanding citizen participation, and fighting corruption through their 2021 action plans [here](#).

## [A Journey of Continuous Improvement in Georgian Municipalities](#)

Ozurgeti and Khoni co-created their first action plan in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and with local elections looming in the near future. They are now co-creating their second action plan. What lessons have they learned from the past? How are they improving their co-creation process? Read this [blog](#).



## [IRM Analysis: Locally-Focused Commitments in the Eastern Partnership Region](#)

Though OGP Local membership in the region is growing, national members have been integrating local commitments in their action plan for years. In this [snapshot](#), explore trending policy areas, impactful commitments, and more from local and national EaP action plans.

## OECD ANTI-CORRUPTION NETWORK

Our main partner in the [EU for Integrity programme](#) supporting the region, the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (OECD/ACN) recently published their most recent monitoring reports on anti-corruption reforms across the region's countries. Check out these reports for [Armenia](#), [Azerbaijan](#), [Georgia](#), the [Republic of Moldova](#), and [Ukraine](#). If you are engaged with the 5th Round of Istanbul Action Plan (IAP) Monitoring, don't miss the [next round of OECD/ACN consultations on its anti-corruption indicators](#) on July 22.

## WORLD OF OPEN GOV

- Read International IDEA's report on ["Russia's War Against Ukraine – Implications for Democracies and Democracy Support in Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova"](#) and watch International IDEA's [online roundtable](#) on the same topic.
- Check out this event report on ["EU candidate status to Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova? Assessing options through the results of the Eastern Partnership Index"](#) from the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. The event took place on June 14 and was co-organised with Member of the European Parliament Petras Auštrevičius.
- Discover the [key takeaways](#) from the IDEA's dialogue "Democratic Reforms for Ukraine's EU Integration: Dialogue with Leading Reformers", where reformers from Ukraine's Government and civil society discussed where Ukraine's strongest achievements lie in its post-Euromaidan reforms, how these achievements enhance the country's standing to achieve its EU candidate status, and what more remains to be done.
- Check out the ["Roadmap to fight corruption with open data"](#), an interactive tool created by a group of OGP partners to support open government reformers who want to advance anticorruption OGP commitments using data in their country.
- Explore the [Anticorruption Commitment Creator](#), a guide through the process of drafting a commitment on open data for anti-corruption.



- Use the Open Data Charter's resource "[Open Up Guide: Using Open Data to Combat Corruption](#)".

Have a story, event, or resource you'd like to share? Email it to us at [eap@opengovpartnership.org](mailto:eap@opengovpartnership.org), and we'll feature it in the next edition and on OGP's social media.

*This newsletter and the events and activities included in it were produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Open Government Partnership and do not necessarily reflect the views of the EU.*



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