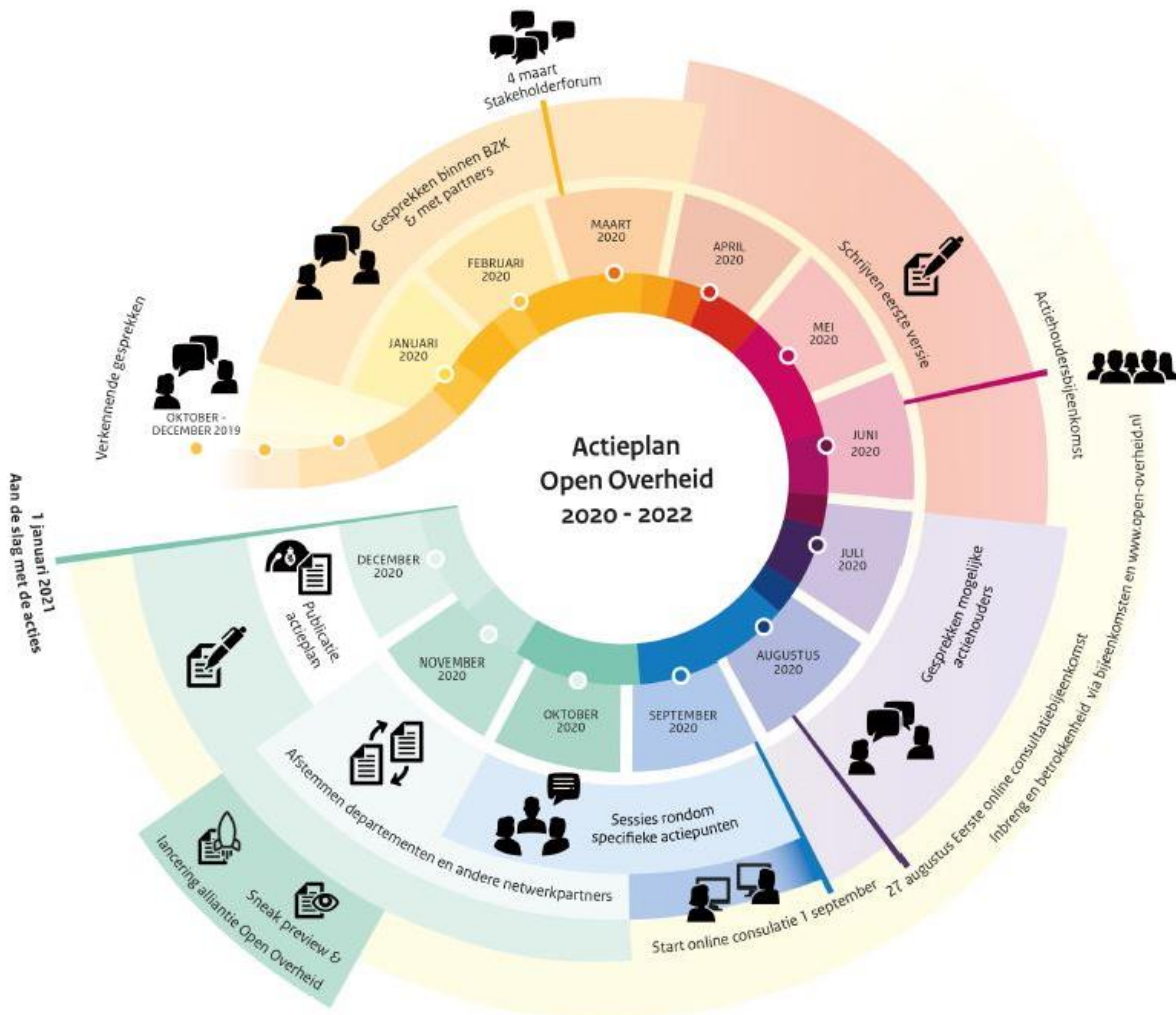


## OGP Self-Assessment Open Government Action Plan 2020-2022

<b>Country</b>	Netherlands
<b>Period Covered by the Action Plan</b>	2020-2022
<b>Date Prepared</b>	May 26 2023



## Introduction

The Dutch government is taking steps to open up the relationship between government and citizens, based on the conviction that relations between government and citizens can and must become more open. This is done by actively collecting ideas and opinions, showing what is happening within government organizations, communicating fittingly and clearly and making data available for reuse. Openness is and will remain a core value of the Dutch democratic constitutional state. Openness promotes confidence in democracy.

The Netherlands recognizes the importance of open government efforts in fostering transparency, civic participation, and public accountability. "Open organizations for an open democracy" was central to the fourth Open Government Action Plan 2020-2022 by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK). Democracy is not self-evident; we must continue to work on it. Transparency is one of the ways we do that. And we can only achieve an open democracy if there is transparency within government organizations and towards the public. BZK collaborated with partners and stakeholders both within and outside the government on the 13 commitments of the action plan. We divided these 13 commitments across 7 themes:

### I. Open Democracy

1. Transparency in the political parties act (Wpp)
2. Transparency of the electoral process
3. Digital Democracy

### II. Open Information

4. Continuation of Open Wob (FOIA)
5. Active disclosure of central government information

### III. Open Communication

6. Direct Duidelijk Brigade (Plain Language Brigade)

### IV. Open Organization

7. The Future of 'Policy Intimacy'
8. Investing in craftsmanship

### V. Open Procurement

9. Contract Register

### VI. Open Technology

10. Open Data Communities
11. Open Source
12. Open Algorithms

### VII. Open Justice

13. Open Complaints

A broad range of parties was involved in designing the Open Government Action Plan 2020-2022. The action plan is created based on the ideas, suggestions and lessons learned from stakeholder meetings, discussions with partners inside and outside government, the experiences from previous action plans and the reviews of the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM).

## Action Plan Process

Throughout the OGP cycle, the Dutch government adopted an inclusive and participatory approach. There was engagement with civil society organizations, citizens, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of the action plan. The government ensured compliance with the OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards, allowing diverse perspectives to shape the commitments and processes.

### Exploratory conversations

In October 2019, we started developing the action plan through exploratory discussions within the Ministry and with partners. Thereafter, in the first quarter of 2020, we started discussing the development of the new action plan with the multi-stakeholder forum and part of the open government community, especially those responsible for commitments in the 2018-2020 action plan. On March 4 there was a stakeholder forum meeting, where the 2020-2022 action plan was discussed with the stakeholders and on June 9, we held a meeting with those responsible for the 2018-2020 commitments, where the new action plan was on the agenda.

### The consultation phase

From March on, COVID-19 forced us to be flexible and creative in the co-creation process, and to convert our offline co-creation plans into online ones. In the meantime, the conversations about the action plan continued online, both one-on-one and in groups. From August on, we had an extensive online consultation phase. For example, we organized various consultation sessions on the themes that emerged from the exploratory phase and throughout September, there was an opportunity to submit ideas via an online form.

### Writing the plan and the finishing touches

After gathering input for an extensive period, it was time to start writing the plan, in accordance with the requirements of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). The parties responsible for the new commitments were actively involved: for their commitments they filled out the templates in which they described the commitments and the intended results. The multi-stakeholder forum was also involved, with stakeholder meetings in September and November, and the opportunity to give feedback on draft versions of the action plan.

On December 1 it was time for a sneak preview of the action plan, a large part of the people responsible for the commitments presented their commitment here. It was also the last opportunity to provide public input to improve and sharpen the commitments, for the finishing touches. During this meeting, we also launched the Open Government Alliance, which anyone who works on or is interested in Open Government can join.

### Submit to the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

By the end of December 2021 the time had come: after more than a year of co-creating the plan between the stakeholder forum, those responsible for commitments, civil society organizations, citizens and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, we submitted the fourth national Open Government Action Plan to OGP. This is the English version that meets all OGP requirements.

### Publishing and launching

At the beginning of 2021 the nicely designed public version of the Open Government Action Plan 2020-2022 was published on [open-overheid.nl](https://open-overheid.nl). Subsequently, the action plan was launched with a festive online meeting on February 11th 2021: [Lancering Actieplan Open Overheid 2020-2022 | 16 februari 2021 - YouTube](#) with participation of Open State Foundation, Transparency International Netherlands and Paul Maassen from OGP, among others.

## Use of IRM Recommendations

For the fourth National Open Government Action Plan, we included the lessons learned from the first three action plans, stakeholder feedback and IRM-reports. The most important lessons learned and next steps we took, based on the IRM review are:

1. We ensured more cohesion and a more societal approach by choosing a thematic approach.
2. In addition to the commitments, the fourth action plan also contained a shared ambition to connect the commitment holders and other stakeholders and network partners.
3. From the realization that the change to a more open government must mainly take place within government, in consultation with civil society partners, for the greater purpose, the theme of the action plan was: Open Government, Open Democracy.
4. The [Open Government Alliance](#) was set up for the fourth action plan to anchor knowledge sharing between commitment holders, the stakeholder forum, government organizations, civil society organizations and involved citizens even more firmly. A network for sharing knowledge, experience, opportunities and dilemmas in the field of Open Government. The alliance was launched on December 1, 2020, during the sneak preview of the fourth action plan. In 2022 we decided to merge the alliance into the civil society coalition 'Over Informatie Gesproken' (Talking About Information). Many parties from civil society, government, business and science are members of this social coalition. a.o. IBM, NLdigital, the Institute for Social Innovation (IMI), the National Archives and the National Sustainable Digital Information Management Program are involved. The coalition strives for an equal information relationship between citizens and government. A relationship in which citizens are co-owners of information and thus contribute to a strong democracy. In order to join forces even better, we have entered into close cooperation with the coalition for the fifth action plan.

## Assessment of the Commitments

*Provide your progress assessment below of each of the commitments proposed in the action plan using progress colors. Provide the evidence supporting the assessment, briefly give reasons to support the assessment, and identify next steps.*

■ Completed or substantial progress
 ■ Limited progress
 ■ Not started/With severe delays

Commitment	Assessment of Progress (Green/Ambler/Red)	Evidence supporting the assessment	Reasons for the assessment	Next Steps
1. Transparency in the political parties act (Wpp)		On 12 April 2022, Parliament approved the bill to amend the Wfpp and set new binding rules that will increase the transparency around the financing of political parties	These obligations are a major improvement in government transparency compared to the situation before the action plan.	The Wfpp will eventually merge into the new and more comprehensive Wpp.

		and their ancillary institutions. On 18 October 2022, the Senate approved the bill. From 1 January 2023, there is a ban on donations from abroad to political parties and donors will be allowed to make donations of a cumulative maximum of €100,000 per year. As mentioned in the IRM review.		
2. Transparency of the electoral process		The Senate adopted the bill 'New Procedure for Determining Election Results' on 14 June 2022, containing several amendments to the Elections Act. The most important is the introduction of a new way of determining election results. This includes the possibility of centralized vote counting, which has been experimented with since 2014, in the Elections Act.	This commitment represents incremental, but positive improvement in this area.	The responsible ministry (BZK) constantly works towards making the electoral process more open and transparent.
3. Digital Democracy		Information about the results can be found here: <a href="#">Zuid-Holland van start met Provinciedeal Digitale Democratie</a> · <a href="#">Lokale Democratie (programma Democratie in Actie) (lokale-</a>	The milestones and actions mentioned in the commitment have been completed.	In the fifth national action plan, digital democracy on the national level is one of the commitments.

		<a href="https://democratie.nl">democratie.nl</a> ) and here: <a href="#">Terugblik provinciedaal</a> <a href="#">Digitale Democratie Groningen: apk bij het participatieproces</a> · <a href="#">Lokale Democratie (programma Democratie in Actie) (lokale-democratie.nl)</a>		
4. Continuation of Open Wob (Open FOIA)		<p>A working group developed an application programming interface (API) standard. A guideline can be found here: <a href="#">20210420-handreiking-wob concept 0.pdf</a> (<a href="https://pleio.nl">pleio.nl</a>)</p>	<p>Due to a changing direction of the publishing platform PLOOI, following external review and assessment, the commitment has been put on hold.</p>	<p>From June 19, 2023, government organizations can connect to the Woo-index, which serves as a replacement for PLOOI. The Woo-index can be realized more quickly than PLOOI, enabling administrative bodies to actively disclose categories of information from the Open Government Act at a faster pace. More information can be found here: <a href="#">Sluit aan op de Woo-index voor actieve openbaarmaking - Digitale Overheid</a></p>

<p>5. Active disclosure of central government information</p>		<p>A toolkit for active disclosure of information was published: <a href="#">Toolkit Actieve openbaarmaking   Openbaarmaking en informatiehuishouding   Rijksprogramma voor Duurzaam Digitale Informatiehuishouding</a></p> <p>As well as a step-by-step guide: <a href="#">Stappenplan Implementatie actieve openbaarmaking vanuit de Woo   Openbaarmaking en informatiehuishouding   Rijksprogramma voor Duurzaam Digitale Informatiehuishouding</a></p> <p>And pilot projects are executed: <a href="#">Pilot Actieve openbaarheid EZK en NFIA d.d. 27 mei 2021   Openbaarmaking en informatiehuishouding   Rijksprogramma voor Duurzaam Digitale Informatiehuishouding</a></p>	<p>Within this commitment, many results have been achieved that are aimed at (preparing for) the active disclosure of information in a general sense. More time is being taken to determine the information categories that are to be made public with priority (in accordance with the Woo), because of the intensified consultation and coordination with the parties involved to establish definitions and determine the sequence and timeline. Progress on this commitment was delayed due to personnel changes and changing priorities of key stakeholders as a result of the Woo. New policy directives concerning the proactive disclosure of information to parliament were prioritized. This</p>	<p>Over the upcoming years, an increasing number of information categories will undergo active disclosure, utilizing a phased approach. Presently, certain categories such as laws and parliamentary documents are already actively disclosed. From June 19, 2023, the implementation of the Woo-index will take place. More information can be found here: <a href="#">1 jaar Woo, waar staan we nu?   Nieuwsbericht   Open Overheid (open-overheid.nl)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Start actieve openbaarmaking   Nieuwsbericht   Open Overheid (open-overheid.nl)</a></p>
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			revised approach calls for more accessible and streamlined government procedures in information handling and record-keeping, which directly aligns with the objectives of this commitment.	
6. Direct Duidelijk Brigade (Plain Language Brigade)		More information can be found here: <a href="#">Direct Duidelijk – Gebruiker Centraal</a>	This commitment aimed to establish a "Plain Language Brigade" to incorporated into a broader program focused on enhancing government communication. ensure that Dutch citizens have access to clear and digitized information regarding public services. All the specified objectives of this commitment were successfully achieved.	The "Plain Language Brigade" is incorporated into a broader program focused on enhancing government communication.
7. The Future of 'Policy Intimacy'		The report on The Future of 'Policy Intimacy' can be found here: <a href="#">Conclusies-de-toekomst-van-beleidsintimiteit-februari-2023.pdf</a>	This commitment led to the formation of a valuable network consisting of Dutch experts and	The findings from the report are taken into consideration during the deliberation



			practitioners specializing in access to information. Through their collaboration, they identified possible actions that can be taken in the future. Their primary recommendation focused on the development of specific guidance to address ambiguous legal provisions within the Woo and the varying interpretations of exception clauses.	process on this topic.
8. Investing in craftsmanship		The guideline "Dilemma Conversations. When transparency clashes." helps to clarify the issues at hand with colleagues and choose the next step in a relaxed and cautious manner. It is published on various platforms. <a href="#">Handreiking dilemmagesprekken   Instructie   Open Overheid (open-overheid.nl)</a>	The milestones and actions mentioned in the commitment have been completed.	The guideline is being implemented and a commitment based on this one is part of the new action plan.
9. Contract Register		There is a lot of information available: Central Government, Purchasing with impact, 28 October	The milestones and actions mentioned in the commitment	The next steps will focus on increasing transparency and interaction

		<p>2019,  <a href="https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2019/10/28/inkopen-met-impact">https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2019/10/28/inkopen-met-impact</a></p> <p>Government of the Netherlands,  Commissioning with ambition, procuring with impact, 29 January 2021,  <a href="https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2021/01/29/commissioning-with-ambition-procuring-with-impact">https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2021/01/29/commissioning-with-ambition-procuring-with-impact</a></p> <p>Central Government,  Purchasing categories and category plans,  <a href="https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/zakendoen-met-het-rijk/inkoopcategorieen">https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/zakendoen-met-het-rijk/inkoopcategorieen</a></p> <p>Open State Foundation, May 2021,  <a href="https://openstate.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2021/05/Eindrapport-Hoe-ontsluiten-we-inkoopdata-een-inventarisatie-van-de-behoefte-van-hergebruikers-Open-State-Foundation-mei-2021-1.pdf">https://openstate.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2021/05/Eindrapport-Hoe-ontsluiten-we-inkoopdata-een-inventarisatie-van-de-behoefte-van-hergebruikers-Open-State-Foundation-mei-2021-1.pdf</a></p> <p>Utrecht University,  Open public</p>	<p>have been completed.</p>	<p>with stakeholders, as well as involving local governments.</p>
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		<p>procurement data by default, 7 April 2022,  <a href="https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/binaries/rijksoverheid/documenten/rapporten/2022/04/07/aanbevelingen-aan-het-rijk-voor-openbaar-maken-van-data-over-publieke-inkoop/Recommendations+for+making+different+types+of+public+procurement+data+available.pdf">https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/binaries/rijksoverheid/documenten/rapporten/2022/04/07/aanbevelingen-aan-het-rijk-voor-openbaar-maken-van-data-over-publieke-inkoop/Recommendations+for+making+different+types+of+public+procurement+data+available.pdf</a>  Pianoo, Publishing the value of contracts awarded,  <a href="https://www.pianoo.nl/nl/inkoopprocess/fase-2-doorlopen-aanbestedingsprocedure/afroندن-aanbestedingsprocedure#publicerenvande waarde">https://www.pianoo.nl/nl/inkoopprocess/fase-2-doorlopen-aanbestedingsprocedure/afroندن-aanbestedingsprocedure#publicerenvande waarde</a>  Central Government, Report launch site Doing Business with the Government (open platform government procurement), 2 December 2022,  <a href="https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/publicaties/2022/12/02/verslag-lancering-site-zakendoen-met-het-rijk">https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/publicaties/2022/12/02/verslag-lancering-site-zakendoen-met-het-rijk</a></p>		
10. Open Data Communities		The data communities can be found here:	The milestones and actions mentioned in	Open data will be part of the fifth action

		<a href="#">Communities   Data overheid</a>	the commitment have been completed.	plan, with a focus on making high value data available.
11. Open Source		Information can be found here: <a href="#">Opensourcewerken : de vrijblijvendheid voorbij   Rapport   Rijksoverheid.nl</a>  And on the community platform here: <a href="#">Open source (pleio.nl)</a>	The milestones and actions mentioned in the commitment have been completed.	At the moment an Open Source Program Office (OSPO) is being established within the ministry. This will be a commitment in the fifth action plan.
12. Open Algorithms		<a href="#">Impact Assessment Fundamental Rights and Algorithms   Report   Government.nl</a>	Most milestones and actions mentioned in the commitment have been completed.	Currently, work is being done on the algorithm register and the ongoing effort to raise awareness about the importance of algorithm transparency.
13. Building better public services for all with open justice data standards		Stakeholders took initial steps to establish an open data standard for public complaints.	Progress on this commitment was delayed due to the development of the PLOOI platform, where data on public complaints was intended to be published, has not yet been realized.	Possible next steps are being explored.

### Lessons and Insights

The key lessons and insights learned from developing and implementing the action plan include the importance of early engagement with stakeholders, setting realistic timelines, and fostering collaboration between government and civil society. It is crucial to prioritize commitments that align with existing resources and capacities while continuously assessing and addressing challenges that hinder progress.

### Recommendations

Some key take-aways are the following:

1. The involvement and enthusiasm of individuals does not automatically translate to organizational engagement. It is important to be aware of this and inquire about support within the organization at an early stage in the co-creation process.
2. It is important to ensure that expectations are realistic and to be clear about the (formal) status of input during the consultation phase of the action plan. There are often requests where the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK), as the coordinator of the plan, depends on the willingness of other ministries and organizations since certain topics fall under their jurisdiction. This is something to be aware of, because alignment can take a lot of time.
3. It is important to be aware of dependencies, such as the platform PLOOI, and to consider alternative results that can be achieved that provide added value when the work is hindered by such circumstances.
4. Additionally, it is crucial to carefully attend to follow-up by informing people about what happens with the input and how they can follow the development and implementation of the action plan (via [open-overheid.nl](http://open-overheid.nl)) and to put substantial effort on external communication to keep stakeholders and others well-informed.