



Ministry of the Interior and
Kingdom Relations

Open for Everyone 2.0

Refreshed Open Government
Action Plan 2023-2027



Wij doen
ons werk

ZO
Zorgvuldig
& Open

Foreword

An open government is the cornerstone of a strong democracy. Every single Dutch person has the right to know how decisions are taken and how their government works. An open government not only helps ensure trust in government but also helps strengthen cooperation between government and the society it serves.

Since our country joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2011, we have drawn up an Open Government Action Plan. The current, fifth edition of that national action plan, *Open for Everyone*, covers a term of four years. Midway through that period, this requires a compulsory evaluation.

During this evaluation, we examined the choices made, the results achieved and how the approach could be improved. Since 2022, we have been collaborating with the civil-society coalition Talking about Information to develop the Open Government Action Plan. This year, that coalition fulfilled a key role during the evaluation.

Cooperation makes the difference

Over the past two years, several positive results have been delivered. For example:

- We have mapped out ways that empower every citizen to have more control of their own information.
- We have taken steps to make government documents more findable and reusable.
- Insights gathered from studies have confirmed that openness is not only a value for society but also delivers financial benefits.

What do these examples have in common? They are clear evidence that together, government and civil society can build an open government. As an active member of the OGP, the Netherlands is a global leader in this field. That is something to be proud of. But there is still much to be done.

As the world changes, government must also change

A great deal has happened in the past two years. Take for example the emergence of generative AI and the increased attention for security and transparency. Despite these changes, the objectives of the Open Government department of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations have remained the same: listening to the ideas presented by our citizens and ensuring that government is open and transparent about its actions.

The evaluation of the fifth action plan clearly indicates that we are ready for the next step. Simply disclosing information is not enough. That same information must also be clear and useful to everyone. Now is the time to make the shift to 'meaningful transparency'. That in turn will require a shift in government focus. It is no longer merely a question of disclosing as much information as possible. We must also make that information more findable, understandable and usable for civil society.

Such a development involves a series of challenges, for example: how can we make better use of public information? And how do we explain the way in which government makes use of algorithms?

For these reasons, we are now collaborating even more closely with policymakers and civil society organisations in identifying practical solutions that truly work.

These are the goals towards which we plan to work hard over the next two years. Working together to build a government that is open for everyone. That, after all, is the cornerstone of a strong democracy: building trust together.

Frank Rijkaart

Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

Frank van Ierssel

Chairman of the civil-society coalition Talking About Information

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Summary

Since 2011, the Netherlands has been a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), an international collaboration that works to bring about an open, transparent and responsive government. As a member of the partnership, the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) develops a national Open Government Action Plan, every four years. These action plans are developed in co-creation between government and partners from civil society, working together to innovate and implement policy for open government.

The fifth Open Government Action Plan (2023-2027) with the title *Open for Everyone*, was presented to the Dutch House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer) in the summer of 2023. In 2025, the plan was refreshed under the title *Open for Everyone 2.0*. This refreshed version offers space for evaluation and innovation. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations called upon the civil-society coalition Talking about Information (MCOIG) to evaluate the action plan and to draw up recommendations for the refreshed version.

The evaluation and the recommendations of the MCOIG were brought together in a refreshed action plan which focuses more specifically on societal innovation and improving and implementing policy. The report revealed that of the seventeen original commitments, nine have been concluded. The remaining eight are currently being implemented, and have been updated with new milestones.

The MCOIG also identified opportunities for adding new commitments related to current issues within the topics open information, open data, open algorithms, open source and open standards. Via an open application round, seven new commitments were added. Among others these are focused on encouraging the reuse of open datasets, enhancing transparency about algorithms and delivering greater insight into the use of grounds for exemptions within the Open Government Act (Woo).

The result is the Refreshed Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027, *Open for Everyone 2.0*, which brings together a total of fifteen commitments, divided across seven open topics. In the remaining plan period, the emphasis will be placed on ensuring that these commitments are implemented by commitment leads from civil society in collaboration with the relevant government organisations.

The MCOIG supports the commitment leads in delivering results and impact, by monitoring progress and by encouraging mutual learning. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations bears final responsibility for both the action plan itself and the Dutch membership of the OGP.

Link to the Dutch Digitalisation Strategy (NDS)

The Open Government Action Plan ties in with and represents the practical implementation of the approach and priorities contained in the NDS. The NDS is focused on the way in which government digitalisation can contribute to fulfilling the challenges facing society. The Open Government Action Plan translates this objective into practical actions. The commitments in the refreshed action plan support the priorities of the NDS, such as civil-society innovation, digital sovereignty, interoperability and a safe and secure infrastructure. Open source and open standards promote reusability and transparency and contribute to a reliable and integrated digital infrastructure. At the same time, actions in the field of open data and open algorithms encourage greater transparency and the responsible use of technology.



1. Introduction

The Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027 was drawn up in the framework of the Dutch membership of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Co-creation is also central focus of this refreshed version, *Open for Everyone 2.0*. Government authorities, civil society organisations and knowledge institutions have joined forces in elaborating commitments that promote openness, encourage innovation and lead to improvements in policy and implementation, all as part of the common goal, namely step-by-step, building a government that is more open, more innovative and more responsive.

Openness and transparency are the cornerstones of our democratic rule of law and good governance. Everyone has the right to know how decisions are taken and how policies are implemented. By sharing government information more broadly and more actively, for example via the Open Government Act (Woo), will help enhance transparency in respect of policy choices. Enhancing access to data, software and algorithms used by the government also contributes to this goal. In this way, citizens, journalists and researchers are empowered to make better-informed choices, and to participate in the working of the government and to monitor its choices.

However, open government goes beyond simple transparency. It is also a question of the responsiveness of government and the way in which you improve the information relationship between government and society. That relationship is essential to foster trust in the government. Against that background, openness must be employed as a core value in every aspect of governance and in every policy field. That in turn calls for a culture change. One important step in that direction is that since 2025, in their oath of office, all new civil servants undertake to contribute to more open government.

In addition, the Open Government department (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations) is working towards a more integrated approach to the objectives of open government. The Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027 supports this change in government culture. It offers innovative solutions for the broad challenges facing society, for example with regard to the transparency of government information, the reuse of open data, the transparency of algorithms and participation. The overarching aim is to strengthen collaboration between government and society so that the government not only becomes more transparent but also more responsive and more innovative.

The fifth edition of the action plan, *Open for Everyone*, was published on 31 August 2023. This edition contains 17 specific commitments aimed at improved interaction between government organisation and society, improving information provision and promoting an open culture within government organisations. For the first time, the action plan covers a period of four years, thereby creating continuity in collaboration and space for an interim refreshed version and the addition of new topics.

Since that time we have seen a number of important developments. Calls from society for greater openness have remained unabated. The coming into effect of the Open Government Act (Woo) is seen as an important step in that direction: On the international stage, the Netherlands is recognised as a frontrunner in government transparency. This is reflected in the high score achieved by our country in recent studies, including publications by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in which in 2024 and 2025 respectively, the Netherlands came in a fifth and sixth place in terms of transparency, and a recognition of both strong legislation and the widespread availability of information.

At the same time, implementation of the Woo remains a challenge, and there is still much work to be done. Moreover, it is no longer sufficient to focus on simply disclosing large volumes of information; that information must also be meaningful, usable and accessible to society as a whole. This in turn is reflected in the recommendations from the [Advisory Board on Open Government and Information and Management \(ACOI\)](#), the [Institute for Social Innovation \(IMI\)](#) and the [Council for Public Administration \(ROB\)](#).

The refreshed version of the action plan reflects the next phase in the development of open government. There is increased attention for collaboration with civil-society partners and for combining various ‘open’ topics, in line with

international examples. For each of the new commitments, a commitment lead from civil society and a government partner have been selected, so that innovations are grounded and a permanent feedback loop is created between government and society.

This approach ties in with the transition to an open state in which government and society share joint responsibility for openness. In that context, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations called upon the civil-society coalition Talking about Information (MCOIG) to evaluate the current action plan and to issue recommendations for the refreshed version. This took the Netherlands beyond the requirements of the OGP. And although the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations retains overall responsibility, the MCOIG fulfils an important role in the process.

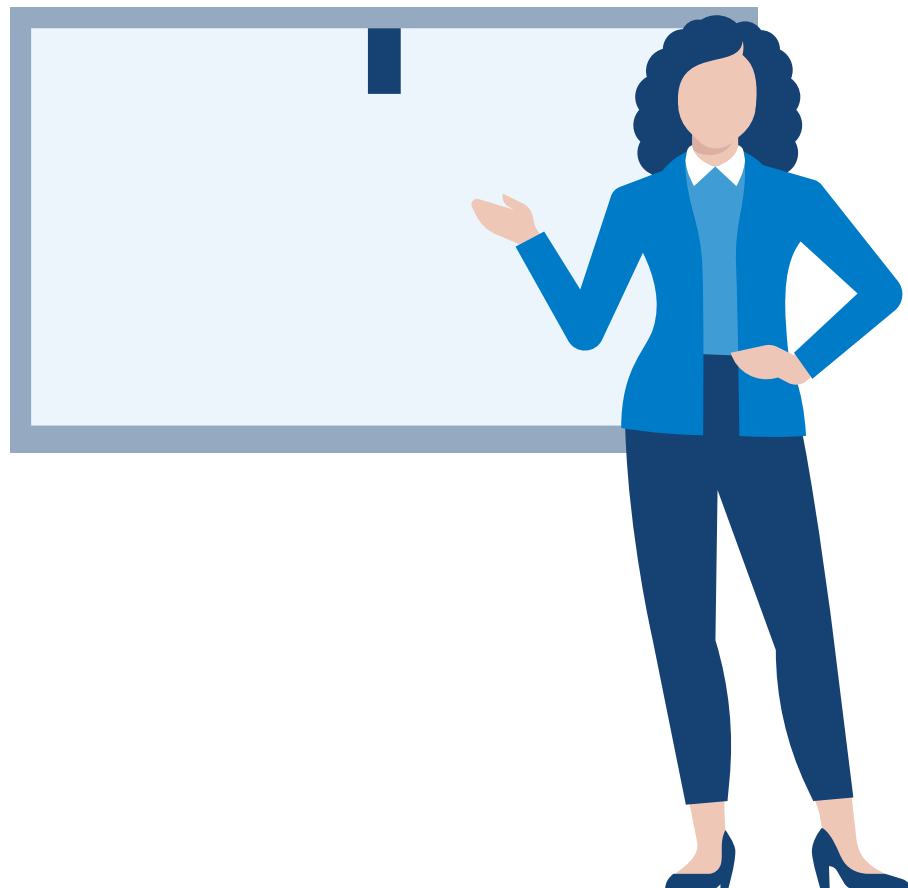
Based on the recommendations issued, it was determined that of the seventeen commitments, nine could be considered concluded. At the same time, it became clear that there was space and indeed need for new commitments. Against that background, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the MCOIG invited civil-society parties to propose new commitments, via an open call. This process resulted in the addition of seven new commitments. Together, these initiatives represent the refreshed version of the action plan: *Open for Everyone 2.0*, with a **total of fifteen**

commitments (both ongoing commitments from the previous version and new commitments). Each is focused on encouraging innovation and showing how open government can make a real and practical impact.

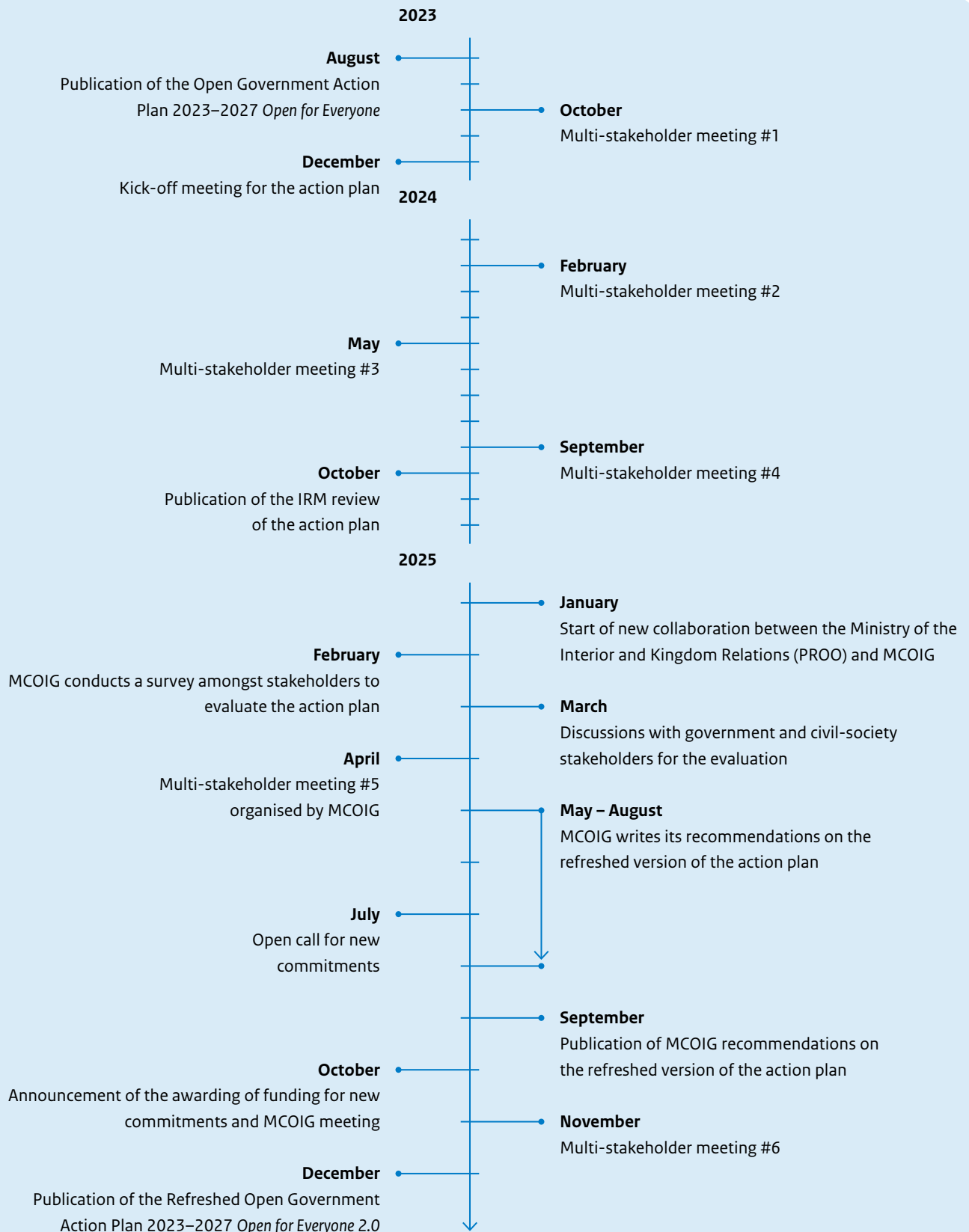
An active network emerged surrounding the action plan in the form of multi-stakeholder meetings. The network brings together initiatives, encourages collaboration and supports the implementation of the action plan. Starting in 2025, the MCOIG took over the chairmanship of the multi-stakeholder meetings.

The aim is to encourage these meetings to focus more intensively on reinforcing the links between the various civil-society and academic stakeholders and government organisations. The overall goal is to promote collaboration on the common challenges, and to make optimum use of each other's experience and expertise.

In this new phase, the MCOIG and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations will continue their collaboration, unabated. Together, they combine and enhance the efforts of all associated government and civil-society parties in the action plan, with the common objective of achieving a government that is open for everyone.



2. Refreshed version of the Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027



Refreshed version

The Open Government Action Plan 2023–2027 *Open for Everyone* was the first Dutch action plan to cover a period of four years. Previously, action plans had been published every two years. The longer term makes it possible to establish long-term collaboration, to involve civil-society partners for longer and to bring about more results. The civil-society stakeholder organisations have assessed this action plan as one of the most ambitious to date.

Two years after the action plan is initiated, the OGP calls for the plan to be refreshed. This involves evaluating both the plan itself and the seventeen commitments. To ensure that the refreshed version leads to improved connections between government and society, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations called upon the MCOIG to conduct the evaluation, and to draw up a series of recommendations.

Evaluation of the action plan

On 26 September 2025, the MCOIG published its evaluation report and recommendations. In the evaluation, the MCOIG considered the following elements: the content of the action plan and the commitments, the involvement of civil-society and government stakeholders and the implementation of the commitments. One key conclusion was that although the current action plan deals with many relevant topics, the purpose of the refreshed version must be to improve the links between the commitments and the issues facing society. According to the report, the commitments can in fact deliver greater impact if they feature a stronger feedback loop between the commitment leads and the government partners. The complete report is available via the [website of the coalition](#).

IRM review

In addition to the evaluation by the MCOIG, the OGP also has every action plan independently assessed via the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM). The most recent review of the action plan revealed that all of the 17 commitments are considered to be relevant open government initiatives. The IRM is positive about the collaboration with civil-society parties, in particular with the MCOIG, and emphasises that this ground-breaking approach in fact makes the Netherlands a global leader in the field.

At the same time, just like the MCOIG itself, the IRM suggests that the impact of the commitments could be further reinforced. It is not always clear how the proposed steps will lead to structural change. Against that background, the central focus of the refreshed version is to increase impact: more ambitious commitments, more tangible results and stronger links between civil-society and academic initiatives and government.

Concluded commitments

The report by the MCOIG also reveals that at the time of the refreshed version, nine commitments have in fact been concluded. These have achieved their intended results and form an integral part of the ongoing activities of the commitment lead. For that reason, the coalition recommends removing these commitments from the action plan, thereby creating space for new commitments.

Nine commitments have been concluded:

1. Control of own data
2. FAIR Woo files
3. Multi-year Plan for Public Access and Information Management of the Dutch Government
4. Information position of citizens in administrative proceedings
5. Implementation assessment of the Open Government Act (Woo)
6. Central Government Operational Management Annual Report
7. Open data (will be continued as two newly allocated commitments)
8. Research on information needs and protocols
9. Guide to Professionalism in Civil Service

Ongoing commitments

A further eight commitments will be continued for the remaining term of the action plan. With regard to each of these commitments, the MCOIG has issued recommendations for improvements and enhanced impact. The commitment leads have integrated this feedback in the refreshed version, in the elaboration of their commitments.

Eight ongoing commitments:

1. Public Access Center Amsterdam
2. Open standards
3. Open Parliament
4. Strengthening citizen participation with digital tools
5. Open Source Program Office
6. Open procurement
7. Societal benefits of transparency
8. Professionalisation of Participation

Open call

The refreshed version also created space for new commitments. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations called upon the MCOIG to organise an [open call](#), funded by the Ministry, for new commitments. In their report, the coalition recommends calling for civil-society initiatives which respond to challenges relating to open data, open information, open algorithms, open standards and open source. In collabo-



ration with various directorates within the government, policy questions were drawn up within these topics, to which the new commitments should provide an answer.

New commitments

The call generated a series of valuable proposals. The new commitments were jointly selected by representatives of the MCOIG and various directorates within the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, based on the policy questions around which the call was drawn up. In total, seven new commitments were allocated.

The commitments were selected on the basis of innovation and social impact, with specific attention for clear results for society. The new initiatives were for example focused on the role of open data in shared problem solving, promoting transparency in communication surrounding the use of algorithms by the government, and improving the implementation of the Open Government Act (Woo)

For the implementation of the commitments, **total funding of €378,710** was made available to partners in civil society and research. Of this amount, €300,000 was provided by the Open Government department. The Algorithms and Safeguards team of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations provided the additional €78,710 for the three proposals within the topic open algorithms.

Seven new commitments were allocated:^{*}

1. Visible and valuable: Reuse of high-value open government information and data
2. Data expedition: Journalistic use cases for high-value datasets
3. Decisions in context: Open and Connected
4. Exceptions in view
5. Trust through understanding: Cooperating on explainable algorithms
6. Algorithm guide
7. Algo-Rights: Control & citizen rights to transparent, algorithm-based decision-making

* These commitments are further explained in Chapter 5. Commitments and Appendix 1. Formats

Innovative role of the action plan

The commitments in the Open Government Action Plan demonstrate how collaboration between government and civil-society parties can result in innovation and improvement in open government initiatives. This in turn gives the action plan a new and innovative role. Each of the commitments is developed and supported jointly, and focuses on improving policy and implementation through social innovation. This ties in with the open state approach, in which government and society are together responsible for openness. Specifically through that collaboration, results can be achieved that contribute to more open government.

The result of the refreshment process is the Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027, *Open for Everyone 2.0*, with a total of fifteen commitments. One key result is the reinforced feedback loop between society and government: for each new commitment, a commitment lead from civil society and a government party will work together to achieve the intended results.

Multi-stakeholder meetings

The multi-stakeholder meetings - the network of commitment leads and other stakeholders that come together several times a year - will be deployed to support this feedback loop. The refreshed version shows that the scope of the multi-stakeholder meetings can in fact go beyond a simple network function.

From 2025 onwards, the meetings are organised by the MCOIG on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. During the multi-stakeholder meetings, the expertise provided by a diverse group of parties from government and civil society are combined through a participation approach to support and encourage implementation of the commitments.

The meetings also represent a clear investment in collaboration between government authorities, civil-society parties and knowledge institutions all capable of contributing to innovation for open government. The aim is to further broaden the group of participants in order to make the greatest possible use of the knowledge and experience available. Any interested parties can [register their interest via the MCOIG](#).

Monitoring

The Open Government Action Plan follows a result-based approach. Commitment leads are responsible for realising the results they formulate in their commitment. Progress is monitored by the MCOIG. The MCOIG is responsible for supervising the results achieved, the impact and the collaboration between commitment leads from civil society and government partners.

Since the publication of *Open for Everyone* in 2023, the progress of the commitments was shared [online](#) in the form of quarterly updates. However, the refreshed version revealed that for the commitment leads, these quarterly publications did not always encourage progress. With that in mind, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations called upon the MCOIG to draw up a new monitoring process for the refreshed action plan which is not only administrative in nature but which also actively aims to encourage progress.

The new monitoring approach will be shared with the commitment leads at the start of 2026. The aim is to support them in facing up to the challenges they meet, to encourage mutual learning between the commitment leads and to ensure that the commitments do indeed generate the intended results and contribute to improved policy and implementation.

3. Results of concluded commitments

The Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027, *Open for Everyone*, published on 31 August 2023 contained a total of seventeen commitments. During the refreshment process, it was determined that **nine of these commitments have been concluded**. Below we briefly consider the concluded commitments and the results they delivered.

Control of own data

Duration: September 2023 – June 2024
Conducted by: Waag Futurelab in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the civil-society coalition Talking about Information

The study by Waag Futurelab into control of own data has been concluded. This study charted out the possibilities and restrictions for giving Dutch citizens more control of their personal data collected and used by government for its services. The commitment led to the following products: An infographic that provides a clear picture of the various options available for gaining control over personal data, including experiences acquired with these methods based on selected study cases. The report was presented to the affected policy directorate, which is currently working on a framework for control of data.

FAIR Woo files

Duration: September 2023 – December 2024
Conducted by: University of Amsterdam in collaboration with among others the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, VNG, IPO, UVW, the National Archives and IMI.

This commitment focuses on making Woo files more findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR). The University of Amsterdam worked on developing guidelines and standards which can be valuable for government organisations in applying FAIR principles to their information management. Pilot studies were also conducted to test and evaluate the suitability of these guidelines in practice. One important result is that the Woogle search platform of the University of Amsterdam, which contains Woo files, has been expanded to include more than 20 million pages from more than 1,000 administrative bodies. Woogle is a social initiative that aims to facilitate the reuse of published Woo documents.

A FAIRscore tool has also been developed. This tool is available to anyone who wishes to monitor the extent to which published Woo files satisfy the FAIR principles.

Multi-year Plan for Public Access and Information Management of the Dutch Government (MJP)

Duration: 2024–2025
Conducted by: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

The Multi-year Plan for Public Access and Information Management (MJP) describes the way in which Central government wishes to make its digital government information permanently available. The plan will help improve compliance with the Open Government Act (Woo) and will promote the findability and reusability of government information. Together with the plans of other government authorities, the MJP was sent to the Dutch House of Representatives and the Senate in December 2023. Although there are structural efforts by central government to improve information management and the transparency of government information on the basis of the MJP, the decision was taken to remove this commitment from the refreshed action plan. The MJP is a policy activity of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. In addition, removing this commitment frees up space for new collaborations between government and civil society within the action plan.

Information position of citizens in administrative proceedings

Duration: October 2023 – June 2024
Conducted by: Leiden University, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Security, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and IMI.

The study by the Leiden University into the information position of citizens in administrative proceedings has been concluded. The study identified bottlenecks in the information relationship between citizens and government, and suggested possible solutions for legislation, administrative practice and the judiciary. An expert meeting has been organised to discuss these possible solutions. The report of the study was presented to the responsible Ministry of Justice and Security (JenV) and disclosed. The recommendations were shared with the district courts in Rotterdam and The Hague and an academic publication was released concerning the right to information in administrative law proceedings.

Implementation assessment of the Open Government Act (Woo)

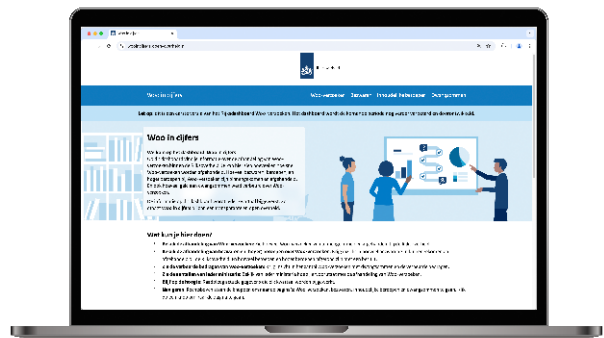
Duration: September 2023 – June 2024
Conducted by: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations in collaboration with other ministries, administrative bodies, regional and local authorities, Advisory Board on Public Access and Information Management (ACOI), Government Commissioner for Information Management, High Councils of State and Woo requesters.

At the end of June 2024, the Cabinet response to the previously published implementation assessment of the Open Government Act (Woo) and the recommendations from the Government Commissioner for Information Management and the ACOI were sent to the Dutch House of Representatives. This response contained an announcement of measures aimed at improving the implementation and implementability of the Woo. At present, in intensive collaboration with the various levels of government, these measures are being further elaborated. In its response, the Cabinet among others announced its wish to actively disclose more information, for example about files of considerable public interest. In that framework, the most relevant documents relating to the preparation of the implementation assessment of the Woo and the Cabinet response have been actively disclosed and can be consulted via a clear timeline.

Central Government Operational Management Annual Report

Duration: yearly from May 2023
Conducted by: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations in collaboration with all other ministries.

The handling of information requests under the Government Information (Public Access) Act (through to 1 May 2022 and the Woo (from 1 May 2022 onwards) was published for the first time in 2023 in the Central Government Operational Management Annual Report (JBR). In this report, Central government for example reports on how many requests are received by each ministry and how many of those requests were dealt with within the legally prescribed deadlines. This report offers an insight into the way in which Central government deals with information requests. From now on, the report will form part of the JBR each year. In addition, starting in January 2025, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has launched the [Woo in cijfers](#) dashboard, which on a quarterly basis publishes up-to-date information about the handling of Woo requests by the various ministries. The dashboard also contains information about the number of objections, appeals proceedings and fines imposed, including the accompanying amounts. Over the coming period, this dashboard will be further developed. Because it is an integral part of ongoing activities at the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, it has been removed from the action plan.



A screenshot of the website *Woo in cijfers*, October 2025

Open data

Duration: September 2023 – December 2027

Conducted by: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, in collaboration with NVG, Geonovum, Interadministrative Data Strategy (IBDS).

The government provides more open data aimed at promoting innovation. The Reuse of Government Information Act (Who) and the European Data Governance Act (DGA) aimed at encouraging the reuse of valuable datasets have been in place since 2024. The aim is also to make government software open source. More than 2,000 high-value datasets have been published (within such topics as geodata and mobility). To support this process, two guides have been published: one for the Who and one for the implementation of high-value datasets. Both are available on Github. As part of the refreshed version, this commitment will be expanded to include two new commitments, in collaboration with commitment leads from civil society.

Research on information needs and protocols

Duration: March 2024 – December 2024

Conducted by: The Institute for Social Innovation (IMI), in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, VNG, Open State Foundation (OSF), the Dutch Association of Journalists (NVJ), the Netherlands Association of Investigative Journalists (NVOJ) and Leiden University.

The research by IMI into the information needs of citizens, journalists and civil society organisations has been concluded. The aim was to gain an insight into which government information needs to be actively disclosed, and how the dialogue can be improved between the requesters and providers of information. The report of the study was presented to the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, who will make use of the recommendations to further improve policy on the active disclosure of information under Article 3.1 of the Woo, the so-called best efforts obligation.

Guide to Professionalism in Civil Service

Duration: October 2023 – December 2024

Conducted by: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations in collaboration with the Advisory Council on Public Information (Voorlichtingsraad)

The aim of this commitment was to strengthen an open working culture within Central government via the Guide to Professionalism in the Civil Service. The guide offers values and principles such as openness and transparency, and forms the basis for discussions, prospects for action and moral precedents (moral jurisprudence or ‘moresprudence’). The commitment contributes to improved awareness and behavioural change among civil servants in respect of their role in a transparent government. As a result of the commitment, the practical guide has been further developed with a focus on open working and transparency. In-depth discussions were also held on open working practice with more than one hundred civil servants, as a result of the newly introduced oath of office. In the future, more work will be conducted on the implementation of the new oath of office, in the form of interviews and toolkits.

4. Commitments

This chapter discusses the **fifteen commitments** from the Refreshed Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027: *Open for Everyone 2.0*. At the recommendation of the MCOIG, the commitments have been classified according to the open government topics they refer to in their report: open data, open information, open algorithms, open standards, open source, open culture and open approach. With this new structure, we aim to emphasise the fact that the action plan follows the broad approach to open government, in which the initiatives within all of these topics together contribute to a more open, transparent and responsive government.

I. Open data



New

1. Visible and valuable: Reuse of high-value open government information and data for society

Commitment lead: Public Innovation

Supporting Stakeholders: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (open data team)

Duration: January 2026 - July 2027

The previous Open Government Action Plan was focused on the publication of open data. That foundation is now in place: datasets are available, standards have been improved and transparency has been enhanced. The next step must now be taken: ensuring that the data are actually reused. Over the next two years, we will actively undertake the task of mapping out reuse. Which datasets are already in use and by whom? At the same time, we will be asking re-users - from businesses to researchers - about their needs. What is missing? What obstacles do they come up against? These insights will help us to offer information in a more targeted manner. We also aim to communicate clearly about both successes and bottlenecks. In what circumstances does open data lead to innovation or improved service provision? However, we will also be willing to share our challenges, such as quality, privacy or unclear responsibilities. In this way we aim to build trust and learn where things can be improved. The overall outcome will be a sharper policy: no longer simply publishing open data for the sake of disclosure but instead offering open data of real value.



New

2. Data expedition: Journalistic use cases for high-value datasets

Commitment lead: Momus (Stichting Platform Authentieke Journalistiek)

Supporting Stakeholders: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (open data team)

Duration: January 2026 - July 2027

High-value datasets (HVDs) from the government, such as those published by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) are essential for transparency, but their potential for journalism and civil society often goes unused. Due to the complexity of the data, the stories these datasets contain - stories which could help monitor the power of government and interpret social developments - often go untold. As a consequence, journalists, civil society organisations and individual citizens miss out on important insights. The aim of this commitment is to change that situation by organising 'data expeditions' in the form of hackathons with a journalistic background, in which the participants actively set to work on specific issues. During these expeditions, the practical opportunities offered by high-value datasets will be investigated, and translated into accessible applications and stories. This approach will not only increase the visibility of the value of open data to society, but at the same time, the monitoring and investigative role of journalism will be reinforced.

II. Open information



New

3. Decisions in context: Open and Connected

Commitment lead: Tilburg University

Supporting Stakeholders: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (open government team), Logius/KOOP and CITaDOG

Duration: January 2026 - July 2027

One of the information categories which must in the future be disclosed according to the Woo is decisions: decisions by government that influence the legal position of citizens, such as permits, grants and subsidies and sanctions. The aim of this commitment will be to develop an open standard for the disclosure of these decisions: the Administrative Decision Identifier (ADI). This standard will make it possible to record the characteristics of decisions in the form of metadata and to recognise decisions in other documents. Another outcome of the project will be the guide 'Better understanding decisions', a guide which will support government authorities in providing context and explanations, so that decisions become more findable and more understandable.



New

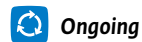
4. Grounds for exemption in the picture

Commitment lead: Leiden University and Dialogic

Supporting Stakeholders: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (open government team) and the ACOI

Duration: January 2026 - July 2027

In this commitment, we will work on the transparency of the application of grounds for exemption in Woo decisions by various government organisations. We will start with a large dataset of Woo decisions, from which we will retrieve the supporting arguments for the use of grounds for exemption using AI. We will also extract the grounds used for deleting specific sections from redacted documents. We will make this information accessible for research, including an interpretation with a large-scale qualitative study into the reasons for exemption contained in the motivation of the Woo decisions. In this way, we will offer interested parties insights from the analysis and the possibility of working with this data, themselves. The results will offer both individual citizens and the government a better picture of the reasons for confidentiality within Woo requests.



Ongoing

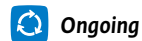
5. Open procurement

Commitment lead: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (Government Procurement, Facilities and Accommodation Policy department)

Supporting Stakeholders: Other ministries, Procurement Execution Centers (IUCs), Open State Foundation, Open Contracting Partnership (OCP)

Duration: January 2024 - July 2027

On 1 December 2022, the public procurement platform 'Rijksinkoop' (Doing Business with the Government – Zaken-doen met het Rijk) was launched online. This commitment aims to maximise the use of this platform by improving information about category management within Central government. The open platform enhances access to information about Government Procurement for citizens, businesses and interest organisations. In the refreshed version, the platform will be further improved with more, centrally available digital procurement information, and with a dialogue function to provide structured support to discussions between central government and external stakeholders. In this way, the commitment will contribute to obtaining optimal bids for procurement using public funds, and will promote transparent procurement by the government.



Ongoing

6. Societal benefits of transparency

Commitment lead: Institute for Social Innovation (IMI)

Supporting Stakeholders: National Archives, civil-society coalition Talking about Information (MCOIG), Open State Foundation (OSF), Dutch Association of Journalists (NVJ), Netherlands Association of Investigative Journalists (NVOJ), Utrecht University, Leiden University

Duration: July 2023 – July 2027

In recent years, research has been conducted on the costs of transparency, but less attention has been given to its societal impact and benefits. In light of discussions on government information transparency, it is important to gain more insight into the advantages transparency offers. This commitment aims to achieve this by identifying the societal benefits of transparency through literature research, an analysis of the Government Information (Public Access) Act (Wob) and the Open Government Act (Woo) requests from the past 15 years and interviews with stakeholders. The refreshed version will build on this basis with more in-depth research among government organisations into the benefits of transparency,

both on request and via information and data actively disclosed. An online summary will also be produced and updated. The commitment will result in a better understanding of the social benefits of open government.

III. Open algorithms



New

7. Trust through understanding: Cooperating on explainable algorithms

Commitment lead: M&I/Partners

Supporting Stakeholders: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (Algorithms and Safeguards team), Municipality of Rotterdam, InnoValor Advies, Waag Futurelab and Jheronimus Academy of Data Science

Duration: January 2026 - July 2027

This commitment will contribute to increasing the transparency of algorithms in government decisions by mapping out the information needs of residents with regard to the use and outcomes of these algorithms. Government organisations can then use this knowledge to communicate more transparently about decisions regarding citizens, in which algorithms are used. This in turn will give citizens a clear picture of how decisions are established in clearly understandable language and with clear examples. As a result, not only will they be better informed but this will also make it possible for them to submit more targeted objections to such decisions.



New

8. Algorithm guide

Commitment lead: InnoValor Advies

Supporting Stakeholders: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (Algorithms and Safeguards team), M&I/Partners, Waag Futurelab

Duration: January 2026 - July 2027

Government is increasingly using algorithms within public services, while calls from society for transparency on the use of algorithms have been growing for a number of years, and have been amplified due to a number of incidents. Despite new legislation and a series of transparency initiatives, citizens and businesses have seen little improvement, in practice. In the government services customer journey, communication about the use of algorithms is still limited, specifically at those moments when people come directly into contact with this technology. This commitment will investigate what citizens want to know about algorithms in public services and will develop a transparency tool based on visual language, with in-depth information for use in customer journeys.



New

9. Algo-Rights: Control & rights of citizens to transparency, algorithm-based decision-making

Commitment lead: Waag Futurelab

Supporting Stakeholders: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (Algorithms and Safeguards team), City of Amsterdam, Data Protection Authority, M&I/Partners and InnoValor Advies

Duration: January 2026 - July 2027

Algo-Rights will strengthen the position of citizens in the use of algorithms by government. The commitment will develop a website to support citizens in submitting information requests and complaints about government algorithms. The website will provide an explanation about situations in which citizens may come into contact with algorithms and how they can exercise their rights. In this way, the commitment will increase awareness of algorithms, their impact on society and civil rights. The development will build on research into algorithm-based explanations and will be conducted in collaboration with InnoValor and M&I Partners.

IV. Open standards



Ongoing

10. Open standards

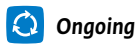
Commitment lead: Standardisation Forum

Supporting Stakeholders: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Government-wide Consultation on the Digital Government (OBDO), Open State Foundation (OSF)

Duration: September 2023 - July 2027

Open ICT standards are agreements regarding the structure of digital public space. The use of these standards encourages interoperability, supplier independence, data quality, transparency and accessibility of public information. The Standardisation Forum encourages the use of and accountability for open standards, among others via the 'Apply or explain' policy. This policy obliges government organisations to use standards or to explain exemptions, which are only permitted in the event of extremely weighty grounds. The Open Standards Monitor is an annual review of how government authorities deal with this responsibility, in addition to which this commitment will work on further developing the decision tool 'Open publication', which assists organisations to publish information according to open standards.

V. Open source



11. Open Source Program Office

Commitment lead: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, (CIO Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and CIO Rijk departments)

Supporting Stakeholders: Tax and Customs Administration, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, VNG, Province of South Holland, Cadastre, Alliander, NL Net, SIDN Fund, Open State Foundation, Public Spaces, Foundation for Public Code

Duration: July 2023 – July 2027

Open source software has become essential in the ICT infrastructure of the Dutch government due to several benefits it offers. Disclosure of the source code promotes transparency, trust, and collaboration with stakeholders, other government authorities, and citizens. It also enhances security, efficiency, and innovation. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has already taken steps by releasing source codes through a 'Github', such as those for the DigiD app. Additionally, the European digital identity (eID) is being developed as open source. To promote and support open source practices, an Open Source Program Office (OSPO) is being established within the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. With the refreshed version, a new milestone will be formulated, the development of an OSPO Government. Knowledge, experiences, and events related to open source practices will be shared through a newsletter and the website Open Source (pleio.nl).

VI. Open culture



12. Public Access Center Amsterdam


Commitment lead: City of Amsterdam

Supporting Stakeholders: Open State Foundation (OSF)

Duration: September 2023 – July 2027

The Municipality of Amsterdam is working on the Public Access Center Amsterdam, a central location open to anyone with an information question. At the Center, you will be assisted in searching, finding and using information, both digitally and physically. Additionally, the Public Access Center serves as a space for dialogue on open government, a place to co-design with users, a hub for knowledge development and sharing, and a platform for organising dissent within the municipality. In the refreshed version, new milestones have been laid down for the further development of the Public Access Center, including the launching of physical consultation hours in the City Archives and the launch of an improved digital search engine on Open.Amsterdam.




 Ongoing

13. Open Parliament

Commitment lead: ProDemos
Supporting Stakeholders: Relevant partners
Duration: September 2023 – July 2027

An open government starts with the foundation: citizens who are familiar with the rules of democracy and the rule of law, and who know what they can do to exert influence. Education center ProDemos has a unique role in making democracy and the rule of law accessible to a wide audience. Their mission is to inform and engage as many people as possible in the Netherlands about democracy. They do this by organising activities that enhance people's knowledge and skills to participate in democracy. In this commitment, the focus is on further diversification of the target group, with particular attention for young people in senior secondary vocational education (mbo) and a broader adult audience. With the refreshed version, ProDemos will be building on these milestones. ProDemos also undertakes various activities to enable people to make informed choices in elections and is brainstorming with partners on the future of a new parliamentary Visitor Centre.

VII. Open approach

 Ongoing

14. Strengthening citizen participation with digital tools

Commitment lead: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
Supporting Stakeholders: Province of South Holland, PolisNL, Logius, ICTU and BetaBreak.
Duration: September 2023 – July 2027

The Dutch government aims to actively involve citizens in finding policy solutions for societal challenges. To achieve this, AI-driven digital tools for citizen consultation and consensus-building, known as eConsultation, will be deployed and further developed. Research indicates that citizen engagement through eConsultation can enhance the quality of government decision-making. The [Pol.is](#) tool provides an accessible platform where citizens and policymakers can propose ideas, vote on them, and reflect on group input. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations aims to further develop the Pol.is tool for national use. The intended outcome is an open-source platform that complies with the Web Accessibility Guidelines, ensuring security, privacy protection, and GDPR compliance. In the refreshed version, the ministry's goal is to offer at least three opportunities for public participation in policy development through Pol.is. The use of eConsultation tools ensures that

the desires and ideas of citizens are better incorporated into policy development.

 Ongoing

15. Professionalisation of participation

Actiehouder: Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (IenW)
Supporting Stakeholders: Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Stichting Burger & Overheid foundation, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen, The Hague University of Applied Sciences.
Duration: October 2023 – July 2027

Engaging stakeholders through participation is essential in the development and implementation of policies. Policy officers also want to apply participation because they believe it can improve policies. The Knowledge Hub for Participation, established by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, aims to further develop the field of participation. In the refreshed version, the milestones have been updated. An updated strategic knowledge agenda will be published based on experiences, input and a knowledge conference. In addition, there will be a focus on more intensive interdepartmental collaboration in the field of participation, and a digital tool will be developed to support design choices for participation plans. These developments contribute to the professionalisation of the field of participation.

5. Highlights in progress of open government

The Open Government Action Plan fulfils a supplementary and innovative role within the policy on open government and its implementation. The commitments build on ongoing developments as well as encouraging societal innovation. In this chapter, for each topic, we briefly outline the most important recent developments and explain how the commitments from the Refreshed Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027, *Open for Everyone 2.0*, further reinforce these developments.

Open data

As far as possible, the government is striving to make data and information available in the form of open data. By granting access to high-value datasets (data of considerable value to society and the economy), we create opportunities for innovation and solving societal challenges. Important steps in this direction were the introduction of the revised Reuse of Government Information Act (Who) on 19 June 2024 and the European Data Governance Act (DGA) on 24 September 2024. The aim of both Acts is to enhance and expand the range of high-value datasets available for reuse.

The Who Act also applies to software: as far as possible, source code and government code must be made available in an open source format. Within six topic areas - geodata, trade registers, statistics, earth observation and environment, meteorology and mobility - various government authorities have already published more than 2,000 high-value datasets, and made them available via the [designation register](#) and www.data.overheid.nl.

To assist government organisations in the implementation of the new act and the publication of datasets, two guides have been published:

1. Guide to the Reuse of Government Information Act (via Github) offers practical guidelines for handling reuse requests and the proactive supply of information.
2. Guide on the implementation of High Value Datasets (via Github) supports operational services and policymakers by providing an insight into the process stages and requirements for disclosure according to the individual topics.

As more data becomes available, the next important step is to encourage the reuse of that data. **Commitment 1. Visible and valuable** and **Commitment 2. Data expedition**, can contribute by encouraging the meaningful publication of data and developing journalistic use cases.

Open information

Encouraged by the Open Government Act and other legislation, ever growing volumes of government information are being disclosed, both actively and on request. Transparency is of key importance for the correct functioning of a democratic rule of law: it empowers individual citizens, journalists, researchers, civil society organisations and businesses to participate and to monitor the actions of the government. The government is working to improve the implementation and implementability of the Open Government Act and is investing in active transparency.

One key event was the implementation assessment for the Open Government Act. Based on that assessment, [measures were announced](#) aimed at improving the processing of Open Government Act requests. Since that time, interdepartmental working groups have been hard at work developing a guide concerning the anti-abuse provision and a description of the role of the Open Government Act contact person. These products are due to be published in the near future.

Work is also underway on optimising the efficiency of the Open Government Act process which will be ready for use next year. Monitoring has also been reinforced: information relating to the handling of Open Government Act requests by ministries are now annually included in the Central Government Operational Management Annual Report and updated every quarter via the public access dashboard: [Woo in cijfers](#).

It is interesting for both government and society as a whole to gain greater clarity about the application of the grounds for exemptions under the Open Government Act. This provides telling information about the implementation of the Open Government Act itself. This aspect is the subject of investigation **under Commitment 4. Grounds for exemption in the picture**. The benefits of transparency to society are also the subject of investigation in **Commitment 6. Societal benefits of transparency**.

Under the Open Government Act, government organisations will in the future be required to actively disclose information in at least 17 categories. This obligation has been in place since 1 November 2024 for the first five categories. This information can be accessed via the Open Government Act search portal, a central facility with a search function. The government is also developing policy aimed at broader active disclosure, according to the principle of meaningful transparency, aimed at satisfying the information needs of the citizens it serves. A recently developed decision-making framework will assist organisations in this process. To ensure sufficient attention for the potential risks that may arise from the combination of information disclosed, we are working on a guideline on transparency and national security.

The points of focus for the commitments in this action plan include the possibility of disclosing information in a manner that is meaningful, more findable and more understandable, for example in relation to decisions (**Commitment 3. Decisions in context**) and information about government procurement (**Commitment 5. Open procurement**).

A series of measures have been implemented within the [Multi-year Plan for Public Access and Information Management of the Dutch Government \(MJP\)](#) aimed at improving information management. Examples include improved compliance with the (new) Archives Act and the use of ICT tools that assist civil servants in their information management tasks and cooperation. The MJP is due to expire at the end of 2025 and will then be updated. Finally, the government is in ongoing dialogue with the ACOI and journalists in order to identify bottlenecks in the policy and to investigate opportunities for improvement, for example in the field of knowledge management and information.

Open algorithms

Over the past few years, government has increasingly digitalised its working practice, for example through the use of algorithms. This offers numerous advantages both in terms of the quality and speed of decision making and the effectiveness of operating practice and service provision. For an open government, it is essential that the government be transparent about its use of algorithms in its public tasks.

In particular this applies in situations where algorithms contribute to decision making and determining the rights and obligations of citizens. In that case, it is essential that the government informs its residents about the use of algorithms: how they work, what data are used and whether their situation has also been assessed by a human. Transparency about algorithms is an essential precondition for understanding, accepting and possibly objecting to a decision.

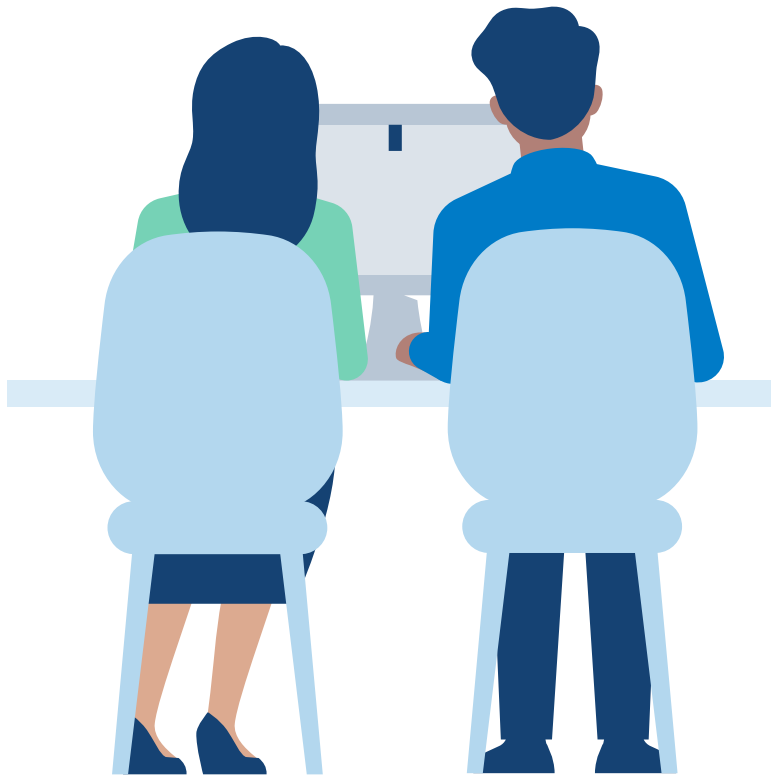
Against that background there has been much attention for transparency surrounding the use of algorithms in the past few years. An [Algorithm register](#) has been established in which government authorities are able to register the algorithms they use. Standards are currently being developed for recording the data used in arriving at a decision, in a manner that is accessible to individual citizens. We have also developed a website [gegevensbijbesluiten.overheid.nl](#) as a means of identifying for citizens and businesses which personal data are used when the government takes decisions, which parties provide that information and how the information is shared.

We are also investigating the added value of additional rules for the use of algorithms in decision making and identifying citizens' needs in terms of information about transparency. **Commitment 7. Trust through understanding** and **Commitment 8. Algorithm guide** are intended to investigate the information needs of citizens in respect of algorithms and how to best communicate on these issues. Best practices are gathered and shared as a means of supporting government authorities in the responsible use of algorithms. Finally, **Commitment 9. Algo-Rights** supports citizens by developing a website that will facilitate the process of submitting information requests and complaints about government algorithms.

Open standards

Open standards are agreements about the structuring of the public digital space, such as data exchange, information security and accessibility. They are known to everyone, freely usable and important both in terms of interoperability and supplier independence.

The past few years have seen a strong upsurge in the demand for digital sovereignty and supplier independence, internationally, within the EU and in the Netherlands. This then is the central focal point of the new [Dutch Digitalisation Strategy \(NDS\)](#). The strategy states that the Dutch government aims to introduce a reinforced approach to reaching agreement on, introducing and enforcing digital standards, including support for implementation. Digital standards introduced via European legislation must then be applied by all government organisations.



On behalf of the Ministries of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (EZK), the Standardisation Forum maintains a list of open standards and each year monitors application of that list via the Open Standards Monitor. This is achieved by analysing tender procedures, domain names and generic facilities and holding discussions with government organisations. The report for 2025 reveals that use has stagnated at around the 50 percent level in tender procedures. There is room for improvement.

The Forum advises the Government-wide Policy Consultation on the Digital Government (OBDO) and supports organisations during the introduction process, sharing best practices and calling them to account on compliance issues.

Commitment 10. Open standards will contribute through the further development of the decision tool 'Open Publication' which can be used by government organisations in determining which standards must be applied when disclosing government information.

Open source

Digital common resources such as open source software are an essential component of the ICT infrastructure of the Dutch government. They are based on shared ownership and collective decision making built around public values. Open source software promotes transparency and collaboration with partners and contributes to reducing dependency on non-value-driven providers. Within central government, open source software is employed in a number of different ways. For example the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is developing an open source digital working environment for civil servants via the programme Better Working Together (working title: 'Mijn Bureau').

Within **Commitment 11. Open Source Program Office (OSPO)** work was previously undertaken on establishing an OSPO for the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The next step is to develop an OSPO at Central government level: a programming agency responsible for promoting and supporting open source working practices government wide. This agency will combine knowledge and experience to further accelerate the transition to open source within the government.

The government also supports a number of national and local open source projects with co-funding, advice and visibility via the Digital Government Innovation Budget, made available annually by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Recent examples supported by this budget include the digital participation tools OpenStad and Pol.is.

Finally, within the EU, the Netherlands is a leading player in the field of digital common resources. Together with France and Germany, our country is working on a European consortium for digital infrastructure (EDIC). The Netherlands aims to make an important contribution to strengthening European digital sovereignty, and promoting such values as privacy, transparency and freedom of choice. The formal application for establishing this EDIC was submitted to the EC in July.

Open culture

The aim of the government is to achieve greater openness by disclosing more information, both actively and on request. New legislation, such as the Open Government Act (Woo) and the active disclosure of decision memoranda, started in 2022, are essential steps in this process. Nevertheless, open government demands more than simply regulations: it also requires behaviour change among civil servants. For that reason, [various tools](#) have been developed to support government employees, such as guidelines for information management and writing aimed at improving transparency, e-learning, training programmes and behavioural studies.

The government-wide Careful and Open campaign launched in August 2024 encourages employees to work according to the Careful and Open (ZO) principles. This campaign offers a toolkit and communication tools which help to enhance awareness and reinforce careful, transparent handling of information in practice. The introduction page of the ZO campaign provides information about the campaign itself, the basic toolkit and provides practical tips on how employees can work according to the Careful and Open principles.

However, the transition to open government affects all levels of government and all residents of the Netherlands. **Commitment 12. Public Access Center Amsterdam** shows how the Municipality of Amsterdam is training its employees to assist residents of the municipality with their requests for information, in a more accessible manner. At the same time, **Commitment 13. Open Parliament** is focused on enhancing people's awareness of democracy and open government. A series of education programmes aimed among others at young people will help to involve and encourage them to make active use of their right to openness, which is essential for promoting participation and democratic control. The government is active at various levels developing an open culture.

Open approach

An open government does not only mean that people are entitled to know what their government is doing, but also offers them an opportunity to participate. Citizens must be heard, feel that they are supported and must be given a greater say on issues that affect them. A new programme line on citizenship and establishing communities has therefore been included in the 'influence and control' programme. This programme actively seeks collaboration with civil society organisations, businesses and local and regional authorities to deliver structural support for resident initiatives, through knowledge sharing, community support and long-term funding for successful local pilot schemes. One practical example is *Loket D*, a fund launched in March 2025 to provide funding for local initiatives for community improvement projects.

The Strengthening Participation at Decentralised Level Act came into force on 1 January 2025. This act requires municipalities to draw up a participation programme within two years, and increases opportunities for citizens to develop their own individual initiatives, via the right to challenge. At national level, too, the Cabinet is working to increase the involvement of individual citizens in developing, implementing and evaluating policy. One practical step in this process is the Dutch National Climate Citizens Assembly that is currently being established.

Central government is also investigating how new technologies can contribute to citizen participation. Within **Commitment 14. Strengthening citizen participation with digital tools** is working to further develop the e-consultation tool Pol.is.

The government is also working to improve the integration of the citizen perspective in the everyday tasks of central government. The citizen perspective will for example occupy a central role in implementation assessments and the Policy Compass, and the citizen perspective and professionalism under the democratic rule of law will receive more attention in basic training for central government civil servants. Within **Commitment 15: Professionalisation of Participation**, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (IenW) is developing practical tools to assist policy officers in better designing participation processes.

There will also be greater attention for the influence and monitoring of specific groups. In collaboration with the National Youth Council, for example, the government is working on a national youth strategy: a long-term cabinet vision that goes beyond the boundaries of individual domains on topics that affect young people between the ages of 12 and 29. Within this process, agreements will also be reached on how young people can make a meaningful contribution to decision making.

6. Conclusion

The Refreshed Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027, *Open for Everyone 2.0*, marks the first occasion on which an Open Government Action Plan has been refreshed midway through its term. This process was developed in co-creation with civil-society partners. The refreshed commitments are clear evidence of the importance of collaboration between government, civil society organisations and knowledge institutions in making the transition to a more open government responsive, innovative and impactful.

The refreshment process offered an opportunity to reflect on the role and impact of the action plan within the broader developments towards an open government. The evaluation and advice report by the MCOIG, commissioned by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, played an important role in that process and formed the background to the refreshed version.

One practical outcome of the advice is the new classification of the commitments according to the themes: open data, open information, open algorithms, open standards, open source, open culture and open approach. The scope of the Open Government Action Plan was always broad, in line with the definition of the OGP. However, on this occasion, for the first time, the commitments have been classified according to open topics. Each topic represents an essential element of open government and ties in better with the prevailing ideas in society about what open government really means.

The advice also set the course for the further content of the plan: which commitments have been concluded, which will be continued with new ambitions and where are there opportunities for innovation. An open call was organised on those questions. Civil-society partners and knowledge institutions were given the opportunity to submit new commitments in relation to policy challenges which will be implemented in collaboration with government organisations in order to deliver greater impact.

In the allocation of new commitments, efforts were made to tie in with these policy challenges. This has broadly been successful, although some questions remain unanswered, for example about the information needs in society regarding the funding of political parties and the monitoring of open government. These issues will be further discussed during future multi-stakeholder meetings, in order to identify new opportunities for collaboration. Consideration will also be given to identifying how commitments can be selected not mainly on the basis of government questions but through a process of joint observation of the challenges facing us.

Not all recommendations from the MCOIG could be fully integrated in this refreshed version. The emphasis was placed on strengthening collaboration between government and society. Other recommendations - such as improving the involvement of other levels of government and government departments, and combining commitments to key topics such as social security, climate and resilience - will receive greater attention in the process of preparing the next action plan.

Until the summer of 2027, the focus will remain on implementing, monitoring and encouraging the fifteen commitments. The continuous feedback loop between commitment leads from civil society and government will be at the heart of that process to ensure that the results achieved actually contribute to improved policy and implementation. Once this action plan reaches the end of its term in 2027, it will be followed by a new evaluation. The insights that emerge will then be included in the next, sixth national Open Government Action Plan, planned for 2028.

Appendix

Commitment formats

I. Open data

New Commitment 1. Visible and valuable

Reuse of high-value open government information and data for society

<p>Brief description of the commitment</p> <p>This commitment will increase the reuse of open government information and reveal the value of that information to society by demonstrating inspiring applications, removing obstacles and advising on measures for the improved reuse of public government information.</p>	<p>Supporting Stakeholders</p> <p>Government</p> <p>Open data team (Open Government department, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), various administrative bodies supplying datasets.</p> <p>CSOs</p> <p>Citizen initiatives, interest groups, umbrella organisations and civil society organisations reusing open data. MCOIG network.</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Market parties with data services and representatives, politicians focused on improving government services, digitalisation and public values, media.</p>
<p>Commitment lead and collaborating government party</p> <p>Public-Innovation B.V. in collaboration with the open data team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)</p>	<p>Period covered</p> <p>January 2026 - July 2027</p>

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The Netherlands is disclosing large volumes of open government data, but actual reuse is lagging behind. The visibility, findability and quality of datasets and applications are restricted. As a result, the social potential of open data is insufficiently used for innovation and public values.

What are the causes of the problem?

Various causes contribute to this problem:

- Fragmented publication and insufficient visibility on platforms such as data.overheid.nl
- Insufficient awareness of use cases in policy, administration and society.
- Technical and organisational obstacles to reuse and co-creation.
- Limited inclusion of social value of open data on political and media agenda.

An analysis of the causes is part of the proposal.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Open data policy and data.overheid.nl offer a foundation. Much open data is published, with heavy investment in the infrastructure for the publication of open data. However, without a targeted policy on visibility and reuse, the impact remains restricted. Previous initiatives were above all focused on technical access and less on social application and communication.

What solution are you proposing?

The project combines three pillars: (1) making open data applications and initiatives visible; (2) research into the perceived bottlenecks and measures aimed at encouraging reuse and removing obstacles; (3) placing on the agenda via communication and events.

The result will be a catalogue of applications, an advisory report with measures and a communication / PR strategy for Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and partners.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

- A catalogue with approx. 20 inspiring open data applications.
- Recommendations with 8-10 measures for better reuse of high-value datasets.
- Core messages and a media campaign to demonstrate social value.
- Reinforced collaboration between government, society and market.
- Visibility at a (final) event or alternative form of public presentation.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

By improving the visibility of examples and use cases on data.overheid.nl and other channels, it will be easier for market parties and civil society organisations to express the added value of their open data initiatives. This will increase the awareness of the value and necessity of the publication of open data for solving societal challenges.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

Open data can be used to legitimise accountability of policy choices, democratic processes and decision making. This project is focused on charting out initiatives in this field. By removing obstacles and encouraging use, it will be easier for these stakeholders to implement applications in favour of societal challenges.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

The project will encourage open data initiatives and co-creation with civil society organisations. This will make citizens not only users but also indirect co-developers of open data applications.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Start-up and inventory	Definitive project plan, selection of topics and applications	Q4 2025	Lead Public Innovation
Definitive catalogue	Publication on data.overheid.nl	Q2 2026	Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Open data team (Open Government department, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), various administrative bodies supplying datasets.
Recommended measures	Report with findings and proposals		
Communication strategy and possibly event	PR material and possibly public session (approx. 50 participants)	Q2/Q3 2026	<i>CSOs</i> Citizen initiatives, interest groups, umbrella organisations and civil society organisations reusing open data. MCOIG network.
Final report and follow-up	Advice and recommendations	Q4 2026	
	Inclusion of catalogue of open data services and initiatives on data.overheid.nl	Q1 2027	<i>Others</i> Market parties with data services and representatives, politicians focused on improving government services, digitalisation and public values, media.
	Including outcomes of advice in policy, technology and communication	Q1-Q4 2027	

New Commitment 2. Data expedition

Journalistic use cases for high-value datasets

Brief description of the commitment This commitment will activate high-value datasets (HVDs) by organising 'data expeditions' (journalistic hackathons). During these events, specific journalistic use cases will be developed to underline the social value of data access and the monitoring function of journalism.	Supporting stakeholders Government Statistics Netherlands (CBS) CSOs Open State Foundation (OSF) Others Journalists (national, regional and investigative media), data analysts and data developers
Commitment lead and collaborating government party Momus (Foundation Platform Authentic Journalism) in collaboration with open data team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)	Period covered January 2026 - July 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

High-value datasets (HVDs) from the government, such as those from Statistics Netherlands (CBS), are a crucial element of transparency. However, the journalistic and social potential of these data often remains unused. The complexity of the data represents an obstacle, so that the stories contained in the data - which are essential for monitoring power and interpreting societal challenges - remain untold. This affects journalists, civil society organisations and eventually individual citizens, who miss out on important insights.

What are the causes of the problem?

The primary cause is the gulf between the availability of complex data and the capacity of journalists to effectively evaluate this data and translate it into stories. This is due to:

- A lack of time and specific data analytical skills among editors.
- A knowledge gulf between the context of the data (known to CBS experts) and journalistic questions.
- The absence of a structured collaboration process for bringing together data experts, domain experts (CBS) and journalists to discuss specific social topics.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

CBS already supplies large volumes of data via StatLine. Media also occasionally conduct data analyses. However, to date there is no structured and reproducible process in which journalists, data experts and CBS specialists develop clear, in-depth journalistic stories in co-creation, based on HVDs.

What solution are you proposing?

The solution: topic-based, journalistic hackathons that act as temporary, focused editorial boards. Teams of journalists, data analysts and CBS experts work together to 'crack' complex HVDs and translate them into specific journalistic research concepts (use cases). The topics (e.g. Housing, Energy transition, Inequality) tie in directly with the societal challenges of the CBS. The best concepts will not receive a monetary reward, but will be offered development capacity and data expertise via Momus and OSF so that the stories can actually be implemented and published. The method and lessons learned will be recorded in a public 'Playbook for Data expeditions'.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

The commitment will deliver the following measurable results:

- **4-6 elaborated journalistic research concepts** for high-value datasets.
- **Publication of at least two in-depth, data journalistic studies** that demonstrate the value to society and reuse of HVDs.
- **A public ‘Playbook for Data expeditions’** as a guide for co-creation between government and media.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

This commitment will improve access to HVDs by translating them into journalistic concepts. This will improve access for journalists (and eventually individual citizens) to information about complex societal topics and will clarify the actions of government on these issues.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

By directly facilitating journalists in using government data for in-depth research, the commitment will strengthen the monitoring role of the media. The resultant publications can critically analyse policy choices and their impact so that public bodies will be encouraged to be more accountable.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

The commitment will improve the participation by civil-society parties (journalists, data experts) via the hackathons. Indirectly, citizens will be better informed and engaged by the journalistic productions, which will empower them to be better armed in participating in the public debate on the investigated topics.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Preparation and implementation 1st hackathon (Topic: Housing under pressure)	2-3 elaborated journalistic use cases; First feedback report for CBS.	May 2026	Lead Momum
Interim results and communication	Publication of at least one data journalistic case; Communication moment about initial findings.	October 2026	Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Open data team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), CBS
Preparation and implementation 2nd hackathon (Topic: Energy transition / Inequality)	2-3 New elaborated journalistic use cases; Second feedback report for CBS.	February 2027	<i>CSOs</i> Open State Foundation (OSF)
Handover and completion of project	Definitive version of the ‘Playbook for Data expeditions’ (open publication); Final report with all results achieved.	June 2027	<i>Others</i> Participating journalists/experts

II. Open information

New Commitment 3. Decisions in context

Open and Connected

Brief description of the commitment

One category of government information which under the Open Government Act (Woo) must be actively disclosed relates to the decisions. These are government decisions which specifically determine the legal position of an individual citizen, such as licences, subsidies and sanctions. Specifically in respect of decisions, the question emerges as to how meaningful disclosure of government information can be achieved. Such decisions for individual cases are often published in isolation, while they only acquire true meaning in conjunction with other (government) documents. Because the information value of a single decision can be limited, it is vital that the link to relevant documents be actually established.

Within this commitment, an open standard will be developed: the Administrative Decision Identifier (ADI). This standard will not only make it possible to record the core characteristics of decisions as metadata, but also to recognise and connect decisions within other documents. On the basis of specific datasets with already accessed decisions, Decisions in Context will demonstrate how such connections can be established between decisions and other government documents.

The commitment will also deliver the guide 'Better Understanding Decisions'. This will support government organisations in issuing contextualised information on decisions. This will contribute to a more meaningful and coherent disclosure of decisions.

Commitment lead and collaborating government party

Tilburg University in collaboration with the open government team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)

Supporting stakeholders

Government

Logius/KOOP (Official Government Publications Knowledge and Operations Centre)

CSOs

Consortium partners CITaDOG (www.citadog.nl)

Period covered

January 2026 - July 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

Whereas the initial aim was to disclose more government information, open government now faces a new challenge. It is no longer (simply) a question of disclosure as such but now (also) demands meaningful disclosure. Although meaningful disclosure is high on the political agenda and its importance is universally recognised, it sometimes proves difficult to achieve this form of disclosure. This is partially unavoidable because the term meaningful also has subjective aspects: what is meaningful for one individual may not be meaningful for another. Nevertheless, there does appear to be a more objective aspect of meaningful disclosure: meaning is not necessarily the result of disclosure of a single document. Specifically by combining a particular document with other documents, a document can be placed 'in context' and gains (more) meaning.

This challenge applies in particular to one specific category of government documents: decisions. The decision is the legal final product of a process of decision making that starts with legislation and becomes increasingly specific in other government decisions. Specifically because a decision cannot be understood without the other (government) documents to which it forms the conclusion, meaningful disclosure implies that these decisions must be disclosed 'in context'. Moreover, the decision itself often does not tell the entire decision-making story. Other documents such as legislation and regulations, applicable policy, case law, other decisions and other procedural documents (such as an underlying application or an advisory report), 'explain' the decision as it was eventually taken. It is therefore important that decisions be removed 'from isolation' and be related to other documents that together 'tell the story' of the individual decision.

What are the causes of the problem?

- **Legal:** Disclosure legislation requires the disclosure of specifically described categories of information, including decisions. As a result of this legislation, a clear distinction is made between information which must and must not be actively disclosed. The downside of this distinction is that certain information about decision making (such as the eventual decision) is published, while other information (such as the application) may not be published, while both types of information are necessary in order to understand the decision.
- **Organisational:** The legal obligation to grant access to certain government information need not necessarily mean that other information is not made available. Nevertheless, in practice a 'legalistic' logic (required by law) often prevails over a communicational logic (what the citizen needs). In real terms this means that government authorities restrict themselves to disclosing the categories of government information which they are obliged to disclose, without asking themselves whether the result is meaningful disclosure.
- **Technical:** Unlike other legal (government) documents such as legislation or case law, decisions remain 'underdeveloped' when it comes to a uniform and standardised approach to disclosure. Even if there is a desire to combine decisions with other documents, in practice this is often impossible due to the restricted machine readability of certain decisions and the lack of uniform metadata. As a result, decisions can be difficult to find and combine.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

- The Open Government Act (Woo) not only contains a result obligation for active disclosure of decisions, but also a best efforts obligation to also disclose other government documents in the interest of transparency. In satisfying this best efforts obligation, a series of advisory reports and guides have been developed, to encourage government authorities to publish more documents meaningfully.
- Specifically in respect of decisions, the Open Government Act does not yet require active disclosure. Nevertheless, there are government authorities that do disclose decisions - voluntarily or otherwise. In the project 'Decisions in the Picture' (2025), existing disclosure practices of government authorities were mapped out and compared with the applicable transparency legislation. This project revealed that certain government authorities do already disclose decisions although the practices of disclosure are still very diverse, also when it comes to the metadata according to which decisions are disclosed.
- Various standards and software tools have already been developed for other legal government documents, which increase the findability and linkability of these documents. Logius/KOOP, the Official Government Publications Knowledge and Operations Centre, is for example responsible for various standards for government information (including TOOI). Logius/KOOP also manages the LinkeXtractor, open source software which makes it possible to automatically recognise textual references to legislation and regulations, parliamentary documents and jurisprudence, in existing texts. Also at European level, the ELI standard for legislation and the ECLI standard for case law have been created. These standards can serve as a source of inspiration for a standard for decisions.

What solution are you proposing?

In order to achieve meaningful disclosure of decisions, Decisions in Context proposes developing a standard (*Administrative Decision Identifier - ADI*) specifically focused on the disclosure of decisions. This standard should make it possible to connect disclosed decisions with other (disclosed) government documents. In addition to this standard, Decisions in Context will also develop a guide 'Better Understanding Decisions', which can help government authorities communicate about the results achieved using the ADI: what 'meaning' can be derived from this combination of government documents?

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

Decisions in Context will demonstrate that meaningful disclosure of government information is not at loggerheads with the compulsory (active) disclosure of specific categories of government information (such as decisions) but in fact can go hand in hand. This insight should encourage government authorities to publish (more) decisions in a uniform manner (according to the ADI). As a consequence, disclosure of decisions will no longer be a box-ticking exercise, but a necessary step towards meaningful disclosure of government information.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

Decisions in Context will promote transparency because the project is not focused primarily on disclosing more decisions but on the meaningful disclosure of decisions.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

When decisions are placed in context, this can also promote accountability for government decisions. For example if a pattern of decision making can be derived from a combination of different decisions, government will be required to account for this 'fixed line of behaviour'.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

If citizens are able to combine different disclosed decisions and place them in context, this will not only improve their information position but also their legal position. In real terms this will result in increased participation in the framework of individual decision making because in such procedures, citizens will be able to access more information against the government and as such will be in a position to present more (or different) arguments.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the structure of decisions as a specific category of government documents • Developing an open standard for decisions by comparison with / enrichment of existing standards for government information (TOOI) and legal decisions (ECLII). 	Draft version of (open) standard available for disclosure of decisions: <i>Administrative Decision Identifier (ADI)</i>	1 July 2026	<p>Lead Tilburg University</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Open government team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), Logius/KOOP</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and updating already disclosed datasets of decisions • Application of the draft version of the ADI to at least three existing datasets of disclosed decisions 	Three enriched datasets of decisions, among others through application of ADI and LinkeXtractor (Logius/KOOP)	1 January 2027	
Analysis of information obtained by combining documents (including decisions) using ADI	(online) guide Better Understanding Decisions	1 July 2027	<p>Lead Tilburg University</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Open government team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), Logius/KOOP</p> <p>CSOs Consortium partners CITaDOG (including ACOI and VNG)</p>

New Commitment 4. Grounds for exemption in the picture

Brief description of the commitment

In this commitment, we will work on the transparency of the application of grounds for exemption in Woo decisions by various government organisations. We will start with a large dataset of Woo decisions, from which we will retrieve the supporting arguments for the use of grounds for exemption using AI. We will also extract the grounds used for deleting specific sections from redacted documents. We will make this information accessible for research, including an interpretation with a large-scale qualitative study into the reasons for exemption contained in the motivation of the Woo decisions. In this way, we will offer interested parties insights from the analysis and the possibility of working with this data, themselves. The results will offer both individual citizens and the government a better picture of the reasons for confidentiality within Woo requests.

Commitment lead and collaborating government party

This commitment is a synergetic collaboration between two projects:

- The importance of transparency and confidentiality for the correct functioning of government (Leiden University)
- Grounds for Exemption Meter (Dialogic)

The commitment will be implemented in collaboration with the open government team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations).

Supporting stakeholders

Government

ACOI

CSOs

Utrecht University

University of Amsterdam

Period covered

January 2026 - July 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The democratic principle is that information held by administrative bodies is in principle public, but that confidentiality is sometimes also necessary for the values of the democratic rule of law, such as security and the privacy of citizens. The democratic 'problem' caused by confidentiality, however, is that citizens do not know what is confidential, and are therefore unable to form an opinion. This results in problems in the framework of democratic accountability.

Within democracies it is therefore important to be as transparent as possible about the reasons why the government is sometimes required to keep secrets. The practice of applying exemptions must therefore be as understandable as possible. The aim of this study is to offer that transparency. Which grounds for exemption are applied, how often, to how much information and for what reasons? This information is essential on the one hand to legitimise the practice of confidentiality while on the other explaining the process to individual citizens, so that they can monitor government.

What are the causes of the problem?

The Woo is employed by a large variety of administrative bodies, with space for interpretation and the use of grounds for exemption. At present, no data is available about the way in which they do this and the underlying reasons. At present, that data is spread across a large number of decisions by different administrative bodies. This is not something an individual citizen can investigate, and as such a structural analysis is required. In this programme, we will make the use of grounds for exemption understandable and deliver an interpretation of the use of grounds for exemption.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

One good example is the Woogle project. The aim of this project is to structurally provide insight into information disclosed and the extent to which information is redacted. We will build on this work. The University of Amsterdam, one of the driving forces behind Woogle, will also be part of this project.

What solution are you proposing?

This study is focused on the way in which grounds for exemption are applied. Simply being able to see what has been redacted is insufficient to establish an opinion on whether the redaction was justified. That in fact requires seeing what grounds for exemption are applied and for what reasons they are applied. This project will provide precisely that structural analysis.

In the project we intend to make the use of grounds for exemption easily understandable now and in the future, using AI. On that basis, Leiden University will conduct a large-scale qualitative analysis of the motivations for using grounds for exemption.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

The primary objective of this study is to explain the practice of the application of grounds for exemption. In and of itself this is already an important goal, specifically because it must be understandable for individual citizens on what grounds the government appeals to confidentiality. Given the fact that we are unable and indeed not allowed to know which information is secret, the democratic debate must shift to the question in which cases and under what conditions confidentiality is legitimate. This study will inform this fundamental democratic discussion.

The project will collaborate with the open government team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations) and the insights will also be shared with the ACOI. The analysis from this study will be used in drawing up guidelines for administrative bodies regarding the way in which they are permitted and required to apply grounds for exemption.

This analysis can also be used by the legislator in determining whether the Woo is used in line with its intended purpose. The legislator is required to set standards on transparency and confidentiality, a task which requires sound knowledge of the way in which the government currently deals with its powers. Specifically on this subject there is a clear lack of structural knowledge so that this study will provide important input for the legislator and the democratic debate.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

Firstly, the study will make the practice of confidentiality itself more transparent. This is the direct effect. We also predict indirect consequences because the information from the study can be used to inform decision making by the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations, the ACOI and the legislator.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

A certain degree of transparency is a necessary condition for democratic accountability to the people. The results of this study can firstly accelerate the practice of disclosure and confidentiality and secondly set the course for that practice. A democracy cannot choose between transparency and confidentiality, but in specific cases will have to reach clear decisions. The aim of the study is to improve decisions in individual cases so that disclosure can be achieved more quickly and administrative bodies do not disclose any information which should have been kept secret.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

A great deal has already been said on this point. The aim of the study is to inform a democratic debate on confidentiality. This is essential for citizen participation in the debate and in and of itself will result in citizens monitoring government.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Interim evaluation	Discussion between partners on progress of the study, reflection on methods	1 March 2026	<p>Lead Leiden University & Dialogic</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Open government team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), ACOI</p> <p>CSOs Utrecht University University of Amsterdam</p>
Study report: The importance of transparency and confidentiality	<p>Study report containing a categorisation of why a diverse set of administrative bodies have applied grounds for exemption.</p> <p>Discussion ACOI in the framework of their guidelines</p> <p>Presentation results (in consultation with clients)</p>	1 May 2026	<p>Lead Leiden University</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Open government team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)</p> <p>CSOs Utrecht University</p>
Study report: The Grounds for Exemption Meter	Study report in which the methods used are described and an outline overview is provided of the results. The report will focus specifically on reproducibility, not interpretation.	31 May 2026	<p>Lead Dialogic</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Open government team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)</p> <p>CSOs Utrecht University University of Amsterdam</p>
Dashboard: The Grounds for Exemption Meter	Dashboard in which the extracted data are explained. This will be integrated with Woogie for optimum searchability.	31 May 2026	<p>Lead Dialogic</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Open government team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)</p> <p>CSOs Utrecht University University of Amsterdam</p>
Dashboard: Update with Woo decisions in 2026	In 2027, the project will be concluded with updates of the decisions from 2026, including the extraction with the developed methods.	July 2027	<p>Lead Dialogic and University of Amsterdam</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Open government team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)</p>

Ongoing Commitment 5. Open procurement

Brief description of the commitment

On 1 December 2022, the public procurement platform 'Rijksinkoop' (Doing Business with the Government – Zakendoen met het Rijk) was launched online. The IRM review indicates that the potential of this platform can be further leveraged. This can be achieved, on one hand, by improving the information on the platform, and on the other hand by expanding the scope of the platform to cover all aspects of Government Procurement, potentially including provinces and municipalities (leveraging function). This contributes to the expansion of public procurement information provided by the government and enhances the dialogue with external stakeholders. It increases the chances of obtaining the best possible bid for procurement with public funds and ensures that the procurement practices of the government are transparent and accessible.

Commitment lead and collaborating government party

Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Government Procurement, Facilities and Accommodation Policy department

Supporting stakeholders

Government

The coordinating directors of procurement from the ministries, Procurement Execution Centers

CSOs

Open State Foundation, Open Contracting Partnership (OCP)

Others

Advisory group with external stakeholders (citizens, interest groups, and businesses)

Period covered

January 2024 - December 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

- The government policy 'Procuring with Impact' (Inkopen met Impact), which combines Government Procurement with social objectives, requires significant knowledge and expertise from companies interested in such contracts.
- If these companies are not informed in a timely manner about market tenders and lack the necessary information regarding the context of Government Procurement, the risk increases that the government will not receive the best possible bids for its procurement. This can result in contracts that do not meet the desired quality standards.

What are the causes of the problem?

There are several causes contributing to the problem:

- It is challenging for citizens, businesses, and interest groups to navigate the abundance of information regarding the integration of social objectives into Government Procurement.
- It is unclear whom they can approach for inquiries related to the various topics associated with this integration.
- Particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) lack the business volume to build knowledge and expertise concerning the complexity of Government Procurement.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

With financial support from the EU, a platform called Open Inkoop (Doing Business with the Government – Zakendoen met het Rijk) has been developed. This platform provides a well-organised compilation of all public information about Government Procurement, ranging from the procurement strategy to the realised government contracts. Additionally, it indicates whom interested parties can contact for further information. A calendar has been created that includes the Government Procurement schedule. This allows companies and other stakeholders to look ahead for at least a year and see when market invitation procedures are planned.

In addition:

- Central government has disclosed part of the category plans.
- Via an app challenge, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has mapped out how open Government Procurement data can better be accessed;
- The CPO Rijk has requested the Open Contracting Partnership (OCP) to investigate which information is currently missing with regard to Government spending and contracts (GAP analysis);
- In July 2024, the OCP presented its draft report in which it also issued six recommendations on the disclosure of information.
- Based on these recommendations, the CPO Rijk laid down action points and drew up a timetable for disclosing the missing information.

What solution are you proposing?

To further improve the platform, we propose the following solutions:

- Disclosing the remaining category plans;
- Improving the collection of data by categorising the available data and making it available at a central location
- Ensuring that the system for storing digital procurement information remains up to date.
- Complementing the TenderNed data by inputting missing data.
- When collecting data, giving priority to contract-related data
- Learning from other EU countries that disclose data that is not yet disclosed in the Netherlands.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

The desired outcome is that citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders are informed in a timely manner about the aspects that link Government Procurement to social objectives. Moreover, they should be able to engage in a dialogue with the government on this topic. This not only contributes to an open government but also increases the likelihood of optimum use of taxpayer's money.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

Access to data and information for citizens, businesses, and interest organisations will be improved through an open platform where the desired information is organised and explained in an accessible manner. Additionally, it will provide the opportunity to ask follow-up questions on the published information.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

By being transparent about how the government links Government Procurement to social objectives, both before and after the conclusion of Government Contracts, including the disclosure of suppliers and contract amounts.

By organising the information in a user-friendly manner, tailored to the needs of the users and the different stages of the procurement process, citizens can easily track the implementation and evaluation of the process.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

By engaging in timely, active, and professional dialogue with external stakeholders.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Publishing the remaining category plans.	Publish all category plans.	31-12 2027	Lead Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (IFHR)
Developing a dialogue function for structuring dialogue between national government and external stakeholders.	Dialogue function, harmonised with external stakeholders by Central government.		Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> The coordinating directors of procurement from the ministries Procurement execution centers CSOs Open State Foundation <i>Others</i> External stakeholders
Follow-up of commitments for missing data fields Government spending and contracts.	Improving the information quality of Government spending and contracts in line with the GAP analysis.		Lead Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (IFHR) Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Procurement points, Commercial Legal Advice Committee

Ongoing Commitment 6. Societal benefits of transparency

Brief description of the commitment Mapping the societal benefits of government information transparency through literature review, analysis of Wob/Woo requests from the last 15 years, and interviews with stakeholders.	Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> National Archives <i>CSOs</i> Civil-society coalition Talking about Information (MCOIG), Open State Foundation (OSF), Dutch Association of Journalists (NVJ), Netherlands Association of Investigative Journalists (NVOJ), Utrecht University, Leiden University
Lead Institute for Social Innovation (IMI)	Period covered July 2023 – July 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

In recent years, research has been conducted at regular intervals into the costs of transparency (SEO 2013, ABD Topconsult 2016, Ecorys 2019). However, much less attention has been given to the societal impact and benefits of transparency. In light of discussions regarding the usefulness, necessity, and scope of government information transparency, it is desirable to gain a better understanding of the benefits of transparency.

What are the causes of the problem?

Transparency in government is a crucial pillar of a democratic rule of law. In practice, transparency also results in a significant workload for civil servants, including searching and retrieving relevant documents and assessing grounds for exemption. As a result, much attention is dedicated to these practical matters, while less attention is given to the ‘bigger picture’ that highlights the benefits of transparency.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

In the Social Cost Benefit Analysis (SCBA) of the Dutch Open Government Act (Woo) conducted by Ecorys (2019), the benefits of transparency are quantified by using the search time of civil servants as a parameter. However, none of the previously mentioned SCBAs have investigated the societal value of transparency.

What solution are you proposing?

This research includes several actions to assess the societal benefits of transparency:

- Literature review of national and international publications on the benefits of transparency.
- Identifying several significant issues that have emerged over the past 15 years, partly through the use of the Wob/Woo.
- Selecting twenty cases (best practices) to be explained in website form.
- Interview with stakeholders.
- Reporting of findings

This has not been done before. This research can provide a better understanding of various types of societal benefits, such as identifying social misconduct, preventing the misuse of public funds, or uncovering unintended effects of regulations.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

- Understanding the societal benefits of transparency (classified according to disclosure on request, Open Data and Open Archives).
- Understanding the mechanisms that lead to the non-disclosure or untimely sharing of relevant government information.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

The commitment will lead to a better understanding of the societal benefits that transparency in governance yields.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

This commitment will lead to a clearer understanding of the benefits of transparency and contribute to improved accountability of the transparency regime.

Hoe zal het actiepunt de participatie van de burgers bij het bepalen, uitvoeren en controleren van oplossingen verbeteren

For this commitment, several civil society organisations will be actively approached. We will also prepare an overview of best practices for transparency, in the form of a website. This overview will provide an understanding of what is already happening in the field of transparency, in the form of actions by government authorities, civil society and private parties and individual citizens. We will also show the opportunities currently unused in the Netherlands, by presenting examples from other countries.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Mapping various issues that have received public attention in the past 15 years and that involved the use of the Wob/Woo.	Literature review, national and international publications on the benefits of transparency.	Spring 2024	Lead IMI
	Selection of 20 cases, interviews with relevant stakeholders.	Spring 2024	Supporting stakeholders Government National Archives
	Reporting of findings	Summer 2024	
Follow-up in Refreshed Open Government Action Plan	Research within a ministry, implementing organisation, province and municipality into the benefits of transparency, both in terms of disclosure on request and active disclosure and the use of open data.	2026-2027	CSOs Civil-society coalition Talking About Information (MCOIG)
	Continually updating the online overview of best practices.	2026-2027	

III. Open algorithms

New Commitment 7. Trust through understanding

Brief description of the commitment

This commitment will contribute to increasing the transparency of algorithms in government decisions by mapping out the information needs of residents with regard to the use and outcomes of these algorithms. Government organisations can then use this knowledge to communicate more transparently about decisions regarding citizens, in which algorithms are used. This in turn will give citizens a clear picture of how decisions are established in clearly understandable language and with clear examples. As a result, not only will they be better informed but this will also make it possible for them to submit more targeted objections to such decisions.

The commitment will be tackled in collaboration with InnoValor and de Waag. Together we will examine the transparency of algorithms in government at different levels. We have reached a synergetic agreement to complement and to support each other's research work in order to answer the question what information needs citizens have in respect of algorithms used by government authorities.

Commitment lead and collaborating government party

M&I/Partners in collaboration with the Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)

Supporting stakeholders

Government

Municipality of Rotterdam

CSOs

InnoValor Advies, Waag Futurelab and Jheronimus Academy of Data Science

Period covered

January 2026 - July 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The use of AI, as defined in the [Algorithm Register Guide](#) is new in a government setting. The wish to use AI is however also clearly present in the government setting. At the same time there is a certain level of [resistance](#) to AI. The fact that such algorithms are difficult to explain to citizens contributes to this situation. To date, this perspective has only been included to a limited extent in the use of these algorithms. It is often unclear exactly what is happening, which data have been used and how decisions are reached with the use of algorithms. This reduces trust and restricts the opportunities for objection or influencing. We want citizens to fully understand what is happening: transparently, in their language, at their time. The policy question this commitment aims to address is how government algorithms for decision making can be made transparent and explainable, so that citizens can see in understandable language and with clear examples which information is being used, what choices have been made and what rights or possibilities they themselves have to exercise influence or submit objections.

What are the causes of the problem?

The information needs of citizens regarding communication concerning AI have not yet been fully identified. Transparency about algorithms in a government context has barely been systematically investigated from the perspective of the citizen. As such, we have insufficient knowledge of exactly what citizens want to know and how they would prefer to receive this information. The fact that this has not previously been investigated relates to the focus of government to date: above all on efficiency and automation. Explainability and participation received less attention.

Moreover, the use of AI in government is a new phenomenon. As a result, communication with citizens about AI use is still being developed. Until now, government organisations have little experience with AI which explains why the explanation is often not yet ideal. One key reason is that algorithms and AI systems are complex. Their functioning is technical and difficult to translate into understandable and accessible information for citizens. Furthermore, the underlying logic of these systems is often not simply available or documented in a form that is explainable.

In other words: until now, citizens have not yet been optimally informed because we are dealing with new, complex technology, limited experience among government organisations and a still unclear information need. This calls for a catch-up process in term of transparency, communication and citizen participation.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

In recent years, a series of initiatives have been launched within government to tackle the problem of transparency in algorithm-based decision making. Government organisations, including ministries, implementing organisations and municipalities have joined umbrella organisations like the VNG and knowledge institutions to develop [AI governance frameworks](#), [model provisions](#) for transparency in contracts and [guidebooks](#) for meaningful explanation. In addition, a series of pilots have been conducted for testing ethical and explainable AI in practice.

Nevertheless, there are restrictions and bottlenecks. Many government organisations have not yet fully implemented the available frameworks, partly due to a [lack of capacity and expertise](#). The perspective and information needs of citizens have until now often been insufficiently included in the design of these systems so that it is not always clear what information citizens need in order to understand algorithm-based decision-making processes. There is also a lack of structural evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures taken so that the extent to which citizens are actually better informed remains unclear.

Consequently, the risk remains that algorithm-based decisions may remain opaque and that citizens are unaware whether and on what grounds they are able to submit objections against decisions that have been taken sometimes assisted by algorithms.

What solution are you proposing?

The heart of the solution is to develop and test a practical toolbox for algorithm-based decision making, which responds explicitly to the information wishes of citizens. The result will contain practical and applicable guidelines for providing an understandable explanation for decisions arrived at (partially) assisted by algorithms. For example standard formats for decision letters, visual explanatory modules and a digital counter where citizens can be given easy access to the logic and factors used. The aim of this project is to make government algorithms understandable and accessible to citizens.

What makes this approach different from previous efforts is that the underlying principle is neither technical nor legal, but starts with the citizen's perspective. This will remove a major barrier to submitting objections, improving the adoption of AI and safeguarding legal equality. This in turn will contribute to greater trust in government and the use of AI. The solution is focused on making decision making visible and understandable and will offer municipalities and other government organisations useful tools for structurally including transparency in their communication practice.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

With the implementation of this commitment, we wish to develop a set of principles for issues that citizens consider important in communication regarding the use of algorithms by government organisations. This set of principles will be drawn up on the basis of participation with citizens and will represent a guideline for how government organisations can communicate transparently, understandably and accessibly about algorithm-based decision making. Based on the identified information needs and the validated mock-ups, we will issue practical advice and guidelines for transparent communication about algorithms. We will focus on three levels of explanation: a concise explanation in understandable language in letters or notices, an in-depth explanation for example via online visualisation and complete documentation for anyone wishing to gain a deeper understanding or monitor the process.

This approach will empower every citizen, depending on their needs and background, to understand what is happening and where he or she can exercise influence. By integrating these citizen-specific principles in communication, decision making and policy, we will create greater awareness of the information needs of citizens. This will reinforce the right to objection and contribute to open and accessible government.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

This commitment will promote transparency by working together with citizens on communication about algorithms, in the form of understandable language, understanding of the information used and explanations on decision making. By integrating these issues in government communication, citizens will be given better access to relevant information and the functioning of algorithms will become more understandable and easier to monitor, so that government will become more visible and accessible for its citizens.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

The commitment will improve meaningful access to information about the use of algorithms in decision-making processes by government organisations. This will enable them to better understand the functioning of algorithms and empower people to monitor the actions of government.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

The commitment will strengthen citizen participation by providing them with a better understanding of how decisions are reached and empowering them to become actively involved in the process. Transparent communication will make it clear for citizens when and how algorithms are used. This will increase their possibilities to ask questions, contribute ideas on improvement and submit objections where necessary. This will not only promote citizen participation in determining the principles but also in monitoring and evaluating the application of those principles in practice.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Analysed results of interviews with experts and citizens	April 2026	Lead M&I/Partners
Developed and presented mock-ups of transparency material	July 2026	Supporting stakeholders Government
Completed validation with at least 100 citizens	October 2026	Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations) and Municipality of Rotterdam
Final report with recommendations and validated transparency models and principles	November 2026	
Follow-up of research results by Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations) and Municipality of Rotterdam	2027	CSOs InnoValor Advies, Waag Futurelab and Jheronimus Academy of Data Science

New Commitment 8. Algorithm guide

Brief description of the commitment

This commitment will investigate what citizens want to know about algorithms in public services and will develop a transparency tool based on visual language, with in-depth information for use in customer journeys.

The commitment will be tackled in collaboration with M&I/ Partners and de Waag. Together we will examine the transparency of algorithms in government at different levels. We have reached a synergetic agreement to complement and to support each other's research work in order to answer the question what information needs citizens have in respect of algorithms used by government authorities.

Commitment lead and collaborating government party

InnoValor Advies in collaboration with the Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)

Supporting stakeholders

Government
Municipality of Nijmegen, Municipality of Enschede, Municipality of Huizen, DUO

Period covered

January 2026 - July 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

Government is increasingly using algorithms within public services, while calls from society for transparency on the use of algorithms have been growing for a number of years, and have been amplified due to a number of incidents. Despite new legislation and a series of transparency initiatives, citizens and businesses have seen little improvement, in practice. In the government services customer journey, communication about the use of algorithms is still limited, specifically at those moments when people come directly into contact with this technology.

What are the causes of the problem?

- Existing tools for algorithm transparency are perceived as **insufficient by citizens**. In the customer journey, citizens generally do not come into contact with these tools. Citizens themselves must actively search these tools, while they often are even unaware of their existence. There is no clear signposting to existing transparency tools.
- On the other hand, the tools for algorithm transparency that are available are still **insufficiently used by government authorities**. The algorithm register, for example, is still not fully completed. One possible cause is that certain organisations are insufficiently convinced of the impact of the register on perceived transparency and explainability, for citizens.
- Existing government instruments for algorithm transparency **do not sufficiently match the needs of citizens**. Instruments are not always designed on the basis of citizen-centric questions, such as: What do citizens want to know? How will citizens be informed? And when?
- There are insufficient tools and practical **transparency tools that government authorities themselves can use in the customer journey** to communicate directly to citizens about the use of algorithms in the services they provide. A start was made in 2021 on the Algorithm guide, but this tool still requires further validation and development.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

- The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has developed the **national algorithm register** as a transparency tool for citizens regarding algorithms. Sadly, (among others by [research by the Municipality of Enschede](#)), it is clear that citizens have been insufficiently successful in finding this tool. In addition, the register is increasingly but still insufficiently completed by organisations. Some organisations have expressed doubts about the usefulness of completing the register because in their judgement, its impact on citizens is too low. It has now become clear that government authorities are not compulsorily required to complete the register. The question is what this lack of obligation means for adoption by government authorities.
- Other examples: Certain government authorities have published their **own algorithm registers** on their website. In addition, **open source codes are sometimes published**. Moreover, among others the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has taken the initiative to work on a **decision (note) on communication** about the role of algorithms in government decisions.

- In 2021, DUO, Cadastre, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), InnoValor and Twente University identified the wishes of citizens regarding algorithms, in a [series of citizen surveys](#). These include:
 - which personal data are used;
 - which information is shared with third parties;
 - whether a binding decision will follow;
 - whether humans are involved;
 - whether the organisation is transparent; and
 - whom they can call to account
- This instrument is based on **pictograms**, in the same ways as the Viewing Guide for films. Surveys have shown that this is the preferred form for citizens.
- Based on the insights from the research, the foundations have been laid for the transparency tool '[Algorithm guide](#)'. This tool has been developed and tested with use cases from the Cadastre and Netherlands Enterprise Agency. However, the necessary follow-up steps to further develop the tool have stagnated.

What solution are you proposing?

Validation and further development of the transparency instrument, the Algorithm guide.

This is a citizen-focused algorithm transparency tool for use in the customer journey; a place where citizens are reached, at a moment relevant to them and in a form which appeals to them.

The tool also offers the possibilities of referring to other more in-depth information, including contact, (national) registers and source code. This could be of added value to citizens and broaden the scope of the existing transparency tools.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

Implementing this project will deliver a practical and reusable algorithm transparency tool for use in service provision, validated with and by citizens. Moreover it will deliver:

- a research report on what citizens want to know, how and when they wish to be informed
- a toolkit that will enable government authorities to implement independently
- knowledge sharing about the research outcomes in relevant government communities
- additionally: pictures for the future, follow-up and a plan for upscaling the Algorithm guide

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

This project will build on an already existing practical communication tool for algorithm transparency, based on what citizens want to know, and suitable for use in practically every customer journey.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

The commitment can also contribute to outreach among citizens for other and existing government tools for algorithm transparency, thus boosting their impact on citizens.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

The Algorithm guide delivered within this project will promote accountability by government authorities by providing citizens with a practical transparency instrument and improving their information position.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
1. Validating information needs of citizens	Presentation of interim research results	15 September 2026	Lead InnoValor Advies
2. Validating communication moments in the customer journey			Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)
3. Investigating added value of a central landing page			CSOs M&I/Partners, Waag Futurelab
4. Investigating the added value of links with other information sources	Completion validated and optimised online algorithm transparency tool	31 October 2026	Lead InnoValor Advies
5. Mapping out organisation needs			Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), Municipality of Enschede, Municipality of Nijmegen, DUO
6. Validating and optimising communication form			CSOs M&I/Partners, Waag Futurelab
7. Optimising Digital Access			
Elaborating implementation of toolkit	Completing implementation of toolkit	31 October 2026	Lead InnoValor Advies
			Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), Municipality of Enschede, Municipality of Nijmegen
			CSOs M&I/Partners, Waag Futurelab
Drawing up research report	Oplevering onderzoeksrapport	31 October 2026	Lead InnoValor Advies
			Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), Municipality of Enschede, Municipality of Nijmegen
			CSOs M&I/Partners, Waag Futurelab
Investigating future pictures, follow-up and upscaling with project stakeholders and third parties	In kaart toekomst-beelden, vervolg en opschaling	1 July 2027	Lead InnoValor Advies
			Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), Municipality of Enschede, Municipality of Nijmegen
			CSOs M&I/Partners, Waag Futurelab

New Commitment 9. Algo-Rights

Control and rights of citizens to transparency, in algorithm-based decision making

Brief description of the commitment

Algo-Rights will assist citizens in exercising their right to information and to complaints in respect of algorithms. The commitment will build a website via which citizens can submit information requests and complaints to the government. The website will assist citizens in exercising their rights by explaining when citizens can come into contact with government algorithms and how citizens can exercise their rights to information and complaints. As such, the website will ensure greater awareness of algorithms, their impact on citizens and citizen rights.

The website will build on a study into algorithmic explanations and will be developed in collaboration with InnoValor and M&I Partners. The website will also provide citizens with forms for easily submitting information requests and complaints to government bodies. These requests and complaints will be anonymised and disclose publicly to generate a better understanding of the information needs of citizens.

Commitment lead and collaborating government party

Waag Futurelab in collaboration with the Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), Digital Rights team (Municipality of Amsterdam) and the Data Protection Authority.

Supporting stakeholders

Government

Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), City of Amsterdam, Dutch Data Protection Authority

CSOs

M&I/Partners and InnoValor Advies

Period covered

January 2026 - July 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

Citizens often have little understanding of how government authorities use algorithms. Research has shown that information sources such as algorithm registers are insufficiently findable and above all publish technical or generic information. This hinders citizens in their right to object, to influence and to monitor.

What are the causes of the problem?

Government bodies wish to improve the transparency of the algorithms they use for decision making and for public services. With this in mind, government bodies have above all worked on a Dutch algorithm register for which they have developed transparency standards. The intention is to publish relevant information about algorithms. However, research and recent policy emphasise that effective transparency on algorithms depends on who the users of the information are, and the purpose for which they require the information: Citizens interested in data processing need other information than the victims of algorithmic discrimination.

Reports published by the [Netherlands Court of Audit](#) and the [Open State Foundation](#) suggest that citizens have insufficient opportunities to collect information or to monitor algorithm-based decisions.

The conclusion of a [study by Waag](#) is that government often fails to provide practical information on how personal data are used in algorithm-based decision making, while the information that is available is not always relevant. The [Open State Foundation](#) [observed](#) that existing tools fail to satisfy information needs. The [Data Protection Authority](#) argues that there is an absence of practical guidelines regarding the provision of information about algorithms. In addition, government bodies often do not know what information they should publish. Interviews with digital assistants show that citizens are not always aware when they come into contact with algorithms or suffer discrimination.

All these insights disturb the balance in the relationship between government and citizens in the sense that citizens are practically incapable of exercising their rights to access to and objection against algorithm-based data processing. Before citizens are able to exercise their data and algorithm rights, they must be aware of when they come into contact with algorithms. Existing transparency standards are above all focused on technical information and lack the flexibility to exchange action-based information between citizens and government organisations.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

So far, Dutch government authorities have above all used transparency registers to publish information about algorithms. With this in mind, transparency standards were developed which specify which (generally technical) information must be published.

In addition, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has developed an algorithm framework that supplies government bodies with a list of toolkits for complying with statutory obligations on transparency and the measurement of the impact of algorithms.

The Dutch Data Protection Authority recently also developed a guide for algorithm literacy within government organisations. This guide (entitled 'Get started with AI literacy') recognises the problem that many organisations lack an understanding or strategy for the algorithms they use. This supports the argument of the Data Protection Authority that there is a lack of practical guidelines on the issuing of information.

The Open State Foundation argues that these activities have not resulted in complete and effective transparency. Transparency registers only publish a small proportion of all the algorithms used by government. Moreover, information on the registers does not satisfy the information needs of various citizens.

What solution are you proposing?

The principle behind Algo-Rights is the assumption that government must listen more to its citizens in terms of their information needs. Publishing standard information in an algorithm register is not enough to serve those information needs. Algo-Rights also assumes that effective transparency is the result of an interactive process in which citizens and government bodies together decide which information is important.

To facilitate that interactive process, Algo-Rights will build a website with tools that empower citizens to request information about algorithms and to submit complaints. The Netherlands Court of Audit already identified the absence of such tools in 2021.

Another objective of the website is to submit these questions to government bodies, and to ensure that they are disclosed publicly. The assumption is that the website will also offer a public data infrastructure for information needs: questions from individual citizens will be made public, thereby clarifying their information needs and explaining how they understand algorithms and the problems they experience with algorithms in their daily life. As such, questions from citizens will offer valuable, empirical data about the information needs of individual citizens that can then be used by other stakeholders (including researchers). These disclosures will help to improve the volume of information available.

The website will be part of a broader culture shift to a responsive government. The website is a means of promoting information exchange between citizens and government authorities. As such, the website could contribute to clarifying the different information needs which can then be used by civil society, public service providers, journalists, ombudsmen and government authorities, for initiating dialogue on improving the provision of information regarding algorithms.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

Algo-Rights proposes a functional and technical design for a prototype information service (website with users guides, request forms and public access summaries of previously submitted requests) which:

- Collects and publishes the information needs of citizens in the form of information requests, in an understandable but anonymised form;
- Supplies a standard form for information requests;
- Offers an information overview listing the government organisations from which citizens can request information about algorithms, and why an information request can be important;

Not every citizen will be in a position to make use of an online service. We are therefore also developing printed information material and user guides. Digital assistants (for example IDO employees) can then use these printed materials in interactions with citizens.

The website was inspired by the German Open Government Act information request platform FragDenStaat. Via this platform it is

possible to submit an Open Government Act request, to receive answers from the government authorities and to publish correspondence. This format offers citizens a clear insight into which government bodies receive requests, provides a standard form for submitting requests and provides researchers with sources of information on how government authorities respond to questions.

The website is a proof of concept for an information service that can be implemented by government bodies. The website will be dependent on answers from government bodies that are required to respond to questions from citizens. Past experience with Open Government Act requests has revealed that this remains a challenge for government authorities. As such, the website will not offer a complete solution to the problem of citizens receiving insufficient information from government authorities. However, by collaborating with government parties, the project also aims to promote policy and adoption of the website. During the course of the project, relevant design standards for the website will be investigated, in consultation with the government partners, such as accessibility standards (WCAG) and the NL-Design System.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

The commitment will provide a technical tool that allows citizens to request information about algorithms and to submit complaints. As such, the commitment will primarily contribute to transparency regarding the information needs of citizens. The project will also offer government authorities an opportunity to respond to information requests. While these reactions are not the focus of the project, it is possible that government authorities will provide information that will also improve the provision of information about algorithms.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

The commitment will contribute directly to government accountability by collecting information requests and complaints from citizens. Those requests and complaints are an expression of the needs and problems of citizens. Via a website, government authorities will be able to respond to these needs and problems, thereby fostering accountability.

The project will involve citizens in the form of co-creation workshops and a public appeal for submitting questions and complaints via our website. These will then be published. As such, essential website functions will be designed with public involvement. Together with the participating citizens, the project will investigate in which situations individual citizens could experience a need for this service.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

The commitment will involve citizens in workshops to investigate their information needs regarding algorithms. As such, the commitment will map out what information citizens need in order to understand the situations in which it becomes necessary to submit an information request or complaint about government algorithms.

The website will also undergo public testing in the form of an appeal to the public. In response, anyone can submit questions that will be collected and published on the website.

Because these information requests and complaints may include personal data, the project will investigate a process for anonymising the requests.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Workshops for investigating citizen information needs (by Waag)	Website: Page with information about government algorithms.	April 2026	Lead Waag Futurelab
Website prototype (by Waag)	Website: information request and complaint form.	June 2026	Supporting stakeholders Government
Symposium (by Waag)	Symposium with policymakers and other civil-society stakeholders to discuss consequences for policy.	September 2026	Algorithms and Safeguards team (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), City of Amsterdam
Inclusion in policy by government partners		2027	Dutch Data Protection Authority CSOs M&I/Partners en InnoValor Advies

IV. Open standards

Ongoing Commitment 10. Open standards

Brief description of the commitment

Open ICT Standards contain agreements relating to the structure of digital public space. Application of open standards results in more interoperability, more supplier independence, better data quality, more transparency and better access to public information. The Standardisation Forum promotes more use of these standards, with a particular focus on standards that can be used better and more widely by the entire public sector and in particular the government. An important aspect of this is the 'Apply or explain' status. 'Apply or explain' applies to most government organisations and entails the obligation to use these standards or to explain why they are not used. The reason for non-use must be particularly weighty.

This commitment consists of two actions:

- The Open Standards Monitor (including IV measurement): Each year, the Standardisation Forum investigates how government organisations apply the 'Apply or explain' standards in practice. This includes the six-monthly study into standards for information security. The Open Standards Monitor reveals that there is still much room for improvement. Not only when it comes to application but also in providing an explanation.
- Decision Tool Open Publication: Open government requires government information and data to be findable online, digitally accessible, reusable and supplied in an open format and via open standards, online. Open Publication will help government authorities create awareness for publishing information

in a format which is exchangeable, accessible and usable for humans and machines, according to open standards. In collaboration with the Open State Foundation (OSF), the Standardisation Forum is working to further develop this website.

Commitment lead and collaborating government party

Standardisation Forum

Supporting stakeholders

Government

Contracting authorities for Standardisation Forum
Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and
Ministry of Economic Affairs

Members of the Government-wide Policy Consultation on the Digital Government (OBDO), advised by the Standardisation Forum.

CSOs

Open State Foundation (OSF).

Others

Members of the Standardisation Forum appointed on a personal basis, the Digital Affairs Committee of the Dutch House of Representatives.

Period covered

September 2023 – July 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

The use of open standards in general is part of addressing the following problems:

- Stagnation of information flows, poorly connected systems;
- Vendor lock-in, high transfer costs, too few providers of IT services and products;
- Unmonitored and excessive power of major Big Tech companies;
- Insecurity, criminality and unreliability of (government) information;
- Data that is unfindable, non-sharable and not reusable;
- Lack of access to information and/or information not shared publicly.

Research into the use of open standards by government organisations via the Open Standards Monitor relate to the adoption of open standards. The Monitor generates knowledge about compliance with the obligations imposed. Further development of the Decision Tool Open Publication will respond to the fact that many government organisations are unaware of which open standards apply to them when it comes to publishing government information.

What are the causes of the problem?

Lack of awareness of the importance of technology for structuring the digital public space.

The Standardisation Forum regularly conducts research on why government organisations do not apply open standards, despite the fact that these standards have been mandatory for them since 2008.

Broadly speaking, the causes can be divided into three categories: lack of awareness, lack of capability, and lack of willingness.

1. Lack of awareness: Particularly when it comes to the moment of acquiring new ICT systems, those involved often indicate that they are not aware of or do not know exactly what the open standards policy entails. Additionally, the underlying value of applying open standards is still unknown to many people. Open standards are often confused with open source.
2. Lack of capability: The responsibility for complying with the policy is often not well assigned within organisations. Furthermore, people often do not know which open standards are applicable in a specific situation or how to apply them.
3. Lack of willingness: The application of open standards competes with other desires and interests. The benefits do not always align with the burdens. While applying open standards is beneficial for public service delivery as a whole, voluntary adoption in practice can be too demanding for individual organisations.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

The current 'apply or explain' policy regarding open standards in the Netherlands was initiated with the Vendrik motion in 2002 and further shaped with the establishment of the Standardisation Forum in 2006. Now, almost 20 years later, the necessity of promoting open standards has grown. Awareness regarding the usefulness and necessity of open standards does appear to have risen in response to changing geopolitical relationships. However, change is difficult, and takes time.

What solution are you proposing?

Supporting the adoption of open standards with tooling, such as the Decision Tree for Open Standards but also via the Open Publication website, and by continuing to communicate about the importance of applying open standards. And by continuing to measure and monitor. People are easily convinced of the importance of open standards, but the practical implementation can be challenging. Often there are other more pressing matters that demand attention.

Regularly measuring the use of open standards for example via the Open Standards Monitor is recognised as an excellent means of keeping attention for open standards on the agenda, and initiating dialogue with various parties. See also: [Measurements and Monitor | Standardisation Forum](#)

Further development of the 'Open publication' website ties in with the provision of support for the adoption of an important group of open standards.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

Increasing the use of open standards in general and of publication standards in particular.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

The Open Standards Monitor not only measures the use of open standards but also encourages their use. Open standards themselves are a form of transparent information. The Open Standards Monitor also repeatedly demonstrates the severe shortcomings in the transparency of government information, because the annual report fails to explain why the use of standards continues to lag behind. As such, it has a signal function.

Further development of the 'Open publication' website will promote the use of open standards for the publication of government information. As a result, the information in question will be made more accessible, reusable and exchangeable.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

Via the Open Standards Monitor, accountability will be fostered by repeatedly consulting with government organisations and demanding accountability. Via the ‘Open publication’ website, accountability will be fostered by assisting government organisations in selecting the most appropriate open standards for the publication of their information. This will improve the quality of that information and hence foster accountability.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

The standards are open: stakeholders can participate in their development, as well as their ongoing evolution and management. When it comes to including standards on the “apply or explain” list, the Standardisation Forum follows an open assessment procedure that involves an open consultation round. In the implementation of the Open Standards Monitor, the parties under investigation are approached, and discussions take place. Additionally, all meeting documents of the Standardisation Forum are publicly available.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Publication of two research reports	Increase in the adoption of open standards	June 2026, 2027	Lead Standardisation Forum
Submission to the House of Representatives by way of accounting for the status of the open standards policy.			
Completion of a further developed version of the Open Publication website	Increased use of open standards in the publication of government information	Year end 2027	Lead Standardisation Forum Supporting stakeholders CSOs Open State Foundation (OSF)

V. Open source

Ongoing Commitment 11. Open Source Program Office

Brief description of the commitment According to the government policy of ‘Open, unless’ (Open, tenzij) government-developed software should be open source as much as possible. To encourage and facilitate open-source work within the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, an Open Source Program Office (working title) will be established. In international contexts, this is referred to as an Open Source Program Office (OSPO).	Supporting stakeholders Government Departments within the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Tax and Customs Administration and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) CSOs NL Net, SIDN Fonds, Open State, Public Spaces, Foundation for public code Others VNG, Cadastre, Alliander, Province of South Holland, Logius
Commitment lead and collaborating government party Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, CIO Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and CIO Rijk departments	Period covered juli 2023 – juli 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

- Open source software has become a crucial part of the ICT infrastructure of the Dutch government. According to the government’s ‘Open, unless’ policy introduced in 2020, software developed or commissioned by the government should be open source to the greatest extent possible. This means that the source code should be freely accessible and reusable.
- Making the source code of government software public has several important benefits:
 - Transparency and trust: One key advantage is that the functioning of the software and the operations it performs are visible to everyone. This transparency fosters trust in how the software works and aligns with the goal of a transparent government.
 - Collaboration: Open source also offers opportunities for new ways of collaborating with partners in the chain and other government authorities. It contributes to effective and efficient public governance. It also provides opportunities to enhance collaboration with citizens and businesses.
 - Security: publishing the source code offers others the opportunity to assess the quality of the software and to investigate errors or risks. This can contribute to increasing the security and reliability of the software (the ‘many eyes principle’). Depending on the open source licence, others can also improve the code themselves.
 - Efficiency and innovation: open source can accelerate innovation and development processes and save licence costs. It promotes reuse and thereby reduces development costs for software. It also fosters innovation and economic growth by providing cheaper access to software and opportunities to use it in private services.
 - Flexibility and independence: Open source increases flexibility in software usage and reduces the risk of costly migration processes by avoiding dependence on a single vendor (vendor lock-in).
- The inclusion of open source is a requirement of the Digital Government Act (Wdo), which came into effect on 1 July 2023. The Digital Government Act aims to ensure that citizens and businesses can log in to government services reliably and securely. Open source helps in achieving this because the source code is freely accessible, making it easier to improve and distribute the software. One question that has arisen is how the government can organise this in practice.
- The Reuse of government information Act makes the addition that this government information must be suitable for reuse. In this case, this means that the source code must be linked to an open source licence.

What are the causes of the problem?

- In 2020, the European Commission published its Open Source Software Strategy 2020-2023. One of the measures provided by the strategy to encourage and facilitate open source within national government is the establishment of an Open Source Program Office (OSPO), which is a central unit within the government responsible for open source software.
- Several EU Member States, including France, Luxembourg, and Germany, already have an OSPO.
- Failing to establish an OSPO would result in fragmented efforts on this topic, a lack of much-needed impetus, and organisations (within the domain of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations) lacking the knowledge and skills to adequately meet the growing demand for IT openness.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

- The Dutch government has already taken several steps to promote open source within the government. For example, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has already published several source codes through its 'Github.' In January 2023, the ministry released the source code of the DigiD app on this platform. Additionally, the European digital identity (eID) is being developed as open source in collaboration with others on this platform.
- The Tax and Customs Administration and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) have also previously established a similar office comparable to an OSPO.
- In October 2022, the report 'Open source werken, de vrijblijvendheid voorbij' ('Working with Open Source, Beyond Voluntariness') was released, outlining the open source strategy for the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The report provides various recommendations on how the ministry and other government organisations can embrace the principles of open source. One of the key recommendations from this report is the establishment of an OSPO.

What solution are you proposing?

- The ultimate goal of the government's open source strategy is to make open source practices a regular part of software usage and development. An OSPO can stimulate and facilitate open source work within the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. By being the first Dutch ministry to establish an OSPO, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations also takes on a crucial role as an example within the government when it comes to open source.
- Knowledge, experiences, and events related to the OSPO and open source work in general are shared through a newsletter and the [Opensourcewerken](#) website.
- To promote the use of open source work more broadly within Central government, an OSPO for CIO Rijk will be established in 2026.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

- In order to stimulate and facilitate open source work within the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, an OSPO is being established.
- The OSPO will fall under the Chief Information Officer of the ministry and will collaborate with various policy and support departments. This includes areas such as procurement, disclosure of government information, and the European digital identity.
- The goal of an OSPO is to remove internal barriers and limitations related to open source and to shape collaborations with other OSPOs, government authorities, companies, and developers.
- Furthermore, the OSPO will engage with each department of the ministry to conduct pilots or use open source in existing applications. This will provide the necessary knowledge and experience to ensure a successful transition to open source.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

The OSPO promotes open source work within the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Open source means that the source code of software is freely accessible and reusable by the public. This creates transparency about how government software works and what functions it performs.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

By making the source code of government software public, the public can test and improve the quality of the software. This can help hold the government accountable for using secure and reliable software.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

Using open source software, the public can test and improve the quality of the software. This will encourage citizens to participate in the verification and definition of software solutions built for government.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Start of OSPO Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations		January 2024	<p>Lead Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> CIO Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations</p>
Expand OSPO knowledge network	Five government authorities each year	Annually	<p>Lead Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Tax and Customs Administration Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations ICTU</p> <p><i>Others</i> VNG, Cadastre, Alliander, Province of South Holland</p>
Establishing OSPO Rijk (central government)		May 2026	<p>Lead Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> CIO Rijk (Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)</p>

VI. Open culture

Ongoing Commitment 12. Public Access Center Amsterdam

Brief description of the commitment The City of Amsterdam is working on the Public Access Center Amsterdam. Both online at https://open.amsterdam and physically at the Amsterdam City Archives. Anyone with an information request can turn to the Public Access Center. At the Public Access Center, you will be assisted in searching, finding, and using information, both online and physically. Additionally, the Public Access Center serves as a hub for dialogue on open government, a space for co-designing with users, a platform for knowledge development and sharing, and is the venue where the City of Amsterdam organises discussions with dissenters.	Commitment lead and collaborating government party City of Amsterdam Supporting stakeholders CSOs Open State Foundation (OSF) Period covered September 2023 – July 2027
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Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

Simply disclosing documents is not enough. To fully comply with the Open Government Act, more is needed. However, more is also needed to meet the democratic right to information. With the Public Access Center, we want to take those extra steps. We plan to enrich Open.Amsterdam with more context, assistance in searching and finding information with an online community. We are also establishing a physical location for the people of Amsterdam to visit and obtain assistance at the support desk or to enter into dialogue with us during open consultation hours.

Other initiatives undertaken in this project are focused on internal culture, education and branding of the Public Access Center. This includes organising events, an online magazine, an online forum, interviews with Open Government Act applicants and dialogues in the city, promotional material, the development of a transparency canvas for assistance in active disclosure, etc.

What are the causes of the problem?

We believe that more must be done to actively help the people of Amsterdam with open government and what it can mean for them. They have the right to information in order to monitor the government, to remain informed and for example to participate actively. However, that information is not always easily findable, understandable or even known to them, at all. This initiative aims to build a bridge between the Municipality of Amsterdam and the people of Amsterdam who are not always able to come into contact with each other.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Open.Amsterdam has acquired more content and context; the Woo dashboard (the handling of Open Government Act requests) has been placed online, and a community has been established (which refers to the forum). Search assistance has been expanded considerably, more subjects have been placed online, and an AI test has been conducted for more linguistic searches on Open.Amsterdam. A metadata study was carried out to improve searching and finding and a user survey was conducted for the use of Open.Amsterdam (UX/UI). We have recently started to develop a prototype for further development in 2026.

At the City Archives (De Bazel), the (Woo) counter was opened which people can visit with questions or to seek search assistance on Open.Amsterdam. The service team have been trained and supplied with a toolkit. Open consultation hours will also be held at the City Archives. We are also working on a series of large and small-scale initiatives for Open Amsterdam x City Archives, to improve the connection between the City Archives and Open Amsterdam (the Woo).

A series of events have been organised to involve others in the issue (focus group, dialogues, discussions with Woo requesters, we have joined in with the open consultation hours for the school research projects for schoolchildren, a major event on 10 February, etc.) and among others the MBO thinktank (senior secondary vocational education) completed an assignment in which they contributed ideas. An online forum is now available where we share everything we do, and via which people can contribute their thoughts and ideas. We have developed an Openbaarheidscanvas (Transparency Canvas) to help civil servants within the organisation make a start on active disclosure. We are working to prepare promotional material: 3 basic presentations about the Open Government Act (internal use; awareness), 3 Open Government Act instruction films for the people of Amsterdam and civil servants (awareness) and for example designing interviews and dialogues. We are currently working to organise the Open Amsterdam Week between 10 and 15 November and a one-off magazine Open Amsterdam.

What solution are you proposing?

Building Open Amsterdam: online at <https://open.amsterdam> and physically at the Amsterdam City Archives.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

We want to provide the people of Amsterdam a place for open government. The people of Amsterdam are better able to find the municipal services for assistance and dialogue. They understand what Open government means for them and we learn from them their needs and how they want to be assisted. At the same time, the Municipality of Amsterdam will tie in better with the needs of the people of Amsterdam and can learn from them.

We hope that we can make the topic (open government/Open Government Act) more interesting and more attractive for the people of Amsterdam and civil servants. We also hope that our initiatives will help clarify the importance of the democratic right to information. Both for the organisation and for the people of Amsterdam.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

We are the bridge between the municipality and the people of Amsterdam. It is up to the organisation itself to be active in making things public. However, with the public access centre and our initiatives, we want to promote and encourage easier access to the City of Amsterdam which as a result will become more open and more transparent. By facilitating others? for example by making it easier to publish documents on Open.Amsterdam. But also by offering explanation and assistance (short films, presentations, transparency canvas).

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

As a result of this approach, more people have access to information in a manner that ties in with their specific information needs, for example monitoring government activity.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

We hope that this will contribute to offering a space for the people of Amsterdam where they can reach out with questions, and in their search for assistance and information. We also want to help them fully participate. Equally, we organise initiatives that will help us learn from them and understand their needs (interviews Open Government Act requesters, focus group, dialogues, online forum, events, etc.).

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Physical counter at City Archives open	People of Amsterdam can physically visit the City Archives with requests, for assistance, for information and for dialogue.	Juli 2025	Lead City of Amsterdam
Start of open consultation hours at the City Archives		Oktober 2025	Supporting stakeholders CSOs Open State Foundation (OSF)
Week of Open Amsterdam		November 2025	
Major ongoing development of Open.Amsterdam (with much improved search engine)	Documents better findable on Open.Amsterdam	2026	
Open Amsterdam magazine	Teaching the people of Amsterdam and civil servants about the Open Government (Act)	Juli 2026	

Ongoing Commitment 13. Open Parliament

Brief description of the commitment An open government starts with the foundation: citizens who are familiar with the rules of democracy and the rule of law, and who know what they can do to exert influence - at the municipal, regional, provincial, national, and European Union levels.	Commitment lead and collaborating government party ProDemos
	Supporting stakeholders <i>Others</i> Relevant partners will be involved as appropriate.
	Period covered September 2023 – July 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

- Research from the Netherlands Institute for Social Research (Sociaal Cultureel Planbureau or SCP) shows that compared to the past fifteen years, Dutch citizens have a more negative perception of the state of the country and politics. The dissatisfaction with the direction of the country is closely related to the dissatisfaction with politics: nearly half of those who believe things are going in the wrong direction attribute it to politics. In the autumn of 2022, 43% had confidence in the House of Representatives (down from 52%) and 41% in the government (down from 50%).
- Our democracy and rule of law require constant maintenance. The Dutch democratic rule of law has a long history and continues to evolve. While our democratic rule of law is robust, there are ongoing discussions about its functioning, as research indicates a decline in trust in democracy and the rule of law, with significant differences among different groups in society. This underscores the importance of active citizenship which cannot be taken for granted.
- The democratic rule of law cannot exist without active citizens. The democratic rule of law depends on citizens who are aware of their democratic rights and exercise them. Active citizenship can manifest in various ways, from voting to becoming politically engaged. Active and well-informed citizens can contribute to government policies that represent the interests of the residents and enhance support for measures.

What are the causes of the problem?

- Active democratic citizenship is not innate; it needs to be developed and requires basic knowledge. Political socialisation largely takes place during adolescence, and education plays a crucial role in this process.
- Education informs young people about democracy and the rule of law and emphasises their invaluable role in a free and peaceful society. By doing so, education contributes to the learning and development of democratic awareness.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

- Education center ProDemos has a unique role in making democracy and the rule of law accessible to a wide audience. Their mission is to inform and engage as many people as possible in the Netherlands about democracy.
- ProDemos has three core objectives:
 - Informing. ProDemos provides knowledge about democracy and the rule of law and imparts the skills necessary to participate in them.
 - Activating. ProDemos encourages people to exercise their right to vote.
 - Promoting participation. ProDemos fosters participation so that people can make use of the opportunities to exert influence.
- ProDemos organises activities that enhance people's knowledge and skills to participate in democracy. This strengthens political self-confidence, an essential requirement for active citizenship. Through their offerings, ProDemos contributes to increasing individuals' understanding and engagement in the democratic process, resulting in stronger and more active citizenship.

- The core activities of ProDemos currently include:
 - Visitor Centre. ProDemos' Visitor Centre, located next to the Binnenhof in The Hague (Dutch Parliament), offers tours, educational programmes, and other activities. Each year, they welcome tens of thousands of schoolchildren, students, the general public, members of political organisations, and other interested individuals. Through these experiences, visitors gain insight into how politics, democracy, and the rule of law function.
 - Education. ProDemos collaborates with municipalities, provinces, courts, and educational institutions throughout the country. Through their educational programmes, counsellors and teaching materials, they provide clear explanations on various topics, such as becoming a city council member, the responsibilities of provinces, and how a court case works.

What solution are you proposing?

- Educating young people. ProDemos enables young people to become acquainted with the levels of governance and institutions of democracy and the rule of law in the Netherlands, during their school years.
 - Through their teaching materials, in-person and online guest lectures, and the expansion of their programmes nationwide, they aim to align better with the curriculum and provide a range of opportunities to integrate democracy and the rule of law into the curriculum. This is particularly important in senior secondary vocational education (MBO).
 - Additionally, ProDemos recognises that The Hague is sometimes perceived as too distant for young people from outside the city, making it more challenging to reach them. Therefore, in the coming years, ProDemos will invest in increasing its reach by offering comprehensive activities throughout the country.
- Knowledge Centre. Over the coming years, ProDemos aims to reach a broader adult audience by providing access to knowledge and information on how they can exert influence and eventually develop an expanded educational offering. ProDemos aims to be a reliable source of information for them.
- Promoting Active Citizenship. Promoting citizen participation remains a significant ambition of ProDemos. Voting in elections is one of the most essential ways in which people can participate in the political process. Therefore, ProDemos undertakes various activities to enable people to make informed choices when elections take place.
- Parliamentary Visitor Centre with a Future. ProDemos, together with the Municipality of The Hague and the Central Government Real Estate Agency (Rijksvastgoedbedrijf), is committed to keeping the city centre vibrant during the renovation of the Binnenhof (Dutch Parliament). Their goal is to ensure that as many people as possible continue to visit political The Hague during the renovation, and they adapt their offerings accordingly. In collaboration with various partners in their network, they brainstorm about the future of the Visitor Centre in preparation for the reopening of the Binnenhof following its renovation.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

- During primary school, schoolchildren are introduced to democracy, both in the classroom and through visits to places like the local government offices. In secondary education, students ideally visit the parliament.
 - In the programmes for secondary education in The Hague, ProDemos aims to achieve a more balanced representation of schoolchildren from secondary vocational schools (vmbo), where representation is currently relatively low. Additionally, over the coming years, they want to expand their outreach through primary schools and senior secondary vocational education (MBO), so that a broader audience can acquire knowledge about democracy and its functioning.
- Over the coming years, ProDemos aims to reach a broader audience of adults and make politics and democracy more accessible for everyone. An important principle in this regard is to ensure that activities are as accessible as possible. This may involve adapting the language used or making the content more relevant and engaging for a wider target audience.
- During election periods, people actively seek information about the elections, presenting ProDemos with an excellent opportunity to inform and engage with harder-to-reach individuals. However, promoting active citizenship remains an important focus even outside election periods. Through various tools and activities, ProDemos explains how people can exert influence, whether it involves participating in demonstrations, having a say in municipal councils, or becoming politically active themselves.
- ProDemos intends to explore whether the Grafelijke Zalen (historic halls in the Binnenhof) can be used more broadly and given a societal purpose, following their renovation. This could involve transforming them into a new Parliamentary Visitor Centre, or opening them up to the public with events and open days.
 - At present, these halls serve as a reception centre for the government and the High Councils of State, with limited availability for conferences, receptions, and other events. ProDemos wants to investigate whether these historic halls can serve a broader societal function, providing an accessible space for visitors to learn more about parliamentary democracy and bringing citizens and politics closer together.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

ProDemos aims to make the functioning of our parliamentary democracy more transparent by providing physical access to the parliamentary buildings for young people and adults in the Netherlands, and by educating them about democratic processes, participation, and the rule of law.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

Indirectly, by increasing the knowledge level of a broad audience regarding democratic processes, institutions, and the rule of law, people become more aware of their rights and are better able to critically follow government actions.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

ProDemos explains the rules of democracy and the rule of law and demonstrates what individuals can do to exert influence at the municipal, water board, provincial, national, and European levels.

Through these efforts, ProDemos promotes active citizenship and empowers individuals to participate more effectively.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Introducing schoolchildren and students to democracy and the rule of law.	Direct reach of students (activities personally guided by ProDemos). Target number: 350,000	2026	Lead ProDemos
Introducing people in the Netherlands to the democratic rule of law and active citizenship.	Direct reach of participants (activities personally guided by ProDemos) Target number: 75,000	2026	
Exploration of the societal purpose of the Grafelijke Zalen	Over the coming period, ProDemos intends to explore whether the Grafelijke Zalen (historic halls in the Binnenhof) can be used more broadly and given a societal purpose. This could include as a new Parliamentary Visitor Centre, or expanding public access.	2025	

VII. Open approach

Ongoing Commitment 14. Strengthening citizen participation with digital tools

Brief description of the commitment <p>The Values-Driven Digitalisation Work Agenda stated the commitment of the Dutch government to use and further develop AI-driven deliberation and consensus-building tools. The Cabinet at the time aimed to deploy these tools during its term in at least three processes for citizen participation. The current Cabinet has continued these ambitions as laid down in the Letter to Parliament on Digital Community Goods and the Letter to Parliament on National Strategy to effectively tackle disinformation (and the progress letter).</p>	Commitment lead and collaborating government party <p>Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations</p> Supporting stakeholders <p><i>Government</i> Province of South Holland, PolisNL, Logius and ICTU</p> <p><i>Others</i> BetaBreak (developer)</p> Period covered <p>September 2023 – July 2027</p>
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Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

- The Netherlands faces significant societal challenges that require efforts from the government, the business sector, and citizens. The Dutch government has expressed the desire to actively involve citizens in several areas, including climate policy.
- In the Values-Driven Digitalisation Work Agenda released in November 2022, the Cabinet outlined its intention to use and further develop AI-driven digital tools for citizen consultation (eConsultation) and consensus-building in at least three processes.
- Previous research has shown that citizen engagement through eConsultation can enhance the quality of government decision-making. By involving a diverse range of citizens in the policy-making process, the diversity of ideas and potential solutions is enhanced. eConsultation also provides government authorities with new opportunities to reach specific groups of citizens who might otherwise not participate in policymaking.
- Furthermore, the use of eConsultation can enhance the legitimacy of policies. It can lead to government authorities being more open to and aware of the desires and preferences of society regarding specific policy areas and developments.

What are the causes of the problem?

- When it comes to major societal issues, citizens do not always feel heard, leading to societal discontent. However, the government currently lacks a consistent means of gathering widespread feedback from the community on specific topics and listening to the input and ideas of its residents.
- A citizen forum, for example, is one method to involve citizens' perspectives in policymaking. To reach as many people as possible and to enable effective participation, an e-consultation tool can be used that allows citizens to engage and deliberate on the central topic of the citizen forum.
- With this in mind, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is looking for an AI-driven mass deliberation and consensus tool that meets the latest requirements on security, privacy, and accessibility.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

- Some research has been conducted into potential solutions. The open source platform Pol.is is an AI-driven e-consultation tool that can gather opinions on a specific issue and identify areas of consensus and disagreement. The tool is already being used in other countries, including Taiwan, New Zealand, and the United States.

- Pol.is was first tested and implemented through pilots in the Dutch municipalities of Groningen and Amsterdam, in 2020. The pilots were the result of the project ‘Digital Deliberative Democracy in the Netherlands’ conducted by the partners Stichting Netwerk Democratie, Democratie in Actie, and the municipalities of Groningen and Amsterdam, with support from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.
- While the tool is considered promising for organising e-consultations, some shortcomings have been identified that warrant further development.
- It is for example important to have a Dutch or European version of Pol.is. Because it is currently hosted in the United States, this raises issues regarding compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Furthermore, the open source software is currently not sufficiently developed to be easily installed by government organisations. Finally, the UX design of Pol.is also requires improvement.
- During the course of 2024, 6 test invitations were conducted, ranging in scale from around 30 participants to around 750 participants. The landing page Praatmeemetdeoverheid.nl (Talk to the government) was launched, via which Pol.is invitations were sent out. The knowledge and experience acquired from these test applications will be used in 2025 and 2026 to further develop Praatmeemetdeoverheid.nl for increased user friendliness and compliance with national standards and regulations.
- Also in 2025, PolisNL was established as a national collaborative venture to promote the open source development of Pol.is. Government organisations and civil-society partners from across the country became involved. These included the Provinces of South Holland, Drenthe, North Brabant and Groningen, the VNG and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. The Province of South Holland is the coordinator for this collaborative venture and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is a member of the steering committee. This collaboration makes it possible to share development issues across multiple organisations, ensuring effective application of capacity and funding.
- In October 2025, the PolisNL collaborative venture organised the international event Digital Democracy The Hague. Over a two-day period, this event attracted an international public of 350 participants and 90 speakers, to speak about the future of our western democracies.

What solution are you proposing?

- AI-driven tools for mass deliberation and consensus, such as Pol.is, provide an accessible platform where large groups of citizens and policymakers can make proposals, vote on them, and reflect on group input.
- Algorithmic processing of the input helps group together various positions and can help increase the visibility of differences and similarities in attitudes on a variety of topics. This can deliver a picture of consensus and dissent in attitudes between various groups of participants.
- There are several ways in which a digital tool like Pol.is can complement a citizen forum and other offline forms of participation:
 - Before the citizen forum: Pol.is can be used to visualise different opinion groups.
 - During the citizen forum: Pol.is can be used to gain insights into citizens’ opinions on the input provided during the forum.
 - After the citizen forum: Pol.is can be used to collect and evaluate citizens’ opinions on the outcomes of the forum.
- While e-consultation is currently seen by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations primarily as a means of complementing a citizen forum, the ministry has the ambition to explore whether Pol.is can also be used independently without a citizen forum. For example, Pol.is could be employed during policy development to gain an understanding of diverse perspectives of individual citizens on a policy proposal.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

- The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations aims to further develop the Pol.is tool for national-level use. The tool should be open source and be compliant with Web Accessibility Guidelines. The developed platform must prioritise security, privacy protection, and compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Authentication should be implemented in a way that allows participants to easily join while preventing abuse by bots. A privacy-proof authentication method, where authentication is not traceable, is the preferred option.
- In addition to providing open and accessible digital participation for everyone, participation on the platform should also be inclusive of a representative group.
- Finally, it is desirable to have access to an up-to-date overview of existing digital participation possibilities within the government to ensure coherence and integration with the existing digital participation opportunities within national government. This includes creating a landing page and overview of the different digital participation options available within the national government.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

The use of e-consultation tools enhances transparency of the government by enabling citizen participation in the policymaking process and ensuring that the desires and ideas of citizens are better reflected in policymaking.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

By gathering public opinions through e-consultation, citizens can hold government organisations accountable to ensure that their ideas and viewpoints are well-represented in policymaking.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

Thanks to e-consultation, citizens can participate directly in the policymaking process by digitally collecting and processing their perspectives.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic readiness Polis.overheid.nl• Deployment/use of polis.overheid.nl e-Consultation tools in three policy programmes• Further Development of e-consultation tools	At least three opportunities will be provided for public input on policies using the Pol.is/participation and consensus platform.	2026	Hoofdactiehouder Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations Supporting stakeholders <i>Government</i> Province of South Holland Logius
Specific international collaborative venture for the development of Pol.is		2026-2027	PolisNL ICTU

Ongoing Commitment 15. Professionalisation of participation

Brief description of the commitment Together with a network of participation professionals from inside and outside government, the Participation Knowledge Hub aims to further develop the field of public participation by publishing an updated, strategic knowledge agenda. Furthermore, enhanced interdepartmental collaboration in the field of participation will be explored, alongside the development of a digital tool to assist in making design choices for participation plans.	Supporting stakeholders Government Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations CSOs Erasmus University Rotterdam Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen The Hague University of Applied Sciences OECD Digicampus
Commitment lead and collaborating government party Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (IenW), Participation Department	Period covered October 2023 – July 2027

Problem definition

What problem does the commitment aim to address?

- Participation is becoming an increasingly important part of the policy work of civil servants, particularly within the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. In today's world, it is almost unthinkable to develop and/or implement policies without involving society. When stakeholders do not feel sufficiently engaged, they often demand involvement.
- Even among policy officials themselves, there is a strong drive and desire to engage in participation, based on the belief that participation can truly improve policies. However, the question of how to organise participation effectively is not always easy to answer, as participation requires tailored approaches.
- Although participation is widely practised, there is evidence of variations in quality, uncertainty about methods and inconsistency in integration in work processes. This reduces the likelihood that participation will make a consistent and effective contribution to better policymaking and decision making. The aim is to strengthen the quality, diligent nature and applicability of participation, via knowledge development and collaboration.

What are the causes of the problem?

- Designing and implementing participation processes depends heavily on the context, which is determined by a variety of factors such as legal, governance, social, temporal, geographical, and political variables. Navigating these contextual factors is not always clear. In addition, there are no universally accepted standards, methods, training programmes, or approaches for (policy) officials wishing to engage in participation, despite the significant demand.
- Furthermore, the available knowledge on participation is scattered across disconnected organisations, leading to fragmentation of knowledge. This is due to a lack of coordination in an emerging and rapidly growing field. One major concern regarding fragmentation is the collaboration between theory and practice. The scientific community already possesses considerable knowledge of successful participation, but this knowledge has limited reach in the practical work of participation professionals. Conversely, participation professionals have valuable practical experience and case studies that are often not systematically documented and scientifically researched.
- Although participation is clearly its own field of expertise, it is still in its early stages as of 2023. The further development and professionalisation of this field are necessary to better design and implement participation in the future. Bridging the gap between the theory and practice of participation could play a crucial role in this process.

Brief description of the commitment

What has been done so far to solve the problem?

- In 2021, the Knowledge Hub for Participation (Kennisknooppunt Participatie) developed the first national knowledge agenda. This knowledge agenda was created through discussions with various research and knowledge institutions, with the aim of addressing the current developments in the field of participation.
- The objectives of the knowledge agenda are:
 - To identify and prioritise urgent knowledge gaps for research.
 - To conduct fundamental practice-oriented research and encourage applied practice-oriented research while providing guidance.
 - To stimulate interaction between research and practice.
 - To strengthen the existing participation knowledge network.
- The 2021 knowledge agenda highlights five research topics. Based on these topics, a series of studies were conducted, such as research into guidelines for successful participation. In early 2023, the Knowledge Hub, in collaboration with several other parties, organised a networking event entitled 'Participation Research & Practice' (POP). The purpose of this event was to bring together participation professionals from research and practice to share state-of-the-art insights. This event generated new research questions that can be used to update the 2021 knowledge agenda.
- Additionally, participation is rapidly gaining attention on the political agenda. Recently, the government presented an action plan for strengthening citizen participation and citizen fora (at national level) in a letter to the Dutch Parliament. This letter was sent on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior and other departments, including Infrastructure and Water Management (IenW) and Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (EZK) to the House of Representatives. One aspect of this plan is to learn from practical experiences and actively conduct research, such as research into citizen fora.

What solution are you proposing?

- Based on the experiences with the first two knowledge agendas and three POP meetings (Participation, Research and Practice) in the period 2023 to 2025, the Knowledge Hub intends to publish an updated knowledge agenda. The hub also intends to draw up a two-level competence matrix: at both individual professional level and organisation level.
- We also plan to encourage and actively reinforce networks which exchange knowledge and practical experience within and outside government. For example by drawing up a work plan for the interdepartmental working group on stakeholder participation.
- Finally, we intend to develop practical knowledge products, including a dialogue toolkit with suggestions for online, offline and hybrid work forms for participation.

What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

- The new knowledge agenda, network events and competence matrices will provide strategic guidance for the development of the field of participation and will align with the government's ambition to actively develop, gather, and share knowledge and best practices. The new knowledge agenda will be focused on the latest developments surrounding participation.
- Ultimately, our efforts will contribute to the development of the field, the training of participation professionals, and the empowerment of civil servants who engage in participation for their policy challenges. The intended outcome is an improvement in the quality of participation, in turn resulting in better and practically implementable policies for society.

Commitment analysis

How will the commitment promote transparency?

By publishing a public knowledge agenda, organising broad-access meetings, facilitating networks within and outside government and designing and granting access to knowledge products, the Knowledge Hub for Participation will help improve the quality and diligence of participation processes.

In addition, in our publications, we will be transparent about what needs to be improved, and where efforts in the field of participation have proved unsuccessful.

Additionally, citizens (and other interested parties) can submit questions, ideas, and/or comments about the content and further development of the national knowledge agenda via the website of the Knowledge Hub.

How will the commitment help foster accountability?

The knowledge agenda serves as a foundation for the development of products by the Knowledge Hub for Participation and for the knowledge network within and outside government.

The new research and practical guidelines developed by the Knowledge Hub can be traced back to the research questions formulated in the knowledge agenda. Additionally, a periodic POP event can provide an opportunity for reflective evaluation of the implementation of the knowledge agenda and update it, as necessary.

How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?

The ultimate goal of a knowledge agenda, and indeed of a network event, is to improve participatory practice.

The research questions in the knowledge agenda will lead to new guidelines and other knowledge products, which will ultimately enhance the expertise of civil servants and help improve the quality of (public) participation processes.

Commitment planning

Milestones	Expected output	Expected completion date	Stakeholders
Updating the strategic knowledge agenda for participation	The third knowledge agenda for participation and the related research vouchers	1 January 2027	<p>Hoofdactiehouder Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Overheid</i> Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations</p> <p>CSOs Erasmus University Rotterdam, Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen, The Hague University of Applied Sciences</p>
Drawing up an interdepartmental working plan for the exchange of knowledge and practical experience on participation and appointing contact persons.	A working plan with practical actions for 2026 and beyond	1 January 2026	<p>Hoofdactiehouder Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Overheid</i> Ministry of IenW, various other ministries</p>
Developing and disseminating a dialogue toolkit with work forms for participation	A set of physical cards with approx. 40 work forms and background information via the online knowledge platform	1 February 2026	<p>Hoofdactiehouder Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Overheid</i> Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Climate and Green Growth</p>
Exchanging knowledge and investigating improvement potential for dealing with societal initiatives	A number of meetings and working visits and knowledge products with learning points	1 March 2026	<p>Supporting stakeholders <i>Overheid</i> Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations</p>
Exploring the development of an AI tool for online participation in collaboration with other levels of government.	An MVP tested by various levels of government in the form of a pilot	1 June 2026	<p>Supporting stakeholders: <i>Overheid</i> Various municipalities, provinces and ministries</p> <p>CSOs Dgicampus, OECD</p>

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