

Independent Reporting Mechanism

Action Plan Review:
Czech Republic 2024–2026

Open
Government
Partnership



Independent
Reporting
Mechanism

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Section I. Overview

The Czech Republic’s seventh action plan emerged from a robust co-creation process. The plan focuses on public participation and public procurement, presenting well-designed commitments that build on past reforms. Certain high priority policy areas identified by civil society were not included in the action plan. The upcoming national elections and uncertain political landscape pose challenges for the implementation period.

The Czech Republic’s seventh action plan comprises seven commitments focused on two priority areas: public participation in policymaking and the transparency and efficiency of public procurement. This approach is more targeted compared to the previous action plan, which addressed a broader range of policy areas. Although narrower in scope, the new action plan has the potential for more in-depth reforms, particularly through the alignment of the three public procurement commitments with the government’s 2024 National Strategy for Public Procurement,¹ a pillar of the current government policy statement.² The public participation commitments build on past OGP commitments, notably the development and pilot implementation of a methodology for involving non-governmental organizations in advisory and working bodies of the public administration.³

The two promising commitments focus on expanding participatory methods for social inclusion at the local government level and large-scale reform of public procurement processes. Commitment 4, led by the Agency for Social Inclusion within the Ministry of Regional Development—a new actor in the OGP process—aims to promote the participation of marginalized and socially excluded populations in local decision-making. This is the first time social inclusion has been addressed in a Czech OGP action plan. Meanwhile, Commitment 5 seeks to introduce uniform public procurement guidelines for contracting authorities and suppliers to promote sustainable procurement to strengthen sectoral professionalization measures and centralize purchasing. Backed by a national strategy and institutional support, this commitment has the potential to deliver substantial results.

Several commitments carry forward initiatives from the previous action plan. Public participation commitments in particular build on the piloted methodology for involving non-governmental organizations in public administration decision-making and move it forward by exploring the

At a Glance

MEMBERSHIP

2011

Joined OGP

COMMITMENTS

7/7

Open government lens

1/7

Substantial potential for results

PROMISING COMMITMENTS

- Promotion of participatory methods for social inclusion at the local level
- Public procurement reform

Met the minimum requirements during co-creation: Yes

establishment of a national competence center for participatory processes (Commitment 1), conducting preparatory work for innovative deliberative tools such as a citizens' assembly (Commitment 2), and strengthening the capacity of public officials to work effectively with civil society (Commitment 3). Similarly, the public procurement commitments continue earlier efforts from the previous action plan and aim to translate goals from the National Strategy for Public Procurement into concrete measures for enhancing transparency in small-scale contracts (Commitment 6) and making the review system more efficient (Commitment 7).

The action plan's development process was based on inclusive dialogue and a clearly defined, collaborative approach. It followed recommendations from the IRM Co-Creation Brief, specifically introducing a targeted outreach strategy to broaden early public engagement and adopting a more informal, accessible dialogue format within the multi-stakeholder forum (MSF).⁴ A diverse set of commitments was proposed through expert discussions and outreach efforts, resulting in several ambitious and well-designed proposals.⁵ Several commitment proposals—such as those on transparency in the selection process for public officials, lobbying transparency, whistleblower protection, and improving beneficial ownership data—were ultimately excluded, largely due to resource constraints and institutional capacity limitations and a reluctance to introduce wider reforms ahead of the upcoming elections in October 2025.⁶ As a result, while the adopted commitments are relevant and thoughtfully designed, the final action plan is less ambitious than what the strong co-creation process could have delivered.

Civil society stakeholders expressed a mixed assessment of the final plan.⁷ On one hand, they appreciated the quality of the discussions and commitments adopted in two policy areas—public participation and public procurement—that are among their priority areas. On the other hand, the narrow thematic scope and exclusion of several high-priority civil society proposals on transparency limited the plan's transformative potential. This limitation is particularly relevant in the context of the upcoming October 2025 parliamentary elections, as any changes in political leadership and shifting priorities could potentially challenge the continuity and political backing of open government reforms in the second year of implementation. Civil society organizations (CSOs) emphasized the importance of any future government upholding the commitments outlined in the action plan.

Overall, while the design of public participation and public procurement commitments is thorough, their potential results are constrained by modest ambition. On public participation, for instance, the focus remains primarily on analytical and preparatory activities, without defining clear pathways for long-term institutional change. On procurement, the successful implementation of two out of three commitments largely depends on securing political support to adopt legislative changes amid challenging political circumstances and the timing of the upcoming elections.

The Czech Republic continues to demonstrate institutional commitment to the OGP process, particularly through the Ministry of Justice, which coordinates the country's participation in OGP. The 2023–2026 Anti-Corruption Strategy also acknowledges OGP and commits to promoting open government principles.⁸ As such, the Czech Republic has made notable progress in embedding open government principles in public administration, showcasing sustained commitment. Moving forward, there is opportunity to introduce more government actors into the OGP process.

¹ "National Strategy for Public Procurement in the Czech Republic for 2024–2028," Ministry of Regional Development, 21 February 2024, https://portal-vz.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/NSVZ_STRATEGIE_EN_online-verze.pdf.

² “Policy Statement of the Government of the Czech Republic,” Office of the Government, January 2022, <https://vlada.gov.cz/assets/jednani-vlady/policy-statement/Policy-Statement-of-the-Government.pdf>.

³ “Metodika participace nestátních neziskových organizací v poradních a pracovních orgánech a při tvorbě dokumentů státní správy,” [Methodology of CSOs participation in advisory and working bodies and in the development of state administration documents], Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations, May 2022, https://www.vlada.cz/assets/ppov/rnno/dokumenty/Metodika-participace-NNO_verze-po-verejnych-konzultacich_23_5_2022_final.pdf.

⁴ IRM, “OGP Co-Creation Brief 2024,” Open Government Partnership, April 2024, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Czech-Republic_Co-Creation-Brief_2024.pdf.

⁵ See meeting minutes of 10 June 2024, Annex 2 on proposed commitments in: “Komise k otevřenému vládnutí a transparentnosti státní správy,” [Working Commission on Open Government and State Administration Transparency], Ministry of Justice, 10 June 2024, https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Priloha-c_2_Podklady-k-zavazkum-navrzenym-ve-verejnych-konzultacich-prezentovanim-na-jednani-PK-OVTSS-dne-2024-06-10.pdf.

⁶ See meeting minutes of 25 September 2024, Annex 2 on negotiations with public administration bodies in: “Komise k otevřenému vládnutí a transparentnosti státní správy,” [Working Commission on Open Government and State Administration Transparency], Ministry of Justice, https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Priloha_2_Informace-o-prubeznych-vysledcich-konzultaci-s-gestory-k-nepodporenym-zavazkum-prezentace.pdf.

⁷ Ján Dupák (Transparency International Czech Republic), interview by IRM researcher, 11 February 2025; Marek Zelenka (Oživení), interview by IRM researcher, 24 February 2024; Lukáš Kraus (Lobbio), interview by IRM researcher, 29 May 2025.

⁸ Government of the Czech Republic, “Vládní koncepce boje proti korupci na léta 2023 až 2026,” [2023–2026 Anti-Corruption Strategy], March 2023, <https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Vladni-koncepce-boje-proti-korupci-na-leta-2023-az-2026.pdf>.

Section II. Promising Commitments

This section analyzes commitments with the most promise to achieve notable results, according to IRM assessment. Promising commitments address a policy area important to stakeholders or the national context. They must be verifiable, have an open government lens, and a modest or substantial potential for results. This review looks at challenges, opportunities, and recommendations to support implementation.

Table 1. Promising Commitments

Commitment 4 seeks to advance participatory methods to support social inclusion at the local level.
Commitment 5 aims to introduce uniform public procurement guidelines for contracting authorities and suppliers to promote sustainable procurement to strengthen sectoral professionalization and to centralize purchasing.

Commitment 4: Promotion of participatory methods for social inclusion at the local level

Implementers: Agency for Social Inclusion of the Ministry of Regional Development.

For a complete description, see Commitment 4 of the [2024–2026 Action Plan](#).

Context and objectives

Commitment 4 aims to strengthen the participation of socially excluded groups, including Roma, in local decision-making processes related to social inclusion policies. It is led by the Ministry of Regional Development and its Agency for Social Inclusion, which supports municipalities in promoting social inclusion and connecting public administration with nonprofit actors.¹ This is a new commitment proposed by the government that aligns with the Government’s 2021–2030 Social Inclusion Strategy and 2024–2026 Social Inclusion Action Plan, which prioritizes civic participation.²

The commitment responds to the deepening social exclusion across the country, with a significant increase in the number of municipalities at risk of social exclusion and low political engagement among Roma communities.³ The commitment focuses on improving participation in local decision-making and increasing representation in local advisory and governing bodies. While not high on their list of priorities, CSOs engaged in the OGP process regard the commitment as a welcome step toward broader inclusion and a useful opportunity to test participatory approaches at the local level.⁴ The commitment is relevant to civic participation at the local level and eligible for the Open Government Challenge in the Gender and Inclusion category.⁵

Potential for results: Modest

The commitment’s potential for results is modest as it focuses on long-term strengthening of social inclusion through participatory practices. However, the prolonged timeframe of the commitment might delay early results.

The commitment aims to strengthen social inclusion of marginalized groups through the revision of the national-level policy instrument Coordinated Approach to Social Exclusion 2021+ (CASE 2021+), a collaborative effort involving multiple ministries and the Agency for Social Inclusion (Milestone 1).⁶ The goal of this revision is to increase the participation of marginalized groups, including Roma, in local decision-making processes related to social inclusion. The revision takes place as part of the new funding period of the project. The commitment also includes the expansion of the implementation of the revised methodology in 26 municipalities (Milestone 2). The municipalities will be selected based on their demonstrated potential for collaboration with the Agency and the strength of their existing networks, while the number of included municipalities depends on the existing capacities of the Agency to successfully implement the commitment.⁷ Both milestones provide a clear roadmap for gradually enhancing participation in socially excluded areas.

Prior to implementation, the Agency engaged marginalized populations in its activities, albeit not in a systematic manner.⁸ 20 municipalities have already been involved in CASE 2021+, with a focus on providing expert support to local governments to help integrate marginalized populations into decision-making processes. With the revised CASE 2021+ methodology, the Agency plans to introduce a “participation ladder”, a framework designed to gradually empower marginalized groups, moving from passive information sharing to active roles in advisory committees.⁹ If scaled up to the national level, this framework could have transformative results for the inclusion of marginalized communities. Additionally, the Agency plans to embed the obligation to involve socially excluded communities in local decision-making processes into its cooperation agreements with municipalities.¹⁰ The revised methodology for CASE 2021+ will allow for more meaningful participation by vulnerable groups in local partnership meetings, project planning, and policymaking. Expected changes may include increased empowerment of marginalized populations, improved local decision-making, and enhanced inclusion in the design of social policies. The Agency plans to assess the success of the implementation through a combination of internal and external evaluations, with a specific focus in 10 selected municipalities to measure the overall impact of participation policies on socially excluded communities.¹¹

The commitment introduces procedural improvements, such as the integration of participatory methods into local planning processes and the adoption of the revised CASE 2021+ methodology with the aim to embed inclusive practices into the everyday functioning of municipalities. The planned inclusion of participation requirements in memoranda of cooperation with local governments provides an institutional anchor that may help sustain the changes beyond the implementation period. While the long-term sustainability will depend on continued political will and local capacity, the involvement of both national and local actors in co-design and the planned evaluation of impact in selected municipalities increase the likelihood that these practices will be maintained and scaled.

The potential for results assessment was influenced by the planned timeline of the reform, with Milestone 2 expected to last until 2028. This may delay immediate results. However, a government stakeholder confirmed that the government has successfully secured funding for this period as part of the follow-up project “Systematic Coordination of Social Inclusion”.¹² Evidence of successful results could include more marginalized individuals actively participating in municipal platforms, increased representation of excluded groups in decision-making bodies, and a higher level of satisfaction of involved populations with their inclusion in policies that affect them.

Opportunities, challenges, and recommendations during implementation

To fulfill the potential of Commitment 4, municipalities could be equipped with clear guidelines, training, and institutional support to engage marginalized groups meaningfully in local consultations, planning processes, and advisory bodies. Additionally, expanding the reach of participatory practices beyond the initially targeted 26 municipalities could further increase the commitment's ambition. The Agency for Social Inclusion is encouraged to reach the highest step of the participation ladder wherever possible, with a particular focus on ensuring the direct representation of socially excluded groups in municipal councils and program committee sessions. Involving Roma civil society organizations in implementation could enhance the ambition and impact of the commitment by leveraging their trusted position and experience to co-design local interventions, facilitate dialogue, and ensure cultural sensitivities are respected.

Several challenges could potentially derail the implementation or limit the ambition of this commitment. Low levels of trust and engagement among marginalized communities, particularly the Roma population, as well as discrimination and prejudice towards them, pose a significant barrier to participation. Additionally, the extended timeline of the revised CASE 2021+ methodology may delay visible results. Finally, communication and coordination issues between the different central and local government actors involved could hinder implementation.

To strengthen commitment implementation, the Ministry of Regional Development could:

- **Develop targeted outreach strategies for marginalized groups.** Since trust and participation levels among marginalized groups, particularly Roma, can be low, it would be useful to implement tailored outreach campaigns. Engaging community leaders and local influencers—such as teachers, social workers and NGO staff, Roma mediators, youth mentors, or small business owners—could help build trust and motivate participation in local decision-making platforms.
- **Focus on short-term pilot initiatives.** To avoid delays due to the extended implementation timeline, consider launching smaller-scale pilot projects in selected municipalities to test the revised CASE 2021+ methodology during the action plan implementation period. Municipalities with established networks could be prioritized. Successful pilots can be scaled up gradually to maximize impact, for example by introducing new participation tools.
- **Engage Roma civil society organizations in implementation.** Involve Roma CSOs as key partners to co-design local interventions, support outreach, and ensure that participation strategies are culturally appropriate and effectively address the community needs.
- **Establish a coordination body** with participation from the Agency for Social Inclusion, local authorities, civil society and representatives of marginalized communities. The body could meet regularly and have program monitoring competencies.
- In the longer term, the Ministry of Regional Development could **Secure funding for long-term institutionalization** of the program beyond the EU funding. This could be done by including it in other social policy schemes, such as the 2021–2030 Social Inclusion Strategy.

Commitment 5: Public procurement reform

Implementers: Ministry of Regional Development

For a complete description, see Commitment 5 of the [2024–2026 Action Plan](#).

Context and objectives

Commitment 5 aims to introduce uniform public procurement guidelines for contracting authorities and suppliers to promote sustainable procurement to strengthen sectoral professionalization and to centralize purchasing. It builds on efforts in the previous action plan¹³ and is directly linked to the National Strategy for Public Procurement adopted in 2024.¹⁴ Digitalization efforts described in Milestone 3 of this commitment also align with the 2022–2030 Strategy for the Digitalization of Public Procurement adopted in 2021.¹⁵

The Strategy identifies nine policy areas and proposes approximately 50 concrete measures to improve the transparency, efficiency, and sustainability of public procurement.¹⁶ Public procurement reform is also a key pillar of the current government policy statement¹⁷ and remains a top priority for the Ministry of Regional Development, which has secured project-based funding for its implementation of the National Strategy through 2026.¹⁸ This presents a unique opportunity to implement long-term reforms in the Czech public procurement system.

By promoting digital solutions that simplify procurement processes and by advancing practical tools such as minimum standards for sustainable purchasing, this commitment contributes to transparency and public accountability.

Potential for results: Substantial

Commitment 5 is assessed as having a substantial potential for results as it brings together a comprehensive reform package aimed at improving the transparency, sustainability, and efficiency of public procurement in the Czech Republic. The commitment is structured around three milestones, which include improved guidance and training on sustainable contracting for contracting authorities and the establishment of a public contracting Competence Centre at the Ministry of Regional Development (Milestone 1), the adoption of the Sustainable Purchasing Action Plan foreseeing development of the minimum binding standards for sustainable procurement for central public administration authorities (Milestone 2),¹⁹ and substantial digitalization efforts to create a centralized register aggregating data from existing sources and enabling automated verification of supplier qualifications (Milestone 3). As a permanent institutional hub, the Competence Centre is particularly promising in terms of ensuring the implementation and long-term sustainability of the reforms, offering expert support, capacity building, and a coordinated approach to procurement modernization.²⁰

Prior to implementation, the Czech Republic's procurement system exhibited several structural inefficiencies, particularly in the over-reliance of lowest-price criteria (81% of contracts awarded to the cheapest bidder in 2023 versus the EU average of 56%), which could drive suppliers to cut corners resulting in poorer quality,²¹ and fragmented digital systems resulting in procurement data not being in one place. The commitment addresses these weaknesses by aiming to shift towards more qualitative evaluation criteria in procurement practices, such as environmental and social responsibility criteria and consolidating procurement data as part of the digitalization reform. The public procurement register to be implemented within the action plan cycle is expected to streamline processes for suppliers, align with the "once-only" principle i.e., suppliers only needing to submit their essential information and documents to the system once, and improve data quality—although some of this data will remain undisclosed to the public.²² Progress can be tracked against benchmarks such as the EU's Single Market Scoreboard for public procurement, which includes relevant performance indicators, such as e-procurement coverage (percentage of tender value handled through certified electronic tools),

time to award (average duration from call for tenders to contract signature), or direct awards (share of contracts granted without a competitive procedure).²³

The implementation of Commitment 5 is expected to generate tangible improvements in transparency, efficiency, and sustainability across the Czech public procurement system. By introducing uniform guidelines and centralizing purchasing, authorities will publish all tender documentation and award decisions in a single, publicly accessible platform. Evidence of this might include a rise in the percentage of contracts fully processed online and a corresponding reduction in average “time to award” as tracked by the EU Single Market Scoreboard. The rollout of minimum standards for sustainable purchasing should be reflected in an increase in tenders that meet environmental and social criteria. Strengthened professionalization—via training programs and clear procedural manuals—could lead to fewer procurement complaints and higher satisfaction ratings in supplier surveys. Finally, usage statistics from the new central register—e.g., number of active users and volume of transactions—will demonstrate the depth of digital uptake and the enduring impact of these reforms beyond the action-plan period.

While the commitment’s ambition is significant, the depth and sustainability of its outcomes will depend on long-term political and financial backing, especially for the Competence Centre and digital infrastructure. The reforms are currently supported by EU Recovery Plan funding through 2026,²⁴ but institutionalizing these changes beyond project-based financing will be critical. Challenges include potential delays due to lengthy public procurement processes for implementing the digital reforms themselves. Nonetheless, strategic alignment with a government-wide strategy, broad stakeholder support including businesses and anti-corruption CSOs, and anchoring reforms in institutional frameworks, notably by creating the Competence Centre, suggest a promising trajectory for transformative impact. The reforms are anchored in the 2024 National Strategy for Public Procurement—approved at the governmental level—and supported by secured multi-year funding and alignment with the 2022–2030 digitalization roadmap, all of which could help ensure their sustainability beyond the implementation period.

Opportunities, challenges, and recommendations during implementation

To fulfill the potential of Commitment 5, it will be essential to ensure the timely establishment and effective functioning of the Competence Centre, as well as the full rollout and uptake of the Sustainable Purchasing Action Plan and its accompanying minimum standards. Additionally, delivering the planned digitalization reforms—including the launch of the unified procurement register and simplification of supplier participation—is essential for enhancing efficiency, reducing administrative burdens, and laying the foundation for more data-driven oversight and strategic procurement. Finally, there is opportunity to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation—for example by co-designing guidelines on specific aspects of public procurement, hosting inter-agency roundtables, developing an e-learning hub, and capacity-building to increase the practical impact of the reforms across contracting authorities. Enhanced collaboration with municipalities could further elevate both the scope and impact of this commitment.

Among key challenges, delays in public procurement processes, particularly in the digitalization track could limit early results. Furthermore, there is a risk of sustainable procurement standards being unevenly adopted among contracting authorities since some of the ministries may be hesitant to change their procurement practices. The binding nature of the minimum standards for the central public administration bodies partially mitigates this risk. Another challenge is the limited public access to procurement data under the new register reducing transparency gains. In the longer term, ensuring sustainable political, financial, and staffing support beyond the

initial EU-funded implementation period is a potential obstacle for the longevity of the commitment.

To address these challenges and strengthen commitment implementation, the Ministry of Regional Development could:

- **Prioritize early preparatory work** e.g., internal coordination, technical specifications, stakeholder input **to minimize delays in public procurement processes, particularly in the digitalization track.** Clear timelines and phased implementation could also help manage expectations and avoid bottlenecks, particularly in coordination with IT providers and regulatory bodies.
- **Strengthen trainings, awareness-raising, and peer learning initiatives to encourage more consistent application of the non-binding guidelines across sectors and regions.** Inspiring the use of the minimum standards at the regional and municipal level can substantially support the impact of these efforts.

In the longer term, the Ministry of Regional Development could also:

- **Start early planning to secure long-term institutional funding,** especially for the Competence Centre, to retain expert capacity and maintain reform momentum, for example via the 2024–2028 National Strategy for Public Procurement. This could involve drafting a multi-year budget proposal that accurately reflects the financial requirements for sustaining the reform over the long term.
- **Explore phased publication of non-sensitive data or summary indicators** to align better with open government principles. To achieve this, the Ministry could explore adopting the Open Contracting Data Standard.
- **Involve experts and CSOs through structured consultations** through regular roundtables and thematic working groups with civil society organizations and independent specialists to co-develop guidelines, review draft plans, and integrate their feedback throughout the implementation cycle.

Incorporating these recommendations could contribute to building a more coherent, inclusive, and resilient public procurement system that delivers not only efficiency but also broader social and environmental value.

Other commitments

Other commitments that the IRM did not identify as promising commitments are discussed below.

Commitment 1 proposes to analyze international models of centers for consultation and deliberation, outline a proposal for a similar National Competence Center in the Czech Republic, and produce a draft of legislative changes to promote participatory and deliberative processes. While the commitment aligns with OECD recommendations and existing strategic documents, the commitment does not extend beyond preparatory analysis.²⁵ The commitment's potential could be strengthened by the addition of concrete activities to implement the results of the preparatory analysis. Progress will depend on external funding, which remains to be confirmed.²⁶ To strengthen commitment implementation, reformers could consider building in contingency plans in case of lack of external funding or low-cost interim steps to implement core parts of the commitment. OGP could facilitate knowledge-sharing with countries that have already implemented similar centers, such as France.²⁷

Commitment 2 focuses only on preparatory work for implementing deliberative mechanisms at the national level, such as citizens' assemblies, panels, or juries. It is a direct response to low

levels of citizen trust in politicians and public administration, as measured by the national Public Opinion Research Center²⁸ as well as OECD recommendations.²⁹ The lack of clarity on whether a pilot will take place and its dependence on external funding significantly limit its potential for results. The commitment's ambition could be strengthened by setting a clear goal to implement at least one deliberative process during the action plan period and by involving civil society in its design. Drawing on international experience from other OGP members that have implemented deliberative democracy initiatives, such as France or Ireland, and expertise of specialized organizations such as Democracy Next could further support implementation.³⁰

Commitment 3 focuses on building the capacity of ministry representatives to improve cooperation with CSOs. The commitment builds on past efforts, such as the 2022 analysis of cooperation challenges conducted outside of the OGP process³¹ and the methodology for participation adopted in the previous action plan cycle.³² While the commitment aims to address the underdeveloped collaboration between state administration and CSOs, its ambition is modest as it focuses mainly on analyzing existing practices and training public officials. To enhance its potential for results, reformers could involve CSOs directly in implementation and clarify the scope of the proposed training as well as its long-term sustainability.

Commitment 6 aims to enhance the transparency of small-scale public procurement. While the Public Procurement Act has recently been amended to increase the thresholds for small-scale contracting from CZK 2 million to CZK 3 million for supplies and services and from CZK 6 million to CZK 9 million for construction,³³ the legislative amendment failed to incorporate transparency safeguards called for by CSO stakeholders.³⁴ With no further legislative initiatives currently planned, the commitment relies on updating methodological guidance and developing unified rules for EU-funded procurement.³⁵ This commitment could result in more significant change if more enforceable or binding transparency measures are introduced during implementation.

Commitment 7 sets out to reform the public procurement review process handled by the Office for the Protection of Competition, which is currently seen by civil society as slow and lacking transparency.³⁶ The proposed legislative amendment—introducing a single-instance review mechanism with transparent, three-member panels—was prepared by the Ministry of Regional Development and backed by civil society³⁷ and business stakeholders.³⁸ However, there are concerns regarding the reform's ability to make meaningful progress before the October 2025 elections.³⁹ Resultantly, this commitment's potential largely rests on whether it retains political support following the elections.

¹ "Agency for Social Inclusion," Ministry of Regional Development, <https://www.socialni-zaclenovani.cz/en>.

² "Social Inclusion Strategy 2021–2030," Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 11 May 2020, <https://www.mpsv.cz/strategie-socialniho-zaclenovani-2021-2030>; "Action Plan 2024–2026 for the Social Inclusion Strategy 2021–2030," Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 12 January 2024, <https://www.mpsv.cz/akcni-plan-2024-2026-strategie-socialniho-zaclenovani-2021-2030>.

³ In 2023, the extent of social inclusion has worsened significantly in the Czech Republic with the number of at-risk municipalities rising from 459 to 539. While 2024 data are not yet available, the Agency foresaw further deterioration. The Roma minority is overrepresented in the socially excluded localities with 80% of their population among socially excluded localities. See Petr Lang, "Sociální vyloučení v Česku: rozsah v roce 2023," [Social Exclusion in the Czech Republic: Scope in 2023], Agency for Social Inclusion, November 2024, <https://www.socialni-zaclenovani.cz/dokument/socialni-vyloucení-v-cesku-rozsah-v-roce-2023-asz-2024>; "Roma in 10 European Countries, Main Results" EU Fundamental Rights Agency Main Results, 2022, https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2022-roma-survey-2021-main-results2_en.pdf; "Report on socio-economic situation of the Roma population in the Czech Republic 2023/24," Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, 2024, https://katalog.vupsv.cz/fulltext/vz_556.pdf.

⁴ Ján Dupák (Transparency International Czech Republic), interview by IRM researcher, 11 February 2025; Marek Zelenka (Oživení), interview by IRM researcher, 24 February 2024.

- ⁵ See Gender and Inclusion in: “Open Government Challenge Areas,” Open Government Partnership, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/the-open-gov-challenge/open-government-challenge-areas/#toc07>.
- ⁶ See methodologies and other materials in: “Coordinated Approach to Social Exclusion 2021+,” Agency for Social Inclusion, 2021, <https://www.socialni-zaclenovani.cz/kpsv-2021>.
- ⁷ Radka Vepřková (Agency for Social Inclusion), interview by IRM researcher, 14 May 2025.
- ⁸ Vepřková, interview.
- ⁹ Vepřková, interview.
- ¹⁰ Vepřková, interview.
- ¹¹ Vepřková, interview.
- ¹² Vepřková, interview, confirmed that additional funding was secured for April 2025–2028.
- ¹³ See in particular Commitments 5 and 6 in: Ministry of Justice, “Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2023 to 2024,” Open Government Partnership, February 2023, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Czech-Republic_Action-Plan_2022-2024_December_EN.pdf.
- ¹⁴ “National Strategy for Public Procurement in the Czech Republic for 2024–2028,” Ministry of Regional Development, 21 February 2024, https://portal-vz.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/NSVZ_STRATEGIE_EN_online-verze.pdf.
- ¹⁵ “Strategie elektronizace veřejných zakázek pro období let 2022–2030,” [Strategy for the Digitalization of Public Procurement for 2022–2030], Ministry of Regional Development, 2021, https://portal-vz.cz/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Strategie_elektronizace-VZ-pro-období-let-2022-2030.pdf.
- ¹⁶ The main chapters include: (1) Quality and Innovation, (2) Environment of efficient public procurement, (3) Environmentally and socially responsible public procurement, (4) Professionalization, (5) Support of centralized purchasing and cooperation, (6) Support of strategically important investments, (7) Legal certainty, (8) Public procurement in construction, and (9) Data and digitalization.
- ¹⁷ “Policy Statement of the Government of the Czech Republic,” Office of the Government, January 2022, <https://vlada.gov.cz/assets/jednani-vlady/policy-statement/Policy-Statement-of-the-Government.pdf>.
- ¹⁸ Ondřej Ječný and Martina Šelajová (Ministry of Regional Development), interview by IRM researcher, 6 May 2025.
- ¹⁹ Ječný and Šelajová, interview, shared that the first set of minimum standards have already been adopted at the ministerial level, pending consultation procedure and ultimate Governmental approval. They cover six areas: supply of office paper, food products, security services for administrative buildings, catering services, cleaning services for administrative buildings, and construction. Another set of standards covering ICT hardware, design and planning services, office supplies, promotional materials, and events, including catering is under preparation. For more information, see: “Minimální standardy odpovědného veřejného zadávání,” [Minimum standards for responsible public procurement], Ministry of Regional Development, <https://portal-vz.cz/komodity/minimalni-standardy-odpovedneho-verejneho-zadavani>.
- ²⁰ See Chapter 10.1 in: “National Strategy for Public Procurement in the Czech Republic for 2024–2028,” Ministry of Regional Development.
- ²¹ “Access to public procurement (Czechia),” European Commission, 2023, https://single-market-scoreboard.ec.europa.eu/countries/czechia_en.
- ²² Ječný and Šelajová, interview.
- ²³ “Single Market Scoreboard,” European Commission, <https://single-market-scoreboard.ec.europa.eu/en>.
- ²⁴ Ječný and Šelajová, interview.
- ²⁵ “OECD Public Governance Reviews: Czech Republic,” Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2023, https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-public-governance-reviews-czech-republic_41fd9e5c-en/full-report.html; see e.g., “Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030,” Office of the Government, 2017, https://vlada.gov.cz/assets/ppov/udrzitelny-rozvoj/projekt-OPZ/Strategic_Framework_CZ2030.pdf.
- ²⁶ Pavel Mička (Government Office of the Czech Republic), correspondence with IRM researcher, 28 May 2025.
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- ²⁹ “OECD Public Governance Reviews: Czech Republic,” Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.
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³⁸ “Dodržte slib. Elity byznysu píší vládě kvůli dohledu nad veřejnými zakázkami,” [Keep the Promise. Business Elites Write to the Government Regarding Oversight of Public Procurement], Hospodářské noviny, 19 February 2025, <https://domaci.hn.cz/c1-67619140-vyhazujete-miliardy-z-okna-kritizuje-byznys-vladu-tlaci-na-ni-aby-prosadila-reformu-verejnych-zakazek>.

³⁹ “Vláda se neshodla na návrhu reformy ÚOHS, do voleb ji zřejmě nepřijme,” [The Government did not reach an agreement on the reform proposal for the Office for the Protection of Competition, and it is unlikely to be adopted before the elections], Seznam.cz, 26 February 2025, <https://www.seznamzpravy.cz/clanek/domaci-politika-vlada-se-neshodla-na-navrhu-reformy-uohs-do-voleb-ji-zrejme-neprijme-270796>.

Section III. Methodology

This product is a concise, independent, technical review of the characteristics of the action plan and the strengths and challenges the IRM identifies to inform a stronger implementation process. The IRM highlights commitments that have the highest potential for results, represent a high priority for country stakeholders, acknowledged as a priority in the national open government context, or a combination of these factors.

The IRM products provided during a national action plan cycle include:

- **Co-Creation Brief:** A concise brief that highlights lessons from previous IRM reports to support a country's OGP process, action plan design, and overall learning.
- **Action Plan Review:** A technical review of the characteristics of the action plan and the strengths and challenges the IRM identifies to inform a stronger implementation process.
- **Midterm Review:** A review for four-year action plans after a refresh at the midpoint. The review assesses new or significantly amended commitments in the refreshed action plan, compliance with OGP rules, and an informal update on implementation progress.
- **Results Report:** An overall implementation assessment that focuses on policy-level results and how changes happen. It also checks compliance with OGP rules and informs accountability and longer-term learning.

In the Action Plan Review, the IRM reviews commitments using three indicators:

1. Verifiability: The IRM determines whether a commitment is verifiable as written in the action plan. The indicator is assessed as:

- **Yes/No:** Are the stated objectives and proposed actions sufficiently clear and include objectively verifiable activities to assess implementation?
- Commitments that are not verifiable are considered not reviewable, and no further assessment is carried out.

2. Open Government Lens: The IRM determines if the commitment relates to the open government values of transparency, civic participation, and/or public accountability as defined by the Open Government Declaration and the OGP Articles of Governance. Based on a close reading of the commitment text, the indicator is assessed as:

- **Yes/No:** Does the commitment set out to make a policy area, institution, or decision-making process more transparent, participatory, or accountable to the public?

The following questions for each OGP value may be used as a reference to identify the specific open government lens in commitment analysis:

- **Transparency:** Will the government disclose more information, improve the legal or institutional frameworks to guarantee the right to information, improve the quality of the information disclosed to the public, or improve the transparency of government decision-making processes or institutions
- **Civic Participation:** Will the government create or improve opportunities, processes, or mechanisms for the public to inform, influence or co-create policies, laws and/or decisions? Will the government create, enable, or improve participatory mechanisms for minorities, marginalized or underrepresented groups?

Will the government improve the enabling environment for civil society (which may include NGO laws, funding mechanisms, taxation, reporting requirements, et cetera)?

Will the government improve legal, policy, institutional or practical conditions related to civic space such as freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly that would facilitate participation in the public sphere? Will the government take measures which counter mis- and disinformation, especially online, to ensure people have access to reliable and factual information (which may include digital and media literacy campaigns, fact-checking or fostering an independent news media ecosystem)?

- **Public Accountability:** Will the government create or improve opportunities to hold officials answerable for their actions? Will the government enable legal, policy, or institutional frameworks to foster accountability of public officials?

3. Potential for Results: The IRM analyzes the expected results and potential that would be verified in the IRM Results Report after implementation. Potential for results is an early indication of the commitment's possibility to yield meaningful results based on its articulation in the action plan in contrast with the state of play in the respective policy area. The indicator is assessed as:

- **Unclear:** The commitment is aimed at continuing ongoing practices in line with existing legislation, requirements, or policies without indication of the added value or enhanced open government approach in contrast with existing practice.
- **Modest:** A positive but standalone initiative or change to processes, practices, or policies. The commitment does not generate binding or institutionalized changes across government or institutions that govern a policy area. Examples are tools (e.g., websites) or data release, training, or pilot projects.
- **Substantial:** A possible game changer for practices, policies, or institutions that govern a policy area, public sector, or the relationship between citizens and state. The commitment generates binding and institutionalized changes across government.

This review focuses its analysis on promising commitments. Promising commitments are verifiable, have an open government lens, and at least a modest potential for results. Promising commitments may also be a priority for national stakeholders or for the particular context. The IRM may cluster commitments with a common policy objective or that contribute to the same reform or policy issue. The potential for results of clustered commitments is reviewed as a whole.

This review was prepared by the IRM in collaboration with Alexandra Matiaško as researcher and Andy McDevitt as external expert reviewer. During the internal review process, the IRM verifies the accuracy of findings and collects further input through peer review, OGP Support Unit feedback as needed, interviews and validation with country stakeholders, an external expert review, and oversight by IRM's International Experts Panel (IEP).¹ The IRM methodology, product quality, and review process are overseen by the IEP.²

¹ "International Experts Panel," Open Government Partnership, accessed 15 July 2024, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/who-we-are/international-experts-panel>.

² For more information, see: "Overview – Independent Reporting Mechanism," Open Government Partnership, accessed 15 July 2024, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/irm-guidance-overview>.

Annex I. Commitment Data¹

Commitment 1: National competence center on participation processes

- Verifiable: Yes
- Does it have an open government lens? Yes
- Potential for results: Modest

Commitment 2: Pilot implementation of deliberative mechanisms

- Verifiable: Yes
- Does it have an open government lens? Yes
- Potential for results: Modest

Commitment 3: Capacity-building for cooperation between the Government and CSOs

- Verifiable: Yes
- Does it have an open government lens? Yes
- Potential for results: Modest

Commitment 4: Promotion of participatory methods for social inclusion at the local level

- Verifiable: Yes
- Does it have an open government lens? Yes
- Potential for results: Modest

Commitment 5: Public procurement reform

- Verifiable: Yes
- Does it have an open government lens? Yes
- Potential for results: Substantial

Commitment 6: Strengthening transparency in small-scale public procurement

- Verifiable: Yes
- Does it have an open government lens? Yes
- Potential for results: Modest

Commitment 7: Reforming the review of public procurement

- Verifiable: Yes
- Does it have an open government lens? Yes
- Potential for results: Modest

¹ Editorial note: Commitment short titles may have been edited for brevity. For the complete text of commitments, please see: Ministry of Justice, “Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2025 to 2026,” Open Government Partnership, December 2024, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Czech-Republic_Action-Plan_2024-2026_EN.pdf.

Annex II. Action Plan Co-Creation

The IRM uses the OGP Participation and Co-Creations Standards to assess countries' participatory practices throughout the action plan cycle.¹ Countries are encouraged to aim for the full ambition of the standards and to meet the minimum requirements.² The OGP Criteria and Standards Subcommittee determines if a country has acted according to OGP process.³

Table 2. Compliance with Minimum Requirements

Minimum requirement	Met?
1.1 Space for dialogue: Dialogue between government and civil society took place through the Working Commission on Open Government and State Administration Transparency which acts as the multi-stakeholder forum (MSF). ⁴ During the co-creation period, it met in June, September, and December 2024. ⁵ Its basic rules of participation are publicly available online. ⁶	Yes
2.1 OGP website: The Ministry of Justice maintains the OGP website. It is publicly accessible with no password or registration requirements. ⁷ It contains all of the Czech Republic's seven OGP action plans, including the latest one. ⁸	Yes
2.2 Repository: The Ministry of Justice maintains the OGP repository. It is publicly available with no password or registration requirement, and documents can be downloaded directly in pdf format. ⁹ The repository is regularly updated and contains information on co-creation, implementation, and assessment of the action plans. ¹⁰	Yes
3.1 Advanced notice: The co-creation timeline and call to participate in the public workshop for co-creating the action plan commitments was published on 30 April 2024, two weeks before the public workshop took place on 14 May 2024. ¹¹	Yes
3.2 Outreach: The Ministry of Justice promoted the co-creation process on their website ¹² and in the effort to reach to the larger audience also via the website of the Office of the Government. ¹³	Yes
3.3 Feedback mechanism: Input for the action plan was gathered via a public workshop in May 2024, public consultations in October 2024 ¹⁴ , and hosting non-member organizations and individuals at the June and September 2024 meetings of the MSF. ¹⁵ The co-creation process was spread over several months, with the draft action plan being submitted to the government in December 2024. ¹⁶	Yes
4.1 Reasoned response: Commitment proposals along with reasoned responses were documented in the minutes of the MSF meetings of September and December 2024. ¹⁷	Yes
5.1 Open implementation: The IRM will assess whether meetings were held with civil society stakeholders to present implementation progress and enable civil society to provide comments at least twice a year.	Not applicable

¹ "OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards," Open Government Partnership. 2021.

<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/ogp-participation-co-creation-standards/>.

² "IRM Guidelines for the Assessment of Minimum Requirements," Independent Reporting Mechanism, 2022.

https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/IRM-Guidelines-for-Assessment-of-Minimum-Requirements_20220531_EN.pdf.

³ On 1 August 2025, the OGP Criteria and Standards Subcommittee adopted a resolution on Temporary Suspension of the Enforcement of Time-Bound Minimum Requirements for Participation and Co-Creation, for all members currently implementing plans delivered on or after 1 January 2024: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Resolution-of-CS-on-the-Temporary-Suspension-of-the-Enforcement-of-Time-Bound-Minimum-Requirements-2.pdf>. For information on the OGP Procedural Review Policy see: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/procedural-review/#IC>.

- ⁴ “Komise k otevřenému vládnutí a transparentnosti státní správy,” [Working Commission on Open Government and State Administration Transparency], Ministry of Justice, <https://korupce.cz/rada-vlady/pracovni-komise-predsedy-rady-vlady-pro-koordinaci-boje-s-korupci/komise-k-otevrenemu-vladnuti-a-transparentnosti-statni-spravy>.
- ⁵ “Working Commission on Open Government and State Administration Transparency,” Ministry of Justice.
- ⁶ “Rada vlády pro koordinaci boje s korupcí,” [Statute and Rules of Procedure], Government Council for the Coordination of the Fight against Corruption, <https://korupce.cz/rada-vlady>.
- ⁷ “Partnerství pro otevřené vládnutí (OGP),” [Open Government Partnership (OGP)], Ministry of Justice, <https://korupce.cz/partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-ogp>.
- ⁸ “Národní akční plány (NAP),” [National Action Plan (NAP)], Ministry of Justice, <https://korupce.cz/partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-ogp/narodni-akcni-plan-nap>.
- ⁹ “Knihovna dokumentů,” [Repository], Ministry of Justice, <https://korupce.cz/partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-ogp/knihovna-dokumentu>.
- ¹⁰ “National Action Plan (NAP),” Ministry of Justice.
- ¹¹ “Zapojte se do přípravy nového akčního plánu České republiky...” [Get involved in the preparation of the Czech Republic’s new Action Plan...], Ministry of Justice, 30 April 2024, <https://korupce.cz/zapojte-se-do-pripravy-noveho-akcniho-planu-ceske-republiky-v-ramci-iniciativy-partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-na-roky-2025-a-2026-verejne-konzultace-a-verejny-workshop-ministerstva-spravedlnosti>; “Minutes of the public workshop,” Ministry of Justice, 14 May 2024, <https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Zaznam-z-prvniho-verejneho-workshopu-k-navrhumi-zavazku-OGP-2024-05-14.pdf>.
- ¹² “Public Call,” Ministry of Justice, 30 April 2024, <https://korupce.cz/zapojte-se-do-pripravy-noveho-akcniho-planu-ceske-republiky-v-ramci-iniciativy-partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-na-roky-2025-a-2026-verejne-konzultace-a-verejny-workshop-ministerstva-spravedlnosti>.
- ¹³ “Veřejné konzultace a workshop k návrhu nového akčního plánu Partnerství pro otevřené vládnutí,” [Public consultations and workshop on the draft of the new Open Government Partnership Action Plan], Office of the Government, 2 May 2024, <https://vlada.gov.cz/cz/ppov/rnno/aktuality/verejne-konzultace-a-workshop-k-navrhumi-noveho-akcniho-planu-partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-213286>.
- ¹⁴ “Seventh Action Plan, Co-Creation Phase,” Ministry of Justice, <https://korupce.cz/partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-ogp/narodni-akcni-plan-nap/sedmy-akcni-plan-2025-2026/faze-vytvoreni>.
- ¹⁵ See the meeting minutes in: “Working Commission on Open Government and State Administration Transparency,” Ministry of Justice.
- ¹⁶ “Harmonogram spoluvytváření Akčního plánu České republiky Partnerství pro otevřené vládnutí na období let 2025 až 2026 – aktualizace srpen 2024,” [The timetable of the co-creation process of the 2024–2026 Action Plan – update from August 2024], Ministry of Justice, August 2024, <https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Harmonogram-spoluvytvareni-Akcniho-planu-Ceske-republiky-Partnerstvi-pro-otevrene-vladnuti-na-obdobi-let-2025-az-2026-aktualizace-srpen-2024.pdf>.
- ¹⁷ See meeting minutes of 10 June, 14 November, and 12 December 2024 in: “Working Commission on Open Government and State Administration Transparency,” Ministry of Justice; See meeting minutes of 25 September 2024, Annex 2 on negotiations with public administration bodies in: “Komise k otevřenému vládnutí a transparentnosti státní správy,” [Working Commission on Open Government and State Administration Transparency], Ministry of Justice, September 2024, https://korupce.cz/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Priloha_2_Informace-o-prubeznych-vysledcich-konzultaci-s-gestory-k-nepodporenym-zavazkum-prezentace.pdf.