

# **Independent Reporting Mechanism**

Slovak Republic Co-Creation  
Brief 2025

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Open  
Government  
Partnership



Independent  
Reporting  
Mechanism

### Overview

This brief from the OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) supports the co-creation process and design of the Slovak Republic's seventh action plan. It provides an overview of OGP processes in the country and presents recommendations based on collective and country specific IRM findings. The co-creation brief draws from prior IRM reports for the [Slovak Republic](#), the [OGP National Handbook](#), [OGP Participation and Co-Creation Standards](#), and IRM guidance on [the minimum requirements](#). Section 1 offers guidance for OGP processes and co-creation and Section 2 for commitment design. Government and civil society can determine the extent to which this brief is used to shape the next action plan's trajectory and content.

The OGP process in the Slovak Republic is coordinated by the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society (OoP). Early OGP action plans featured open processes and were developed through informal communication channels between government and civil society. The fifth action plan was developed under a formalized multi-stakeholder forum, while the sixth (2024-2026) was developed through mostly smaller, topical meetings with civil society organizations and a public consultation of the draft action plan. Information on the OGP process and co-creation and implementation of action plans has been provided on the country's website and repository, while reasoned response has been provided orally or in writing. While the Slovak Republic met the minimum requirements for [OGP's Participation and Co-creation Standards](#) for the co-creation of the sixth action plan, the process coincided with a period of political change that prevented high-level involvement and reduced civil society's interest to participate.

## **Section I: Action Plan Co-Creation**

The following recommendations present opportunities for national reformers to strengthen OGP institutions and processes in the country.

### **Recommendation 1. Engage a broader set of civil society organizations in co-creation**

While the Slovak Republic has steadily engaged civil society in co-creation across action plans, the level of engagement decreased during development of the sixth action plan. Collaboration with nongovernment partners – such as academia, the private sector and civil society – helps to design ambitious reforms that represent priorities from across society.

For the seventh action plan, the Office of the Plenipotentiary (OoP) could strengthen co-creation by conducting a stakeholder mapping to identify groups that have been absent or underrepresented in previous OGP processes and proactively engaging them. This would help strengthen the legitimacy of the OGP process and broaden the themes and issues in the action plan. For example, the OoP could reach out to organizations focused on climate and the environment, open data, Roma inclusion and open government issues such as transparency and civil liberties. In advance of co-creation, the OoP could prepare and share with all stakeholders a memo summarizing the background of OGP in the Slovak Republic to set the context, the co-creation methodology with information on the opportunities and value of participation, and any other relevant materials. To broaden outreach beyond the capital, the OoP could utilize regional workshops, focus groups or use relevant events hosted by partner agencies, as well as digital tools, such as online surveys and webinars.

### **Recommendation 2. Involve local governments in co-creation**

Local governments in the Slovak Republic have extensive self-government competencies in policy areas such as infrastructure and transport, education, social services and health, across 2.890 municipalities and 8 self-governing regions.

To help open government benefits reach citizens, the OoP could involve local government networks in the co-creation process. For example, the OoP could engage actors such as the Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (ZMOS), the Association of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (UTCS) and SK8, as well as OGP Local members Banská Bystrica, Topoľčany and Žilina to participate in the consultations. This could engage local governments, coordinate efforts, and improve the impact of commitments on citizens' daily lives. In addition, this could help lay the groundwork for future scaling of successful local initiatives. As an example, the OoP could consider consulting Finland's [experience](#) in engaging previously uninvolved regional groups for its 2019-2023 action plan.

### **Recommendation 3. Hold thematically focused consultations between ministries and expert civil society stakeholders to draft commitments**

The sixth OGP action plan was developed through consultations in the NGO Council, small and informal meetings with civil society, and a circulated draft for comments and proposals.

For the seventh action plan, the OoP could, after identifying key policy areas, organize thematically focused working groups for expert civil society organizations and relevant ministries and agencies to jointly discuss and develop commitments. The NGO Council could serve as the strategic oversight body, and the working groups can report back to the Council regularly. This proactive engagement could help civil society strategically and efficiently engage in the OGP process and promote collaborative ownership of the action plan. Ensuring that relevant government and civil society actors deliberate directly could also enhance the quality of commitment proposals and encourage ministries to take them on as part of the action plan. To avoid duplication, the OoP could leverage existing sectoral committees that have members from both government and civil society to discuss and develop commitments.

### **Recommendation 4. Ensure that civil society and government dialogue continues throughout action plan implementation**

Across action plans, multi-stakeholder engagement has been consistently stronger and more structured during action plan co-creation than during implementation. Action plan co-creation, either through ad hoc participation mechanisms or via a formalized multi-stakeholder forum, has been consistently open and inclusive, as it is largely steered by the OoP. However, civil society participation during implementation has depended to a greater extent on information provided by individual implementing authorities and political continuity.

The Slovak Republic multi-stakeholder forum (MSF) met three times during implementation of the fifth action plan. For the seventh action plan, the MSF or commitment working groups should meet at least every six months, as required by [OGP's Participation and Co-Creation Standards](#). This can help to ensure ongoing collaboration to share learnings, address challenges and respond to changes in context. Meetings should be documented with minutes, or at least an overview of topics discussed, uploaded to the online document repository. [Latvia's](#) and [Romania's](#) OGP repositories provides a good example of documenting and publishing MSF agendas and meeting minutes.

### **Recommendation 5. Publish a reasoned response in advance of finalizing the action plan**

During the development of the fifth and sixth OGP action plans, reasoned response to stakeholders' commitment proposals was provided either orally via personal meetings and

group discussions, or in writing, via personal communications. In addition, both drafts underwent the official inter-agency commenting process which includes mechanisms for reasoned response.

To strengthen the co-creation of the next action plan, the OoP could ensure that a reasoned response to stakeholders' commitment proposals is collected and published in writing significantly ahead of the final publication of the action plan, for example before the draft action plan is submitted to the mandatory inter-ministerial and public commenting procedure. The document could explain how the input received influenced decisions, for example which commitment suggestions were adopted, amended or rejected, as well as the reasons why. This could mitigate potential stakeholder disengagement and provide stakeholders with enough time to understand why commitments were included or rejected and participate in deliberations on next steps. The OoP could follow Canada's example, which published a [What We Heard](#) report, providing clear feedback on the inputs received during co-creation of its 2022-2024 action plan.

## Section II: Action Plan Design

The following recommendations offer policy areas for national actors to consider in the next action plan. They may represent opportunities for new commitments to address issues of national importance or to advance existing reforms.

### Area 1. Open data

The Slovak Republic is a high performer in open data according to the [Organization for Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#) and has consistently prioritized open data commitments in OGP action plans since joining in 2011. Most recently, Commitment 6 in the 2022-2024 action plan to map the impact of open data led to increased public engagement with datasets and a rapid improvement in the Slovak Republic's ranking on the European Commission's [2024 Open Data Maturity Index](#).

To build on this progress in the seventh action plan, the Office of the Plenipotentiary (OoP) could consider commitments that:

- Ensure all ministries and agencies appoint a data steward, ensuring clear mandates for data collection and publication as part of the role, and strengthen coordination between the central open data team at the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization and sectoral open data units.
- Improve available metadata and interoperability across publishers for already published datasets, as well as completing the implementation of the European Commission's [Regulation 2023/138 on high-value data publication](#), focusing on publishing all meteorological and mobility datasets.
- Raise awareness among and expand targeted guidance and tools for municipalities and regions to publish their open data on the national open data portal without requiring heavy technical capacity.

### Area 2. Participatory policymaking

The Slovak Republic has made progress in engaging citizens in the policymaking process, notably through the [Slov-Lex portal](#). While well developed, notably as part of the inter-ministerial commenting procedure, these consultations are often limited to later stages of policy development. Participatory policymaking is also institutionalized via the Participatory Governance Unit in the Ministry of the Interior. The Slovak Republic's sixth OGP action plan included a commitment aiming to pilot civic deliberation methods, but implementation stalled due to funding shifts.

For the seventh action plan, the OoP could consider reforms that:

- Produce new guidance to more systematically involve stakeholders beyond businesses in early-stage consultations, as [recommended](#) by the OECD. The Slovak Republic could work towards enhancing the participation of civil society organizations in early-stage consultations, which would align with the [2022-2030 Strategy for Civil Society Development](#)'s goal to enhance the involvement of civil society organizations in the public policy process. Examples include the Czech Republic's [commitment](#) to

pilot guidelines on CSO participation in public decision-making, and Ireland's [commitment](#) to create best practice templates for stakeholder engagement.

- Expand the laws that undergo a public consultation process on the SloV-Lex portal to include laws introduced by members of Parliament, which are currently exempt from mandatory public consultation. This would ensure that all draft laws can be reviewed by non-governmental stakeholders and citizens prior to being adopted.
- Continue work to incorporate citizens' assemblies in national policymaking. This could entail establishing rules for how deliberative processes will interact with constitutional, legislative and regulatory processes, such as clarifying when they will occur and how they will inform final decisions. If a commitment to organize a citizens' assembly is undertaken again, priority could be given to prevalent or divisive topics in public discourse.

### Area 3. Lobbying transparency

While the Prime Minister regularly discloses information about informal meetings with social partners who display characteristics of lobbyists, the Slovak Republic does not require public officials and institutions to disclose their engagement with lobbyists. Both the Group of States Against Corruption's [2025 Fifth Evaluation Round report](#) and the European Commission's [2025 Rule of Law Report](#) recommend that the Slovak Republic introduce proposals to regulate lobbying. The NGO Council also recently issued a [recommendation](#) to adopt lobbying transparency regulations.

For the seventh action plan, the OoP could consider using the OGP process to lay the groundwork for a long-term goal to adopt legislation on lobbying transparency. 15 European Union member states currently [have](#) public registers of lobbyists in place. As a first step, this could include a commitment to conduct preparatory work to develop a balanced, non-discriminatory lobbying transparency framework. Such a process might draw on European and international best practices by clearly defining the terms 'lobbying' and 'lobbyist', outlining the scope of application of a prospective law, and presenting concrete proposals for a legal framework on lobbying transparency. It could also involve identifying potential obstacles to creating a lobbying register and strategies for addressing them. Examples include Ireland's [commitment](#) to review and amend the lobbying framework and the Czech Republic's recent [lobbying regulation law](#).

### Area 4. Public procurement transparency

According to the latest European Commission [benchmarking of national policy frameworks for procurement](#), the Slovak Republic has a relatively high public procurement transparency score. The Slovak Republic has adopted mandatory publication of all public contracts on a centralized online portal and has used the OGP process in past action plans to advance public procurement transparency. However, the legal framework does not require authorities to publish tender notices prior to the award of the contract.

For the seventh action plan, opportunities to advance this reform include:

## Slovak Republic Co-Creation Brief 2025

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- Expanding the types of public procurement data published, especially pre-bid requirements and evaluation criteria. Civil society organizations could be involved in the process of identifying types of useful data to publish.
- Improve the quality of public procurement data by making them available as open data using the [Open Contracting Data Standard](#) (OCDS).
- Support municipalities and regions to publish their procurement information in a central platform. Such a commitment could prioritize [corruption-prone areas](#), such as infrastructure, construction, IT and health.

The brief was reviewed by IRM senior staff for consistency, accuracy, and with a view to maximize the context-relevance and actionability of the recommendations. Where appropriate, external reviewers or members of the IRM International Experts Panel (IEP) review briefs.