

Tool 4

Open Gov Explainer Cards

The OGP Concept Explainer Cards is a set of visual cards that introduce key open government concepts in a simple, practical, and youth-friendly format. Unlike a glossary, each card connects a core concept to the everyday experiences of young people—explaining what it means, why it matters, and including a reflection question to spark discussion and critical thinking.

Use them in workshops, community events, classrooms, or civic education programs to introduce OGP concepts, create interactive learning stations, facilitate group discussions, or complement youth leadership and open government training.

These cards can be adapted for both facilitators and self-directed learning, and will help young people to:

- Understand key open government concepts.
- Connect public policy ideas to everyday experiences.
- Build confidence to participate in governance processes.
- Reflect on their role as active citizens.
- Develop a common language for dialogue with institutions and civil society organizations.

INCLUDED CARDS

Open government
Transparency
Accountability
Public participation
Co-creation
OGP commitments

Open data
Multi-stakeholder forum (MSF)
Advocacy
Monitoring & evaluation
Open state

FACILITATOR TIPS

Invite participants to select the card they connect with most and discuss how that concept appears in their community. Encourage participants to share examples, identify challenges, and propose actions related to each concept.

Card 1: Open government

WHAT IS IT?

A way of governing based on transparency, participation, accountability, and collaboration between public institutions and citizens.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

This approach helps people understand how government decisions are made, restores trust between citizens and government, and strengthens democracy.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

I can contribute ideas, participate in public discussions, and help improve my community.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What public issue would most benefit from an open government approach?

Card 2: Transparency

WHAT IS IT?

The practice of making public information accessible, understandable, and available to everyone.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Access to information allows people to understand how decisions are made and how public resources are used.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

I can access information that helps me participate, ask questions, and make informed decisions.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Have you ever requested or accessed public information?

How did you request it, and what type of information were you able to access?

Card 3: Accountability

WHAT IS IT?

The responsibility of public institutions and officials to explain their actions and answer for their results.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Citizens should be able to verify whether commitments and promises are being fulfilled.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

I have the right to ask questions, monitor progress, and expect public institutions to respond.

REFLECTION QUESTION

How would you know if a government commitment has been fulfilled?

Card 4: Public participation

WHAT IS IT?

The involvement of people in public decisions, policies, and processes that affect their lives.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Communities often understand their challenges and needs better than anyone else.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

My ideas, experiences, and perspectives can contribute to better public decisions.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What issue in your community would you like to have a voice in?

Card 5: Co-creation

WHAT IS IT?

A process where government and civil society work together to design and improve solutions to public challenges.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Better solutions emerge when different perspectives are included from the beginning.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

I can help create solutions, not just react to decisions that have already been made.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Considering your context, in what format would you like your local government to engage you in public discussions?

Card 6: OGP commitment

WHAT IS IT?

A promise made by a government, and developed together with civil society, to deliver a specific reform by a specific date. Since 2026, commitments can be submitted to OGP individually or in batches.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

OGP commitments transform ideas into concrete actions and measurable results. You can hold them to it.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

The priorities I advocate for can become part of a public commitment.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What commitment, action, or solution would you propose for a challenge facing your community?

Card 7: Open data

WHAT IS IT?

Public information that anyone can access, use, analyze, and share.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Data helps people understand problems, identify trends, and support solutions with evidence.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

I can use information to advocate for change and monitor public actions.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Do you know any portal that offers open data?

What type of information does it contain?

If not, what type of public data could help you understand or solve a problem in your community?

Card 8: Multi-stakeholder forum (MSF)

WHAT IS IT?

A space where government and civil society work together to guide OGP processes in a country.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

It brings together different perspectives and creates shared responsibility for results.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

Young people can participate and help ensure their priorities are considered.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Who should be included when important public decisions are discussed?
(Pick a public issue)

Card 9: Advocacy

WHAT IS IT?

Actions taken to influence public decisions, policies, or institutional practices.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Advocacy helps transform concerns and ideas into proposals for change.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

I can organize, communicate, and collaborate with others to promote solutions.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What issue are you already advocating for, or would you be willing to advocate for?

Card 10: Monitoring & evaluation

WHAT IS IT?

The process of tracking progress, measuring results, and learning what works and what can be improved.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Monitoring helps ensure that commitments lead to real outcomes.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

I can help verify whether promises and projects are producing results.

REFLECTION QUESTION

How would you measure progress and results in a public project?

Card 11: Open state

WHAT IS IT?

An approach that applies transparency, participation, accountability, and collaboration across all public institutions, including governments, legislatures, courts, oversight bodies, and autonomous institutions.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Public challenges require cooperation between many institutions, not just government agencies.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

I can engage with different public institutions to promote change and strengthen democracy.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Which institution in your community should be more open and accessible to citizens?