



**ACTION PLAN &
STRATEGIC VISION
OF THE CITY OF ATHENS
FOR OGP LOCAL**

Athens, July 2025



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What is OGP

The Open Government Partnership is a global multi-stakeholder initiative launched in 2011 when leaders of governments and civil society organizations came together to create a unique partnership that combines a strong commitment to promoting transparent, participatory, inclusive, and accountable governance.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) includes 75 countries and 150 local governments – representing more than two billion people – and thousands of civil society organizations.

About OGP Local

Why does OGP work with local governments?

Local governments are closer to the people and their work has a more direct impact on citizen's everyday lives than national level governments. With increased populations in urban areas come increasing demands for services and the need for more effective and responsive local level governments. But it's not just city governments that are facing challenges that could benefit from the OGP's support. States, regions, provinces, and counties deliver crucial services, especially within federalized systems, where much of healthcare and education is administered at the state and local county levels. These governments are often more nimble than national level governments and are in closer proximity to the people they exist to serve. This makes the impact they have through participating in OGP sizable. They are also sometimes inadequately resourced and thereby have a greater need for support.

Improved visibility of the types of open government initiatives happening at all levels of government helps OGP to better serve not just local but national level governments as well. Many innovations and open government reforms are

happening at the local level and the OGP Local program helps to build partnerships between local governments and Civil Society organizations to make their governments more open, accountable and responsive to citizens.

History of OGP Local

OGP launched the “Subnational Government Pilot Program” in 2016. This decision recognized that many open government innovations and reforms are happening at the local level where governments can engage more directly with citizens and many crucial public services are delivered. The Pilot program consisted of 15 “pioneer” subnational governments who signed onto the Open Government Subnational Declaration and submitted their first Action Plans (APs) at the Paris Global OGP Summit in December 2016 which were implemented throughout 2017. In addition to the Pioneers’ Tier, the pilot program also included a Leaders’ Tier –a larger network of subnational open government reformers from government and civil society who were already involved in open government and were further encouraged to engage in peer learning and foster closer involvement with national action plans in their respective countries.

Following the strong early results of the pilot period between 2016 and 2017, the OGP Steering Committee approved the expansion of the subnational pilot program, which going forward will be known as the OGP Local Program, and will continue to prioritize the participation of a diverse range of entities, such as municipalities, local governments, regions, provinces, etc..

Expansion of the OGP Local Program

The OGP Local program aims to harness the innovation and momentum demonstrated by local governments and civil society partners across the world. OGP is a platform for these governments and civil society to come together to make their governments more open, inclusive and responsive, modeling the values and principles of the Open Government Declaration and processes.

As a first phase of the program's expansion, the Support Unit launched a call for expressions of interest in early 2018 to bring on board five additional participants to join the original 15 pioneers. Another expansion of 56 new jurisdictions took place in 2020. In 2022, 30 more local governments joined OGP Local. **Among them is the Municipality of Athens, the first and only Municipality in Greece that becomes part of OGP Local.**

In summary

It is a global initiative of local governments and civil society that aims to improve the quality of governance by increasing its openness. The basic modus operandi of OGP Local is for local governments to commit themselves to specific open government measures they intend to take. In particular, the measures aim to strengthen transparency, participation, accountability, emancipation of citizens, the fight against corruption and the use of technological measures, with the ultimate goal of improving governance and the citizens' quality of life.

Joining OGP Local

To join OGP Local, local governments commit to upholding the principles of open and transparent government by endorsing the Open Government Declaration. Members must meet the Eligibility Criteria and pass the OGP Values Check. Prior to submitting the first action plan, OGP members should identify responsible government departments and engage with civil society toward a clear and open process of participation.

The application process is broken in two parts:

Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Government and non-government stakeholders must file a joint expression of interest indicating reasons for interest in the program, track record, capacity and resources available for implementation, what they would like to get out of participation in OGP, and term limit of the current administration.

Full Application

The full application includes a letter from the Head of the Local Government (or level equivalent to Ministerial level) supporting the application, committing to meeting OGP values and support participation of their jurisdiction in the local program; thematic policy areas they wish to advance through their participation; details of how they could help spread the practice of open local government amongst other locals in their jurisdictions; thematic policy areas where they can contribute good practices and lessons learned for other members of the cohort.

Letter of support by the Mayor of Athens



CITY OF ATHENS

Athens, 26/01/2024

Government Letter of Support: Call for new members to OGP Local 2023

The City of Athens is pleased to submit an application to join OGP Local as part of our continued commitment to advancing the principles of access to information, public participation and public accountability in the way our administration carries out its mandate. By joining OGP Local, we endorse the Open Government Declaration and commit to upholding the principles within it.

The City of Athens is the largest municipality in Greece, with a population above 600.000, and the most historical capital of Europe, with its history spanning more than 6.000 years. Our City has become synonymous with the birth of democracy. Starting from that, we are committed to transforming our city to the one required by the 21st century standard of openness and citizen participation.

We acknowledge that, as a member of OGP Local, we are embarking on a journey of collaboration, learning and action, and commit to working together as partners with non-governmental stakeholders to deliver an open government action plan in 2024 and implement its commitments. In addition, we embed the values of open government in our OGP local process and ensure it is transparent, participatory and accountable.

We are committed to actively engaging our citizens both on the ground as well as by using the tools modern technologies offer us. Various organizations have already expressed their interest to participate in this journey for our city, such as the Open Technologies Alliance (GFOSS), VouliWatch, and Place Identity Clusters. In collaboration with them our City is planning to increase citizens' access to relevant data, to increase transparency and online engagement, and to bring them physically together in order to co-design our policies.

We expect that by joining OGP Local, we become a member of a global community of government and civil society who strive to innovate, catalyze progress and promote learning within and across jurisdictions. This global community is strengthened by the actions of its members, hence, we pledge to be an active member of this global community, leading by example and supporting other members with peer exchanges and engaging at the local, national and international level to promote the values of open government.

If given the opportunity to become a member of OGP Local in the 2023 call, the Deputy Mayor's office of Education, Digital Governance and Lifelong Learning, led by Panagiotis Kranidiotis will be responsible for leading locally the OGP Local process and liaising with the OGP Support Unit. In addition, we commit to making available the necessary human, financial and technical resources to co-create, implement and learn from ambitious commitments within the action plan.

Haris Doukas, Mayor of Athens

Letter of support by the President of GFOSS



Dear OGP Local Selection Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Open Technologies Alliance (GFOSS), a non for profit organization dedicated to promoting Open Technologies, Standards, and Processes in the public sector, education, and business in Greece. We are immensely supportive of the City of Athens' application to join the Open Government Partnership Local (OGP Local).

The newly elected administration of the Municipality of Athens has demonstrated a clear commitment to open governance, transparency, and citizen engagement. GFOSS, with its expertise in open technologies, is eager to actively introduce the open source perspective to a city of Athens' action plan for public participation, transparency, and sustainable development. We firmly believe that the partnership between the Municipality of Athens and GFOSS, in conjunction with OGP Local, will significantly enhance not only the technological modernization of the city of Athens but also its digital sovereignty while respecting democratic values and social and environmental sustainability.

We hereby extend our full support to the City of Athens' application to join OGP Local and look forward to a fruitful collaboration in making Athens a model city for open government.

Sincerely,

Chair of Board GFOSS

Professor Ioannis Stamelos

Open Government Declaration

To join OGP, governments have to commit to uphold the principles of open and transparent government by endorsing the Open Government Declaration (below). Through endorsing this Declaration, countries commit to “foster a global culture of open government that empowers and delivers for citizens, and advances the ideals of open and participatory 21st century government.”

The Declaration has been endorsed by OGP member countries. An eligible government wishing to join OGP should endorse the Declaration in its Letter of Intent.

OPEN GOVERNMENT DECLARATION

September 2011

As members of the Open Government Partnership, committed to the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention against Corruption, and other applicable international instruments related to human rights and good governance:

We acknowledge that people all around the world are demanding more openness in government. They are calling for greater civic participation in public affairs, and seeking ways to make their governments more transparent, responsive, accountable, and effective.

We recognize that countries are at different stages in their efforts to promote openness in government, and that each of us pursues an approach consistent with our national priorities and circumstances and the aspirations of our citizens.

We accept responsibility for seizing this moment to strengthen our commitments to promote transparency, fight corruption, empower citizens, and harness the power of new technologies to make government more effective and accountable.

We uphold the value of openness in our engagement with citizens to improve services, manage public resources, promote innovation, and create safer communities. We embrace principles of transparency and open government with a view toward achieving greater prosperity, well-being, and human dignity in our own countries and in an increasingly interconnected world.

Together, we declare our commitment to:

Increase the availability of information about governmental activities.

Governments collect and hold information on behalf of people, and citizens have a right to seek information about governmental activities. We commit to promoting increased access to information and disclosure about governmental activities at every level of government. We commit to increasing our efforts to systematically collect and publish data on government spending and performance for essential public services and activities. We commit to proactively provide high-value information, including raw data, in a timely manner, in formats that the public can easily locate, understand and use, and in formats that facilitate reuse. We commit to providing access to effective remedies when information or the corresponding records are improperly withheld, including through effective oversight of the recourse process. We recognize the importance of open standards to promote civil society access to public data, as well as to facilitate the interoperability of government information systems. We commit to seeking feedback from the public to identify the information of greatest value to them, and pledge to take such feedback into account to the maximum extent possible.

Support civic participation.

We value public participation of all people, equally and without discrimination, in decision making and policy formulation. Public engagement, including the full participation of women, increases the effectiveness of governments, which benefit from people's knowledge, ideas and ability to provide oversight. We commit to making policy formulation and decision making more transparent, creating and using channels to solicit public feedback, and deepening public participation in developing, monitoring and evaluating government activities.

We commit to protecting the ability of not-for-profit and civil society organizations to operate in ways consistent with our commitment to freedom of expression, association, and opinion. We commit to creating mechanisms to enable greater collaboration between governments and civil society organizations and businesses.

Implement the highest standards of professional integrity throughout our administrations.

Accountable government requires high ethical standards and codes of conduct for public officials. We commit to having robust anti-corruption policies, mechanisms and practices, ensuring transparency in the management of public finances and government purchasing, and strengthening the rule of law. We commit to maintaining or establishing a legal framework to make public information on the income and assets of national, high ranking public officials. We commit to enacting and implementing rules that protect whistleblowers. We commit to making information regarding the activities and effectiveness of our anticorruption prevention and enforcement bodies, as well as the procedures for recourse to such bodies, available to the public, respecting the confidentiality of specific law enforcement information. We commit to increasing deterrents against bribery and other forms of corruption in the public and private sectors, as well as to sharing information and expertise.

Increase access to new technologies for openness and accountability.

New technologies offer opportunities for information sharing, public participation, and collaboration. We intend to harness these technologies to make more information public in ways that enable people to both understand what their governments do and to influence decisions. We commit to developing accessible and secure online spaces as platforms for delivering services, engaging the public, and sharing information and ideas. We recognize that equitable and affordable access to technology is a challenge, and commit to seeking increased online and mobile connectivity, while also identifying and promoting the use of alternative mechanisms for civic engagement. We commit to engaging civil society and the business community to identify effective practices and innovative approaches for leveraging new technologies to empower people and promote transparency in government. We also recognize that increasing access to technology entails supporting the ability of

governments and citizens to use it. We commit to supporting and developing the use of technological innovations by government employees and citizens alike. We also understand that technology is a complement, not a substitute, for clear, useable, and useful information.

We acknowledge that open government is a process that requires ongoing and sustained commitment. We commit to reporting publicly on actions undertaken to realize these principles, to consulting with the public on their implementation, and to updating our commitments in light of new challenges and opportunities.

We pledge to lead by example and contribute to advancing open government in other countries by sharing best practices and expertise and by undertaking the commitments expressed in this declaration on a non-binding, voluntary basis. Our goal is to foster innovation and spur progress, and not to define standards to be used as a precondition for cooperation or assistance or to rank countries. We stress the importance to the promotion of openness of a comprehensive approach and the availability of technical assistance to support capacity- and institution-building.

We commit to espouse these principles in our international engagement, and work to foster a global culture of open government that empowers and delivers for citizens, and advances the ideals of open and participatory 21st century government.

Action Plan Cycle

Action plans are at the core of participation in OGP Local. They are created by combining the forces of the City and civil society, working together to define ambitious commitments across a range of issues.

Members are considered to be officially participating in OGP Local once they have begun to consult with civil society organizations to develop an action plan.

Step 1: Build a Team & Select a Forum

1.1 Build a Team

The goal is to assemble a strong team at the beginning of the co-creation process with the core competencies to coordinate and drive the action plan, independent of the commitments.

1.2 Select a Forum

The goal is to identify an existing or new forum to enable regular multi-stakeholder participation in the co-creation and implementation of the action plan. Forum is a space for participation in the development, implementation and review of the action plan that brings together public officials and non-governmental stakeholders.

1.3 Select a Monitoring Body

The Monitoring Body is a person or group of people or an organization, responsible for promoting learning and impact by independently evaluating and assessing the co-creation process and the results achieved from the implementation of the commitments. They are responsible for collecting evidence, assessing processes and results, and submitting reports.

Step 2: Develop a Roadmap

The goal is to determine the steps, timeline, and stakeholders needed to execute your action plan.

What is and what is not a roadmap?

- ✓ A roadmap is a high-level plan that outlines an overarching objective and the major steps to achieve it.
- ✓ It is a communication tool for conveying a project's strategy, facilitating team coordination, and garnering stakeholders' approval.
- ✓ It is flexible and can be modified to ensure the delivery of the action plan.
- ✗ It is not a list of tasks since it provides an overall vision of steps, responsibilities, and timelines.
- ✗ It is not a project management tracker, which defines tasks and associated attributes by summarizing the core efforts needed for planned results.

Step 3: Raise Awareness

The goal is to share what is open government, OGP Local, and engage stakeholders in the action plan process.

Raising awareness among local government peers, citizens and non-governmental stakeholders is imperative for the action plan process.

Step 4: Identify and Prioritize Opportunity Areas

The goal is to identify a broad set of problems that can be addressed with open government approaches as part of the City's action plan.

Starting by identifying problems that need to be addressed can help to ensure that the action plan is relevant and beneficial to the lives of citizens.

The next step is a prioritization of the problems that the City will focus on in the context of the action plan. Prioritization of issues to be addressed may be necessary as each OGP Local member can only have up to 5 commitments at a time in their action plan.

Step 5: Identify Solutions

The goal is to select the open government actions and milestones that will contribute to the problem's solution. These solutions need to be specific and measurable, while they also need to be grounded in the principles of open governance, i.e. transparency, public accountability and civic participation.

Step 6: Build a Commitment Support Network

The goal is to engage the actors, inside and outside the City's administration, that will support the adoption and implementation of a commitment, by seeking Collaboration between actors from different backgrounds and communities and tapping into their shared interests, experiences, goals or values.

Step 7: Draft Commitments and Strategic Vision

The goal is to write an action plan that brings together the commitments and aligns them under one cohesive vision.

Strategic Vision allows to develop a cohesive narrative which will:

- Provide a space to review engagement of the co-creation process.
- Establish key actions for monitoring of commitments during implementation.

Step 8: Validate and Approve

The goal is to secure the endorsement of the action plan from the key stakeholders and seek internal approval if necessary.

Step 9: Deliver and Implement

The goal is to maintain momentum and keep commitments on track by engaging stakeholders during implementation, monitoring progress, and sharing success stories.

This step includes:

- Working with stakeholders within and outside the City's jurisdiction to support implementation and visibility of commitments.

- Understanding progress on commitment implementation and updating milestones on the commitment page.
- Informing the wider community about experiences, lessons, and achievements of this process.

Step 10: Learn

This step involves designing the organisation’s “learning journey” with the Monitoring Body, gathering the necessary information and submitting the required assessments.

That includes:

- The learning objectives and accountability requirements are stated, how they will be achieved and who will participate.
- The way in which data will be collected, stored, analyzed and shared with relevant stakeholders is defined.
- The organization works with the Monitoring Body to ensure a timely and valuable assessment of implemented commitment.

The ultimate goal is to work with the monitoring body to extract lessons from the process of co-creating and implementing the action plan.

In Summary

- Action plans are at the core of participation in OGP Local.
- Governments and civil society co-create OGP Local action plans.
- Action plans have concrete open gov commitments or reforms across a range of issues.

Milestones of the City of Athens' participation in OGP Local

The City of Athens becomes **the first and only Municipality in Greece** to join **OGP Local**

April 2024

November 2024

The **OGP Local Team** was established by mayor's decision

The City of Athens participated in the 3rd **WeOpenGov** Forum, where it was awarded the **open government award**

March 5, 2025

April-May 2025

Consultation on the Municipality's action plan for OGP Local

Thematic workshops of the City of Athens for the **co-creation** of the **action plan**

May 17-18, 2025

July 2025

Validation and submission of the Municipality's action plan

The OGP Local Team

The Working Group responsible for the design and implementation of the action plan in the context of the participation of the Municipality of Athens in OGP Local, was established with the Mayor's Decision No. 294255/18-11-2024 (ADA: 9ΦΑΡ006Μ-ΞΕΤ), amended by the Mayor's Decisions No. 28072/30-01-2025 (ADA: 6Ν49Ω6Μ-Ρ90) and No. 155212/16-06-2025 (ADA: Ψ0ΧΗΩ6Μ-Η3Θ), and consists of the following members:

1. **Panagiotis – Paris Charlaftis**, Municipal Councilor and Deputy Mayor for Education, Digital Governance, Property and Construction
2. **Nikolaos Chrysogelos**, Municipal Councilor and Deputy Mayor for Climate Governance and Social Economy
3. **Eleni Zontirou**, Municipal Councilor and President of City of Athens Culture, Sports and Youth Organization (OPANDA)
4. **Elena Mantzavinou**, Municipal Councilor and Appointed Accessibility Advisor
5. **Vasiliki Barka**, Municipal Councilor and Appointed Advisor for Municipal Decentralization and Community Empowerment
6. **Nikolaos Laliotis**, Municipal Councilor and President of "Athina 984", Appointed Volunteering and Civil Society Advisor
7. **Anastasia Douroumi**, Head of Strategic Planning & Programming Department, Division of Strategic Planning, Resilience, Innovation and Documentation
8. **Eleni Melissanidou**, Employee of Strategic Planning & Programming Department, Division of Strategic Planning, Resilience, Innovation and Documentation
9. **Vasiliki Pitta**, Head of Innovation and Extroversion Department, Division of Strategic Planning, Resilience, Innovation and Documentation

10. **Elisavet Bargianni**, Employee of Resilience & Sustainability Department, Division of Strategic Planning, Resilience, Innovation and Documentation
11. **Emmanouil Frangoulopoulos**, Employee of Resilience & Sustainability Department, Division of Strategic Planning, Resilience, Innovation and Documentation
12. **Areti Samara**, Employee of Geospatial Data Management Department, Division of Strategic Planning, Resilience, Innovation and Documentation
13. **Ioannis Fytros**, Employee of Technology, IT and Communications Department, Division of Strategic Planning, Resilience, Innovation and Documentation
14. **Alexandros Melidis**, General Director of Open Technologies Alliance (GFOSS)
15. **Stefanos Loukopoulos**, Director of Vouliwatch and Local Watch Athens
16. **Angelos Kaskanis**, Executive Director, Transparency International Greece
17. **Iliia Christantoni**, Head of EU Projects Sector at DAEM SA
18. **Angelos Tzotsos**, President of the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGEO)
19. **Maria Karamitsopoulou**, Associate of the Civil Society Office
20. **Giota Marantou**, Associate of the Civil Society Office
21. **Lazaros Petromelidis**, Mayor's Office Associate for Housing Policies
22. **Sofia Makedou**, Energy Poverty Office Executive
23. **Agathi Zarakovitou**, Employee of Press Office, Independent Department of International Cooperation & Public Relations

Panagiotis-Paris Charlaftis is appointed **Chairman** of the Working Group.

Ioannis Fytros is appointed as the Municipality of Athens' **Point of Contact** in OGP Local and **Coordinator** of the Working Group.

The committee will meet upon invitation by the Coordinator at a place and time specified in the invitation.

Working Group's Responsibilities

According to the Mayor's Decision No. 294255/18-11-2024, the Working Group for OGP Local has the following responsibilities:

- To establish a multi-stakeholder forum, supported by interested parties from Civil Society, which will participate in the development of the action plan and the evaluation of its progress and results.
- To hold meetings with civil society and other stakeholders during the co-creation process of the action plan and throughout its implementation phase.
- To create and continuously maintain an up-to-date website dedicated to the municipality's participation in OGP Local, where information about all aspects of the municipality's processes within the framework of its OGP Local participation will be published.
- To document, collect, and publish information regarding the process, documents, and outcomes of the OGP Local action plan.
- To share information about OGP Local with stakeholders in advance to facilitate informed and prepared participation in all stages of the process.
- To ensure that all interested Civil Society members can contribute to the action plan and observe or access documentation of relevant decisions.
- To conduct, in collaboration with all involved entities and departments - particularly the Independent Department of International Cooperation & Public Relations and the Citizen Communication and Information Office - awareness and information activities for Civil Society and stakeholders to inform them about the municipality's processes in the context of its participation in OGP Local.
- To engage in direct communication with stakeholders to answer questions about the action plan processes, especially during periods of intense activity related to OGP Local processes.

- To proactively communicate and report its decisions, activities, and results to the Municipal Council and any other interested party in the municipality and Civil Society. This includes detailing how the municipality provided feedback during the co-creation process, including a summary of the main categories or topics proposed for inclusion, modification, or rejection. Furthermore, the Working Group should respond to comments submitted during the evaluation of commitments.
- To conduct a continuous and constructive dialogue in which Civil Society contributes to identifying priorities, setting the agenda, and developing commitments.

As part of the City of Athens' participation in OGP Local, the appointment of a Municipal Councilor authorized by the Mayor to oversee the municipality's participation in OGP Local is required. This person will act as the Chair of the Working Group. Additionally, a municipal employee will be designated to coordinate the municipality's daily activities related to OGP Local, acting as the Coordinator of the Working Group. OGP refers to the individual responsible for coordinating the municipality's participation in OGP Local as the Point of Contact (POC). The POC's role is critical and multidimensional, as they are at the forefront of efforts for transparency, participation, and accountability for a municipality involved in OGP Local.

Person of Contact's (POC) Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Point of Contact (POC) for the Municipality of Athens with OGP Local include:

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage non-governmental stakeholders on an ongoing basis. This engagement includes ensuring the participation of non-governmental stakeholders during the different stages of the action plan cycle, starting with the development of the action plan up to its final assessment

- **Municipal Coordination:** Collaborating with other municipal departments or entities involved in relevant issues that emerge during the co-creation and implementation process.
- **Liaise with the OGP Support Unit:** Liaise with the OGP Local team to access the support offers which includes: an orientation program, connecting to peers and mentors, knowledge brokering on themes and issues, identifying international best practices for potential local application, and facilitating the participation of local stakeholders in OGP regional and global events.
- **Facilitating Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning:** Carry out the mandated online tracking of progress and collect, publish, and document evidence (documents, recordings, images) to meet minimum requirements during the municipality's evaluation process.
- **Participation in Peer Exchange Activities:** Participation includes either providing support to colleagues in peer jurisdictions, including connecting to the relevant stakeholder within the jurisdiction or requesting opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange with peer jurisdictions or partner organizations.
- **Strengthening National/Local Integration:** The point of contact will coordinate the dialogue with their counterparts at the national level, this will provide opportunities for support, mentorship, learning exercises and events.
- **Participation in OGP Global and relevant Regional Events:** Informing senior local government officials about OGP events and activities, facilitating their participation and encouraging high-level attendance at regional events and global summits. This also includes supporting the participation of non-governmental stakeholders from the local jurisdiction in OGP events.

Monitoring Body Selection

Following consultations within the OGP Local Team - comprising elected officials, municipal staff, and civil society representatives - the **Open Knowledge Foundation Greece** was selected to serve as the Monitoring Body for the Municipality of Athens's participation in OGP Local.

What is the Monitoring Body?

The Monitoring Body can be an individual, a group of people, or an organization responsible for promoting learning and impact through the independent evaluation of the co-creation process and the outcomes achieved from implementing commitments. It is tasked with gathering evidence, assessing processes and results, and reporting. The Monitoring Body plays a crucial role in a municipality's action plan process by providing insights, accountability, and credibility. Therefore, it must be a trusted and independent entity.

Open Knowledge Foundation Greece is the Greek branch of the international non-profit organization Open Knowledge Foundation, active in Greece since 2012. Its main mission is to promote open knowledge, open data and transparency through actions, events, educational initiatives and collaborations with public bodies. Through a national and international network, it aims to empower Greek society through the openness of data and knowledge.



Open Knowledge
Greece

The Points of Contact of the Open Knowledge Foundation Greece for the role of the monitoring body in the context of the participation of the Municipality of Athens in OGP Local are Professors Charalambos Bratsas and Vasilis Veskoukis.

Charalambos Bratsas is an Assistant Professor at the International Hellenic University and founder of the Greek branch of the Open Knowledge Foundation. He is actively involved in research on intelligent software systems, open data, participatory governance and smart cities. He has been a scientific collaborator in laboratories at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, co-organizer of the first open data hackathons with the Municipality of Thessaloniki and member of the Municipality's digital strategy team. He was

responsible for three civil society commitments in Greece's 3rd National Action Plan for Open Government Partnership. He has served as the European Union representative on the platform on Open Public Sector Data in Greece. He has participated as a scientific officer in many European Commission research programs.

Vasilis Veskoukis is an Electrical and Computer Engineer, Professor at the School of Surveying Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens, with a specialization in Software Technology and Geoinformatics. He has significant experience as an IT strategy consultant and has contributed to research, education and digital transformation projects in the public and private sectors. He served as Vice President of EKXA S.A. (2015–2017) with the subject of national geospatial data. He is a founding member and member of the Board of Directors of the Open Knowledge Foundation Greece and a member of the Hellenic Blockchain Hub. His work focuses on issues of open data, data infrastructure and energy market services, interoperability, information systems quality and architecture of geospatial and blockchain applications. He has been a visiting professor at the Technical University of Zurich (ETH) and the University of Groningen (Netherlands) and has published over 100 scientific papers.

Multistakeholder Forum Selection

Following consultations and a vote by the Working Group - comprising elected officials, municipal staff, and civil society representatives - **WeOpenGov** was selected to serve as the **Multistakeholder Forum** for the Municipality of Athens' participation in OGP Local.

What is a Multistakeholder Forum?

Multistakeholder Forum is a participatory space for the development, implementation, and review of the action plan, bringing together public officials and non-governmental stakeholders. It serves as a permanent advisory body that assists throughout the action plan cycle. While the structure of each forum may vary based on local contexts and conditions, all forums are responsible for ensuring that the OGP Local process remains open and inclusive of all stakeholders. Depending on the commitments outlined in the action plan, additional entities or groups may be selected to serve as the Multistakeholder Forum in the future.

What is WeOpenGov?

WeOpenGov: Civil Society – Public Sector Network for Open Governance is implemented under the Active Citizens Fund program, led by Transparency International Greece, in partnership with the National Infrastructures for Research and Technology – GRNET S.A., and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens / Digital Media for Participation Research Group (NKUAdmPart).

The WeOpenGov project develops a fully functional multistakeholder network that will co-design actions based on the principles and practices of Open Governance. It aims to cultivate a culture of multistakeholderism among all involved parties, which is essential for the effective implementation of National Action Plans for Open Government and any other action plans (e.g., National Anti-Corruption Action Plan). Additionally, it aspires to contribute multidimensionally and effectively to the national effort for Open Governance, Transparency, and Integrity.

It also addresses needs such as:

- Continuous coordination among Civil Society Organizations on public participation, transparency, and accountability issues.
- Establishing stable contact points between the Government and Civil Society on Open Governance matters.
- Providing policymakers and public administration officials with knowledge and education on the value of civil society participation throughout the public policy design and implementation cycle, and skills for implementing public policies collaboratively.
- Raising awareness within Civil Society about Open Governance.



Consultation on the Municipality's action plan for OGP Local

The public consultation for the first **Action Plan 2025-2028** of the Municipality of Athens within the framework of the OGP Local initiative began on **April 9, 2025** and ended on **May 11, 2025**. The aim was to collect proposals, comments and commitments from citizens and institutions for four thematic areas defined by the OGP Local Team, leveraging participatory governance and the principle of transparency.

Ways of Participation

Citizens and stakeholders could participate in the consultation electronically through the special consultation platform of the Municipality of Athens.

Participation could be carried out in two ways:

1. **Short submission of opinions via Pol.is:** For each thematic unit, a special vote was set up in the participatory analysis tool Pol.is – an innovative digital platform that allows the collection and grouping of opinions through short statements (poll statements). Participants could declare agreement, disagreement or neutrality with each proposal, add their own, and dynamically see how common positions are recorded between groups of citizens. The use of Pol.is contributed to the mapping of trends and convergences in public opinion.

2. **Detailed proposal via comment on the consultation page:** Participants had the opportunity to submit an extensive comment or detailed proposal in the corresponding thematic section of the consultation, describing in their own words ideas, observations or good practices.

Each citizen could participate in one or more thematic sections, without limitation on the number of interventions.

Thematic Sections:

1. **Universal Accessibility at physical and digital level**
2. **Energy Democracy & addressing energy vulnerability**
3. **Housing & Sustainable Development**
4. **Transparency & Accountability / Participatory Budgeting**

Participants had the opportunity to submit proposals in one or more thematic areas.

The consultation was the first, fundamental stage of a broader cycle of participation that continued with **thematic workshops** held in Serafio on the weekend of May 17 and 18, 2025. In these, citizens, municipal officials and representatives of organizations analyzed and prioritized both the proposals that had been submitted to the public consultation and new proposals, jointly shaping the basis for the final Action Plan of the Municipality of Athens.

The consultation process had multiple significance: It strengthened the institutional accountability of the municipal authority, gave citizens and collectives a platform to formulate documented positions, highlighted the value of digital tools in enhancing democratic participation and was a substantial step towards a more transparent, open and inclusive Municipality.

Thematic workshops for the Action Plan

With the central goal of co-creating the first Action Plan of the Municipality of Athens within the framework of OGP Local, the Municipality's Working Group for OGP Local organized four thematic workshops that took place on 17 and 18 May 2025 in Serafio. Each workshop was a forum for open consultation, where citizens, representatives of institutions, elected officials and executives of the Municipality met around four themes:

- **Energy Democracy and Vulnerability**
- **Housing and Sustainable Development**
- **Universal Accessibility at Physical and Digital Level**
- **Transparency, Accountability and Participatory Budgeting**

Through a common methodology of recording the proposals in a prioritization chart, grouping similar ideas and selecting the top commitments through dot voting, the thematic workshops - under the coordination of Mr. Alexandros Melidis, General Director of the Open Technologies Organization (GFOSS) - highlighted a series of particularly interesting proposals.

The minutes of the thematic workshops were subsequently published, while this effort continued with the collection, processing and evaluation of all submitted ideas for the formation of a coherent **Action Plan**.

The minutes of the thematic workshops are available at the following link (in Greek): <https://ogp.cityofathens.gr/nea-ekdiloseis/praktika-thematikon-ergastirion-ogp-local>

The thematic workshops were broadcast via Live Streaming on the Municipality of Athens' YouTube channel, allowing for remote participation by citizens: <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofathens.youtube>

Strategic Vision

This section of the action plan defines the Strategic Vision that will guide the actions of the Municipality throughout the co-creation and implementation of the action plan. It is based on political principles, seeks to achieve long-term results while also identifying medium-term results. The structure of the content of the Strategic Vision is predetermined by a relevant OGP Local template, which, with targeted questions, delimits the subject matter and scope of the Strategic Vision.

Duration

End of term of the current municipal authority: 12/2028

End of the action plan period: 06/2028

Foreword

In an era where democratic values are tested and trust in institutions is strained, the Municipality of Athens embraces a bold, forward-looking vision: to institutionalize transparency, participation, accountability, and inclusion as fundamental pillars of local governance. Guided by the core principles of the Open Government Partnership and the national WeOpenGov platform, our commitment is to bring decision-making closer to citizens and to embed integrity into the DNA of public administration.

To translate this vision into measurable impact, the Municipality has formed a dedicated multi-stakeholder working group responsible for the design and implementation of the Local Open Government Action Plan. This group includes both municipal officials and representatives from civil society organizations with deep expertise in transparency, political integrity, open data, and inclusive governance. Together, they co-create priorities that reflect the real needs of the community—priorities rooted not in political expediency, but in public value.

Our medium-term goal is to deliver tangible, citizen-centered reforms: participatory budgeting, accessible and actionable open data portals, and new tools for civic engagement. Over the longer term, we aspire to build a resilient

city where informed citizens are active partners in policymaking, and where government is a platform—not a gatekeeper—for innovation, dialogue, and trust.

This Strategic Vision sets the tone for what we believe is possible when public purpose is shared. It is not merely a plan—it is a promise: that Athens will lead by example, and that open government will not be an ideal we pursue, but a standard we uphold.

Dr. Angelos Kaskanis, Executive Director of Transparency International Greece, Program Manager of WeOpenGov (Civil Society - Public Bodies Network for Open Government, Multi-Stakeholder Forum of the Municipality of Athens in the context of its participation in OGP Local)

Challenges, opportunities and strategic vision in open government

What is the long-term vision for open government in your context and jurisdiction?

The long-term vision of the Municipality of Athens for open government is to establish a participatory, transparent and inclusive city, where citizens have a meaningful role in the design and monitoring of policies that affect them. By strengthening transparency and accountability, equal access to information and digital services and the promotion of socially just solutions to issues such as energy poverty and housing, the Municipality seeks to establish a stable institutional framework for open government. The aim is to co-shape policies with the participation of civil society, empower vulnerable groups and strengthen trust between administration and citizens.

What are the achievements in open government to date (for example, recent open government reforms)?

A typical example of the implementation of open governance in the Municipality of Athens is the GIS geospatial data platform (gis.cityofathens.gr), which collects and makes publicly accessible data concerning the spatial organization and functions of the city, such as greenery, public infrastructure, use zones and points of interest. Through GIS, citizens, researchers and

institutions can be informed transparently, monitor the progress of interventions and use the data for studies or innovative applications. The operation of the platform has already received distinction at the national level and is recognized as a good practice in the field of open governance. In the context of the Municipality's strategic vision for OGP Local, GIS constitutes a foundation of expertise and maturity in the provision of open data, enhancing transparency and participation with practical and measurable means.

What are the current challenges/areas for improvement in open government that the jurisdiction wishes to tackle?

The Municipality of Athens faces challenges related to information fragmentation, limited accessibility to physical and digital services, and the difficulty of institutionally integrating citizen participation in decision-making. Public information processes are not centrally integrated and often lack transparency and interoperability. The representation of vulnerable groups remains insufficient, while the active participation of young people is institutionally non-existent. At the same time, the lack of reliable data limits the effectiveness of policies in critical areas, such as housing and energy poverty. The aim is a coherent, universally accessible and participatory framework that will integrate transparency, social justice and innovation into the functioning of local government.

What are the medium-term open government goals that the government wants to achieve?

In the medium term, the Municipality of Athens seeks to establish a functional open government ecosystem, based on transparency, accountability, universal accessibility and citizen participation. The aim is to create unified digital tools for access to public information, strengthen social cohesion through targeted housing policies and address energy poverty in terms of energy democracy. The Municipality aspires to make the principles of open government an integral element of its daily work, cultivating an administrative culture of transparency, social accountability and equal participation that will empower all citizens, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups.

How does this action plan contribute to achieving the Open Government Strategic Vision?

This Action Plan translates the strategic vision of the Municipality of Athens for open government into specific, implementable interventions that promote transparency, accountability, inclusion and citizen participation. Through the creation of digital tools for accessing public information, strengthening universal accessibility and promoting energy and housing fair solutions, the plan consolidates the principles of the strategic vision in practice. It seeks to empower citizens as equal partners in the governance of the city and to create a stable framework of cooperation between the administration, civil society and local communities, so that open government is not a fragmented practice, but a continuous and cross-sectoral way of exercising policy.

How does the open government strategic vision contribute to the accomplishment of the current administration's overall policy goals?

The strategic vision for open government of the Municipality of Athens is fully aligned with the main axes of the municipal authority's political program: a fair, humane, sustainable and democratic city. Open government operates as a cross-cutting priority that enhances social justice, participation and transparency in all areas of municipal policy – from accessibility and housing to climate transition and digital innovation. At the same time, the strategic vision for open government is expected to operate complementary to the Municipality's new Operational Plan, which is under formulation and will constitute a key tool for planning municipal actions, taking into account the results of the public consultation and thematic workshops organized in the context of co-creation of the Municipality's action plan for OGP Local.

Engagement and Coordination in the Open Government Strategic Vision and OGP Action Plan

What kind of institutional arrangements are in place to coordinate between government agencies and departments to implement the OGP action plan?

The implementation of the OGP Local Action Plan is coordinated by the OGP Local Team, which has been established by a Mayoral Decision and functions as the main governance mechanism of the initiative. The Group is composed of elected members of the municipal authority, executives from different departments of the Municipality and its legal entities, as well as representatives of civil society, ensuring cross-sectoral representation and institutional continuity. It follows a horizontal mode of operation, facilitating coordination, exchange of know-how and avoiding administrative isolation. In addition, cooperation is sought with other existing groups, such as the Accessibility and Inclusion Working Group, whose chair is a municipal councilor in charge and at the same time a member of the OGP Local Team, strengthening the interconnection and internal coherence of open government policies.

What kind of spaces have you used or created to enable the collaboration between government and civil society in the co-creation and implementation of this action plan? Mention both offline and online spaces.

The Municipality of Athens utilized both online and in-person collaboration actions to co-create its Action Plan within the framework of OGP Local. Online, a public electronic consultation was held (on the platform diavoulefsi.cityofathens.gr/ogp-local), where citizens had the opportunity for one month to submit suggestions and comments on the commitments. Offline, four thematic workshops were organized on 17–18 May 2025 in Serafio, with the participation of citizens, local bodies, elected officials and municipal executives, where commitments in areas such as energy democracy, housing, accessibility and transparency were analyzed and enriched. In addition, the OGP Local Team functioned as a permanent “meeting space” – with regular

meetings (over 13) and cooperation with other thematic groups and bodies, ensuring continuity in the participatory process. Overall, the combined use of online consultations, thematic workshops and continuous activity of the Working Group offered a comprehensive and multidimensional framework for cooperation between the Municipality and civil society.

What measures did you take to ensure diversity of representation (including vulnerable or marginalized populations) in these spaces?

To ensure diversity and inclusion, the Municipality of Athens took a series of measures to enhance the participation of vulnerable or marginalized groups in co-creation spaces. In thematic workshops, the possibility of online participation via live streaming was provided, while in some of the workshops there was simultaneous interpretation in sign language, facilitating access for people with hearing impairments. At the same time, thematic targeting was sought in areas of social priority (such as accessibility, energy poverty, housing), with an active invitation to bodies representing vulnerable groups, such as E.S.A.meA. (National Confederation of People with Disabilities), the Greek Network for the Right to Housing and Residence, etc. Furthermore, the cross-sectoral composition of the OGP Local Team, with the participation of elected officials and bodies with experience in inclusion issues, constituted an additional guarantee for the formation of an open and inclusive framework for participation.

Who participated in these spaces? Mention the type of different groups that participated in the co-creation process.

The co-creation spaces were attended by municipal employees, elected members of the municipal authority and a wide range of civil society representatives. The thematic workshops were attended by organizations active in fields such as transparency and accountability, digital and social rights, open technology, accessibility, energy poverty, social housing and youth participation. Indicatively, participating bodies included Homo Digitalis (digital rights), the Institute for Regulatory Policy Research (institutional transparency), members of energy communities (energy vulnerability), social bodies such as

the United Initiative against Auctions as well as members of the academic and research community. The participation of different types of organizations, from grassroots collectives to research institutes, allowed for the integration of diverse experiences and needs in the formulation of the Action Plan.

How many groups participated in these spaces?

35

How many meetings were held in the co-creation process?

20

How will government and non-governmental stakeholders continue to collaborate through the implementation of the action plan?

The collaboration between municipal services and civil society stakeholders will continue throughout the implementation of the Action Plan through the OGP Local Team, which will remain active with regular meetings, coordination and oversight roles. The Team will function as a common space for consultation and feedback, monitoring the progress of commitments, resolving problems and proposing improvements. At the same time, thematic collaborations will be activated depending on the subject of each commitment, with the participation of the respective stakeholders (e.g. groups on accessibility or housing issues). Both in-person and digital tools (e.g. dashboards, participation platforms) will be utilized, ensuring transparency, continuous dialogue and accountability, with the aim of co-creation not stopping at the design stage, but being integrated into implementation.

Monitoring of the OGP Action Plan

Please describe what is the Independent Monitoring Body you have identified for this plan?

The Independent Monitoring Body for the City of Athens' Action Plan under the OGP Local program is the Open Knowledge Foundation Greece (OKF Greece), the Greek chapter of the international non-profit organization Open Knowledge Foundation, active in Greece since 2012. It promotes open knowledge, open data, and transparency through actions, education, and partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders. For its role as Monitoring Body, OKF Greece is represented by Charalampos Bratsas, Assistant Professor at the International Hellenic University, founder and president of OKF Greece, and Vasilis Veskoukis, Professor at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), expert in geoinformatics and digital infrastructures, and founding member of OKF Greece. Both representatives have extensive experience in research projects as well as in open data, interoperability, and participatory governance initiatives and strategies in Greece and Europe.

What types of activities will you have in place to discuss progress on commitments with stakeholders?

To monitor the progress of the commitments, the Municipality of Athens will organize periodic meetings of the OGP Local Team with the participation of all stakeholders, during which the implementation will be assessed, challenges will be identified and corrective interventions will be proposed. In parallel, thematic meetings will be implemented in the form of workshops or accountability meetings, where progress indicators will be presented and feedback will be collected from the stakeholders and civil society. The aim is to create a cycle of continuous consultation around the implementation of the Action Plan. In addition, digital tools (such as dashboards and participatory platforms) will be utilized for open monitoring and recording of progress, so that all stakeholders have an active role not only in the planning, but also in the implementation of the commitments.

How will you regularly check in on progress with implementing agencies?

Progress will be monitored on a regular basis through meetings of the OGP Local Team, which includes executives from the relevant municipal departments and legal entities of the Municipality responsible for the implementation of the commitments. Each department or entity will be asked to present the progress of the relevant actions, highlight any delays or obstacles and contribute to common solutions. In addition, a basic mechanism for recording progress per commitment will be developed, using tools such as digital recording of milestones, implementation indicators and information notes. The OGP Local Team will be responsible for collecting data and regularly updating stakeholders and the OGP Local Athens website, ensuring the horizontal flow of information and timely intervention where required, as well as the public recording of progress to ensure transparency and accountability.

How will you share the results of your monitoring efforts with the public?

The results of the monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan will be made public regularly through the OGP Local Athens website (ogp.cityofathens.gr), which has been designed exclusively for the participation of the Municipality of Athens in OGP Local and is already operational in two languages (Greek and English). It will incorporate open source tools to visualize the progress of each commitment, such as implementation timelines and progress indicators per milestone. At the same time, announcements, newsletters and reporting texts with more details will be posted, where required. It is also proposed to publish articles aimed at raising awareness and activating citizens, as well as to produce research publications that will highlight the challenges and results of the implementation. The aim is to continuously, transparently and accessibly inform citizens in an understandable and documented manner, which encourages accountability and participation at all stages of the implementation.

Endorsement from Non-Governmental Stakeholders

List the non-governmental stakeholders who participated in the co-creation process and endorse this action plan

Name	Title	Organization
Alexandros Melidis	General Director	Open Technologies Alliance (GFOSS)
Angelos Kaskanis	Executive Director	Transparency International Greece
Stefanos Loukopoulos	Director	Vouliwatch

CITY OF ATHENS

ACTION PLAN

2025-2028



Action Plan

Commitments:

- Energy Democracy and Vulnerability
- Open Participatory Housing Matching Platform
- Universal Accessibility and Digital Inclusion
- Transparency & Accountability

Commitment 1: Energy Democracy and Vulnerability

Commitment Description

The Problem

Energy poverty remains one of the most pressing social and environmental problems in Athens, with many citizens unable to heat or cool their homes adequately. The causes are found in the combination of low incomes, high energy costs and a building stock with insufficient energy efficiency (partial or complete lack of thermal insulation, old window frames, etc.). Millions of people across Europe were unable to heat their homes adequately in the winter of 2021-22, when the latest energy crisis began, due to the increase in the prices of natural gas, heating oil and electricity, combined with successive waves of price increases in basic consumer goods. Although there is no common European definition for the phenomenon, the European Union has recognized the criticality of the phenomenon and its negative impacts, which translate into serious health problems, deprivation and social isolation. Many households in Athens face energy poverty due to low income, high energy prices and lower quality housing, resulting in the inability to meet basic energy needs and increased environmental impact.

Status quo

The Municipality of Athens established the Office for Combating Energy Poverty (GAEF) in May 2024. Since its establishment, GAEF has identified ~500 energy-vulnerable households through surveys. The decision of the city council of January 2025 grants a full exemption from municipal fees for energy-vulnerable households. A pilot program for the replacement of electrical appliances is planned for 2026. The current digital platform offers only basic information. Citizens can receive their personalized report for their home and personalized solutions for energy upgrade interventions. Beneficiaries are also provided with an Energy Benefit Card, offering access to privileges and services that contribute to reducing energy costs.

Beneficiaries can also receive information on energy intervention programs, while also receiving advice on how they can improve the thermal comfort of their homes and reduce household energy costs and the cost of their bills. Households that meet the criteria of the National Energy and Climate Plan are exempt from municipal lighting and cleaning fees, reducing their financial burden. Phaethon Energy Community and the Athens Energy Alliance have already been established, for the production of clean energy with a social dimension, while energy interventions in schools and municipal buildings are expected to begin with the aim of reducing energy consumption and their operating costs.

Action

The Municipality of Athens will proceed with the strengthening of the Energy Poverty Office through the development of a single digital platform of the "one-stop shop" type, which will gather self-assessment tools and information on energy saving interventions and participation in energy communities. Financial tools and information actions will be utilized to enhance citizens' access to RES and affordable energy. The creation of the Phaethon Energy Community and the Athens Energy Alliance will be utilized to expand the production of clean energy with a social dimension. The installation of photovoltaics in schools and municipal buildings will also be implemented, with the aim of reducing energy costs and increasing the energy self-sufficiency of public infrastructure.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The commitment will address energy poverty through the implementation of targeted interventions that reduce the number of households in energy poverty and improve energy efficiency in vulnerable housing, leading to lower energy consumption and costs. It will also empower citizens through their active participation in energy communities and decision-making processes, while raising awareness and providing education on energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions.

What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?

The commitment to strengthening energy democracy and addressing energy vulnerability is directly linked to the strategic objective of the Municipality of Athens to ensure equal access to critical services and goods, empowering citizens - especially vulnerable groups - through transparent, participatory and evidence-based interventions. Through the digital “one-stop shop” platform and the interconnection of social and energy policy, the commitment embodies the values of accountability, access to information and citizen participation. It reflects the Municipality’s commitment to transform open governance into a tool for social justice and sustainable local development.

Primary Policy Area

Safety Nets & Economic Inclusion

Right to Information

Primary Sector

Environment & Climate

Public Services (general)

What OGP value is this commitment relevant to?

I) Access to information

The commitment promotes awareness and education about energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, ensuring that citizens - especially vulnerable groups - have access to clear, actionable information about energy saving measures, available support programs, and how to participate in energy communities.

2) Technology and Innovation for Transparency and Accountability

The implementation includes digital tools for energy monitoring, data sharing and public dashboards, while the engagement leverages technology to enhance transparency on energy use, intervention outcomes and resource allocation, supporting informed oversight and citizen trust.

3) Civic Participation

By encouraging citizen participation in energy communities and decision-making processes, engagement promotes meaningful public participation. It empowers individuals and communities to co-create and influence energy-related initiatives, ensuring that solutions are shaped by those directly affected.

Recommended Milestones

<i>Output</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Design of a single service platform	8/2025	12/2025
Launch of a digital one-stop service platform	2/2026	3/2026
Expansion of energy communities with at least 100 active members (citizens and SMEs)	8/2025	08/2027
Installation of photovoltaic systems in at least 30 schools and municipal buildings	5/2026	07/2028

Commitment 2: Open Participatory Housing Matching Platform

Commitment Description

The Problem

The city of Athens is facing a serious housing crisis, as the demand for affordable housing far exceeds the actual supply. At the same time, many apartments (almost 1 in 4 according to the 2021 census) appear empty, while vulnerable groups - such as the “working poor,” refugees, single-parent families, and young workers - have difficulty finding accommodation that meets their income and social criteria. Often, distrust of potential tenants is a significant reason for a house to remain empty, while the positive will of aware owners in many cases remains unknown and untapped. The lack of collected and updated (if possible in real time) data on actual housing needs and available properties makes all efforts to date fragmented and ineffective, preventing the formulation of targeted policies and a direct response to citizens’ needs.

Status quo

The current situation is characterized by the absence of a unified mechanism for recording housing requests and available properties at the local level. Despite individual initiatives by civil society organizations and municipal services, there is no central digital tool that collects reliable data on housing needs and supply, nor an institutionalized mediation relationship between the two parties, a relationship that has been tested with good results for the needs of the “Housing and Work” program. Owners are hesitant to make properties available without guarantees, prices are increasing due to the lack of balancing mechanisms, tenants fear opacity in leases, while the perception of housing as a stock market commodity is gaining ground. The lack of cooperation between the public and private sectors, as well as the fragmented determinations of needs, limit the effectiveness of any effort to address the housing crisis.

Action

The commitment foresees the development of a digital matchmaking platform that will record citizens' housing requests and owners' available housing in an organized manner. Through this, the Municipality will obtain a comprehensive picture of demand and supply, while facilitating the connection of the two sides in cooperation with NGOs and social actors. The primary objectives are to improve transparency, to detect and organize the registration of owners who wish to cooperate with the Municipality of Athens to offer housing, to support the objective of the Municipality of Athens to create a municipally controlled housing stock, to utilize vacant housing units, to expand the cooperation between the Municipality and NGOs on housing issues, to strengthen trust between owners and tenants, and to promote targeted social housing policies. At the same time, the platform will operate under an open data regime, ensuring participatory decision-making and continuous evaluation of the results.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The development of the digital platform will contribute to solving the public problem by unifying and organizing housing demand and supply data, allowing the Municipality to have a clear picture of the exact needs of citizens and available properties in real time. Through matchmaking, waiting times are reduced, transparency in leasing is enhanced and trust between owners and tenants is strengthened. The comprehensive recording allows the design of targeted social housing policies and the optimal utilization of empty apartments, limiting unjustified rent increases and social exclusion. At the same time, the Municipality of Athens is laying the foundations for the creation of a mediator role between owners of apartments that are not being utilized and housing-vulnerable populations, while creating a database of properties that may need renovation interventions, which can be launched through existing financial resources.

What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?

The commitment to develop a participatory housing matching tool is linked to the long-term goal of the Municipality of Athens to combat social inequalities through open, transparent and evidence-based policies. The approach to housing as a social good, which requires the collection, cross-referencing and exploitation of data from different bodies and sources of information, as well as active participation of citizens, embodies the values of accountability, transparency, social justice and equal access. The commitment reflects the ambition of the Municipality to develop innovative solutions to address housing insecurity, guided by a participatory model of open governance that connects welfare policies with transparency policies.

Primary Policy Area

Safety Nets & Economic Inclusion

Social Accountability

Primary Sector

Land & Spatial Planning

Public Services - general

What OGP value is this commitment relevant to?

1) Access to information

The digital platform will collect and publish aggregated, anonymous data on citizens' real housing needs and real estate availability. Through open data (datasets, dashboards, API), every interested party - from researchers to social actors - will have access to a documented picture of the volume and geographical distribution of housing demand and supply in the Municipality of Athens. This transparency in the flow of information facilitates more effective policy design and strengthens citizens' trust in government agencies.

2) Civic Participation

The initiative is structured around the active involvement of citizens, on an individual basis but also through bodies that represent them, both in recording housing needs and in monitoring the operation of the platform. At the same time, the platform will seek to be co-developed by Civil Society bodies that operate similar platforms.

3) Technology and Innovation for Transparency and Accountability

The use of an advanced digital matchmaking system (demand-supply matching algorithm, geospatial data, API for interoperability) is an example of the application of innovative technologies with the aim of maximizing transparency and accountability. The continuous monitoring of indicators through real-time dashboards ensures that the technology does not operate in a piecemeal manner, but serves the principles of accountability towards citizens and social housing bodies.

Recommended Milestones

Output	Start Date	End Date
Platform design, criteria establishment	08/2025	01/2026
Platform creation	01/2026	05/2026
Pilot Operation Application	05/2026	08/2026
Platform operation, connection with housing policies	09/2026	04/2027
Operational report, results	05/2027	06/2027
Final Platform Customization	06/2027	07/2027
Application/function	07/2027	07/2028
Final Report	07/2028	07/2028

Commitment 3: Universal Accessibility and Digital Inclusion

Commitment Description

The Problem

The Municipality of Athens faces significant obstacles to universal accessibility, both in public spaces and in digital services. In the physical environment, serious deficiencies are observed such as insufficient ramps, the absence of “quiet routes” and sensory overloading environments, which make mobility difficult for people with disabilities and people on the autism spectrum. At the same time, in digital services, the absence of universal digital accessibility excludes part of the population – especially the elderly and people with disabilities – from fully utilizing these services. The lack of training of Municipality officials and Legal Entities on digital accessibility issues, the absence of interoperable tools, unified mapping and regular evaluation further complicate the implementation of effective interventions and intensify social exclusion. Strengthening human resource skills and adopting a systematic approach to universal accessibility are deemed necessary to remove barriers and ensure the equal participation of all citizens.

Status quo

The Municipality of Athens has recognized accessibility as a cross-sectoral priority and has established a Working Group on Accessibility and Inclusion. Actions such as the “Seven Accessible Routes” and awareness-raising campaigns have been implemented, while the Urban Accessibility Plan is underway. At the same time, interventions have been launched in schools and cultural spaces, as well as pilot projects for smart crossings. However, implementation remains fragmented: there is no updated map of accessible routes, data is collected in an unsystematic manner, infrastructure is not regularly inspected, neurodiversity is not sufficiently taken into account and municipal service staff lack training in physical and digital accessibility.

Action

The Municipality of Athens is committed to implementing a comprehensive plan to enhance physical and digital accessibility, focusing on two key interventions: (1) the implementation of the “I Approach” program, which will provide mobile and digital support to people with disabilities and psychosocial difficulties, including travel companions and accessible service points, and (2) the training of Municipality executives and supervised legal entities on the design and management of digitally accessible content and services. At the same time, cooperation with civil society organizations, the use of measurable progress indicators, and systematic information and awareness-raising of citizens will be strengthened. The goal is to develop a people-centered model of universal accessibility, which will empower vulnerable groups and improve equal participation in the social and digital life of Athens.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The commitment will substantially contribute to reducing the obstacles faced by vulnerable groups in their daily lives, strengthening both their autonomy and their access to critical services. The “I Approach” program will offer practical and psychosocial support to people with disabilities and digitally excluded citizens, facilitating their movement and contact with municipal structures, cultural and sports venues and more generally with the concept of “entertainment”. In parallel, the training of Municipality officials on digital accessibility issues will ensure the proper design, use and maintenance of digital tools that are friendly to all. The expected results are an increase in participation, a reduction in social exclusion and the foundation of a functional, inclusive and fair city for all citizens.

What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?

The commitment to universal accessibility and inclusion is linked to the long-term goal of the Municipality of Athens to establish a city founded on the

principles of Equality and Democracy, where every citizen—regardless of abilities—enjoys visibility, rights and active participation. Through the enhancement of physical and digital accessibility, the training of human resources and the creation of support mechanisms, the commitment embodies the values of Extroversion, accountability and inclusive governance. It is a central pillar of the Municipality’s strategic vision for an open and welcoming Athens, where transparency is combined with active concern for the equal participation of all citizens in public life.

Primary Policy Area

Civic Space
Inclusion

Primary Sector

Cross-sectoral
Public Services - general

What OGP value is this commitment relevant to?

1) Access to information

The training of municipal officials and legal entities and, by extension, the compliance of municipal websites with digital accessibility standards ensures that all citizens, regardless of physical limitations, can be informed and use the municipality’s services. This contributes to reducing digital exclusion and promotes equal access to public information.

2) Public Accountability

The Municipality’s accountability is strengthened through the obligation to adhere to and oversee the implementation of the measures it promised.

3) Civic Participation

Improving accessibility allows more people to actively participate in the social, economic and cultural life of the city. At the same time, enhancing information

and recording problems by citizens themselves can contribute to making decisions that respond to their real needs.

4) Technology and Innovation for Transparency and Accountability

The use of technology for the digital upgrade of services and the use of tools to monitor the progress of projects enhance transparency. Citizens can monitor the actions of the Municipality and contribute with reports and suggestions.

Recommended Milestones

Output	Start Date	End Date
Allocation of roles, timetable and resources for the two main interventions ("Approach" & executive training)	08/2025	12/2025
First cycle of training seminars on digital accessibility, in collaboration with EKDDA or another body.	09/2025	12/2025
Operation of an escort and support service in at least 2 municipal communities. Creation of physical and digital access points.	01/2026	07/2026
Digital tool with accessible routes, support points, participatory data feed.	08/2025	03/2026
Analysis of results, optimization of planning, expansion of "I Approach" throughout the Municipality. Establishment of a policy for regular training.	07/2026	12/2026
Evaluation of actions, presentation of progress indicators, open accountability event, documentation of good practices.	01/2027	07/2027

Commitment 4: Transparency & Accountability

Commitment Description

The Problem

Access to public information in the Municipality of Athens is currently fragmented and difficult to use. Citizens face obstacles in accessing municipal records, as there is no central, user-friendly information request system. Furthermore, asset declarations of elected officials are not available in an accessible, machine-readable format. There is no public registry of meetings between elected officials and interest representatives, which creates suspicion and asymmetry in decision-making. At the same time, the active participation of young people in municipal work remains weak, without an institutionalized framework for dialogue and education for young people.

Status Quo

In the Municipality of Athens, access to public information remains fragmented: municipal decisions, contracts and financial data are scattered across various websites without a central index, making it difficult for citizens to easily locate this data. Furthermore, there is no single online platform for submitting requests for access to public documents (FOIA Requests), through which citizens could submit their request, monitor the process and receive answers electronically. The asset declarations of elected officials are not published in open data or in an appropriate format that facilitates analysis and oversight, while there is no public lobbying register that systematically records which interest representatives the Mayor and Deputy Mayors have met. It is noted that institutional bodies, including Mayors and Deputy Mayors, are obliged under Law 4829/2021 (Article 5) to provide information on their communication with interest representatives “regarding the time of communication, the details of the interest representative, the policy sector and the type of decision”.

Action

The commitment foresees the operation of a unified Transparency Platform in the Municipality of Athens, which will gather municipal decisions, contracts, financial data, asset declarations in open, machine-readable data and a public lobbying register with meetings of the Mayor and Deputy Mayors (name, date, purpose, topics). The same platform will allow for the electronic submission and monitoring of requests for access to public documents, with notifications for each stage of processing. The aim is to eliminate fragmentation, ensure transparency and accountability and encourage citizens to make use of the data.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

Expected results are the reduction of barriers to access to information, the strengthening of citizens' trust and the cultivation of an open data culture, leading to a culture of collaborative governance where citizens become active partners in decision-making. In the long term, the Municipality of Athens wishes to establish itself as a model of open governance, where transparency, accountability and citizen participation are fundamental values and daily practice.

What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?

This commitment is directly linked to the strategic objective of the Municipality of Athens to deepen democracy at the local level, through the institutional strengthening of transparency and the encouragement of the active participation of all citizens, with an emphasis on the younger generations. The creation of tools for open accountability and participatory monitoring of municipal policy, as well as the institutionalization of dialogue mechanisms with youth, embody the values of democracy, participation, visibility and extroversion. This commitment acts as a catalyst for building trust between citizens and institutions, promoting a more open, inclusive and responsible municipal governance.

Primary Policy Area

Right to Information

Lobbying

Primary Sector

Cross-sectoral

Public Services - general

What OGP value is this commitment relevant to?

1) Access to information

The creation of a single digital platform for FOIA Requests and the regular posting of asset declarations of elected officials remove obstacles to citizens' information, ensuring timely and comprehensive access to public documents.

2) Public Accountability

The publication of meetings between municipal officials and interest groups and transparency in the budget enhance control over decisions and the administration's responsibility towards society.

3) Technology and Innovation for Transparency and Accountability

The use of digital tools (interactive dashboards, open datasets, electronic FOIA request system) shows how technology can simplify access, publication and control of municipal documents. Innovation in the way data is collected, presented and analyzed enhances the accountability of the administration and promotes the culture of open data in all areas of municipal services.

Recommended Milestones

Output	Start Date	End Date
Transparency Platform Design and Development	08/2025	01/2026
Transcription using AI and publication of minutes from meetings of the Municipal Council, Municipal Committee and Municipal Communities	08/2025	01/2026
Integrating Asset Declarations into open data	01/2026	04/2026
Create & publish a registry of lobbying meetings	01/2026	04/2026
Implementation of the "Budget - Expenditure" module with open data	11/2025	07/2026