OPEN GOVERNMENT GERMANY

Third National Action Plan 2021–2023

Open Government Partnership

**In the Framework of Germany's Participation
in the Open Government Partnership (OGP)**

Third National
Action Plan
2021–2023

1. Introduction

Germany has participated in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) since 2016. This National Action Plan (NAP) is the third in connection with the OGP, and in common with the second NAP it, too, includes contributions from Länder. The pages that follow first present the national context for open government in Germany, as well as examples of the various developments since the last Action Plan. These are followed by a description of the creation process for the NAP. After a point-by-point examination of the commitments entered into by the Federal Government and the Länder, the NAP concludes with a look at what action might be taken in the future.

»Democracy depends on open dialogue. The Open Government Partnership underscores how open and transparent government action helps to strengthen the trust needed to master the coronavirus crisis in perfect unison. I am most grateful for the contribution that you are making!«

Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel, Excerpt from opening remarks to the OGP Virtual Leaders Summit on 24 September 2020 [1]

1   For video: https://www.open-government-deutschland.de/opengov-en/content/video-message-1788860

What is "open government"?

»Open government« describes open action on the part of government and administration in what the OECD terms a "culture of governance". It is intended in particular to strengthen (1) **transparency**, e.g. about processes and decisions, as well as access to information; (2) **participation and inclusion**, e.g. by means of citizens' dialogues and consultations, and (3) **cooperation**, e.g. between government and non-governmental organisations, as well as between the ministries and levels of government itself.

Also important particularly in the context of the OGP are **anti-corruption** and **digital governance**, i.e. the use of new technologies to make government and administration more responsive to citizens.

Meanwhile, topics such as inclusion, the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and protecting civic space[2] are playing a growing part in the international discourse. Here, the perspective of both the OECD and the OGP encompasses all levels of public administration in addition to other branches of the state, in other words the role of parliaments and the judiciary.

The OGP in brief

The OGP is an **international initiative** consisting of 78 national members committed to promoting **open government**. The organisation sets out a process for this. Participating states must co-create **national action plans** with civil society every two years. Please refer to Section 3 below for details of the OGP process.

Under its Articles of Governance, the organisation has a Steering Committee that is composed equally of 11 governments and 11 representatives of civil society organisations. Both sides of the body together appoint a co-chairmanship team from among the Steering Committee members. This ensures that the co chairmanship of the OGP is always held by one government and one person from civil society.

Germany has had a seat on the Steering Committee since October 2019.

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2   The legal, financial and other conditions that allow civil society to flourish and to play a full part in democracy

Two events dominated the preparation of the third NAP: the COVID-19 pandemic and Germany's bumper election year in 2021.

→ **The pandemic made it almost impossible to hold workshops, conferences and random or informal working meetings and discussions. It presented many administrations with major challenges that took up enormous amounts of energy. The extra open government initiatives that might otherwise have been possible, as well as the efforts normally reserved for varied forms of participation that go into creating an NAP, inevitably suffered as a result.**

→ **In 2021, domestic policy priorities are being set by the five regional parliamentary elections, as well as the Bundestag elections. These demand a great deal of attention. A further factor is that, at the end of the legislative term it is not easy, for the federal administration in particular, to plan commitments and milestones that may have binding character on the next Federal Government.**

Despite these issues, with this third NAP the Federal Government and the participating Länder have taken an important next step in the context of German participation in the OGP, and have presented commitments in relevant dimensions of open government. Plans, some of which are long term, have therefore been made in multiple policy areas. They are intended to improve transparency, lay the foundation for participation and inclusion, and support accountability and the prevention of corruption. Furthermore, efforts will be made to promote a wide variety of ways of working together across organisational and sectoral boundaries.

With this holistic approach, the third NAP slots in to the Federal Government's sustainable development policy, which is designed to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) it contains. The objectives of transparency, participation and accountability correspond to the principle of "leave no one behind" that underpins the 2030 Agenda. The precept of the German Sustainable Development Strategy, that the guiding principle of sustainable development be incorporated into all areas of policy and all decisions, also applies to the Federal Government's participation in the OGP.

It is important to the Federal Government that this NAP takes up new issues while building on those initiatives that are already in progress. Bundled with Länder contributions, this NAP is a powerful instrument for promoting open government in Germany. With the picture that it paints below of the national context, it also offers an updated insight into developments in open government alongside and beyond the specific commitments of this NAP.

Indeed, the third NAP contains 11 commitments from the Federal Government and three from two Länder that will set the course for Germany's participation in the OGP for the forthcoming cycle. The measures set out here are subject to the availability of the corresponding budgetary resources. Please refer to the preliminary remark in Section 8 with regard to the measures planned by the Länder.

2. Latest developments in open government in Germany

Open government is found at all levels of public administration in Germany – Federal, Länder and local governments – and in all areas of policy, albeit often under different names and descriptors. Examples and excerpts of developments and initiatives beyond the commitments made in the third NAP are given below. These are either new since the previous NAP and its interim reports, or are currently at the implementation stage.

2.1 The COVID-19 pandemic

→ The Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) **vaccination dashboard** offers an overview of progress with Germany's COVID-19 vaccination programme. Citizens can find out about the number of vaccinations each day, the status of vaccine deliveries, and milestones both achieved and imminent. The underlying data is also available for download.[3]

→ The Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance has published an updated version of the **NINA warning app**. It now includes a new COVID 19 information channel and shows local COVID safety rules. In addition to residents of the area in question, this new feature also keeps commuters travelling to work in a different area informed of the requirements and regulations that apply there.[4]

→ In common with many other digital applications, development of the Federal Government's **Corona-Warn-App** did not stop when the app was launched, but instead is an ongoing project. The app was made available as open source from the start, thereby inviting input that has fed into its continual enhancement.[5] For example, Version 2.0 gained an important new function – an event registration feature. This allows users to check in and out of shops, events or private meetings using a QR code. Version 2.1 integrated rapid COVID tests into the app, while SARS-CoV2 vaccination certificates can be incorporated from Version 2.3 onwards.

→ The Federal Government is promoting the **DIVI Intensive Care Availability Register** to record free and occupied intensive care capacity at around 1300 acute-care hospitals in Germany. The data is updated daily and is publicly available.

→ The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) has set up a **Contact Point for Supply Chain Security**. It serves as a single point of contact within the Federal Government for manufacturers and suppliers, and deals with problems affecting manufacturing and delivery, as well as general raw materials supplies. A communications and solutions network has also been set up to connect federal ministries, Land ministries of economic affairs, and business associations. This gives these associations a regular direct line to representatives of Land and federal ministries, so that they can keep each other informed of supply chain status. Where necessary, they can also identify action that may be needed in the future.

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3   See https://impfdashboard.de (German)
4   See https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/warn-app-nina-1749214 (German)
5   See https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/corona-warn-app/corona-warn-app-englisch/
    corona-warn-app-faq-1758636

→ During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Chancellor continued **citizens' dialogues** in digital format, seeking out the views of those sections of society that have been particularly hard hit. The Chancellor spoke, for example, with nursing staff, volunteers, artists and creatives to learn about the realities of their lives.[6]

→ The **Federal Agency for Civic Education** (BpB) responded to the pandemic with a raft of digital, dialogue-oriented (information) services covering socio political issues and debates, as well as ways to navigate the age of COVID-19. On social media, for example, it offers followers their "daily dose of politics", as well as a politics hour. The Agency also organises online workshops on digital engagement and "doing the right thing", as well as major online events such as that on conspiracy theories.[7]

2.2 Participation and engagement of civil society

→ The **Citizens' Assembly** on Germany's Role in the World presented its report and recommendations to its patron, President of the German Bundestag Dr Wolfgang Schäuble, on 19 March 2021. Around 160 randomly selected members of the public took part in the civic project, which was initiated among others by the *Mehr Demokratie*, and adopted by the Bundestag's **Council of Elders**. The topics under discussion included how Germany should act in future in the global political arena.[8]

→ Owing to the pandemic, the **Federal Government Open Day** 2020 was held in virtual format. As part of this, the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government combined the individual ministries' offerings into a single website. Events included a digital children's press conference, and there were also video formats in which members of government answered questions from the public.

→ The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government also staged an online citizens' dialogue on 28 June 2021 to tie in with the **Conference on the Future of Europe**. The Federal Chancellor spoke with German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) students from Germany and several other EU member states on the issues covered by the Conference, with a particular emphasis on "Europe in the world".[9]

→ The Federal Government relied on dialogue and transparency when updating the **German Sustainable Development Strategy** (GSDS). The GSDS draft was prepared on the basis of four national and regional conferences held in 2019 and 2020. They were attended by representatives of civil society, business, the scientific and academic community and the general public. Two online participation phases followed. The GSDS was adopted by the Federal Cabinet on 10 March 2021.[10]

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6   See https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/service/gesetzgebungsverfahren-beteiligung/
    gesetzgebungsverfahren-beteiligung (German)
7   See https://www.bpb.de/lernen/digitale-bildung/306590/die-politikstunde and https://www.bpb.de/
    dialog/257145/deine-taegliche-dosis-politik (German)
8   See https://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2021/kw11-buergerrat-829372 (German)
9   See https://futureu.europa.eu
10 See https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/sustainable-development-strategy-2021-1875228

→ Under the patronage of former Federal President Horst Köhler, the **Citizens' Assembly on Climate** (*buergerrat-klima.de*) gathered 160 randomly selected citizens to draw up recommendations for German climate policy for the 20th legislative term. The results will be put to all of the political parties in the German Bundestag in the autumn of 2021. [11]

→ The Federal Foreign Office (AA) continued its **citizens' dialogues**. It included interested target groups in foreign policy processes by means of its "Diplomacy in Dialogue" initiative in both a townhall format and a public online discussion, citizens' workshops, and innovative "let's play" formats, i.e. gaming streams on foreign policy issues. [12] The same approach was taken with the PeaceLab blog on the implementation of the Policy Guidelines "Preventing Crises, Managing Conflicts, Building Peace", as well as "PREVIEW meets Science" on quantitative early crisis detection.

→ At the instigation of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM), the *wirksam regieren* (Effective Governance) division within the Federal Chancellery (BKAmt) is running a project to help victims of sexual harassment and violence in the arts and media industries in Germany to assert their rights, and to make it easier for them to access support services. Beyond those affected specifically, the aim is to collect empirical findings that can be used to evaluate alternative approaches for the future, and thus to **improve the effectiveness of political action**. As part of the project, an online survey was conducted in the autumn of 2020. The results of this survey will be analysed in 2021 and, where appropriate, further academic work will be done on certain aspects of the study to go more into detail or to widen its scope.[13]

→ The Federal Chancellery is coordinating and encouraging **early stakeholder participation** in regulatory proposals **at federal level**. To this end, it regularly invites the ministries of the Federal Government to share their experiences in the field. It also offers dedicated consulting hours in which it is available for individual advice, and trains the staff of the ministries on matters relating to early participation at federal level. There has been great demand for these training courses, with the first attracting 100 registrations. The Federal Chancellery is working with the ministries to develop strategies to improve early stakeholder participation. An effort is made here to ensure that relevant measures are incorporated into political programmes. Examples include the Work Programme for Better Regulation and the joint programme of the Federal and Länder governments for a high-performance administration providing for the needs of citizens and businesses. The Federal Government's *Beteiligung auf Bundesebene* (participation at federal level) website provides a nuanced overview of the different ways to participate at federal level. It points out ongoing, completed and planned legislative processes, and provides links to options for participation in the EU, as well as the recommendations of the OECD. [14]

→ Modern **participation formats**, both analogue and digital, fulfil an important function in the practicalities of active civic engagement in the academic, scientific and political fields. With this in mind, in 2021 the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) launched an ideas contest to promote pilot projects that re-imagine participation. Examples included successful participation in rural areas, and how storytelling can be used to interest schoolchildren in participative processes.

11 See https://buergerrat-klima.de/presse/pressemitteilung-1 (German)
12 See https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/aamt/aussenpolitiklive (German)
13 See https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/bund-setzt-foerderung-der-themis-fort-1826570 (German)
14 See https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/service/gesetzgebungsverfahren-beteiligung (German)

→ Following on from its **Guidelines** for **Good Public Participation**, in 2020 the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) conducted further public participation processes. [15] The outcomes of the broad participation process in connection with the National Programme for Sustainable Consumption were presented in November of that year. [16] In addition to an online dialogue, a consumer panel and ideas workshops, this process included events similar to living labs like short-term experiments. These offered a real-life testing ground for how the population as a whole might take to sustainable consumption practices. The ***GesprächStoff – Ressourcenschonend leben*** citizens' dialogue was completed. Its aim was to raise awareness of resource-friendly living, and its outcomes fed into the third iteration of the German Resource Efficiency Programme (ProgRess III). The German Bundestag signed off on ProgRess III on 17 June 2020. [17] As part of the **dialogue on the safety of nuclear waste management**, the BMU received feedback on safety investigations when selecting a site, and on safety requirements for the permanent repository itself. This information was incorporated into a revised BMU ordinance that was published on 19 May 2020. [18] At the initiative of the BMU, in early 2021 members of the public were able to participate in an online dialogue and in various citizens' workshops, not to mention a youth dialogue, to formulate recommendations in connection with the **National Water Strategy**. These were subsequently incorporated into a citizens' proposal, and the public's ideas were also factored into the Strategy drafting process. [19]

→ Other current environment-related public participation processes include the ***Mobilitäts-labor 2020 – Wir steigen um!*** mobility lab (subtitled "All change!"). Here, the Federal Environment Agency teamed up with selected members of the public to develop proposals to make environmentally friendly means of transport both relevant and appealing. [20]

→ The BMBF's Science Year 2020/21 focuses via a range of formats on the **bioeconomy**. The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the BMU therefore want to raise awareness of the concept of the bioeconomy and to get talking with interested members of the public about the ideas and concepts behind it, in a citizen's dialogue. A number of citizens' dialogues were held at different locations in Germany in the autumn of 2020, followed in 2021 by one online dialogue. [21]

→ The Federal Ministry of Defence (BMVg) holds regular **dialogue events** attended by representatives of civil society, business, science and academia, and religious communities, to discuss security policy issues and their ethical aspects. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, last year these events were held in virtual or hybrid formats, often in cooperation with social stakeholders such as the Bertelsmann Foundation, the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and the German Association of Towns and Municipalities. Panel discussions were held on subjects such as armed drones, for example, and there was a new series of reflective discussions entitled *Gespräche am Ehrenmal*.

15 See https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/gute-buergerbeteiligung-fuer-bessere-umweltpolitik (German)
16 See https://www.bmu.de/nachhaltiger-konsum-teilhabe (German)
17 See https://www.gespraechstoff-ressourcen.de (German)
18 See https://www.dialog-endlagersicherheit.de (German)
19 See https://www.bmu.de/themen/wasser-abfall-boden/binnengewaesser/nationale-wasserstrategie (German)
20 See https://www.bmu.de/meldung/mobilitaetslabor-2020-wir-steigen-um (German)
21 See https://www.biooekonomie-im-dialog.de (German)

2.3 Transparency and accountability

→ **The Geological Data Act** (Geologiedatengesetz) entered into force on 30 June 2020. It sets out a broad obligation to back up geological data to preserve it and to ensure that it remains permanently legible and available for all of the current and future geological tasks of the of the Federal and Länder governments. The public provision of geological data, in the sense of **open data**, is another key element of the Act[22]

→ To combat money laundering and terrorism financing more effectively, the German Transparency Register is to be expanded and incorporated more closely into the relevant international networks. The legal basis for this was laid on 10 June 2021, when the German Bundestag passed the **Transparency Register and Financial Information Act** (Transparenzregister- und Finanzinformationsgesetz). The Act ushers in a change in the current German system, away from the present catch-all register to a full transparency register. When it enters into force, it will oblige all companies not only to determine their beneficial owners but also to report them for entry in the Transparency Register. The Register will then contain more comprehensive datasets on beneficial owners in a standardised structured format. The new Act also creates a basis for the connection of such transparency registers across the EU.[23]

→ On 10 February 2021 the Federal Government published the draft of a law amending the eGovernment Act (E-Government-Gesetz), known as the **Second Open Data Act** (2. Open-Data-Gesetz), and introducing a law on the use of public-sector data, the **Data Usage Act** (Datennutzungsgesetz). The bill will help to fine-tune the Federal Government's open data policy and will make data financed by the public purse more available and more usable.[24]

→ The **Public Procurement Statistics Ordinance** (Vergabestatistikverordnung) provided the foundation for the collection of general, nationwide statistics on the award of public contracts and concessions. This began on 1 October 2020. It is the first time that fundamental statistical data on public contracts has been collected nationwide in Germany, and then prepared and published by the Federal Statistical Office.

→ The third German Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (D-EITI) report (for 2018) was submitted in February 2021. The *https://rohstofftransparenz.de/en/* data portal is updated continually. By continuing the payment reconciliation pilot project – an alternative process for verifying data quality – the **D-EITI** is contributing to the ongoing enhancement of the EITI.

→ The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) continues to improve the usability, scope and quality of data on **development cooperation** programmes financed by Germany. This data is published in accordance with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard.[25]

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22 See https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Artikel/Service/geologiedatengesetz.html (German)

23 See https://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2021/kw23-de-transparenzregister-843428 (German)

24 See https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/02/20210210-bundesregierung-im-startup-modus-kabinett-beschliesst-wichtige-meilensteine-fuer-ein-acigitales-deutschland.html (German) / Adopted by the Deutsche Bundestag on June 24, 2021 in the Economic Affairs Committee's version (documents 19/30911, 19/31014) see https://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2021/kw25-de-e-government-846982

25 See https://www.bmz.de/de/ministerium/zahlen-fakten/transparenz-projekt-und-organisationsdaten and https://www.bmz.de/de/ministerium/zahlen-fakten/oda-zahlen (German)

→ The DigiPeC project is working to establish a competence centre at dtec.bw, the Federal Armed Forces' Centre for Digitalisation and Technology Research. It will create digital twins for incentive-based contracts, and for the risk-based management of complex procurement projects by public contracting authorities, e.g. in construction. By using publicly available data sources, specifically the EU TED database, it is intended alongside the new statistics referred to above to improve **transparency in public procurement**.[26]

→ The Act Introducing a Lobby Register for the Representation of Interests to the German Bundestag and the Federal Government (**Lobby Register Act**, Lobbyregistergesetz) was passed by the German Bundestag and Bundesrat at the end of March 2021.[27] Entering into force on 1 January 2022, the Act makes it compulsory to register when representing interests to the German Bundestag and the Federal Government. It also determines a code of conduct that lobbyists undertake to observe when being entered in the lobby register. This code of conduct was drawn up by the Bundestag and the Federal Government in collaboration with civil society.[28]

→ The Pensions Overview Act (Rentenübersichtsgesetz), which entered into force on 18 February 2021, creates the basis for the development and launch of a **digital pensions dashboard**, and thus for greater transparency about retirement provision. It is intended to provide citizens with a digital portal through which they can access straightforward, reliable information about their own retirement provision under statutory, occupational and personal pension schemes.

Preventing and fighting corruption

Public procurement regulations to exclude companies involved in corruption cases is an important step in preventing corruption. To provide public contracting authorities with the information they need about possible grounds for exclusion under public procurement law – such as white-collar crime or other serious offences – the Federal Cartel Office is currently setting up the Competition Register. Contracting authorities must consult the Register before awarding a contract with a value at or above a defined threshold.

For more on preventing corruption, please refer also to Commitment 6.4 in this Action Plan.

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26 See https://www.bmvg.de/de/aktuelles/dritter-digitalbericht-veroeffentlicht-5060306 and
   https://www.dtecbw.de (German)
27 See https://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2021/kw12-de-lobbyregister-798182 (German)
28 See https://www.bundestag.de/parlament/lobbyregister/neuer-inhalt-832004 (German)

2.4 Collaboration and innovation

→ *UpdateDeutschland* is a nationwide **future lab** sponsored by the Federal Chancellery. Members of the public team up with partners from all levels of government, as well as from business, science and academia, and civil society, to **co-create** solutions to the most urgent challenges that our country faces. The initiative kicked off on 19 March 2021 with a 48-hour hackathon, in which around 4400 participants from all over Germany came up with some 400 solutions.[29]

→ The Federal Government produced the **Data Strategy** in a broad-based participative process that included an online survey of more than 1200 respondents. The Strategy is intended significantly to increase innovative, responsible data provision and data use in business, science and academia, civil society and government in Germany and Europe in particular. At the same time, European values are to be enforced to ensure a fair share of the opportunities afforded by data, and to prevent data monopolies, while taking decisive action against data misuse.[30]

→ Work to establish **dtec.bw**, the **Federal Armed Forces' Centre for Digitalisation and Technology Research** began on 11 August 2020. Its objectives include testing new (research) partnerships with the scientific and academic community, business, government and civil society, and making innovations in key future technologies available nationally to the private and public sectors.[31]

→ The Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) initiated the ***Pflegenetzwerk Deutschland*** nursing network. It promotes exchange within the nursing sector, and also connects nursing professionals. It is open to all who work in and in support of nursing. The network's primary objective is to encourage constructive, open and solution-focused dialogue between stakeholders.[32]

2.5 Digital transformation of state and society

→ The Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) is making **knowledge and culture available digitally**. The metadata for the German National Library, gained while cataloguing its collections, can be used freely. Meanwhile, the content of the German Museum of Books and Writing and the German Exile Archive is being made available digitally in culturally mediated formats, subject to applicable intellectual property law.

→ Anyone wishing to use radiation on humans for research purposes must have that usage assessed in advance. This applies, for example, to hospitals, doctors' surgeries, research centres, pharmaceutical companies and contract research organisations. They must apply for or report the use of radiation on humans in the context of their research projects. To simplify this process, the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS) is setting up a new "Medical Research" **submission portal** that will include information and training opportunities.

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29 See https://updatedeutschland.org (German)
30 See https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/datenstrategie-der-bundesregierung-1845632 (German, with link to related English document)
31 See https://www.bmvg.de/de/aktuelles/dritter-digitalbericht-veroeffentlicht-5060306 (German)
32 See https://pflegenetzwerk-deutschland.de (German)

→ The strategy of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (BpB) is to publish its digital information and materials wherever possible under a **creative commons (free) licence**. Open educational resources (OER) are a particular point of focus here. One current example of OER are the new topic resources for teachers in the *Themenblätter im Unterricht* series. These are offered in a range of formats for different educational settings, as well as in open licence ODT format with editable worksheets.[33]

→ The *Stadt|Land|Datenfluss* (Town|Country|Data flow) **app**, originated by the German Adult Education Association (*Deutscher Volkshochschulverband e.V.*) and promoted by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), offers interested citizens a free general education programme on data literacy.

→ The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) is developing a **public participation platform** (*dialog.bmu.de*) as part of a research project that runs from January 2021 to December 2022. The project will examine whether and how such a platform can be implemented and successfully integrated into existing public participation projects. A scientific analysis will be undertaken of the implementation and operation of the platform, as well as the conduct of four online participation processes.

Online Access Act (*Onlinezugangsgesetz*)

- The Online Access Act (OZG)[34] will digitalise public administration and make it more user-friendly.
- Online services are being developed in partnership with the public in digitalisation labs. This will ensure that the digital solution for application submissions meets the needs of those actually using it.
- The "one for all" principle ensures that all online services developed under the aegis of the OZG will be available to the same standard nationwide, whether the user is in Stuttgart or in Flensburg.
- Responsibility for implementing the OZG is shared between multiple stakeholders across the federal system. Federal government departments and the Länder have divided up the digitalisation of hundreds of administrative services between them as part of a concerted effort here. Beyond government per se, the digitalisation process also encompasses associations, businesses and citizens themselves. The Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) is overseeing this digital building site as the central programme manager.
- The OZG Dashboard offers a transparent progress report on the implementation of the OZG.[35] It is updated monthly and is being expanded continually. It cuts through the complexity to provide easily digestible content for all.
- As part of the modernisation of registers, work on a data protection cockpit is also progressing so that, in future, individuals will be able to track which agencies are calling up their data.
- As part of OZG implementation work, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research joined with Land Saxony-Anhalt to develop the BAföG Digital assistant for applications under the BAföG Federal Training Assistance Act. It has been possible to submit digital BAföG applications in specific pilot Länder since October 2020. BAföG Digital will be rolled out to all other Länder by the summer of 2021.

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33 See https://www.bpb.de/shop/lernen/themenblaetter (German)
34 See https://www.onlinezugangsgesetz.de
35 See https://www.onlinezugangsgesetz.de/dashboard (German)

2.6 Open government at the Land and local government levels

The following examples of open government programmes at Land and local government levels are just a small selection of those that have been implemented since the second NAP was published.

→ In **Bavaria**, the BayernApp is the first of its kind in Germany to offer mobile access to a range of Land and local government services, as well as to a variety of other offers and information from the public administration.

The #codebarrierefrei hackathon develops accessible digital solutions for people with disabilities, and provides a launching pad for digital solutions that dismantle barriers.

A total of €5 million is being made available to promote the best digital solutions emerging from the Kommunal? Digital! (Municipal? Digital!) competition.

→ In **Brandenburg**, all basic digital geodata from the Land survey authority that is offered on an automated or user-defined basis has been available free of charge since 15 January 2020. The service observes open data principles. It is accessible alongside web-based geoservices via the Geobroker portal run by the Landesvermessung und Geobasisinformation Brandenburg authority, as well as the Geoportal Brandenburg.

Brandenburg is also preparing a data strategy for release in the summer of 2022. It will provide the basis on which statutory open data regulations will be drafted.

→ Further to the second National Action Plan, **North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)** developed a model data catalogue for open data. Taking this as a basis, in 2021 the Bertelsmann Foundation teamed up with the GovData data portal, the Open Knowledge Foundation and the KDZ – Centre for Public Administration Research to develop a version for Germany as a whole. For the first time, it will deliver a nationwide overview of what holdings of non-personal data Germany's cities and local governments provide.[36]

With its *Digitale Modellregionen* (Digital Model Regions) programme, the Land government is supporting the five regions in their efforts to digitalise their administrations, offer attractive services to citizens and companies, and implement innovative urban development projects with the business community. The 65 sponsored projects include many open government initiatives, and the experience and technical solutions they produce can subsequently be applied by interested local governments. These include Paderborn's central open data platform, the *stadtLABOR* Soest forum for digital urban planning, and an open government communications platform.[37]

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36 Further information from https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/de/unsere-projekte/smart-country/musterdatenkatalog and https://open.nrw/musterdatenkatalog (German)
37 See https://www.wirtschaft.nrw/digitale-modellregionen (German)

With the entry into force of statutory open data regulations (Section 16a of the NRW eGovernment Act), Land authorities are now required to make their data available to the public immediately after it has been collected. It must be provided in machine-readable format for free and unrestricted use (*https://open.nrw/eine-open-data-regelung-fuer-nrw* (German)).

Since mid-2020, the municipal authorities of North Rhine-Westphalia have also been able to publish and manage their open administration data free of charge on the central Open. NRW metadata portal.

→ **Schleswig-Holstein**'s Transparency Portal [38] went live effective 1 January 2020 as a proactive document publication platform for the Land government.
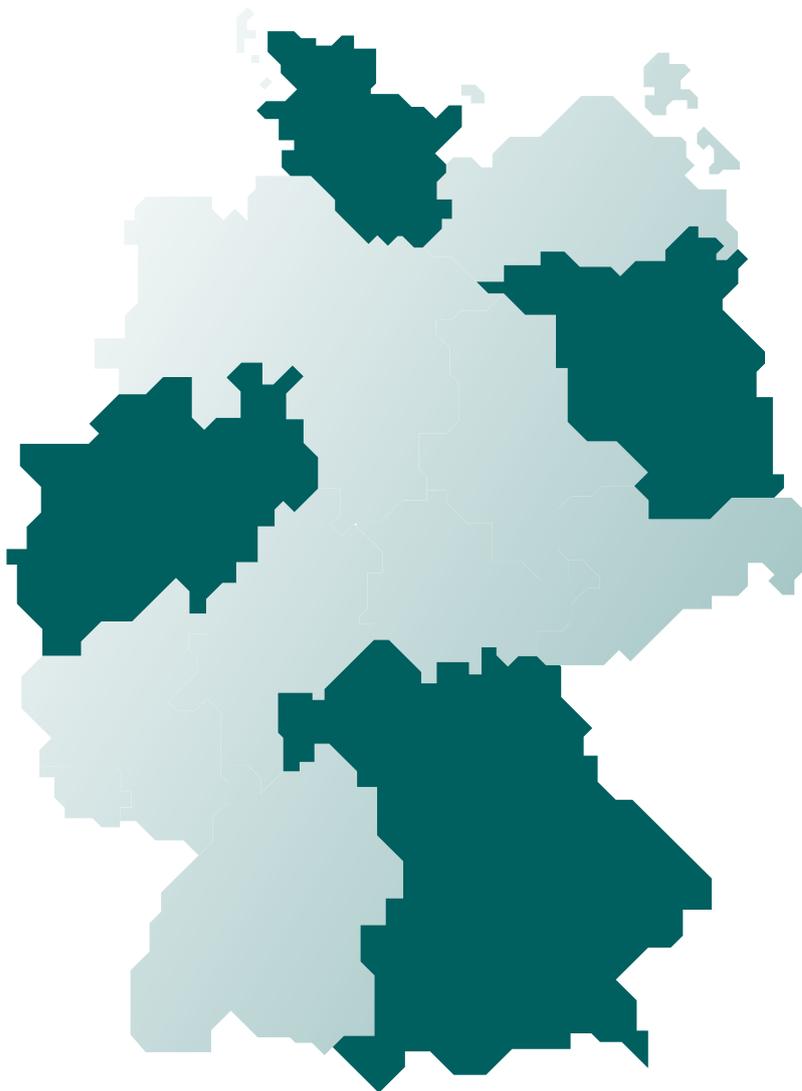
38 See https://transparenz.schleswig-holstein.de (German)

3. How the OGP participation process works

Under the OGP rules, NAPs are to be created in cooperation with civil society and contain 5 to 15 commitments that are ambitious, measurable and relevant to open government. The level of exchange with civil society may range from consultation through to co-creation. Opportunities for participation in the process must be communicated broadly and at an early stage. Steps and results must be documented transparently, and feedback must be provided. The consultation process is a fundamental component of developing the action plans. Civil society should also be involved in their implementation and reporting whenever possible. Once the NAP has been drafted there must also be feedback on how the government has handled the proposals from civil society.

The action plans are subject to the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) of the OGP. An expert who is commissioned by the OGP, but is editorially independent of its secretariat, assesses the development process and implementation of each participating country's action plan. This evaluation looks in particular at the design and creation process for an action plan, as well as its results and impact. From 2021 onwards, the IRM will present three specific reports: the Co-Creation Brief before the NAP is drafted, the Action Plan Review just after it is submitted, and the Results Report following implementation. Building on experience with the previous NAP in each case, these reports give recommendations, evaluate the creation process, and attest to the targets and results achieved. These three reports complement the government's own reporting system. IRM reports are based on publicly available sources, individual research and enquiries with the relevant bodies and participating NGOs.

As the following figure illustrates, the OGP process is cyclical: the regular preparation, implementation and evaluation of action plans with measurable reforms are all interlinked, and all contribute to a continuous learning process designed to build confidence and promote innovation on all sides. External expertise is constructively combined with public-sector know-how. The present quarterly monitoring cycle is to be optimised further.

Furthermore, participation in the OGP helps to increase interest and input into the discourse about open government at the national and international levels. In Germany, it has resulted in closer dialogue of the Federal and Länder governments, while internationally it has led, for example, to participation in summits or bilateral exchange formats on certain issues. Participation in the OGP therefore means much more than simply fulfilling the commitments set out in the current NAP. Rather, it provides motivation to better connect, harness and promote open government in all areas of policy at all levels.

Participation

Development

Implementation

Evaluation

3

1

2

National OGP process
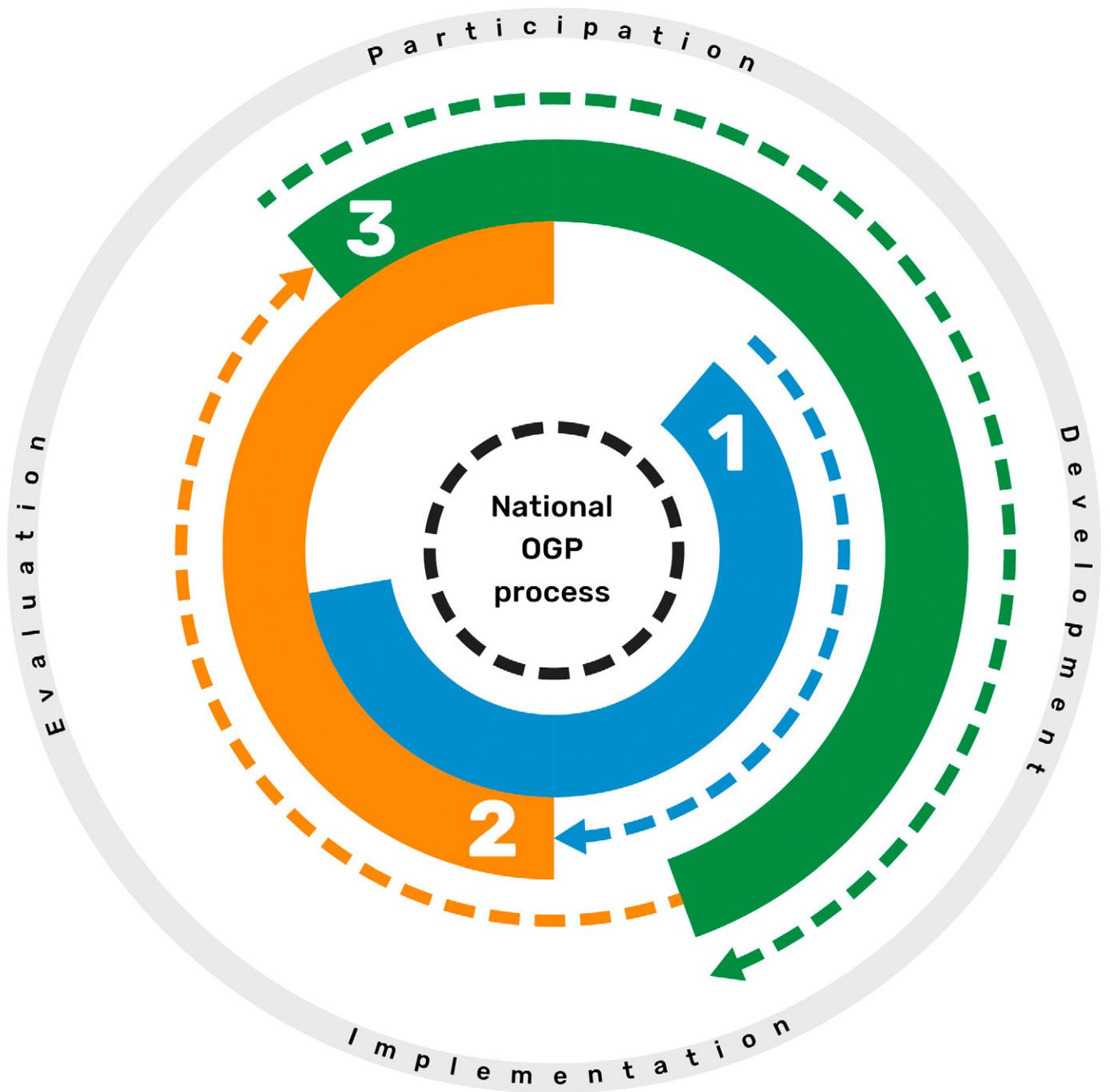
Diagram illustrating the cyclical OGP process

4. The path from the second to the third National Action Plan

4.1 Developments since the second NAP

The second National Action Plan was adopted in September 2019. At the time this, the third NAP, was adopted, the commitments of the second NAP had largely been fulfilled. The Federal Government presented an interim report on its implementation in October 2020, and the final report will be published before the autumn of 2021.

Placing the OGP process on a firmer footing and providing information about open government have remained an ongoing process. A few examples:

→ In August 2020, the German University of Administrative Sciences Speyer published the Federal Government-sponsored study entitled ***Potentialanalyse Open Government*** – *Eine Vorstudie zum strategischen Nutzen von Open Government für die Bundesregierung* (Analysing the potential of open government – A preliminary study on the strategic benefits of open government for the Federal Government). [39] This study achieved the first milestone of commitment no. 1 from the first National Action Plan.

→ The content and structure of the open-government-deutschland.de **web presence**, [40] including the newsletter function, are being expanded further. A fresh new way in which to monitor the National Action Plans in future is also to be sought. In addition, the events page and range of articles in English are to be expanded. The latest additions include a glossary and the Media Centre.

→ The working framework for the **exchange of the Federal and Länder governments** on open government was redrawn at the end of 2020. For the first time there is now an informal forum for discussion up and down all levels of government on the OGP and open government.

→ Events were held before, during and after the **Open Government Week 2021** that also explained the drafting process for the third NAP, contributed to it, or provided a setting for information and networking in connection with Germany's participation in the OGP:

○ The topics discussed at the annual meeting of the Allianz Vielfältige Demokratie (Alliance for Diverse Democracy) on 6 May 2021 included participation at federal level, and open government. In his opening address, Head of the Federal Chancellery Dr Helge Braun emphasised the importance of being part of the OGP, as well as the potential reach of projects such as the regional Open Government Labs, which were also presented at the meeting (see second NAP).

○ On 17 May 2021 the Federal Chancellery organised an open government exhibition as a pilot initiative, drawing on open government projects at Länder and local government level, as well as from civil society. It was followed by a multi-stakeholder consultation on the third NAP.

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39 Publicly available to view at https://dopus.uni-speyer.de/frontdoor/index/index/docId/4622
40 The https://www.open-government-deutschland.de website offers the full range of OGP-related information.

- The next day the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organised a discussion event. In her opening remarks, the Federal Government Commissioner for Digital Affairs, Minister of State Dorothee Bär, underscored the particular importance of open government for political credibility.

  In addition to the draft of the third NAP, the discussion then turned to collaboration between the different levels of government. This was inspired by the keynote speech on the situation in Spain.

- A (virtual) meeting of the OGP Steering Committee on 10 June 2021 swapped ideas about how open government can be harnessed to help nations emerge strengthened from the COVID-19 pandemic, and what participating states can do to this end. The Federal Government's CIO, State Secretary Dr Markus Richter, reported on the action planned under the present NAP, and on further open data milestones.

4.2 How the third National Action Plan was created

The active involvement of civil society is what sets the OGP process apart. This involvement must follow the guidelines and recommendations of the OGP to at least consult, but as far as possible to "co-create". The COVID-19 pandemic meant that this time there could be no personal meetings, workshops or larger-scale discussion events. The Federal Government offset these restrictions to some extent by giving civil society ample opportunity, in two phases, to contribute suggestions, ideas and comments. It announced this approach back in February 2021:

→ First of all, from 8 to 29 March 2021, civil society was able to comment on a non-binding initial outline that had been drafted jointly by the ministries of the Federal Government. Additional new proposals could also be submitted.

→ Around 90 responses and comments were received from civil society at this stage, including some 50 new proposals. The Federal Government set about examining these in detail.

→ The Federal Chancellery then worked with the ministries to produce a draft NAP containing provisional commitments.

→ From 5 to 24 May 2021, civil society had the opportunity to respond to this draft NAP. This second phase of participation is new. It was introduced in response to a proposal from civil society to improve the creation process and a recommendation from the OGP's independent assessor concerning the second NAP.

→ To support this engagement, the civil society organisation Open Government Netzwerk Deutschland (OGN) also set up an online participation platform to collect responses to the third NAP during both feedback phases, before bundling them and passing them on to the Federal Chancellery.

→ The Federal Chancellery's digital event on 17 May 2021 as part of Open Government Week (see "Developments since the second NAP", fourth point) provided a platform for verbal feedback on the third NAP. The third NAP was also discussed at the event staged by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung on 18 May 2021. Feedback from these events was also incorporated into the ongoing process of creating the NAP.

→ Roughly 60 responses and comments were submitted in the second participation phase.

→ In addition, as part of work to draft the third National Action Plan, on 16 April 2021 the Federal Chancellery held an **online seminar** for the Federal and Länder governments entitled: *Verpflichtungen formulieren im Rahmen der Open Government Partnership (OGP): Tipps und Tricks* (Formulating Open Government Partnership (OGP) commitments: hints and tips).

All of the responses and comments received from both participation phases are published (in German) on the *www.open-government-deutschland.de* website. As was the case with the previous NAPs, the originators of the 50 or so new proposals from the first phase will receive a detailed response.

The Federal Government is very grateful to the representatives of civil society for their commitment, for the time they invested, and for their valuable feedback.

Following completion of the second participation phase, the Federal Government produced the third National Action Plan, that was then rounded out by the contributions from the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Land North Rhine-Westphalia.

3rd NAP consultation process (2021 – 2023)

March 15
OGN
Info Event

| February | March | April |

Ideas rough draft → Participation phase 1 → Draft NAP

until March 29
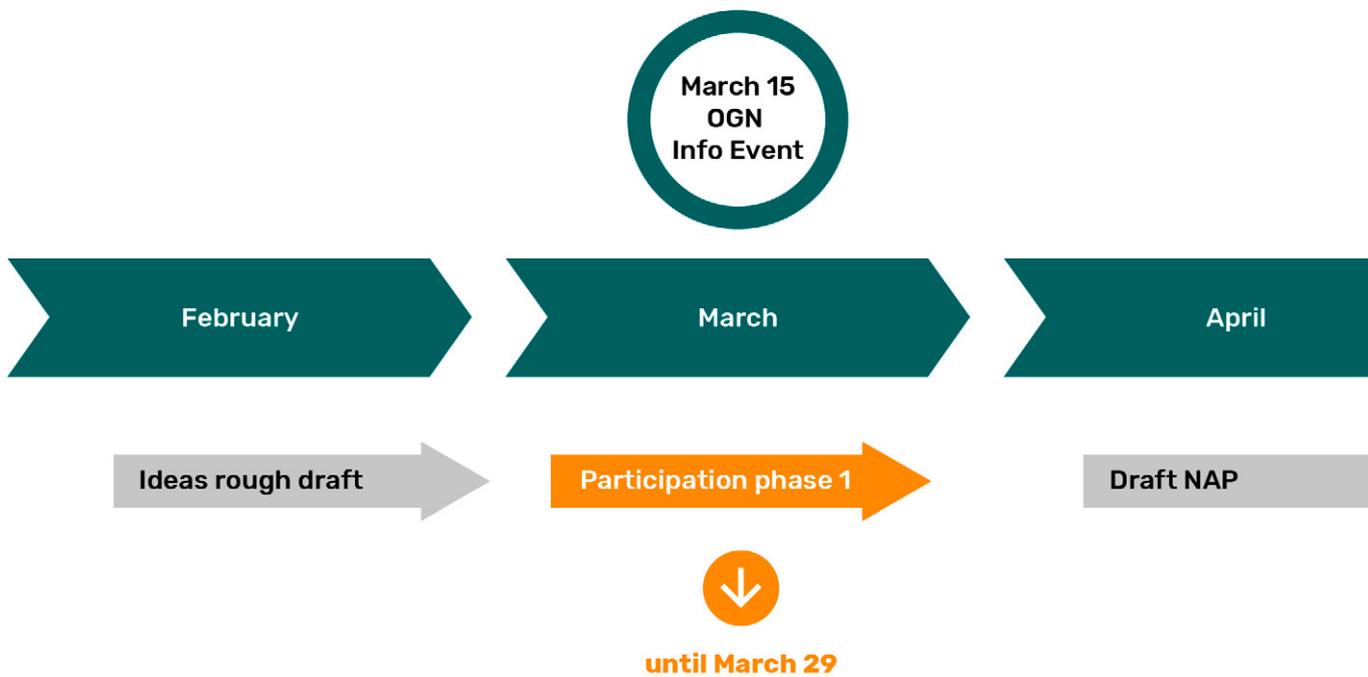
Schematic representation.
Further info www.open-government-deutschland.de

Process at Land level:

In **North Rhine-Westphalia** (NRW), for example, a six-week participation process on the continued development of the Digitalstrategie.NRW digital strategy was used to generate ideas and stimuli for future open government activities on the part of the Land government, as well as suggestions for NAP commitments on the part of the Land and individual local authorities. The participation platform was open for comments and response submissions up to 28 March 2021. [41] A live event with the CIO of NRW was held in advance of this participation round. It, too, provided an opportunity for input.

North Rhine-Westphalia's renewed participation in the latest NAP – and the formulation of possible commitments by the Open.NRW office – was approved unanimously at the tenth meeting of the NRW Open Government Working Group on 26 April 2021. The proposals received from the Digitalstrategie.NRW participation process were examined jointly to assess their suitability as possible measures under the third NAP. Working from this basis, Open.NRW drafted proposals for two commitments, which were then agreed with the Working Group.

OpenGov Week

May

June

3rd NAP

Participation phase 2

until May 24

Co-Creation of Committments by the Länder

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41   These are still available to read (in German) at https://www.digitalstrategie.nrw/digitalnrw/de/home

5. The commitments at a glance

6. Federal Government commitments

7. Joint committments by the Federal and Länder Governments

7.1 **An open source platform for public administrations**
Page 43

7.2 **Standards-based simplification of business access to public procurement**
Page 45

8. Länder Government commitments

8.1 **Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg: Public participation and information – digitalisation of administrative services for participation and provision of plans in a spatial planning context** *Page 48*

8.2 **North Rhine-Westphalia I: Improve the quality and quantity of data from public service entities, and of election data**
Page 50

8.3 **North Rhine-Westphalia II: Online approaches to increase public participation**
Page 53

6. Federal Government commitments

6.1

A foundation for improving access to legal information

Time frame: September 2021 – August 2023
Implementing body: Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?
The legislative information provided free of charge by the Federal Government is currently spread across three different portals: Gesetze-im-Internet (laws), Rechtsprechung-im-Internet (jurisprudence) and Verwaltungsvorschriften-im-Internet (administrative regulations). The legislative information that is accessible to the public is limited to currently applicable federal law, federal case-law from 2010 onwards, and current federal administrative regulations. There is little metadata for the documents, so the portals' search functionality is also restricted. Furthermore, technical access to this information lags behind the current standard, and civil society actors and businesses face considerable practical obstacles to their own use of the data in leading-edge applications. There is a great deal of time and effort involved in preparing the data for automated selection and processing. Other countries already offer more modern and more user-friendly legislative information portals.

What is the commitment?
The Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV) will develop the vision of a uniform, contemporary legislative information portal that is intuitive, accessible and user friendly. The portal is intended to provide the general public with a significantly broader range of legislative information from the Federal Government in future. The documents, including comprehensive metadata, will be made available as open data for the first time. To achieve this, the Federal Government will do the technical groundwork for its own data repository that in time will also feed into the portal.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?
The vision of the legislative information portal and the associated application programming interface (API) will be conceived and developed in an open, transparent, agile and user-centric process. The API should allow citizens, civil society, the scientific and academic community and businesses (such as start-ups) to process the data outside of the portal for both personal and commercial purposes, enabling them to offer innovative products and services. The project outcomes are to be made available to the public on a dedicated website. This will present the target vision for the legislative information portal in the form of a click dummy, accompanied by descriptions and explanations. The API documentation will also be published and a "request for comment" format set up to collect technical feedback on the interface. There are also plans to put a live and active, but functionally limited version of the API on the website. Interested parties can then test and experiment with it using a limited and out-of-date dataset. The target group here – consisting of businesses, students, the scientific and academic community, civil society and private individuals – is extremely mixed, and the project a very complex one. Public participation is therefore needed to ensure that the portal will generate real added value for all, and that the technical and functional requirements of potential downstream users are factored into interface development.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?
This commitment creates a high degree of transparency by offering an unprecedented scope of legislative information from the Federal Government. It does so free of charge in a machine-readable format via a standard interface and a user-centric platform. In addition to transparency, participation and inclusion, the agile approach chosen for this commitment, and the close involvement of users and the public, also addresses how technology and innovation can be harnessed in the interests of open access.

Additional information
Measures set out in the Data Strategy of 27 January 2021. The legislative information portal will not go live until after the implementation period for this Action Plan.
Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Development and presentation on the website of the target system (click dummy with descriptions and explanations)e	September 2021	August 2022
Development of a functionally limited version of the programming interface (API)	September 2021	August 2022
Production and publication of documentation on the interface in the form of a request for comment, as a means of opening up dialogue with potential users	September 2021	August 2022
Development of an interactive website that replicates and realises dialogue with users	January 2022	August 2022
Exchange with civil society and business on interface design; incorporation of feedback	September 2022	August 2023

Contact information: Division ZC4, ZC4@bmjv.bund.de **Other stakeholders (ministries, agencies, departments):** Federal Office of Justice, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community **Other stakeholders (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups):** DigitalService4Germany GmbH

6.2

Improved access to the Joint Ministerial Gazette

Time frame: 31 October 2021 – 31 December 2024
Implementing body: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The Joint Ministerial Gazette (Gemeinsames Ministerialblatt, GMBl) is the official publication of the Federal Government. It is published by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI). The GMBl is not the only way to access the administrative and other regulations, directives, decrees, orders, circulars and announcements published in it by the federal ministries. The different departments and authorities will also provide information and/or access free of charge upon request. To date, various libraries have offered free access to the GMBl, but otherwise, paid access is available from the publisher for individual editions and online access subscriptions.

What is the commitment?

In the future, the BMI would like to develop the current system to provide particularly citizen-friendly access. In the interests of transparency and maximum accessibility where federal legislation is concerned, going forward GMBl content should therefore be available largely free of charge and in digital format. A concept is being drawn up that will also provide simple, free online access to content. It is scheduled for implementation by the end of 2024.

How does the commitment contribute to overcoming the challenge?

By reconfiguring information access points, the BMI is making a key contribution to ensuring largely free and easy public access to this component of Federal Government legislation, thereby reflecting the core principle of open government

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

This commitment gives a broader public easier access to information, largely free of charge. It therefore helps to make the actions of the federal administration more transparent.

Additional information

The timetable is still subject to a variety of factors, and implementation is unlikely to be completed before the end of the period covered by the third NAP.

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Draft concept, incl. expert consultations	Q4 2021	Q2 2022
Start of pilot project	Q3 2022	Q3 2023

Contact information: Division VII1, VII1@bmi.bund.de

6.3 **Transparency about approval procedures for major transport infrastructure projects**

Time frame: 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2024
Implementing body: Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?
In Germany, the planning and approval procedure for major infrastructure projects in the transport sector typically goes on for many years. Often, it is very difficult to estimate reliably how long it will take before the go-ahead is given. A range of influential factors are beyond the control of the developer and approval authorities. In particular, the parties concerned may wish to fully exhaust the scope for legal recourse against decisions by the authorities or courts. The general public has very little knowledge of the reasons for and extent of the investigations and reviews required as part of the planning and approval procedure.

What is the commitment?
Bearing the working title of "Transparency about approval procedures for major transport infrastructure projects" (TGIV), this measure will use funds from the existing budget to set up a publicly accessible web-based information platform. This might take the form of an "approval map", linking to details of the planning and approval procedures for major federal transport infrastructure projects for federal highways, waterways and railways, for example. It is designed to meet the information needs of those affected by the plans, as well as the interested public.

In the absence of any obligation in law, providing information either on the platform or via a direct link to other websites (the Federal Government's environmental impact assessment portal, the developer, the Federal Railway Office) is voluntary.

How does the commitment contribute to overcoming the challenge?
This measure takes all modes of transport together on a single platform to create transparency about the many twists and turns on the road from the initial plans for a major infrastructure project, through the application process and on to approval. It sets out the formal legal requirements that apply to that approval, the scope of documentation (e.g. expert reports) that the developer must produce in the planning process, and the stage that current planning and approval procedures have reached.

The information on individual transport infrastructure projects is intended to provide a basis for broad civic discourse, while creating understanding for the time and effort involved in the planning and approval process.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?
The commitment further reinforces the value of the open government approach, uses technology to improve transparency, and opens the administration up even further to the people.

The ability to offer structured, condensed information and data across a range of modes of transport, and to forward it to other publicly accessible platforms, creates a high degree of transparency.

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Invitation to tender and contract for the information platform (pilot system); technical implementation	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Pilot operation	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
Start of normal operations (publicly accessible website)		Q4 2024

Contact information: Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI), Division DG 26, ref-dg26@bmvi.bund.de **Other stakeholders (internal):** Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, divisions and subordinate authorities

6.4 Provision of the Federal Government's Integrity Report as open data and extension of reporting to include aspects of Internal Audit work

Time frame: 30 June 2021 – 30 November 2022
Implementing body: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

An efficient and forward-looking government is nothing without the trust of its citizens. That trust must actively be earned. The federal administration's strategic integrity management forms part of these activities.

One of its instruments is the report on integrity in the federal administration, otherwise known as the Integrity Report. To date, separate reports have been published on the various aspects of government integrity such as preventing corruption, payments from the private sector (sponsorship, donations and other gifts), and the deployment of external entities within the federal government. These differ considerably in terms of their reporting cycles, the periods they cover, and their formats, for example.

What is the commitment?

At the recommendation of the German supreme federal audit institution, the Bundesrechnungshof, for the first time the 2020 Integrity Report is to consolidate the reports on preventing corruption, third-party payments and the deployment of external entities within the federal government. From the end of 2021 onwards there will thus be one standard report on integrity within the federal administration, that will publish content with the user in mind as structured, machine-readable open data.

Internal Audit (IR) oversees the activities of the administration, but is also focused on prevention. In addition to its remit to assess the legality and efficiency of the administration, it is also a means of preventing corruption. Expanding the Integrity Report to include aspects of Internal Audit work is intended in future to recognise its importance in this regard. It will also increase the transparency of government action in this area.

Like the individual reports of the past, the Integrity Report will be published once it has been presented to the lead committees of the German Bundestag. Where possible, the information in the appendix will be offered for the first time as open data, and thus made available via GovData.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?
This commitment will result in a comprehensive annual report on areas of federal administration integrity that have to date been the subject of separate reports. The new report is also broader in scope, because it includes aspects of Internal Audit work. Publishing the report in open data format makes it easier for all concerned to find out about strategic integrity management within the federal administration. Consolidating previously separate reports and expanding that coverage will make for better data quality and more standardised reporting.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?
Standard reporting obligations on integrity in the federal administration, the extension of that obligation to include aspects of Internal Audit work, and the provision of appendix information in open data format promote transparency and accountability in the federal administration. This may strengthen trust in government. Measures to combat corruption are a particularly important dimension of open government.

Additional information
- Integrity regulations are explained on the web presence of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community.[42]
- G20 Anti-corruption Open Data Principles (G20 Leaders' Communiqué at the Antalya Summit, 15/16 November 2015); G20 High-Level Principles on Organizing Against Corruption (G20 Leaders' Declaration, "Shaping an interconnected world", Hamburg, 7/8 July 2017); G20 High-Level Principles for Promoting Public Sector Integrity Through the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) (G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers Meeting Ministerial Communiqué, 22 October 2020)
- Meeting Ministerial Communiqué 22. Oktober 2020)

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Presentation of the first Integrity Report (2020) to the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community (InnA) and the Budget Committee (HHA)		30 September 2021
Publication of the first Integrity Report, in German and English, on the website of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI)		October / November 2021
Provision of the appendix to the report as open data		October / November 2021
Presentation of the 2021 Report to the InnA and HHA, containing Internal Audit information for the first time		30 September 2022

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42 See https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/publikationen/themen/moderne-verwaltung/korruptionspraevention/korruptionspraevention-regelungen-zur-integritaet.html (German)

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Publication of the 2021 Report, in German and English, on the BMI website, containing Internal Audit information for the first time		October / November 2022
Provision of the appendix to the report as open data, containing Internal Audit information		October / November 2022

Contact information: Division DGI3, DGI3@bmi.bund.de **Other stakeholders (ministries, agencies, departments):** All ministries **Other stakeholders :** Transparency Germany was consulted at the concept stage.

6.5 Continued development and enhancement of the government data information platform (VIP)

Time frame: Q4 2021 to Q4 2022
Implementing body: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) / Federal Statistical Office (StBA)

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?
The Open Data Act (Section 12a eGovernment Act, EGovG) provides an important legal basis for the active provision of open data by the authorities of the federal administration.

However, as things stand there is no central reference work to give an overview of what data is held by public institutions, in what offices and in what form. Making data holdings, and especially those of the federal authorities, more usable first and foremost requires a good knowledge of what data is available where. The absence of such a point of reference makes it more difficult to record and analyse systematically datasets that are provided in different ways, not to mention their suitability as open data. It is also an obstacle to the necessary systematic exchange on open data across authorities and sectors. Furthermore, the situation gets in the way of systematic disclosure as described in Section 12a EGovE.

What is the commitment?
By developing a government data information platform, known by its German acronym VIP, the system of data registers in Germany is to be captured as fully and granularly as possible in the form of a catalogue of metadata. To this end, data holdings will be presented exclusively using their metadata and other characteristics used in registry management, such as access restrictions. The VIP does not contain any individual data, neither does it have any access to that data. The publicly available information on the datasets in question is prepared by the VIP, then further sources are added and the information made easily searchable for the user. The quality of the data is verified in consultation with the specialist offices in each case. In the future, it should be possible to display the open data suitability of government data holdings. This will be ascertained on the basis of a forthcoming strategy for expanding VIP entries to include an open data test facility using standard criteria such as content-related and technical factors. The VIP already contains information on aspects such as the quality of data holdings and any existing access restrictions. Further consultations with interested actors might also be held on this basis, for example with the Data Transparency Unit (DTS) that is also planned for the Federal Statistical Office. These might

help to promote data skills and literacy at those offices which hold data, as well as among data users in the academic, scientific and political spheres. The Open Data Competence Centre at the Federal Office of Administration (CCOD BVA) might also help here.

How does the commitment contribute to overcoming the challenge?
The VIP provides information on what data is held at which government office. It structures the available information and thus permits a focused dialogue with the offices holding data registers without jeopardising data privacy or business confidentiality. In a further stage of its expansion, if information on data quality and the right contacts were included, the VIP could be used as a platform for exchange on the suitability for open data of government data holdings. (To this end it should also be possible for those within the government to comment on data holdings.) As it grows, in consultation with bodies such as the Open Data Competence Centre, the Data Transparency Unit, the GovData portal and other stakeholders, the VIP should encourage greater objectivity and knowledge-sharing, and provide a basis for formulating data needs. The VIP also strengthens the position of citizens and their data protection, because it gives them an overview of what information public-sector bodies are holding about them, where this data comes from, and what it is being used for. The VIP thus makes the system of data registers more transparent, enables duplicate datasets to be identified, and results in a more economic use of data overall.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?
The VIP creates transparency for all interested parties about the data holdings systematically maintained in public administration in Germany. Cataloguing government data increases confidence that the public sector is using personal data sparingly and securely.

Additional information
Close cooperation with the Open Data Competence Centre (CCOD) at the Federal Office of Administration (BVA) and the planned Data Transparency Unit at the Federal Statistical Office (DTS StBA) will ensure that full use is made of the VIP's potential.This commitment thus also serves SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Consultation with the expert and user communities to determine requirements for an expanded VIP	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
Draft of a concept to complement the open data available on the VIP, in cooperation with the CCOD and DTS	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Preparation and evaluation of VIP entries on the basis of the above concept, and implementation of the necessary technical modifications in a further phase of expansion: addition of open data-related information and evaluations	Q2 2022	Q4 2022

Contact information: vip@destatis.de, opendata@bmi.bund.de **Other stakeholders:** BMI, CCOD (BVA), DTS (StBA)

6.6 Promotion of knowledge-sharing in the open data environment

Time frame: Q2 2021 – Q2 2023
Implementing body: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) / Federal Office of Administration (BVA) (Open Data Competence Centre)

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The Open Data Act (Section 12a eGovernment Act, EGovG) provides an important legal basis for the active provision of open data by the authorities of the federal administration. Its success will depend to a significant extent on effective nationwide implementation. The aim is for open data publication to become routine. In addition to a common understanding of open data, this requires continuous knowledge-building. Ongoing knowledge-sharing across a broad range of different stakeholders in the open data environment is an important part of this. To date, this exchange has taken place in a variety of negotiating arenas and among discrete groups of actors. A sensible approach is needed to link these different actors and networks and place them in relation to each other, thereby helping to achieve an overall understanding of this area and its needs.

What is the commitment?

A recurrent event format will be established to improve the coordinated provision of open government data. As the network moderator, the CCOD will be responsible for giving the different actors an opportunity for regular exchange. Taking the form of a roundtable, there will also be an annual open data conference. This honours a commitment from the second NAP. In addition, expert forums will be held to hear and include the relevant stakeholder groups in each case, be they providers or users. The annual roundtables will identify and prioritise focus topics in open data, which will then be examined in more detail in three expert forums the following year. The first such roundtable took place in October 2020, and the process was continued in 2021 with regular expert forums. The idea here is to bring together the Federal, Länder, local authorities, civil society, associations, data journalists, business, the scientific and academic community and other relevant groups as appropriate to the topic at hand. At the end of each year, a further open data conference is then held between the Federal Government and the Länder to identify and prioritise topics of discussion.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The planned open data conferences and expert forums are intended to facilitate broad, ongoing knowledge-sharing between different user groups. This should support the following aspects, in particular: 1) awareness-raising, general skills development and the cultural change surrounding open data; 2) facilitating the development and enhancement of standards and future technical solutions; 3) optimising the volume and quality of the data provided; 4) improving the information available to decision-makers; 5) supporting the coordinated provision of open government data. The rapid development in the interconnected issues surrounding open data will also be taken into account. The aim here, in addition to networking knowledge and experience, is to improve understanding of the issues facing the various user groups. This approach furthers the needs-based development of open data while equally dismantling knowledge silos and barriers between users and providers.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

The measure will do much to expand understanding and knowledge of open data in a transparent and sustainable way. The keystone is the inclusion of various user groups from Federal, Länder and possibly also local governments, as well as civil society. The commitment is therefore relevant to transparency, collaboration and participation and inclusion.

Additional information
Direct iteration of Commitment 6, "Further development and promotion of the open data environment" from the second NAP for 2019 – 2021, in connection with participation in the OGP.

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Expert forum no. 2 on standardisation	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
Expert forum no. 3 on training and courses	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
2nd Open Data Conference, incl. workshops with the Federal, Länder and local governments	Q2 2021	Q4 2021
Expert forum no. 4	Q4 2021	Q1 2022
Expert forum no. 5	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Expert forum no. 6	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
3rd Open Data Conference, incl. workshops with the Federal, Länder and local governments	Q2 2022	Q4 2022
Expert forum no. 7	Q4 2022	Q1 2023
Expert forum no. 8	Q1 2023	Q2 2023

Contact information: Federal Office of Administration (BVA) / Open Data Competence Centre, Division DI4, OpenData@bva.bund.de **Other stakeholders :** BMI

6.7 Participatory development of the next National Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development

Time frame: Q1 2022 – Q2 2023
Implementing body: Federal Ministry of Education and Research

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?
UNESCO has launched a new programme – ESD for 2030 – to embed education for sustainable development in education systems around the world. While retaining much that has proven itself from earlier programmes, it sets new areas of thematic focus, such as the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), technological progress, and transformative action, i.e. independent action towards a sustainable future. The present German ESD process, to incorporate ESD into the structure of the German education system, is to be brought into line with these changes. Furthermore, the National Action Plan

on Education for Sustainable Development that was adopted in 2017 must be updated with new commitments if the SDGs are to be achieved. ESD stakeholders must therefore commit themselves to new targets and measures. UNESCO's new "ESD for 2030" programme also calls upon member states to reach a broader public with impactful ESD communication and information activities.

What is the commitment?
As part of a consultation process, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is involving the general public by asking these questions: "How should education develop to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its SDGs?", and "What does that require from public-sector institutions, business, and social actors?" Participants are invited to suggest specific activities that might help education for sustainable development become more of a fixture in the general syllabus. Feedback from the consultation process will feed into the German ESD process to inspire new commitments from the actors for the National Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development, which will then be adopted by the National ESD Platform.

How does the commitment contribute to overcoming the challenge?
The NAP process will be based on broad civic participation, achieved in part by widening consultations across all of the stakeholders concerned, and by communications via the ESD portal and social media. In this way, it will reach actors that have not so far taken part. This approach will improve the quality and exactitude of possible commitments, while raising the visibility and acceptance of the measures derived from them. It will also expand and strengthen the network of actors that are important in implementing those measures in their capacity as stakeholders, multipliers, experts and affected parties. The structure of the ESD process gives the various actors involved in ESD a direct say in agenda-setting. The outcome should be an ambitious next National Action Plan on ESD. Public consultations also mean that the actors in the ESD process – Federal, Länder and local governments, as well as other social stakeholders – will have to respond directly to the specific wishes of those taking part in the ESD consultation process.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?
This commitment not only bolsters participation in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation, but in itself already represents real-life participative processes. This makes it an additional factor consolidating the principle of open government at this level.

Additional information
The National Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD NAP) can be accessed via the *ESD portal*. The commitments in the most recent ESD NAP can be called up using a special *search engine*. The key commitments resulting from the consultations and the subsequent ESD process are likely to be presented following the implementation of this third NAP.
• National ESD Platform announces commitments (Q3 2023)
• ESD agenda conference to present the new NAP to the general public (Q4 2023)
Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 4 (Quality education)

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Consultation process to gather proposals for new commitments for the National Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development	Q1 2022	Q2 2022

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
ESD bodies evaluate the results of the consultation process	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
New commitments are formulated within the ESD bodies, as well as at the annual ESD meeting in 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022
Consolidation process within the ESD bodies, and adoption by the National ESD Platform	Q1 2023	Q2 2023

Contact information: ESD Team at the BMBF, Division 333 – bne@bmbf.bund.de **Other stakeholders:** All members of the *National ESD Platform*

6.8 Maintaining the dialogue on trace substances

Time frame: 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2023
Implementing body: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety / Federal Environment Agency

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?
Even in very small concentrations, residues from pharmaceuticals, pesticides, biocides and other chemicals in our lakes and rivers can impact on the environment and on human health. This requires swift corrective action to protect drinking water supplies and other resources. The huge variety of ways in which trace substances find their way into water makes a one-size-fits-all solution difficult. Public-sector regulation also reaches its limits here. This reali-sation led to the creation of a dialogue on trace substances, as a project encompassing the following measures: a body of experts to analyse the relevant micropollutants, roundtables, information campaigns, and a framework of reference for advanced wastewater treatment. Participating actors were drawn primarily from among the manufacturers of relevant prod-ucts (including industry associations), water management, Länder and their environmental administrations, and environmental groups and civil society. The pilot phase of the project ended in the spring of 2021.

What is the commitment?
The process that emerged from the pilot Dialogue on Trace Substances is to be continued. On 22 March 2021 it was handed over to the new Federal Centre for Trace Substances at the Federal Environment Agency, which will take it forward. Led professionally by the Centre from now on, the process is intended to provide a platform for stakeholders such as manufacturers, users, water managers, representatives of agriculture, environmen-tal associations, unions and the Länder. The Dialogue will discuss all measures that might reduce the release of micropollutants into the aquatic environment, whether at source in manufacturing, processing and consumption, or 'end of pipe' during wastewater treat-ment. Participants will together select the relevant substances. As an expression of their corporate social responsibility, manufacturers will attend roundtable sessions to draft a set of independent undertakings. Other stakeholders will design information campaigns, and Länder will select those wastewater treatment plants that are to be fitted with improved purification technology to eliminate trace substances. Data and information on material

properties, emission pathways, findings from lakes and rivers, and purification technologies will be collated and published for all of these measures.

How does the commitment contribute to overcoming the challenge?

The new Dialogue on Trace Substances at the Centre for Trace Substances at the Federal Environment Agency will build on the positive outcomes of the pilot phase mentioned above, and will establish combating micropollutants as a long-term task. No specific reduction measures emerged from the pilot phase, but these are now expected as the Dialogue is consolidated. Additional information campaigns on ways of reducing micropollutant levels are planned. The findings of this work may highlight to legislators that there is more work to be done in those areas in which the Dialogue does not result in the required emissions reductions.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

Participation is at the heart of the Dialogue on Trace Substances that the new Centre for Trace Substances will support. Participation processes have already begun. With all of the affected stakeholders contributing, these offer maximum transparency. The project takes a cross-sectoral approach and is to be broadened to include further target groups.

Additional information

- Relation to Europe: European Green Deal, specifically its zero-pollution ambition, and all EU legislation on materials, such as the REACH Regulation 1907/2006, the Plant Protection Products Regulation 1107/2009, and the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
- Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation)

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Centre for Trace Substances and stakeholders produce a report on progress achieved to date: number of substances analysed, data availability, implementation measures instituted, obstacles to implementation, planned expansions of wastewater treatment plants, and workshops and campaigns conducted	October 2021	October 2022
Centre for Trace Substances and stakeholders evaluate the further progress that has been made (as above), and present it for discussion at a joint event. The outcomes of this event are published and communicated effectively to the general public.	October 2022	October 2023

Contact information: Dr Lilian Busse / Federal Environment Agency, Head of Section II, lilian.busse@uba.de.
Other stakeholders (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups): water management associations, the chemical and pharmaceutical industry, agricultural, health and environmental associations; the scientific and academic community, representatives of the authorities

6.9 **National Centre for Biodiversity Monitoring**

Time frame: January 2021 – January 2023
Implementing body: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety / Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?
To combat biodiversity loss effectively, reliable data is needed not only on the condition, but also on the changes in nature and the landscape, as well as on the key variables involved. Various well-established biodiversity monitoring programmes already exist, gathering valuable data on certain habitats or groups of species, for instance. To date, however, this has been scattered across different actors. The Länder run important monitoring programmes, for example, while professional societies and academic institutions also collect useful data. Furthermore, additional monitoring programmes are needed to expand the current data and to fill in the gaps where too little is known about particular species or habitats.

What is the commitment?
The aim of setting up a national Centre for Biodiversity Monitoring is to accelerate the expansion of such monitoring at the national level, and to ensure its long-term future. Opened in January 2021, the Centre forms part of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) in Leipzig. It is intended to be a major driving force behind the nationwide expansion of biodiversity monitoring. It will also unite monitoring research and practice, prepare monitoring data from existing sources and prepare and aggregate it for public release, fine-tune data management to make this possible, and connect, empower and support the actors concerned. In doing so, the Centre will also harness citizen science projects relating to biodiversity monitoring.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?
The work of the Centre for Biodiversity Monitoring will improve the basis of data on the condition of and changes in nature and the landscape, and make it more accessible. Open and transparent data provision reflects the spirit of the Environmental Information Act (*Umweltinformationsgesetz*). It should observe FAIR principles by being Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable. The broad diversity of monitoring actors will be included by the phased construction of modules for an information and networking platform, and the creation of an *Anwendung und Forschung im Dialog* (Application and Research in Dialogue) platform. Together, these measures will achieve far-reaching improvements in biodiversity monitoring.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?
Action to implement the commitment gathers new information and data, consolidates data sources, and also simplifies the findability and accessibility of both new and existing data. This not only increases transparency but also makes participation easier with formats to involve the expert community.

Additional information
- Website of the national Centre for Biodiversity Monitoring: *https://www.monitoring-zentrum.de/* (in German only at the time of publication)
- Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG 15 (Life on land)

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
First *Anwendung und Forschung im Dialog* forum	June 2021	December 2021
Second *Anwendung und Forschung im Dialog* forum	June 2022	December 2022
Expansion of current website; development of a concept for the web-based information and networking platform	January 2021	December 2023

Contact information: Division N I 1 General and Fundamental Aspects of Nature Conservation, DG Coordination; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; NI1@bmu.bund.de **Other stakeholders (ministries, agencies, departments):** Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Federal Ministry of Defence **Other stakeholders (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups):** monitoring actors such as the Länder, research institutes, natural history museums and collections, volunteer-run professional societies and professional cartographers

7. Joint committments by the Federal and Länder Governments

7.1 An open source platform for public administrations

Time frame: June 2021 – March 2023
Implementing body: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, Land Baden-Württemberg and Land North Rhine-Westphalia

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Parts of public administration in Germany are critically dependent upon individual software manufacturers. The risk here is that they will lose control over their own IT systems, and thus their capacity to operate in the digital world. In a joint strategy (resolution no. 2021/09 of the IT Planning Council of 17 March 2021), the Federal, Länder and local governments have therefore set themselves the target of improving the digital sovereignty of Germany's public administration. This will be achieved to a significant degree by the greater use of open source software (OSS).[43] The availability and maturity of open source solutions for public administrations remain unclear, however. Legally watertight structures that would permit collaboration between levels of government on the development of OSS, as well as the structured storage and/or reuse of OSS, are also lacking.

What is the commitment?

A project involving different levels of government is setting up and piloting an open source (OS) platform for public administration. It involves the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI), the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy of Land North Rhine-Westphalia (MWIDE NRW), and Komm.ONE as a public-law entity sponsored jointly by the Land and local governments of Baden-Württemberg. The project is being conducted as part of the implementation of Germany's new government cloud computing strategy (resolution no. 2020/54 of the IT Planning Council of 23 October 2020).

Among the intended features of the OS platform are: a central solutions directory, enabling users to search for and identify suitable open source solutions that are already in successful use; a Git-based code repository that allows software projects to be stored and open source code to be managed; and formats for collaboration, such as a documentation platform, discussion forum, ticket system, etc.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The OS platform will create a shared location with a transparent and legally compliant structure at which the Federal, Länder and local governments can share and reuse open source solutions, and develop them on a collaborative basis. It is intended to create transparency about available, mature open source solutions for public administrations. From the government perspective it should also help to generate genuine alternatives to proprietary software. At the same time, it simplifies the legal reuse and collaborative development of needs-based open source solutions for public administrations. The use of OSS, as well as open standards and interfaces, encourages freedom of choice, competition and flexible software modifications, while improving control and transparency concerning changes to the source code. Subject to legal review, the OS platform will be rolled out gradually (see milestones).

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43 Definition of OSS according to the Open Source Initiative (https://opensource.org/osd)

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

This commitment creates transparency about the software used in government. It is also relevant to the value of accountability, because the OS platform enables users to track the use of OSS. In addition, the commitment upholds the OGP value of technology and innovation in the interests of open access, because the platform will help to dismantle barriers to the use of OSS by public administrations. Finally, the project represents collaboration between different levels of government, and involves and includes other stakeholders from government and the open source community.

Additional information

- *Eckpunktepapier zur Digitalen Souveränität benchmark paper on digital sovereignty* (German) [44]
- *Strategie zur Stärkung der Digitalen Souveränität für die IT der Öffentlichen Verwaltung,* [45]
- *Deutsche Verwaltungscloud-Strategie – Föderaler Ansatz*, the government cloud strategy, which sets out a federal approach [46]

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Testing of OS platform pilot version with first users from public administrations, including iterative platform development	June 2021	October 2021
Opening of OS platform to further user groups outside of public administration (subject to legal review)	October 2021	February 2022
Long-term responsibility for the OS platform (in the sense of product ownership) transfers to a government entity, planned to be a new Centre for Digital Sovereignty, ZenDiS (working title)	February 2022	July 2022
Continuous, needs-based refinement of OS platform	August 2022	March 2023

Contact information: BMI, Division DGII2, DGII2@bmi.bund.de **Other stakeholders (ministries, agencies, departments):** Ministry for Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy of Land North Rhine-Westphalia; Ministry of the Interior, Digitalisation and Local Government, Baden-Württemberg; Komm.ONE IT service provider for Land Baden-Württemberg **Other stakeholders (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups):** various participants in the Ein Ort für öffentlichen Code (A place for open code) initiative, including the OSBA, KGSt, GovDigital, and Vitako

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44 See https://www.it-planungsrat.de/beschluesse/sitzungen/31-sitzung/standard-titel
45 See https://www.it-planungsrat.de/beschluesse/beschluss/beschluss-2021-09
46 See https://www.it-planungsrat.de/beschluesse/beschluss/beschluss-2020-54

7.2 Standards-based simplification of business access to public procurement

Time frame: June 2020 – December 2022
Implementing body: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) / BMI Procurement Office, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Contract notices from public contracting authorities are currently posted on multiple procurement platforms run by different operators. As a rule, these are not interoperable. As a result, to participate in public tender procedures, businesses must research through many different public contract and tender platforms to find out what notices might be right for them. In practice, this lack of standardised information provision makes for far less transparency than intended. This may mean that tenders receive fewer bids and there is less competition, which may lead to more being paid for contracts than would otherwise be the case.

Publication recently began of official procurement statistics that create a valid basis of data on which the importance to the nationwide economy of public contract and concession awards can be measured reliably for the first time. To avoid revealing the awarding authorities, bidders or winning submissions, this statistical data is however published anonymised in the form of condensed information and analyses of tendering procedures that have already been completed.

What is the commitment?

Data and information on planned and completed public procurement processes will be recorded and provided centrally, in a standard format. To achieve this, a national notification service for public contract awards, known by its German acronym BKMS, is to be set up using standardised data fields. These fields are based on the requirements of the EU's Implementing Regulation establishing standard forms for the publication of notices in the field of public procurement ("eForms"). The obligation to publish such notices is based on the EU directives on public contract and concession awards. It is planned that the BKMS will accept contract and award notices in the standard XÖV format from as many notification platforms as possible, and check them for completeness and plausibility, as well as for customisable searches by businesses and individual citizens. It will also provide a function that will allow businesses to search easily through the entire data holdings of the BKMS. Furthermore, the service will use eForms to provide prepared data on planned or completed public procurements as open data. The aim is to offer this information in the open contracting data standard (OCDS).

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

Business will have easier access to contract award procedures, and competition will be improved. The introduction of eForms creates a structured, standardised basis of data that also permits strategic controlling in public procurement. In the future, systematic, uniform data management and provision in open data format may be extended to tendering procedures that fall below EU value thresholds.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

The outcomes of the project will create transparency about public contract award and procurement processes. This information will be more easily accessible to businesses and individual citizens. The aim is to provide data in OCDS with the help of a uniform design for eForms. All of this works towards the ultimate objective of open contracting. In addition, the project harnesses technology and innovation in the interests of open access and accountability, in part because it lays the technological and data structure foundation for comprehensive monitoring.

Additional information

The project is part of a collaborative project entitled "Digitisation of Procurement – Cooperation Project for Standards-based Digitisation of the Public Purchasing and Procurement Process", led by the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen. The project was set up at the instigation of the IT Planning Council with the Federal Government, the Länder North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate, and the *Koordinierungsstelle für IT-Standards* standards coordination body of Bremen. It implements the business conditions described in the Online Access Act (OZG) for invitations to tender and public contracts. The project outcomes will provide a blueprint for other Länder to follow.

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Work to build BKMS data holdings begins	Q4 2021	
Benchmark solution for the OZG project (go-live)	Q4 2022	
Data provided as open data		Q1 2023 (target)

Contact information: Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, Division DG I 5 Public Procurement, Digitalisation of Public Purchasing, DGI5@bmi.bund.de **Other stakeholders:** Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Division IB6); Federal Ministry of the Interior Procurement Office (Department Z); Land North Rhine-Westphalia, Land Rhineland-Palatinate, FITKO – KoSIT **Other stakeholders (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups):** Bundesdruckerei GmbH, Koordinierungsstelle für IT Standards, Nortal AG, adesso SE

8. Länder Government commitments

The Länder expressed an interest in Germany's participation in the OGP in 2015 (Bundesrat resolution 462 / 1514 of 6 November 2015).[47] The parameters for including the Länder are set out in resolution 2018 / 18 of the IT Planning Council of 16 April 2018.[48] In addition, since December 2020 there has been informal, working-level exchange oft he Federal and Länder governments on open government and the OGP. The third NAP contains commitments from two Länder: the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Land North Rhine-Westphalia. Our warm thanks to them both for their engagement. Unlike the other sections of the Action Plan, **for constitutional reasons these measures are not the subject of the Federal Government's resolution***. Rather, they are the outcome of a decision-making process in the Land in question. Exceptions here are cross-level measures in which the Federal Government takes the lead (e.g. commitments 7.1 and 7.2).*

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47 Source: www.bundesrat.de/SharedDocs/drucksachen/2015/0401-0500/462-15%28B%29.pdf (German)
48 Source: https://www.it-planungsrat.de/beschluesse/beschluss/beschluss-2018-18

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg: Public participation and information – digitalisation of administrative services for participation and provision of plans in a spatial planning context
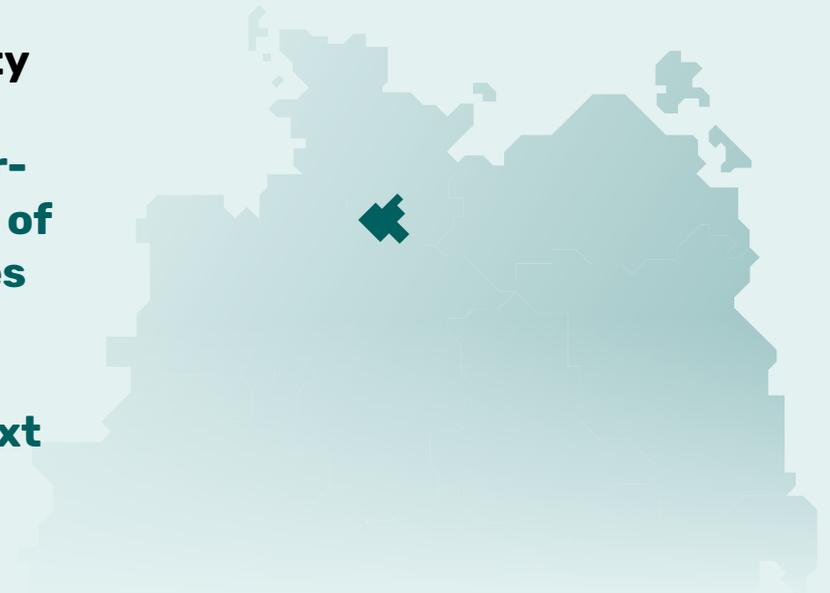
Time frame: Ongoing to 31 December 2022
Implementing body: Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (BSW), Office of Regional Planning and Urban Development with the support of: Land Geoinformation and Survey Authority, central XPlanung/XBau office

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Citizens are affected by spatial planning at many different levels directly or indirectly, and would like to play a larger part in the planning process. The plans that are drawn up are: Land development plans at Land level, regional plans at regional level, and land use plans (both preparatory and binding) at municipal level. There is also a planning approval procedure, which is a specific administrative process that determines whether projects and infrastructure measures that impact significantly on land use may be carried out at all. Statutory regulations govern public participation in the legislative process for specialist laws, specifically the Federal Building Code (*Baugesetzbuch*), the Federal Spatial Planning Act (*Raumordnungsgesetz*) and the Administrative Procedure Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz*).

Citizens are affected by these planning procedures in different ways. In Germany, the opportunity to have a say is a fundamental element of public participation. In part in view of the complexity of the procedures concerned, to date it has not always been offered digitally. The Online Access Act (*Onlinezugangsgesetz*, OZG) states that all administrative services must now be offered in fully digital form by the end of 2022.

Enormous potential exists to digitalise not only participation in planning procedures, but also the plans themselves, whether preparatory or final. These two services are thus very important in the context of OZG implementation.

What is the commitment?

The aim of the implementation project is to develop software solutions, known as "benchmark implementations", that provide optimum digital support to both the participation process for the production of spatial plans, and the provision of the plans themselves, whether preparatory or final. Existing solutions, some of which are already in use, are to serve as a model for development.

The software products are to be designed according to the "one for all" principle in such a way that they can subsequently be made available to interested Länder and local governments for their own use. Alongside design and implementation, the scalability of these software solutions is thus particularly important.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?
Those in charge of planning must be given the facility to conduct participation processes, and provide the plans themselves, in digital form. In smaller municipalities in particular, the high cost and other expense associated with purchasing or producing, and running, the relevant software solutions is often a problem. The ability to benefit from jointly developed software as a secondary user can enable planning offices to meet the requirements of the OZG in full.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?
- Transparency: Digitalised processes and the proactive provision of planning data give citizens more comprehensive information on planning initiatives, enables them to track decision-making paths and gives them access to the plans themselves, thereby improving transparency about the actions of their local governments.
- Participation: Direct, low-barrier opportunities to participate in the process can increase both the acceptance and the quality of the planning outcome overall.
- Technology and innovation for open access and accountability: Local applications and central solutions and platforms should communicate and exchange messages with the aid of standardised, machine-readable data exchange formats that are manufacturer-independent. Such standards are already in development. As part of the project they are to be modified in line with the needs of the various types of procedure.

Additional information
The public participation and information implementation project is part of the OZG's "Construction and housing" cluster, and is supported under the economic stimulus package for OZG implementation projects.

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Milestone 1: Concept	August 2020	July 2021
Milestone 2: Benchmark implementation	December 2020	February 2022
Release of an application prototype (the minimum viable product, MVP)		November 2021
Milestone 3: One-for-all solution	January 2022	August 2022

Contact information: Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Hamburg, Department for Urban and Regional Planning, Division for Digital Urban Planning, E-Mail: diplanung@bsw.hamburg.de. **Other stakeholders:** Agency for Geoinformation and Surveying, Hamburg, Coordination Office for Semantic Standardisation in Planning and Building for Public Service, E-Mail: xleitstelle@gv.hamburg.de.

North Rhine-Westphalia I:
Improve the quality and quantity of data from public service entities, and of election data

Time frame: 30 September 2021 – 31 August 2023
Implementing body: Ministry for Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy of Land North Rhine-Westphalia and the Open Government Working Group

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?
North Rhine-Westphalia has been able to improve its good operating framework for open data and open government still further in recent years. Decisive progress has been made first and foremost in key areas such as legal certainty and technical infrastructure. For example, the June 2020 introduction of Section 16a of the eGovernment Act NRW created a legal foundation that obliges the Land authorities to publish their data as open data. Local governments may also publish their data in the same way. In connection with this, a central Open Data Advisory Unit was set up for authorities within North Rhine-Westphalia. It is attached to the office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Land government. An open data commissioner has also been appointed for each Land ministry. Where technical infrastructure is concerned, measures have included the successful implementation of the commitments set out in the second Open Government Partnership National Action Plan. The development of a software tool gave Land and local authorities the opportunity to publish their data in a free, easy and user-friendly way via the central Land metadata portal, Open.NRW. Sixteen mainly smaller local governments in NRW have since decided to use this service and to make their data available to the public. The number of data sets published on the portal has increased from approx. 3,800 to some 4,500.

Despite this considerable progress, there is still a wealth of NRW data still to be uncovered. Plenty of very interesting and as-yet unpublished data is held not with the authorities, but with public service entities. Mobility data is held with transport companies and networks, for

example. There are isolated offers to support active open data practices at public service entities in NRW, but no comprehensive, systematic approach. The broad publication and centralised availability of this public-sector data, too, is nonetheless important, especially since much of it is "high-quality" (per the PSI Directive). In other words it is seen as especially useful both economically and socially.

The quality and availability of this data are crucial to its actual economic and social benefit. While North Rhine-Westphalia is already very well positioned in this regard, not least because of its comprehensive experience in and action on open data since 2014, as well as its statutory regulation (Section 16a eGovernment Act NRW), there is still room for improvement where data quality is concerned. Election data is shown in a variety of formats and charts at each separate election, for example, but the data is not structured openly and uniformly, and each administration decides for itself what exactly will be displayed.

What is the commitment?
The aim is to create the technical and legal frameworks to publish as much data as possible from public service entities as open data. Furthermore, all public-sector data providers from NRW (public service entities, local governments and Land authorities) are to be given targeted support so that they are able to publish data of a high quality in as standardised and user-friendly a format as possible. Election data are to be standardised, and providers' attention drawn to the quality of the data they supply. All in all, these measures are intended to promote broader use of the data for economic and social purposes.

With its PSI Directive on open data and the re-use of public service information, the EU also sets out specific requirements in this regard. These are currently being transposed into national law. In the case of Germany this is the Data Usage Act (*Datennutzungsgesetz*). Authorities at Land and local government level, as well as public service entities, are affected by these regulations. With this commitment, NRW aims to push the implementation of the PSI Directive elsewhere in Germany, too, in a way that is as proactive and sustainable as possible.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?
The creation of a technical service to publish data from public service entities free of charge on the Land open data portal – Open.NRW – is intended to help these entities become part of the open data landscape in NRW. Opening up the Land's central open data infrastructure to these entities also establishes sustainable ways of implementing the PSI Directive (Data Usage Act) at Land level.

A standardisation procedure is to further improve the quality of the data in question. A public election data standard, meanwhile, should enable the results of any election to be used publicly in a defined form. A web API will be used to collect raw data from all local governments, feed it into a Land-wide election data portal and then make it available again via the API in the standard format that has been developed. The prepared data will then be provided in raw form via an easy-to-use web interface on the website.

Training and technical tools for providers of data on the Open.NRW portal will further support better data quality. Training courses for data providers are to ensure that the latter structure and describe their data so that it can easily be found, and so that it is available in a standardised, user-friendly form. Technical tools will help to implement this with the reporting and testing functions they offer.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?
The intention behind this commitment is to help achieve greater transparency by publishing additional data and by improving its quality. It also aims to harness technology in the interests of greater open access, by expanding a central platform to facilitate data access and use. For data providers, this reduces costs and barriers, which are two of the main reasons preventing publication.

Additional information

- DIRECTIVE (EU) 2019/1024 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 20 June 2019 on open data and the re-use of public sector information (recast): *https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32019L1024&-from=DE*
- This commitment follows on from the commitment made by North Rhine-Westphalia in the second National Action Plan in the framework of the Open Government Partnership: North Rhine-Westphalia I Developing infrastructure and framework conditions for open government in North Rhine-Westphalia
- Open Government Working Group (German): *https://open.nrw/der-arbeitskreis-open-government*
- Open.NRW open data portal: *https://open.nrw/*
- Standard for open election data – website: *https://offenewahldaten.de/*

Milestones	Start Date	Implementation by
Creation of free access for public service entities to the Open.NRW portal, for the central publication of data covered by the PSI Directive	September 2021	March 2022
Development of training courses and technical tools to improve the quality of data published on the Open.NRW portal	September 2021	December 2022
Development of an open standard for election data	September 2021	December 2021
Recommendation of the open standard for election data	January 2022	August 2023

Contact information: Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy NRW, Division II A 4 (Open Data Advisory Unit): kontakt@open.nrw.de. **Other stakeholders (ministries, agencies, departments):** Election data: Open Knowledge Foundation, umbrella organisation of municipal IT service providers in NRW (KDN), municipal data centre for the Rhein-Erft-Rur region (kdvz) **Other stakeholders (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups):** Election data: vote iT GmbH

8.3 North Rhine-Westphalia II: Online approaches to increase public participation

Time frame: 30 September 2021 – 31 August 2023
Implementing body: Ministry for Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy NRW and the Open Government Working Group

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Many citizens in North Rhine-Westphalia would like to be more politically involved. Politicians and government have been responding to this for a number of years now with a growing range of participation procedures at various levels. Here, the internet offers an opportunity for even greater involvement by taking participation online.

In North Rhine-Westphalia this has been trialled in recent years in a number of flagship projects, and various activities permitting citizens to get involved online at an early stage. Experience with these schemes has been varied. Local governments, too, are increasingly using digital forms of participation. According to the Monitor "Online Participation" run by the Online Participation NRW research college at the Düsseldorf Institute for Internet and Democracy (DIID), around a third of local governments in North Rhine-Westphalia already have some experience with online public participation and have set up the relevant procedures.

Despite this, potential remains to increase both the number and the quality of services at the Land and local government levels. In particular, to date there has been no central infrastructure for conducting formal and informal online participation processes that could be used by Land and local authorities alike, and that would give the public easy access to such processes.

What is the commitment?

The declared aim of this commitment is to improve the quality of public participation in digital form in North Rhine-Westphalia, to increase the number of such facilities within the Land, and to make it easier for all citizens to begin using all of the Land's different means of participation.

To achieve this, the Land government is planning to introduce a Land-wide participation portal (www.beteiligung.nrw.de) which re-uses software developed for the Free State of Saxony. This allows citizens to get involved digitally, at an early stage and in various ways, in shaping policy and administration in their communities. The participation portal will be further developed in line with changing needs in close collaboration with the local governments of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Land authorities, and the Free State of Saxony as cooperation partner.

The target here is broad use of the technical tool to integrate and anchor public participation in administrative processes in North Rhine-Westphalia. A Land-wide marketing campaign is scheduled to accompany the launch of the portal within Land and local authorities. This will include a roadshow, for example. There are also plans to offer users open forums for exchange and networking, such as a discussion group on public participation. In the interests of improving the standard of participation processes, work is to continue to formulate joint guidelines for public participation at both the formal and informal levels.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

Once launched, the participation portal will provide a Land-wide infrastructure that is available to all Land authorities and local governments free of charge for their formal and informal participation processes.

This will enable not just the authorities, but also districts, cities and municipalities in North Rhine-Westphalia to target and include a broad section of the public individually in decision-making processes. Guidelines for digital public participation help to increase the quality of online participation, and make it easier for government employees to conduct such processes.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?
This approach, of using online participation to strengthen inclusion in North Rhine-Westphalia, elevates a transparent, digital and participatory culture of government. The central participation portal offers the public the opportunity to find out about participation processes at Land and municipal level, thus increasing transparency. Meanwhile, the participation tool gives citizens the chance to contribute their ideas and expectations to policy-making and the procedures of government. This strengthens democratic values, encourages policy acceptance, and helps to counter growing fatigue towards politics in general. The quality of online participation may also benefit from specific guidelines in this area.

Additional information
- Open Government Working Group (German): *https://open.nrw/der-arbeitskreis-open-government*
- Open.NRW office: *https://open.nrw/*
- Digital Strategy for NRW: *https://www.digitalstrategie.nrw*

Milestones	Start date	Implementation by
Technical enhancement of the participation portal	Ongoing	
Launch of the Land-wide participation portal within the Land and municipal authorities in North Rhine-Westphalia	September 2021	August 2023
Kick-off event / roadshow to mark the launch of the participation portal within government and suitable bodies at Land and municipal levels	September 2021	March 2022
Draft of guidelines on public participation	October 2021	March 2022
Training courses and user workshops	September 2021	August 2023
Networking to share experience and opinions; network discussion group	Ongoing	

Contact information: Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy NRW, Division II A 2 (Open.NRW office): kontakt@open.nrw.de **Other stakeholders (ministries, agencies, departments):** Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy NRW as the Land planning authority, Division VIII B 1, Ref-8B.1@mwide.nrw.de, authorities of Land North Rhine-Westphalia

9. Outlook

Despite these uncertain times it is still worth venturing a look to the future. In partnership with civil society, business and the scientific and academic community, open action on the part of government and administration can help more effectively to resolve the challenges facing society. Germany has gathered positive experience in this field in recent years. In many instances, the COVID-19 pandemic actually boosted the open government movement. Stakeholders proved keen to explore new digital paths to participation, transparency and collaboration.

In addition, the pandemic highlighted the great importance of transparency and political action founded on scientific data and facts. We must leave no-one behind, so efforts must be made to encourage lively participation in political events in general, and in government handling of the pandemic, in particular. With this in mind, the next two years should be used for further open government action to make improvements to the lives of the citizens themselves.

Beyond the commitments described above, some of these future initiatives are already known:

○ The various online services provided by the **Stasi Records Archive** are to be evaluated in rotating discussions with users in a one-day event. This will also be an opportunity to collect suggestions for how the archive should be developed going forward. A dialogue with archive users will look at archive searches, search strategies, and access to complex archive material. The Stasi Records Archive has been **part of the Federal Archives** since 17 June 2021.[49] As part of its expanded responsibilities, the Federal Archive is now planning to set up a **virtual reading room** that offers easy, user-friendly searches for archive items across several databases. As far as is possible, the entire archive use process is to be available online, thus making content accessible at any time, from anywhere. In addition, there are plans to integrate a digitalisation-on-demand component that will allow users to order the digitalisation of archive items previously available only in analogue form. The digital product would then also be delivered online.

○ During **Science Year 2022** – *Nachgefragt!* (a play on the German words for to enquire and to be in demand), the focus will be on the public and their questions about science and for the scientific community. The objective of Science Year is to take up and encourage a growing interest among the public in science and research. Citizens are to play an active part in developing priorities in science policy, with civic input also feeding in to research policy.

○ The Open Data Competence Centre (within the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community's Federal Office of Administration) is drawing up the change management methods required to promote **a cultural shift towards open data** within the federal administration, and also advising on their implementation. New guidelines on change management for open data introduction processes are one example here.

○ The implementation of the Federal Government's **Data Strategy** and **Open Data Strategy** will for the first time advance across a variety of fronts the operating conditions and skills required for a stronger, data-supported administration. In doing so it will contribute to transparency, participation, innovation and better government action. It will also support the implementation of the revised Section 12a of the eGovernment Act, and the new Data Usage Act, not to mention compatibility with the international Open Data Charter.

○ A joint programme of the Federal and Länder governments for efficient, citizen and business-friendly government has been set up, containing around 50 individual measures and audit tasks.[50] The programme is designed to help simplify the law, align legislation more closely with practice, and make decisions and forms easier to understand. The Federal Government is making an effort here to ensure that the **periods allowed for Land and local government participation** are at least four weeks. The periods granted in this regard will be monitored.

○ The BMBF is scheduled to publish a Green Paper on participation in the research sector in the summer of 2021. The challenges and approaches that it outlines will provide a basis for discussions on the drafting by the end of 2022 of a **participation strategy** (White Paper) containing specific recommendations for action. A citizens' assembly is the core element of public consultations in the White Paper process. The aim of the Green and White Paper process is to consolidate the use of participatory approaches in research policy and in research itself, and to make them more citizen-friendly.

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49 See https://www.bundesarchiv.de/DE/Content/Pressemitteilungen/aenderung-barchg-stug.html (German)
50 See https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/buerokratieabbau/erstes-gemeinsames-programm-
   von-bund-und-laendern-fuer-rechtsvereinfachung-praxisorientierung-in-der-gesetzgebung-und-
   verstaendlichkeit-im-verwaltungshandeln-1824830 (German)

- Citizens' involvement in the research process will also be increased. Between 2021 and 2024, the BMBF will support a total of 15 citizen science projects with grants of approx. €9 million overall as part of the second **Citizen Science Funding Guideline**. One of its main objectives is to encourage collaboration between actors from civil society and the scientific and academic communities. The funding will support research projects on, among other things, Antarctic permafrost, drinking water quality, and the migration history of eastern Germany.

- As it updates its national programme of measures, the *Runde Tisch Meeresmüll* roundtable on marine waste will draw up a report. Entitled *6 Jahre Runder Tisch Meeresmüll – eine Bilanz*, it will cover the roundtable's achievements in the first six years of its existence, and present its findings. Information on the further work of this multi-stakeholder initiative can be accessed (in German) at *www.muell-im-meer.de*. Citizen science will become an increasingly important aspect here, too.

Have your say!

The Federal Government welcomes the active involvement of citizens, organisations and initiatives in politics and society. The open exchange of views, freedom of assembly and voluntary work are the pillars of our representative democracy. The process of participation in the OGP is therefore only one of many opportunities to contribute expertise and political engagement for the common good and a cohesive society.

→ Readers of the third National Action Plan are invited actively to explore the open government activities of the Federal, Länder and local governments, to take part in events, and to submit their proposals during consultation processes.

→ May the third NAP motivate employees in government and administration to continue their open government programmes, or confidently to pursue this relatively new framework and contribute their own experience.

→ For the scientific and academic community, open government offers a further promising field of research. There is also a pressing interest in its findings.

→ The business community is also called upon to support and to test open government. The principles behind the OG model – of open and innovative exchange, combating corruption and preserving prosperity, and democratic cohesion – are all important factors for Germany as a business location and for the credibility of our social market economy.

The implementation of this Action Plan and its milestones will be documented on the *www.open-government-deutschland.de* website. This website is also the first point of contact for anyone with a specific interest in Germany's participation in the OGP. Organisations that are active nationwide are welcome to address their questions directly to the Federal Chancellery, Digital State Division (OGP@bk.bund.de).

The fourth National Action Plan will be drawn up in the first half of 2023. Participation in the OGP is an ongoing process. Begin now to think about and discuss your ideas for furthering open government in the future, so that dialogue with civil society will benefit Germany's next NAP too.

10. Abbreviations

AA	Federal Foreign Office
API	Application Programming Interface
BAföG	Federal Training Assistance Act
BfN	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
BKAmt	Federal Chancellery
BKM	Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media
BKMS	Bekanntmachungsservice, national notification service
BMAS	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
BMBF	Federal Ministry of Education and Research
BMEL	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture
BMF	Federal Ministry of Finance
BMFSFJ	Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
BMG	Federal Ministry of Health
BMI	Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community
BMJV	Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection
BMU	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
BMVg	Federal Ministry of Defence
BMVI	Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure
BMWi	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BpB	Federal Agency for Civic Education
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
CCOD	Open Data Competence Centre at the Federal Office of Administration
CIO	Chief Information Officer

DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
DNG	Digital Negative format
GSDS	German Sustainable Development Strategy
DTS	Data Transparency Unit
EU	European Union
GMbl	Joint Ministerial Gazette
G20	Group of Twenty
G7	Group of Seven
IA	Internal Audit
IRM	Independent Reporting Mechanism (of the OGP)
IT	Information Technology
MWIDE	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy (North Rhine-Westphalia)
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRW	North Rhine-Westphalia
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGN	Open Government Netzwerk Deutschland
OGP	Open Government Partnership
OS	Open Source
OSS	Open Source Software
OZG	Online Access Act (Onlinezugangsgesetz)
PSI	Re-use of Public Sector Information
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
StBA	Federal Statistical Office
UBA	Federal Environment Agency
UIG	Environmental Information Act
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VIP	Verwaltungsdaten-Informationsplattform, government data information platform