

**OPEN
GOVERNMENT
DEUTSCHLAND**

A large, diverse crowd of stylized human figures in various colors and outfits, arranged in a large, abstract shape that resembles a map of Germany. The figures are scattered across the page, with a higher density in the center and top-right areas.

**FOURTH NATIONAL
ACTION PLAN
2023-2025**

Open
Government
Partnership





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Fourth National Action Plan 2023–2025
in the framework of Germany's participation
in the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

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**in the framework of Germany's participation
in the Open Government Partnership**

FOURTH NATIONAL

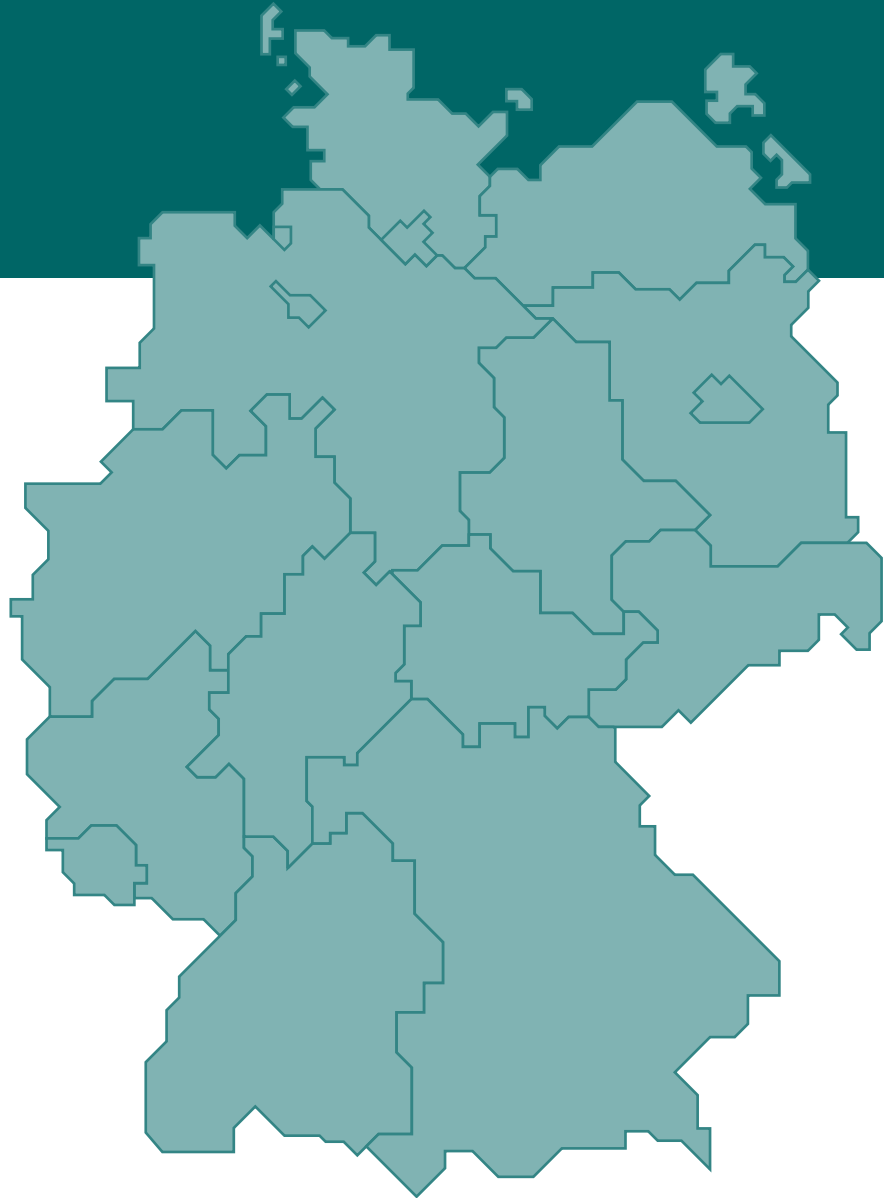
ACTION PLAN

2023–2025



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Foreword by the Federal Chancellor





One of the Federal Government's main objectives is to make our state more digital, more effective and more people-oriented. This requires greater public participation as well as open and transparent government. This Action Plan contains many good examples of this from a wide range of policy areas.

For the very first time, we intend to bundle people's freedom of information rights together in a Federal Transparency Act and lay down disclosure obligations of the Federal Government in it. This is complemented by the new government monitor. It indicates the projects on which the Federal Government is working, which laws are currently being discussed and what has already been implemented.

Better access to government data will also help us to drive forward our country's modernisation. Environmental data, for instance, which we need for the expansion of renewable energies or for the construction of houses, rail tracks and roads, often already exist in some government agencies. By making such data public and available in digital form, we avoid unnecessary bureaucracy as well as save time and money. We will expand such possibilities while also better protecting sensitive data.

However, transparency and participation are important for another reason. They ensure that key decisions in our country can be openly discussed and questioned. Decisions will be better if the public, civil-society organisations, the academic community and the private sector have the chance to contribute their expertise and their ideas.

That is precisely what makes our democracy so strong.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'O' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Olaf Scholz

The Open Government Partnership (OGP)

The **OGP** is an international initiative with 75 participating states and over 100 participating regions, local authorities and other entities working to advance open government. The OGP provides rules and guidance to help the participating governments in that endeavour; these in turn develop action plans on a regular basis in collaboration with civil society. The action plans are made up of commitments, meaning specific and measurable projects which further the cause of open government. The drafting and implementation of these action plans is documented in a transparent manner, civil society is closely involved and there is an independent reporting system. The OGP moreover constitutes a global network of practitioners providing one another with knowledge-sharing, encouragement and advice.

The organisation has a Steering Committee that is composed equally of 11 governments and 11 representatives of civil-society organisations. Each side of the committee elects a chair, so that the OGP is always co-chaired by one government and one person from civil society.

Germany joined the OGP in 2016 and has had a seat on the Steering Committee since October 2019. The coalition agreement for the 20th legislative term contains a pledge to implement and update “the National Action Plans in the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)”. The **present fourth National Action Plan (NAP)** within the framework of OGP participation represents the continuation of Germany’s engagement with the organisation. It contains 11 commitments made by the Federal Government and four commitments made by three Länder. Please refer to the associated footnotes regarding the measures planned by the Länder. The measures arising from the commitments are contingent on the availability of sufficient funding. Milestones may change in the course of the implementation period.

More details on how the OGP works as well as background information and reports on the action plans are available at www.open-government-deutschland.de/opengov-en. The website also provides information about the way the present NAP was produced, including the results of the two public consultation phases, and it will document the **implementation of the action plan** and its milestones (not all of this information may be available in English).

1. Open government

Germany is facing major challenges and is currently realigning its policy in many areas. We are living through a **watershed moment**. Key drivers behind this are Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, anthropogenic climate change, new technologies and the far-reaching demographic changes in our society. But although many things are changing, it has become clear that this upheaval comes with the opportunity to place our prosperity on a more sustainable and stable footing.

The changes to come can only be shaped with strong institutions and by working together. With the public and other stakeholders participating in decision-making and helping to identify solutions, results can be achieved that generate progress for Germany as a whole. Close dialogue between the government and individuals, associations, organisations, representatives of labour and management, and the public can lead to greater social consensus and more effective solutions. **Transparency, participation and cooperation** are cornerstones of our democratic social order and the social market economy. In their coalition agreement of 24 November 2021, Daring More Progress, the parties forming this Federal Government confirm that these principles guide the way they do politics, and they highlight their intention to strengthen our democracy by means of greater transparency.

Transparency is a precondition of participation, productive discourse and innovation. The Federal Government therefore actively shares information about its objectives and intentions. For the first time, the public can use the **Regierungsmonitor**, the government monitor, which is updated monthly, to find out in detail what stage any one of the Federal Government's projects has reached (see box). The digitalisation of federal legislation, from bill to electronic promulgation in future (and consequent entry into force), is moreover to be made more accessible with a legislation portal that enables people to follow the legislative process.

Members of the public have various legal rights entitling them to access government information. This is assured in large part by the Freedom of Information Act (Informationsfreiheitsgesetz), which entitles everyone to access official information on application, as long as the requested information is available and there are no grounds for exclusion. Specific **information access rights** vis-à-vis the state are governed by, for example, the Environmental Information Act (Umweltinformationsgesetz), the Consumer Information Act (Verbraucherinformationsgesetz) and the Spatial Data Access Act (Geodatenzugangsgesetz). The Federal Government is planning to refine the freedom of information laws in the form of a Federal Transparency Act (Bundestransparenzgesetz)

and expand its own declaration obligations (see commitment 1). An equivalent legal framework exists at the Land level: the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg became the first Land to pass a Transparency Act in 2012. Improvements will also be made during this legislative term to, for example, access to information in the field of public-private partnerships (see

Government made transparent

What is the Federal Government currently working on? What has the Federal Cabinet already decided? The Federal Government uses the **Regierungsmonitor** (government monitor, accessible (in German) at www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/bundesregierung/regierungsmonitor) to keep the public informed about the implementation of important measures. Anyone can find information there on the priorities established in the coalition agreement as well as measures that the Federal Government has launched in response to current political developments. The monitor is updated on a monthly basis.

commitment 3), the accessibility of judicial decisions and the disclosure of source code for selected state-developed software (on the OpenCoDE portal).

The **Federal Government has special obligations to provide information to the German Bundestag** and its members, both on request and proactively. Much of that information is publicly accessible and contributes to the transparency of government activities for everyone. Of particular note is the system of parliamentary questions, in which the Federal Government gives its opinion and provides information on a great variety of topics in response to major and minor interpellations as well as written and oral questions from members of the German Bundestag.

In many policy areas, moreover, the Federal Government reports at regular intervals on the latest developments, challenges and measures. It currently produces around 250 reports, some annual, some periodic and some to be issued once every electoral term. For example, the Federal Ministry of Defence publishes the report on the digital transition of its area of operations once a year.¹ The Federal Government will examine to what extent formal **reports** can be added to, refined or even replaced, such as by the provision of open data and more interactive formats like data portals or dashboards. Good examples of this are the website relating to the Report on Poverty and Wealth² and a publicly accessible database on arms export authorisations (see commitment 2). The third NAP put in place a unified report on integrity in federal administration, which covers not only sponsorship, the deployment of external persons and anti-corruption measures but also internal auditing.

In terms of the capacity of society and the state for resilience, problem-solving and innovation, **open government data**, making public data accessible in a structured manner, is increasingly important. Work has been ongoing since 2015 to improve, step by step, the availability and usability of open government data. This takes shape not only in strategies like the Open Data Strategy adopted in 2021 and legal frameworks like the Data Use Act (Datennutzungsgesetz) but also in technical services such as the online portal GovData.de, a federal-Land collaboration providing access to open government data at the federal, Land and municipal levels. It is seen not least in the establishment, under the Data Strategy of the Federal Government adopted in 2021, of data labs in every ministry and the Federal Chancellery in order to enhance the data literacy of those government departments. One of the data labs' essential tasks is to take stock of what data the ministries and their agencies have at their disposal and map them out in a "data atlas". Further developing the publicly available data from various sectors is a key objective for the Federal Government. The next steps towards implementing that objective were set out together in a new **Data Strategy**, published in August 2023³. Commitments relating to open data have already had a prominent place in previous National Action Plans (NAPs). In the second NAP, for instance, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development set itself the goal of continuously improving the quantity, quality and usability of its open data, which it publishes in accordance with the standard of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). The outcome was that Germany was judged "good" in the Aid Transparency Index (ATI) maintained by the NGO Publish What You Fund and rose from 18th place in the group of 50 international donors evaluated in 2020 to 11th place in 2022.⁴ The present fourth NAP contains commitments to make data on public procurement and the environment more usable (see commitments 9 and 10). The Federal

1 The fifth report on the digital transition in the area of operations of the Federal Ministry of Defence (February 2023), its topics including the special fund for the Bundeswehr, is available (in German) at www.bmvg.de/resource/blob/5666554/469370412ca91daa3b6798beccf296c3/download-5-digitalbericht-data.pdf

2 See (in German) www.armuts-und-reichtumsbericht.de/DE/Startseite/start.html

3 See www.bmi.bund.de/nationale-datenstrategie.html

4 2022 Index – Publish What You Fund, see www.publishwhatyoufund.org

Transparency Act mentioned above is intended to enshrine a legal entitlement to open data. Example measures by Berlin and Schleswig-Holstein in the area of linked open data (see commitments 12 and 13) are included in this NAP.

With a Research Data Act (Forschungsdatengesetz) being drafted under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Federal Government moreover intends to improve access to data for **research** purposes, and a data institute will support cross-sector cooperation, applied research, and the reuse and availability of data, including public data.

Figures, data and facts are indispensable to political debate and decision-making. The Federal Statistical Office plays a special role in this regard, having the statutory mandate to collate and process data for statistical purposes. Alongside the latest statistics and visualisations, the online services provided by the Federal Statistical Office include, for example, VIP, the Administrative Data Information Platform, which gives an overview of the data held by the administrative authorities (a commitment from the third NAP); *sdg-indikatoren.de*, a portal on the sustainable development indicators in the form of open data; and Dashboard Deutschland, which provides a synoptic view of socially and economically relevant data from various subject areas.

Since March 2023, data on projects funded using official development assistance (ODA) from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development have been published as open data and made available in a user-friendly form on a transparency portal.⁵ In the next stage, it

is to be expanded to include project data from other federal ministries that deploy ODA funds. The use of ODA funds and the government departments' financial flows are thereby rendered transparent in line with the IATI standard. Additionally, individual government departments also make their own data sets, compiled in accordance with the IATI standard, available as open data via GovData.de.

The **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development serves as a guide for transforming our world in the direction of sustainable development. Open government plays its part in the timely achievement of the SDGs, particularly SDG 16 (building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions) and SDG 17 (revitalising the global partnerships for sustainable development). The key targets here are "promote the rule of law", "significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows", "substantially reduce corruption and bribery", "develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels" and "ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels" (targets 16.3 to 16.5). Participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), involving many state and non-state actors around the world, also contributes to the availability of data, the mobilisation of resources and the sharing of knowledge and expertise (17).

The Federal Government also ensures transparency in areas not directly connected to its own activities. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), for instance, creates transparency on financial flows in the extractive sector; Germany has been taking part in that international initiative since 2013 (see the relevant commitment in the first NAP). Germany is also implementing the EU legal framework on combating **money laundering**, which includes maintaining a transparency register for data on beneficial owners: at www.transparenzregister.de, the investi-

gative authorities and others, such as journalists and official compliance representatives, can see who the people behind legal entities like companies and trusts are. For some time, there have been efforts on a technical level seeking to connect the different registers

⁵ See www.transparenzportal.bund.de/en

across Europe. These are important tools for investigative authorities and others when it comes not only to combating money laundering but also to enforcing **sanctions**. There are therefore plans to connect data on companies' real estate assets to the transparency register.

The will to be transparent and open is counterbalanced by the need to protect sensitive data and to defend the core area of autonomous executive decision-making from unauthorised influence. A **government's capability to take action** depends on confidentiality and a protected space in which to prepare decisions. The Federal Government is determined to defend that space with the same vigour with which, in the appropriate contexts, it promotes and expands transparency and openness.

A particular challenge lies in dealing with increasing and targeted **disinformation** about government action, which has the potential to damage public safety and public order, social cohesion and trust in democratic institutions. For years, states such as Russia and China have been deliberately spreading false information in Germany, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, there has been a marked increase in Russian disinformation in Germany. Headed by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, a disinformation working group comprising several ministries and the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government is confronting that challenge.

The **participation and collaboration** of all stakeholders over and above the procedures required by the legislative process are fundamental components of our democratic culture and order.

Cooperation among all levels of state authority is an essential feature of our country's federal structure and is mirrored in cooperation within the European Union and beyond.

The key pillars of the system for involving associations and organisations in the federal **legislative process** include the relevant parts of the Rules of Procedure of the Federal Government and the procedure of hearings and public debates on legislative bills in the German Bundestag. The early involvement of stakeholders helps ensure that legislative projects achieve better and more accurately tailored outcomes. Since the last legislative term, the Federal Government has moreover been making public any input that may influence legislation via these channels, on the basis of the Agreement to Increase Transparency of the Legislative Process: draft bills and corresponding comments are published on the relevant ministry websites. The Federal Government will refine those rules during the current legislative term (an "executive **footprint**"). The Bundestag Lobbying Register is to be developed further and made more informative so that influence on the legislative process is more clearly discernible. The Cabinet adopted drafting guidance for a bill to that effect in early June 2023. It has furthermore already become practice that government bills are accompanied by synopses summarising the key changes in relation to the law as it stands, to improve the transparency and comprehensibility of legislation for Parliament and the general public. A Centre for Legislative Drafting will promote skills and methods which contribute to understandable, workable, effective and user-focused laws.

Additionally, the Federal Government conducts **participation and consultation procedures** of various kinds and varying scope to inform its projects. It makes use of online tools as well as series of facilitated workshops and events, surveys or focus groups, such as in the work on the Equality Report (for more detail, see commitment 4). People-focused development of policy approaches is also being reinforced by innovative methods and training based on findings from behavioural science. On the subject of reducing bureaucracy, hundreds of suggestions for improvement have been submitted to the Federal Ministry of Justice which are to

be fed into a major upcoming package of measures. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection are trialling the early inclusion of practitioners through their dialogue network for sustainable agriculture, Dialognetzwerk zukunftsfähige Landwirtschaft – an institutionalised participatory format from which others can learn (see commitment 6). What is more, the public-participation procedures on offer are not limited to the adult population. Children and adolescents are also included through appropriate easy-access participation formats, such as in the context of the National Action Plan to implement the European Child Guarantee, “New Opportunities for Children in Germany” (see commitment 7).

A strong democracy thrives on the people who sustain it. To foster and strengthen social cohesion and civil-society engagement, safeguard the norms and values of the Basic Law and uphold our liberal democratic order, in future the Federal Government is to conduct federal measures – and promote measures run by third parties if they are of supraregional importance and of significant federal interest – in the areas of **promoting democracy, shaping diversity, preventing extremism and providing civic education**. This will allow projects to be supported according to need. Measures to encourage engagement are also being planned and will be presented in a dedicated strategy.

For many people, accessible provision of information and of opportunities for participation are a basic prerequisite for **involvement** in politics and society. In November 2022, the Federal Government adopted the key points of the federal accessibility strategy Bundesinitiative Barrierefreiheit, which brings together all its measures in the area of accessibility. For example, press conferences and public events held by federal ministries and subordinate authorities, as well as information on laws and administration, are to be more systematically translated into sign language, subtitled and translated into Easy Read. A federal centre of excellence for Easy Read and sign language will be set up to that end.

For the Federal Government to adapt the way it operates to new challenges, formats that promote cooperation across traditional departmental boundaries and remits are particularly important.

Within the federal administration, there has been an increase in forms of **cooperation** that transcend hierarchies and sectors. GovLabDE is a platform provided by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community comprising space for dialogue, methodology and technical support. The staff of various ministries and authorities can collaborate on solutions in ways different from those offered by formal channels – and involve interest groups and affected parties from civil society, academia or elsewhere as required.

The **Alliance for Transformation** is an implementation-focused dialogue format hosted by the Federal Chancellor in which the Federal Government has been meeting representatives of business, trade unions and the academic community on a regular basis since the start of the legislative term to discuss key areas of transition and their reciprocal effects and to hammer out concrete solutions in interdisciplinary working groups. The energy transition is one of the greatest transformation projects under way in Germany. The federal and Land authorities are working intensively on putting it into practice. They agreed in June 2023 to expand the existing monitoring processes recording the progress of those joint efforts.⁶

6 For information on the Energy Transition Monitoring Report, see www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/EN/Artikel/Energy/monitoring-implementation-of-the-energy-reforms.html / for information on the Federation-Länder cooperation committee (in German), see www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Dossier/erneuerbare-energien.html / for information on the management of network expansion (in German), see www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Downloads/V/vorausschauendes-controlling-des-netzausbaus.html

An ever more important factor in open government is **international ties and collaboration**. One standout example is Germany's participation in the **Open Government Partnership (OGP)**, which provided the framework for the production of this fourth National Action Plan (see box). The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the City of Detmold are taking part in OGP Local.⁷

Germany also actively advocates strengthening the principles of open government in the context of **international cooperation**, whether in relation to the fight against disinformation (e.g. within the framework of Germany's presidency of the G7 in 2022⁸), the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),⁹ the use and effectiveness of EU funding or efforts to safeguard the rule of law and fundamental rights. When the Federal Ministry of Justice engages in international legal cooperation, which it primarily does with the assistance of the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation, the focus is particularly on combating corruption and promoting the rule of law.

7 OGP Local is a separate programme for public bodies below the national or federal level to participate in the OGP. For more information, see www.open-government-deutschland.de/opengov-en/hamburg-and-detmold-join-ogp-local--2053100

8 Cf. the G7 Leaders' Communiqué issued at Elmau on 28 June 2022, www.g7germany.de/g7-en/current-information/g7-documents-2008866

9 For example, Germany's ODA contributions to the SDGs are being made easier to navigate by means of SDG mapping.

Open government in the Länder

The Länder were involved in the drafting of the fourth NAP and contributed accounts of current developments as well as commitments of their own (see commitments 12 to 15).

To strengthen transparency, after **Hamburg** (2012), **Rhineland-Palatinate** (2016) and **Thuringia** (2020), **Saxony** has now also passed a Transparency Act (Transparenzgesetz) (January 2023), and a transparency platform is to follow by 2026.

In early 2023, moreover, **Saxony-Anhalt** acceded to the administrative agreement on the national metadata portal GovData.de; **Saarland** is to follow in the course of the year. That will mean all the Länder are involved and their open government data will be accessible from a centralised source.

A new open data portal was launched in **Bavaria** in May 2023 and in **Baden-Württemberg** in July 2023. **Brandenburg** is currently preparing legal provisions for open data on the basis of its open data strategy. **Schleswig-Holstein's** open data portal has been supplemented by a transparency portal since 2021, and a code repository has been used since early 2022 to publish open-source software commissioned by the Land government. **Schleswig-Holstein** is working with **Berlin** on linked open data, meaning open government data which, as on the World Wide Web, are given unique addresses and connected up.

The open government priorities in **North Rhine-Westphalia** include setting up a centralised public-participation portal and developing a knowledge and information platform for government staff. **Brandenburg** is working on a public-participation strategy that envisions a digital public-participation platform for the Land government's strategy processes and concepts, to complement the existing urban land use planning portals, Planungsportal Brandenburg and the Land's fault-reporting system. In **Bavaria**, a Digital Act (Digitalgesetz) has been in force since August 2022, reinforcing people's rights in the digital sphere, and the digital assistant Bavaria has been answering enquiries about government services completely automatically since March 2023. In a joint project with the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community as well as partners in business and academia, **Bremen** is developing a digitally sovereign workplace comprising web-based open-source modules, the dPhoenixSuite.

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3. The commitments in detail

1

Drafting and shepherding through Parliament of a Transparency Act

Time frame: April 2023–September 2025

Implementing body: Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Access to official information and public records is possible through many channels. The legal preconditions for that access, however, are enshrined in various laws. The following are unclear: conditions of access, permissible reasons for refusals and exceptions, formats to be used, obligations on providers to prepare files, possibilities for reuse or searchability tools. Elements of them overlap; some are contradictory. Publication practice to date has been mixed and is not yet entirely consistent, active and structured. The information and data that are made public could be made easier to find. In some areas, the rules for reuse are unclear.

What is the commitment?

The Federal Government will introduce a bill which refines the legal basis for access to information and data and shepherd it through Parliament. It is examining to what extent existing freedom of information laws can be amalgamated and unified. The intention is also to improve the substantive criteria for granting access. For certain categories of information and data, an obligation to publish proactively is to be created. A centralised transparency platform is to ensure that, once published, information and data can be found. The law will establish a legal entitlement to open data.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The Transparency Act will create a cohesive legal framework governing access to and reuse of official information and data. This will result in legal certainty and clarity and will improve the availability of data. Expanded publication obligations and access rights will mean more information and data available to the individual and to the public at large. The obligation to publish proactively and the legal entitlement of the individual to open data will contribute to more effective accessing practice. A centralised transparency platform will make things easier to find. Freedom of information and open data will be brought together. The right of the individual to access information, formerly vouchsafed through freedom of information, will be brought closer to the legal regime governing open data by the obligation to publish proactively; the obligation to make public records accessible as open data, formerly enshrined in generally applicable law, will come into closer alignment with freedom of information as a result of the legal entitlement of the individual. This closer alignment will serve to better satisfy the demand for information from policymakers, industry, academia and society, to the benefit of the data economy as a whole.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

In creating the Transparency Act, the Federal Government is making great strides in the direction of openness and transparency. The legally enshrined routes for accessing information are to be imbued with a new quality, improve cooperation within the government, foster oversight of administration and government, and enhance people's options for participating in the political process. The resultant availability of data for business, researchers, civil society and the state will serve the common good.

Additional information:

Objectives from the coalition agreement between the SPD, Alliance 90/The Greens and the FDP for the 20th legislative term

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Government bill		End of 2024
Entry into force of the Act		

Contact information:

Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, Division DG I 4 (DGI4@bmi.bund.de)

Other bodies involved:

All government departments

2

Establishment of a searchable database for publishing authorisation data relating to arms export control

Time frame: summer 2023–summer 2025

Implementing body: Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Germany's arms export control policy is a topic of great political and social interest. By being transparent about its arms export decisions, the Federal Government lays the foundations for objective and well-founded discussion of arms exports in the public discourse. To that end, it already presents a report on its arms export policy twice a year, supplemented by press releases supplying quarterly figures. It thereby keeps the Bundestag and the public informed of Germany's arms export policy and the authorisations which have been granted to export military equipment during the reporting period in question.

The Federal Government has set itself the objective of making reporting on arms export decisions even more transparent in future.

What is the commitment?

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action intends to establish a publicly accessible online database through the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control on which data pertaining to arms export authorisations will be published. This move stems from the intention recorded in the coalition agreement to make the reports on arms exports transparent.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

Establishing a publicly accessible online database of arms export control authorisations will further raise the level of transparency in arms export policy above the current level. Interested parties will have up-to-date, directly searchable and therefore generally improved and more comprehensive information at their disposal for that policy area.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

The online database will increase the amount of information provided by the Federal Government about its arms export decisions and will contribute to greater transparency.

Additional information:

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Cost and basic requirements for implementation (staff, equipment and IT costs) established and quantified	May 2023	October 2023
Blueprint for the structure and operation of the database presented by Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control	October 2023	December 2023
Beta version for testing purposes		End of current legislative term
Publication of the database		End of current legislative term

Contact information:

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Division EC4-G (Buero-EC4-G@bmwk.bund.de)

Other bodies involved:

Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control

PPP transparency guidelines

Time frame: 1 August 2023–31 December 2025

Implementing body: Federal Ministry of Finance

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The public discourse in recent years has revealed a persistent scepticism in politics and society regarding public-private partnerships (PPPs). At the heart of the public criticism levelled at PPPs is the fear that long-term economic benefits and risks are divided unequally between the state and private-sector partners. That fear is fuelled primarily by a lack of information about how the actual economic outcomes of these projects develop.

What is the commitment?

The Federal Ministry of Finance will draw up transparency guidelines. For its own PPP projects, the Federal Government is to have an obligation to set out in an understandable form, and publish, the services, expectations and outcomes of PPP projects (e.g. user satisfaction and actual operating costs) that are of relevance to the public interest. The actual development of PPP projects in relation to what was assumed beforehand is also to be communicated clearly and openly.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

This improved communication on the above-mentioned subject matter is intended to give people a better insight into PPP mechanisms and consequently lead to greater public approval for this variety of procurement and similar forms of cooperation.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

The project will generate transparency around information that serves as a basis for opting for and designing PPPs. The planned guidelines will therefore establish a transparency standard for federal PPP projects for the first time, which will make information available that was not accessible before. The objective is moreover to ensure, through the plans for participation and input from civil society, that the transparency guidelines are drafted in a way that reflects the justified information needs of the public.

Additional information:

Implementation of an obligation formulated in the coalition agreement; connected to the Federal Government report on ongoing PPP projects (due in the third quarter of 2023; for previous reports (in German), see Bundestag printed papers 18/6898 and 19/25285)

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Agreement on a draft containing key points	August 2023	December 2023
Public consultation on the agreed key points of the guidance	February 2024	August 2024
First draft of the transparency obligation; internal and external consultations with stakeholders	September 2024	July 2025
Legally binding establishment of the transparency commitment	August 2025	December 2025

Contact information:

Federal Ministry of Finance, Division VIII C 6 (VIIC6@bmf.bund.de)

Other bodies involved:

Federal ministries (Federal Ministry of Defence, Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport, Institute for Federal Real Estate), the construction industry, relevant NGOs as appropriate

4

First Federal Government report on the convergence of living standards

Time frame: spring 2023–summer 2024

Implementing bodies: Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The establishment of equivalent living conditions is an important goal for the Federal Government. Whether urban or rural, disadvantaged or prosperous, whether in the east, west, north or south – everywhere in Germany should be attractive, liveable and economically successful. Various federal ministries are endeavouring to make that happen with, among other measures, a range of support programmes. However, there is a need for more comprehensive information about the effectiveness of the different measures. Furthermore, people and institutions on the ground need to be included so that their perception of measures and progress can be evaluated and appropriate further action taken.

What is the commitment?

In 2024, the Federal Government will present its first report on the convergence of living standards. It is to be built on three pillars: (1) analysis of the spatial impact and evaluation of the Federal Funding System for Structural Development Regions, (2) state of play and progress made on establishing equivalent living conditions, measured using a system of indicators and questionnaire-based surveys, and (3) focus group workshops on aspects of equivalent living conditions with people from different regions of Germany.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

For the first report on the convergence of living standards, the impact of the programmes within the Federal Funding System for Structural Development Regions will be examined in the interests of accountability. Plans are in place for a survey of the population at district level to gauge people's opinions, attitudes and subjective sense of well-being. Focus group workshops are also to be held with people from different regions who are involved in these matters.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

In producing this report, the Federal Government will be creating systematic transparency for the first time in relation to the status and progress of the drive to establish equivalent living conditions. The knowledge gained can be used for future political decisions in the interests of evidence-based policy. The commitment is relevant in terms of public participation thanks to the various consultation stages.

Additional information:

The publication of the report on the convergence of living standards will put into practice one of the projects specified in the coalition agreement for the 20th legislative term (p. 102).

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Presentation of an expert opinion for pillar 1 (analysis of spatial impact and Federal Funding System for Structural Development Regions)	April 2023	April 2024
Presentation of an expert opinion for pillar 2 (creation of a set of indicators; development and conduct of a questionnaire-based survey)	May 2023	May 2024
Beta version for test purposes	August 2023	April 2024
Adoption of the report in Cabinet		2nd quarter of 2024

Contact information:

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Division ID1 (BUERO-ID1@bmwk.bund.de)

Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, Division H II 1 (HII1@bmi.bund.de)

Other bodies involved (ministries, agencies, divisions):

Interministerial Steering Group (as it will be a Federal Government report) including the steering group at State Secretary level

Other bodies involved (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups):

The expert opinions for the three pillars will be drawn up by service providers.

Decentralised citizens' dialogues to foster background understanding and bring German foreign policy closer to the people

Time frame: 2nd quarter of 2023–end of 2025

Implementing body: Federal Foreign Office

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Foreign policy is highly complex, often confidential and not something people experience much in day-to-day life. At the same time, the war in Ukraine and climate change, for example, have ramifications and cause concerns that need to be talked about. Public trust in the Federal Government's foreign policy activities and nuanced debate about polarising issues are not only impeded by echo chambers but deliberately hampered by disinformation. There is a lack of authentic access and dialogue-based information for interested members of the public on foreign policy decision-making processes and the diverse domains of the work of the Federal Foreign Office (FFO).

FFO staff wish there were formats for dialogue with the interested public, to better understand and gain a clearer picture of people's perceptions and expectations in relation to specific social concerns of relevance to foreign policy.

What is the commitment?

The FFO will perpetuate structures and processes that facilitate dialogue-based public diplomacy (beyond 2025 where possible). The starting point for this commitment is the existing pool of speakers serving the Visitor Centre at the FFO in Berlin. Made up of volunteers, the pool is to be expanded and enabled, through travel expenses and other factors, to operate nationwide. In contrast to earlier measures which only took place in Berlin (including the FFO contribution to the second NAP), the FFO will now go to people across the country – taking a decentralised approach. In tandem with this, collaborations with civil-society structures will be built up in stages to help spread the word of discussion events.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

FFO staff dealing with specific specialist areas will make themselves available to answer questions from members of the public in schools, universities, NGOs, chambers of industry and commerce, adult education centres, associations, etc. throughout Germany. Thanks to their expertise, they will provide authentic insights into the Federal Government's foreign policy activities. The resultant dialogue will simultaneously give them important findings about perceptions and expectations to take back to their everyday work in Berlin and Bonn. The network of ties with mediating civil-society structures will strengthen those organisations' insight into foreign-policy processes and decision-making and consequently enhance their lobbying capabilities regarding these.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

This project will generate transparency by offering people a chance to learn more about foreign policy from the personal experience of FFO staff. Interested questions from the public generate discussions and new insights with more depth and a greater variety of perspectives than are otherwise usual in the day-to-day political discourse. People's involvement and participation in government and administration will be enhanced.

Additional information:

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Upgrading of the pool of speakers at the FFO Visitor Centre, incl. in-person formats; wide-ranging measures to attract FFO speakers	3rd quarter of 2023	4th quarter of 2023
Contact and collaboration with 3–5 suitable civil-society structures (incl. in eastern Germany)	2nd quarter of 2023	4th quarter of 2023
Conducting approx. 20–30 events in 2023		By December 2023
1-year review	June 2024	July 2024
Conducting approx. 50–100 events in 2024		By December 2024
2-year review	June 2025	July 2025

Contact information:

Federal Foreign Office, Division 611 (611-R@auswaertiges-amt.de)

Other bodies involved (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups):

Bildungsnetzwerk China; additional agreements to follow.

Dialogue network for sustainable agriculture as a blueprint for institutionalised participation

Time frame: December 2022–December 2026

Implementing bodies: Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

In the work of the federal ministries, early, interministerial and target-group-oriented involvement of (the affected elements of) civil society in the shaping of policy has scarcely been on an institutionalised basis to date. To remedy this, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, established their first structured participation format in December 2022: Dialognetzwerk zukunftsfähige Landwirtschaft, or the dialogue network for sustainable agriculture. The creation of the dialogue network is rooted in the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda, the successful implementation of which will depend on the early involvement of civil society and cross-sectoral cooperation. The network brings together practitioners from agriculture and nature conservation to discuss how to shape a sustainable transformation of our agricultural and food systems and channel the results into the work of the two ministries. The key now is to develop the dialogue network further, cement the trust that has been established and perpetuate the interaction to the benefit of all concerned.

What is the commitment?

The two federal ministries will develop the concept for a refined and long-term version of their dialogue network for sustainable agriculture. The foundation for this will be a report reviewing how the format of the interministerial and cross-practice dialogue network can support both ministries' policymaking in the long term. The experience gathered is also – where possible – to serve as the basis of a blueprint for other government departments to adopt the concept.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The concept is intended to enable ministries to institutionalise innovative participation formats as part of the policy consultation process. Conditions that will allow for ongoing and early participation in practice will be worked out and trialled to establish new methodologies and configurations in all the parties involved. This will enable experience from agriculture and nature conservation in practice to feed into the work of the cooperating ministries and open, trust-based and forward-looking dialogue on the sustainable transformation of our agricultural and food systems to take place.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

Institutionalising the cross-departmental dialogue network will promote long-term co-operation between the executive and people working on the ground and foster their participation in government action. This aligns with the ambition to establish a new culture of cooperation and promote participation, and it will make a pivotal contribution to the implementation of the German Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda.

Additional information:

See (in German):

- www.bmel.de/DE/ministerium/organisation/dialognetzwerk/dialognetzwerk.html

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Feedback from members and methodology review as an interim step in compiling the report	Mid-2024	End of 2024
Publication of the report (incl. concept for institutionalising the dialogue network)	Mid-2025	End of 2025

Contact information:

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Division 114 (114@bmel.bund.de)

National Action Plan – “New Opportunities for Children in Germany”

Time frame: 2023–2024

Implementing body: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

With the aim of combating poverty and social exclusion for disadvantaged children and adolescents within the European Union, the EU member states unanimously adopted the Council Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee on 14 June 2021. The Federal Government is implementing the Council Recommendation through the National Action Plan (NAP) entitled “New Opportunities for Children in Germany”, which the Cabinet adopted on 5 July 2023. The challenges for the fight against poverty and the implementation of the NAP lie particularly in the need for better coordination, cooperation and networking among all the relevant governmental and civil-society players as well as greater involvement of disadvantaged children and adolescents.

What is the commitment?

An NAP Committee will be set up as a central participatory body to coordinate the implementation of the NAP by 2030 as well as the monitoring process. The committee will provide a dialogue, networking and communications platform for the relevant federal, Land, local-authority, civil-society and academic bodies. Additionally, disadvantaged children and adolescents will be included in the implementation of the NAP in a consultative role through special participation formats. A strategy for appropriate participation – meaning easy to access and tailored to the target groups – has been drawn up to that end in collaboration with young people. The results of the child and youth participation process will be channelled into the work of the NAP Committee. Every two years, moreover, progress reports will be published to create transparency regarding the progress made on the planned measures. A digital portal is intended particularly to inform the public about the implementation of the NAP and foster ties among stakeholders.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The NAP Committee will be an effective instrument for improving coordination, cooperation and networking in the fight against child poverty in Germany. It will also help generate transparency about the associated government activities among specialists in the general public and civil society. The concept for consultative child and youth participation will facilitate the direct involvement of young people from disadvantaged environments in the implementation of the NAP. The participation formats for the NAP are also intended to encourage other government players at the federal, Land and local-authority levels to embed child and youth participation more firmly in their own activities.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

Implementing this commitment will enhance participation, ownership and inclusion and contribute to more people-centred government. The measures will be better directed as a result of target-group-specific participation.

Additional information:

“New Opportunities” NAP website (in German): www.neue-chancen-fuer-kinder.de
European Commission website on the European Child Guarantee:
ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1428&langId=en

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Constituent meeting of the NAP Committee		27 September 2023
Events on combating child poverty at local level: Kindersarmutsbekämpfung vor Ort		30 November 2023 and 1 December 2023
Expert conference on the inclusion of children and adolescents		November 2023
First progress report submitted to the European Commission on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Germany		2024
Digital portal for the NAP		End of 2024

Contact information:

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Division 202
(202EU_INT@bmfsfj.bund.de)

Development of a National Action Plan to tackle homelessness and a national homelessness forum

Time frame: February 2023–2nd quarter of 2024

Implementing body: Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The Federal Government intends to eliminate homelessness and rough sleeping in Germany by 2030. This objective presents a very complex challenge and can only be achieved if all the bodies responsible work together and cooperate: federal, Land and local authorities, civil-society players such as associations of affected parties, the academic community, foundations and the property sector.

What is the commitment?

The Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building will draw up a National Action Plan (NAP) to tackle homelessness. Once it has been adopted by the Federal Government, its implementation phase will include the creation of a national homelessness forum bringing together all stakeholders. The aim is that the forum will derive yearly programmes with individual measures from the homelessness NAP, which it will jointly put into practice.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The homelessness NAP is being drawn up in a multi-stakeholder and participatory process (with various bodies involved and specialist events such as a National Conference on the Future on 19 and 20 June 2023). This will make it possible, for the first time, to gather and draw on as many perspectives as possible for the identification and implementation of measures to tackle homelessness, thanks to ongoing participation.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

The opportunities for participation and involvement in the drafting and implementation will make the government's activities more transparent and easier to follow. The national homelessness forum will stand as an example of a form of cooperation between federal, Land and local authorities and civil-society players that transcends levels of government and sectors.

Additional information:

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
NAP Conference		19–20 June 2023
Civil-society and associations consultation on key points of the NAP	Expected August 2023	September 2023
Interministerial consultation and adoption of the homelessness NAP	Expected September 2023	November 2023
Establishment of a national homelessness forum	Expected 1st quarter of 2024	2nd quarter of 2024

Contact information:

Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building, Division W15 (W15@bmwsb.bund.de)

Other bodies involved:

Federal Government departments, umbrella organisations of local authorities, civil society, the property sector

Data-based value-added services in public procurement

Time frame: January 2023–December 2025

Implementing bodies: Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, Procurement Office of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The data contained in governmental contract notices are an essential basis for analysing the purchasing habits of Germany's public authorities. Following the commitment in the third NAP, the public-procurement data service Datenservice öffentlicher Einkauf at www.oeffentlichevergabe.de/ui/de/ has been successfully made available as a system in combination with the central Publication Service and the new eForms-DE standard. However, the following challenges remain: (1) to date, only procurement procedures above the EU thresholds and EU-wide procedures are recorded, there are various channels for publishing notifications and every Land has its own powers to regulate in such matters, (2) data from contract notices constitute a singular data silo, but the answers to many relevant questions could only be found through linkage with data outside the realm of procurement, and (3) such cross-referencing is only effective if it is easily accessible and arranged in such a way as to supply answers to questions arising in day-to-day work.

What is the commitment?

The notification data from EU-wide procurement procedures conducted by federal, Land or local authorities, as well as federally owned national procurement procedures below the thresholds, will be made available on the public-procurement data service platform. The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community will encourage the Länder and local authorities to fully collaborate with the platform in respect of their procurement below the thresholds. The data service will be connected to the EU's Public Procurement Data Space. In collaboration with procurement offices, business and civil society, the ministry is drawing up prototype questions that can be answered via dashboards using procurement data and other linked external data and will make these available in the data service.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The availability of notification data from EU-wide and national procurement procedures from the federal, Land and local authorities on the public-procurement data service will give a complete picture of the public-procurement situation. For the first time, the data of public procurement will be available and interconnected. The prototype dashboards will serve as a basis for both tactical and strategic decisions. This will add considerable value to the data for public procurement itself, for businesses, for civil society and for policymakers.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

Implementing this commitment will generate visibility and appraisability for state procurement that goes beyond statutory transparency requirements. In particular, stakeholders from business will gain access to more abundant and detailed information.

Additional information:

- Location of the public-procurement data service:
www.oeffentlichevergabe.de/ui/de/
- Link to the overarching implementation project: www.finanzen.bremen.de/digitalisierung/digitalisierung-von-verwaltungsleistungen-fuer-unternehmen/digitale-beschaffung-103422
- See also commitment 7.2 in the third National Action Plan for 2021–2023

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Collation of a standardised data set and publication on the public-procurement data service	January 2023	October 2023
Expansion to receive notifications regarding national tenders	November 2023	December 2025
Connection of the public-procurement data service to EU's Public Procurement Data Space	January 2024	December 2025
Dashboard prototypes for the presentation of data from procurement cycle	October 2023	September 2024

Contact information:

Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, Division AG DGI5 (DGI5@bmi.bund.de), Procurement Office, Directorate Z (bkms@bescha.bund.de)

Other bodies involved (ministries, agencies, divisions):

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (Division IB6), Free Hanseatic City of Bremen (Senator for Finances, Division 45, Digitalisation of Administrative Services for Businesses), Land North Rhine-Westphalia, Land Rhineland-Palatinate, FITKO, Coordination Office for IT Standards

Other bodies involved (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups):

Bundesdruckerei GmbH, Nortal AG, adesso SE

Introduction of a data cube – data on the Environment

Time frame: 30 September 2023–1 April 2025

Implementing bodies: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection; German Environment Agency

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Private individuals, politicians, public administrators, researchers and business all need reliable and meaningful data. Nevertheless, a lot of environmental data, especially time series, have until now been spread across separate files and specialist systems, in many cases not even in machine-readable formats. On the various publication channels maintained by the German Environment Agency, it has to date been difficult to publish larger data sets within the wider context of their field rather than in separate views. This means many potential perspectives on the data are lost. The fragmented nature of the data makes them less useful, as it is generally very difficult for non-specialists to tell which data go with which in terms of content or methodology. To date, automated read-out of the data has demanded considerable time and effort.

What is the commitment?

In the data cube, the German Environment Agency will develop an effective system for structuring, making available and processing environmental data. All of the software components developed as part of the project are to be made available as open-source software.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

In a data cube, data are organised as elements of a multidimensional data structure. The dimensions of the cube describe the data and facilitate a diverse range of possibilities for searches, queries, analysis and visualisations. This will allow larger sets of environmental data to be published and made accessible via data and open data portals. The data sets contained in the data cube will be downloadable, in parts or in their entirety, in various formats and via interfaces (REST API) and will be available for the different user groups to reuse (e.g. for use with machine-learning models or for experimentation).

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

The project will improve government transparency by ensuring better access to relevant data and information. The technologies used in the data cube will be based largely on open-source software or will be developed as such and can be reused by other institutions. The SDMX standard that will be applied is already used by a large number of international players (e.g. OECD, UNICEF, World Bank) and will improve the options for sharing data with those institutions. Both of these factors will thus strengthen cooperation.

Additional information:

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Introduction of a pilot system (publicly accessible): Launch of the data explorer and other components, with a basic stock of data to be expanded successively throughout the pilot phase – the aim being to gather experience for the productive operation phase and enter into dialogue with users on further evolution	October 2023	May 2024
Workshop with public involvement (e. g. data journalists)	September 2024	October 2024
Complete and non-time-limited launch of the data cube as a fully operational system with all components	November 2024	March 2025

Contact information:

German Environment Agency, Unit I 1.5 (I1.5@uba.de)

Other bodies involved (ministries, agencies, divisions):

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Division TI2-UI (TI2-UI@bmu.bund.de)

Other bodies involved (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups):

Additional stakeholders from civil society will be involved in the pilot phase and particularly the data workshop.

Implementation of the recommendations to strengthen the SDGs in legislation

Time frame: June 2023–December 2024

Implementing body: Federal Ministry of Justice

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The goals of the 2030 Agenda are to be achieved within a short time frame. Sustainability considerations should therefore be taken into account from the very beginning of any legislative project. The basis for this are the recommendations issued by the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Ministry of Justice to make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more of a binding factor in the drafting of laws. To date, however, there have not been sufficient findings or established structures and skills to facilitate this.

What is the commitment?

The project will evaluate how government departments are implementing the recommendations of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Ministry of Justice and what internal procedures are in place to that end. Possible measures for improvement will be drawn up with the involvement of relevant stakeholders. In addition, a training module will be created on sustainability in legislative practice, and the project will also examine whether the above-mentioned recommendations need to be updated.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The evaluation will, for the first time, provide information for all government departments on how the SDGs are reflected in the legislative process. On that basis, it will be possible to highlight best practices and synergies and to create effective structures and procedures within government departments. The new training option will boost the skills of employees in order that legislative projects will take better account of sustainability considerations. Cooperation among the different players within the legislative process will be strengthened by the transparency this generates and by their own involvement in the procedures.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

This commitment increases the transparency of the objectives and impact of legislative projects. This is a necessary precondition for them to be open to scrutiny and for the meaningful participation of civil society.

Additional information:

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Presentation of project to civil-society stakeholders by the Federal Ministry of Justice	Mid-2023	November 2023
Submission of a report on the implementation of recommendations (evaluation) to the State Secretaries Committee on Sustainable Development by the Federal Ministry of Justice	November 2023	November 2023
Blueprint for training module	July 2023	November 2023
Stakeholders dialogue	1st half of 2024	2nd half of 2024
Report – possibly repeat involvement of the State Secretaries Committee	2nd half of 2024	2nd half of 2024

Contact information:

Federal Ministry of Justice, Sustainability Division (DA4) (DA4@bmj.bund.de)

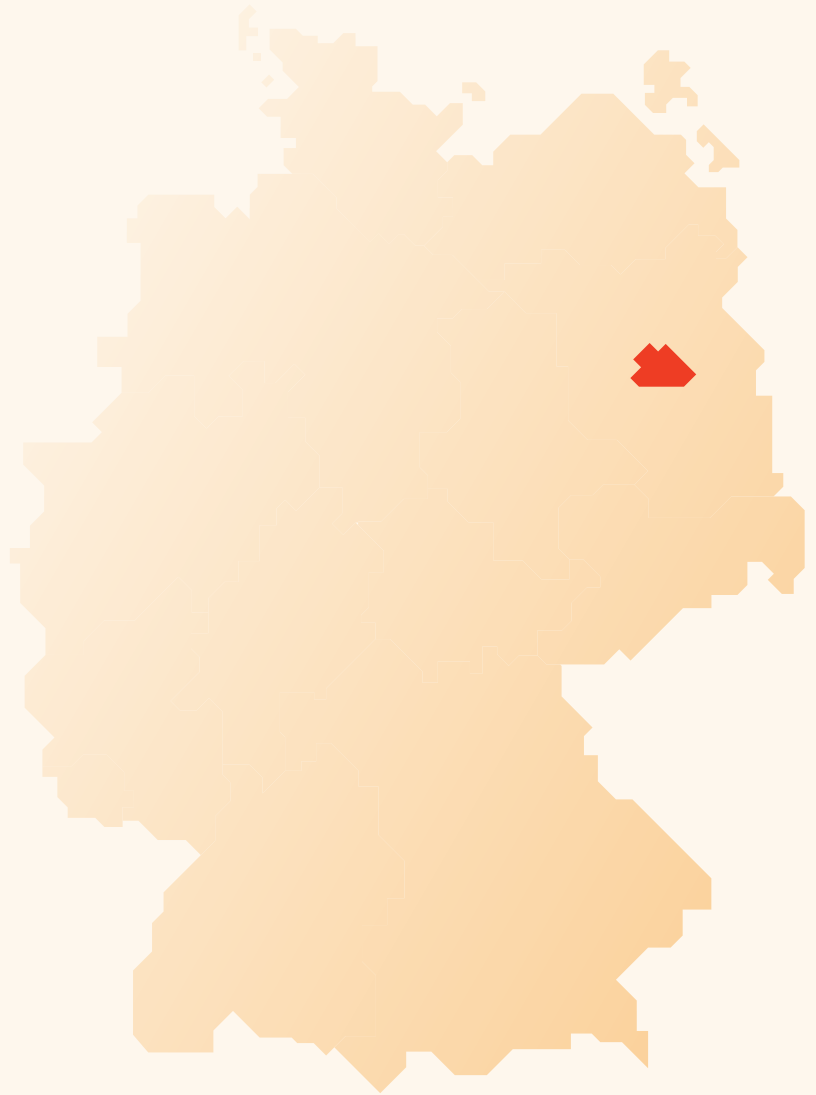
Other bodies involved:

Federal Chancellery, all government departments

Other bodies to be involved as appropriate:

Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development, Council for Sustainable Development, Science Platform Sustainability 2030, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Germany, Dialogue Group on the German Sustainable Development Strategy, etc.

Berlin budget data as linked open data (Berlin commitment)¹⁰



Time frame: 31 May 2023–31 December 2024

Implementing body: Berlin Senate Department for Finance

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

In the interests of the transparency and accessibility to scrutiny of financial data and government activities, Berlin's budget data from 2010 to the present is published in a structured machine-readable form on the Berlin open data portal. In 2023, a new open data strategy for Land Berlin was adopted in the Berlin Senate. Linked open data is one of the core elements of the new open data strategy, under which the senate and district authorities are to make their data available in five-star quality – that is to say, as linked open data – on the Berlin open data portal in future. This measure responds to the desire for data to be connected, complete and of better quality. Having structured data that can be readily linked, e.g. within administration, is also important for the sake of future harmonised data management. Open data sets need to be arranged in such a way as to be compatible, well-described and clearly identifiable. Only then can links be generated automatically and data “speak” to each other – as linked open data. To make Berlin's budget data more usable and informative, the data set needs to be raised to this highest level of open data quality.

¹⁰ This project is a commitment made by Land **Berlin**. Unlike the rest of the content of this Action Plan, for constitutional reasons the Land measures are not the subject of the Federal Government's resolution. They are the outcome of decision-making processes in the Länder in question.

What is the commitment?

This project will create the infrastructure necessary for publishing the open data set of Berlin's biennial budget on the Berlin open data portal as linked open data for the first time. Procedural steps and outcomes will be documented and made available in order to advance the implementation of additional sets of linked open data – including those of other divisions and authorities and therefore independently of any sector-specific procedure. In publishing Berlin's budget data as linked open data, the foundations for future linkages between authorities and serving in the vanguard of progress on open data are being laid: in collaboration with Land Schleswig-Holstein, arrangements are being made for experience to be shared, links to be put in place and the project to be scaled up.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

Publishing the budget data as linked data will lay the groundwork for linked government data from which other public authorities will benefit in future. The quality of the data set – its informativeness and usability – will be vastly enhanced, making this a project with great potential reach. The project will also encourage network-strengthening activities between partners within and outside the Land. With the collaboration of the State Chancellery of Land Schleswig-Holstein, the necessary semantics for linked open budget data will be worked out so that the data sets can speak to one another.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

Linking (budget) data sets is intended to open up new insights for stakeholders and raise the added value of the data and the transparency of decision-making for both internal and external observers. Collaboration with partners within administration and the Berlin data community will strengthen participation.

Additional information:

Visualisation of Berlin budget data (in German): haushaltsdaten.odis-berlin.de

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
BarCamp run by the Open Knowledge Foundation (networking in pursuit of standardised ontology)	4th quarter of 2023	4th quarter of 2023
Agreement of semantics with State Chancellery of Land Schleswig-Holstein	1st quarter of 2024	3rd quarter of 2024
Programming of data set in a linked data format	2nd quarter of 2024	4th quarter of 2024

Contact information:

Land Berlin, Senate Department for Finance (julia.schabos@senfin.berlin.de)

Other bodies involved (ministries, agencies, divisions):

Land Berlin, Senate Department for Finance (Press Section, Directorate II and Central Services), Senate Chancellery of Land Berlin (Berlin Open Data), Land Schleswig-Holstein (State Chancellery)

Other bodies involved (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups):

Open Knowledge Foundation

Visualisation of municipal and Land budget data (Schleswig-Holstein commitment)¹¹



Time frame: June 2023–June 2025

Implementing body: Land Schleswig-Holstein

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The public sector is often accused of lacking transparency and efficiency in the way it handles taxpayers' money. Many people find the absolute figures that are communicated publicly, often in the millions or billions, difficult to put into context. Abstract percentages are also not always conducive to better understanding. For many people, it is hard to see how the taxes that they contribute to the budget relate to the services that the public sector provides. Even though all data about budgetary incomings and outgoings are published, this is still all too often done in the form of stark printouts, hidden in PDF documents or, the best-case scenario, as open data sets – which, however, only experts can deal with. Despite this transparency, therefore, it is still very time-consuming for members of the public to understand what their taxes are being spent on.

¹¹ This project is a commitment made by Land **Schleswig-Holstein**. Unlike the rest of the content of this Action Plan, for constitutional reasons the Land measures are not the subject of the Federal Government's resolution. They are the outcome of decision-making processes in the Länder in question.

What is the commitment?

Schleswig-Holstein will set up an online platform on which budget data will be presented to the public in easy-to-access interactive formats. Alongside typical diagram visualisations, a “per capita breakdown” is also planned in which users can see their own theoretical share in particular budget areas (such as education or coastal protection).

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

These easy-to-access interactive visualisations of budget data will give members of the public the opportunity to gain a comprehensive picture of how their (tax) contributions are used. The inclusion of certain municipalities will contribute to better understanding. This will provide an objective basis for discussions about the supposed wasting of taxpayers’ money and a tool for members of the public, the media and other stakeholders to, for example, swiftly check the veracity of false claims.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

This project will enhance transparency about the use of public funds. Easier access to budget information will mean that the budget decisions of those in government at the Land and local levels will come under scrutiny from a larger number of members of the public. Criticism of (budget-related) decisions will consequently be based on data and facts and serve to strengthen democracy in Schleswig-Holstein.

Additional information:

Schleswig-Holstein open data portal (in German): opendata.schleswig-holstein.de

Schleswig-Holstein Open Data Act (Offene-Daten-Gesetz) (in German):

www.gesetze-rechtsprechung.sh.juris.de/bssh/document/jlr-OpenDataGSHrahmen/part/X

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Definition of format for transmitting local-authority annual financial statements and budgets	July 2023	September 2023
Definition of machine-readable standard; capacity for automated feed-in of local-authority annual financial statements and budgets	September 2023	Early 2024
Initial version of visualisation	1st quarter of 2024	2nd quarter of 2024
Final version of visualisation	3rd quarter of 2024	1st quarter of 2025

Contact information:

State Chancellery of Land Schleswig-Holstein, Dr Jesper Zedlitz (opengovernment@lr.landsh.de)

Other bodies involved (ministries, agencies, divisions):

Ministry of the Interior, Municipal Affairs, Housing and Sports of Land Schleswig-Holstein, Hüttener Berge local authority, Hanseatic City of Lübeck, City of Norderstedt, City of Rendsburg

Publicly available data as linked open data (Schleswig-Holstein commitment)¹²



Time frame: June 2023–June 2025

Implementing body: Land Schleswig-Holstein

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Land Schleswig-Holstein has made great strides in the area of open government data in recent years, which are of interest and relevance to the public and to business. A large quantity of information and numerous data sets have been generated and published. The challenge to be addressed is that, although many of those data have already been published in machine-readable form, they have none or not enough of the properties required to be found swiftly and linked to other data. Civil society, researchers and members of the business community are often unable to find open data, as the data concerned are not connected up.

What is the commitment?

Schleswig-Holstein will take technical and organisational steps to make publicly available data and information accessible in the linked open data (LOD) format in future. LOD means that the data are described in such a way that they can be cross-referenced. To that end, the metadata and data are prepared using the Resource Description Framework (RDF) – automatically, using the information already available on the open data portal – and made accessible to the public via a “SPARQL endpoint”. SPARQL is a query language for content in RDF data sets, which can be used to express all kinds of queries.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

Transforming the open data into linked open data will enable civil society, researchers and companies to find them more easily, connect them up and use them intelligently, without depending on commercial providers. Data gathered and published by the Land authorities will be uniformly identified using the RDF and easily searched and combined using SPARQL. One example of use will be the budget data gained in commitment 3.13. In collaboration with the Berlin Senate Department for Finance, the necessary semantics for linked open budget data will be worked out so that the data sets can “speak” to one another.

¹² This project is a commitment made by Land **Schleswig-Holstein**. Unlike the rest of the content of this Action Plan, for constitutional reasons the Land measures are not the subject of the Federal Government’s resolution. They are the outcome of decision-making processes in the Länder in question.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

The availability and improved usability of Land open government data will strengthen the transparency of government activities, empower the public, help make information accessible to a modern standard and free of charge, and generate new potential for value creation for businesses in the evolving data economy.

Additional information:

Schleswig-Holstein open data portal (in German): opendata.schleswig-holstein.de

Schleswig-Holstein Open Data Act (in German): www.gesetze-rechtsprechung.sh.juris.de/perma?a=OpenDataG_SH

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Provision of a triplestore with a SPARQL endpoint	4th quarter of 2023	1st quarter of 2024
Agreement of semantics for budget data with Land Berlin	1st quarter of 2024	3rd quarter of 2024
Provision of budget data as LOD	1st quarter of 2024	3rd quarter of 2024
Provision of other open data as LOD	4th quarter of 2023	2nd quarter of 2025

Contact information:

State Chancellery of Land Schleswig-Holstein, Dr Jesper Zedlitz (opengovernment@lr.landsh.de)

Other bodies involved (ministries, agencies, divisions):

Land Berlin, Senate Department for Finance

Digital building applications (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania commitment)¹³



Time frame: 1st quarter of 2024–2nd quarter of 2025

Implementing body: Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The Federal Government's ambitious housing targets and the sustained demand for housing in Germany will only be met with swift planning and authorisation procedures. The often protracted paper-based procedures are not transparent. For private individuals and for businesses, it is sometimes unclear for months at a time what stage of the procedure their application has reached and when they can expect a decision. An online service for digital building applications, Digitaler Bauantrag, developed as one-for-all software to be used nationwide, will address that challenge.

What is the commitment?

Digitaler Bauantrag, an online service standardised across Germany, will generate a wide range of options for action, participation, information-sharing and communication in the planning procedure. Web-based collaborative cooperation and the use of open standards (such as XBau and XPlanung) can make the entire building applications process more efficient, transparent and safe on a lasting basis for contractors, architects and the planning authorities. Applicants and all involved will benefit from the improved and accelerated digital processes.

¹³ This project is a commitment made by Land **Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania**. Unlike the rest of the content of this Action Plan, for constitutional reasons the Land measures are not the subject of the Federal Government's resolution. They are the outcome of decision-making processes in the Länder in question.

How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?

The provision of an online digital building applications service available throughout Germany will contribute to resolving the challenges in the housing sector in particular. Completely digitalising the process will have an accelerating effect that will sustainably help achieve Germany's housing targets. The digital applications service will enable the public and the authorities to access same-day information on the status of their own planning applications. This new transparency will foster trust in administration. Moreover, directly aligning the service with the needs of federal and Land building construction statistics in future will help ensure that those statistics contain quality up-to-date information, thereby opening up new potential for government. The consistent use of open standards and regular coordination with other digitalisation projects in the area of construction and housing will lead, step by step, to a new data ecosystem which will strengthen information-based government.

Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?

The project will strengthen cooperation between public authorities and use new innovative technologies going forward (such as BIM software) to enhance the transparency of administration. The new transparency will make public bodies more accountable for their actions.

Additional information:

Implementing the Online Access Act (Onlinezugangsgesetz) – construction and housing (in German): www.onlinezugangsgesetz.de/Webs/OZG/DE/themen/digitalisierungsprogramm-federal/themenfelder/bauen-und-wohnen/bauen-und-wohnen-node.html

Digital services in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania – construction and housing (in German): www.digitalesmv.de/digitale-verwaltung/themenfeld-bauen-und-wohnen

Digital building authorisation service (in German): www.digitale-baugenehmigung.de

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date	Implementation by
Completion of nationwide roll-out of the online service for participating Länder exceeding the mandatory 50% implementation of the Online Access Act	2nd quarter of 2023	2nd quarter of 2024
Provision within the online service of improved and simplified data-gathering for building construction statistics ("combined applications") for reuse, in line with the once-only principle	4th quarter of 2023	4th quarter of 2024
Provision of a first level of expansion of the online service, allowing planning applications to be submitted along with information from the open BIM (building information modelling) standard	1st quarter of 2024	2nd quarter of 2025

Contact information:

Ministry of the Interior, Building and Digitalisation of Land Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Division 240 (Digitale-Baugenehmigung@im.mv-regierung.de)

Other bodies involved (NGOs, private enterprise, multilateral organisations, working groups): XBau coordination centre, Länder, brain-SCC GmbH (creator of the online service)

4. Abbreviations

BAFA	Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control	NAP	National Action Plan (in sections on individual commitments, possibly referring to other NAPs than the present one)
BKAmt	Federal Chancellery	NGO	non-governmental organisation
BMAS	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
BMBF	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	OGP	Open Government Partnership
BMEL	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture	PPP	public-private partnership
BMF	Federal Ministry of Finance	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
BMFSFJ	Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	UBA	German Environment Agency
BMI	Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community	UIG	Environmental Information Act (Umweltinformationsgesetz)
BMJ	Federal Ministry of Justice	VIG	Consumer Information Act (Verbraucherinformationsgesetz)
BMUV	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection	VIP	Administrative Data Information Platform
BMVg	Federal Ministry of Defence		
BMWK	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action		
BMWSB	Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building		
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development		
BPA	Press and Information Office of the Federal Government		
EU	European Union		
FFO	Federal Foreign Office		
FITKO	federal IT cooperation body (Föderale IT-Kooperation)		
GeoZG	Spatial Data Access Act (Geodatenzugangsgesetz)		
G7	Group of Seven		
G20	Group of Twenty		
IFG	Freedom of Information Act (Informationsfreiheitsgesetz)		
IT	information technology		
Kosit	Coordination Office for IT Standards		

