

**OPEN
GOVERNMENT
DEUTSCHLAND**



FOURTH NATIONAL

ACTION PLAN

2023–2025

Summary

Open
Government
Partnership





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

FOURTH NATIONAL

ACTION PLAN

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Summary

Open government in Germany

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. 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. **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.

The Federal Government uses the **Regierungsmonitor** (government monitor, accessible (in German) at www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/bundesregierung/regierungsmonitor), which is updated on a monthly basis, to keep the public informed of the progress made in implementing important measures.

Open government is also intended to help achieve in good time goal 16 (on strong institutions) of "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". One standout example of international ties and cooperation in the sphere of open government is the participation in the **Open Government Partnership (OGP)**, which provided the framework for the development of this fourth National Action Plan.

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. Together with civil society, participants regularly draw up National Action Plans (NAPs) consisting of commitments (concrete measures with quantifiable goals), which foster open government. 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)". This **fourth NAP** in the framework of OGP participation contains 11 commitments made by the Federal Government and four commitments made by three Länder (Berlin, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Schleswig-Holstein).

More details are available at www.open-government-deutschland.de

The commitments of the Federal Government in the fourth National Action Plan

1 Drafting and shepherding through Parliament of a Transparency Act

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community will draft a bill which further develops the legal foundation for access to official information and open government data. The Transparency Act will create a cohesive legal framework to govern access to and reuse of official information and data.

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

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action intends to establish a publicly accessible online database in which data pertaining to arms export authorisations will be published. This will complement the current twice-yearly report on arms export policy.

3 PPP transparency guidelines

For its own public-private partnership (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 Federal Ministry of Finance will elaborate transparency guidelines to this end.

4 First Federal Government report on the convergence of living standards

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community will draft the first report on the convergence of living standards. In producing this report, the Federal Government will be systematically creating transparency concerning the status and progress of the drive to establish equivalent living conditions.

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

The Federal Foreign Office (FFO) will perpetuate structures and processes that facilitate dialogue-based public diplomacy and, in tandem with this, collaborations with civil-society structures will be built up to help spread the word about discussion events. In contrast to earlier measures which only took place in Berlin, the FFO will now work with civil-society networks and reach out to people across the country – taking a decentralised approach.

6**Dialogue network for sustainable agriculture as a blueprint for institutionalised participation**

The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection will further develop the dialogue network for sustainable agriculture as an interministerial and consolidated participation forum. This will enable other ministries to adopt the format.

7**National Action Plan “New Opportunities for Children in Germany”**

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth will set up an NAP Committee as the central participatory body for the National Action Plan “New Opportunities for Children in Germany”, in which the Federal Government, Länder, local authorities, civil society and the academic community will be represented.

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

In a multi-stakeholder and participatory process, the Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building will draw up a National Action Plan (NAP) to tackle homelessness. This will ensure that as many perspectives as possible can be drawn on for the identification and implementation of measures to tackle homelessness.

9**Data-based value-added services in public procurement**

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community and its Procurement Office will make available 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 EU thresholds, on the public-procurement data service platform Datenservice Öffentlicher Einkauf.

10**Introduction of a data cube –data on the Environment**

In the data cube, the German Environment Agency will develop an effective system for structuring, making available and processing data relating to the environment. This will allow larger sets of environmental data to be published or visualised and made accessible and usable via data and open data portals.

11**Implementation of the recommendations to strengthen the SDGs in legislation**

The Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) will evaluate how the SDGs are reflected in the legislative process. On the basis of the recommendation of the Federal Ministry of Justice and the Federal Chancellery, the impact of a bill on the attainment of the SDGs should be described in the introductory page and in the part setting out the reasons for the bill. Possible measures for improvement will be reviewed and training modules will be developed.

Independent commitments by the Länder relating to the fourth National Action Plan

These projects are the outcome of decision-making processes in the Länder in question.

- 12 Berlin budget data as linked open data (Berlin commitment)**

In future, Berlin's budget data will be made available as linked open data on the Berlin open data portal. The aim is to ensure that data is connected, complete and of better quality. 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.
- 13 Visualisation of municipal and Land budget data (Schleswig-Holstein 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. The visualisation of budget data will make it possible to gain a comprehensive picture of how (tax) contributions are used. Some municipalities will also be included.
- 14 Publicly available data as linked open data (Schleswig-Holstein 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. Data gathered and published by the Land authorities will be uniformly identified using the RDF and easily searched and combined using SPARQL.
- 15 Digital building applications (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania commitment)**

The development of an online service which can be used by authorities throughout Germany for construction project applications will enhance cooperation among applicants, government agencies and other stakeholders involved in the process and create transparency. In addition, reliable data is generated more quickly for building construction statistics.

The implementation of this Action Plan and its milestones will be documented on the www.open-government-deutschland.de website.

