

KEY POINTS AND OBJECTIVES IN THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (VERSION 1.0, OCTOBER 2019 - TRANSLATION)

A. SIGNIFICANCE OF OPEN GOVERNMENT

Open government denotes a “*culture of governance based on innovative and sustainable public policies and practices inspired by the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation that fosters democracy and inclusive growth*” (OECD). Openness in the sense of open government is expressed, for example, through listening, cooperation, transparent actions and accountability, the promotion of integrity and inclusion and the facilitation of participation. As a **guiding principle**, it is therefore suitable for all administrative levels and policy fields and is neither restricted in structural terms to the executive nor, at the policy level, to the domain of information technology. Open government supplements concepts such as good governance and better regulation with a comprehensive narrative of innovative public governance that strengthens democracy and society through trust and cooperation. We want to help achieve the following **objectives**:

- making government and public administration fit for the future, better and more people-oriented,
- strengthening civic and intersectoral engagement across society,
- achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals,
- winning back and strengthening trust in politics and administration,
- fighting corruption, strengthening innovation and modernising public administration.

With open government, we are helping to bring about tangible improvements in our citizens’ lives. The Federal Government is gearing its actions in this regard to the principles enshrined in the Open Government Declaration: promoting transparency, facilitating participation and cooperation, fighting corruption and using digital technologies to improve society. Open government has the potential to achieve better results as well as a higher level of support and trust across policy areas. This therefore promotes social cohesion as well as prosperity and security in Germany and Europe. With open government, we are also supporting the implementation of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

B. OBJECTIVES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

1. PERCEPTION

Open government is intended to be a guiding principle of government and public administration in all policy fields and at all levels of administration. To this end, we are supporting and promoting ongoing networking, awareness-raising and research into open government and are continuing the proactive communications work already under way in this area.

2. EMBEDDING OPEN GOVERNMENT

We are assessing, advocating and supporting suitable forms of embedding open government at strategic points in ministries and authorities, as well as in strategies, policy documents and organisation mandates. We want to continue the interministerial and multi-level exchange on open government.

3. PROCESS OPTIMIZATION

Leading up to the process for the third NAP, the commitments of the federal ministries (as well as any contributions from the Länder) will be elaborated in a more proactive dialogue with civil society. To this end, we aim to ensure that potential measures are considered at an earlier stage and that the procedure (and any key issues) is determined by a cabinet resolution.

4. FEDERALISM

With respect to multi-level cooperation in open government (especially OGP participation and the drafting of national action plans), the aim is to identify informal and formal structures that facilitate uncomplicated and also goal-oriented access to open government as a cross-cutting issue. Together, the aim is to promote the expert dialogue at Land and municipal level and to raise the (international) profile of activities at these levels.

C. OBJECTIVES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AND IN THE OGP STEERING COMMITTEE

5. ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Together with other participating states, we are committed to sustainable financing, personnel policy and political support for the OGP.

6. PROFESSIONALISING COMMUNICATIONS AND STRUCTURES

In order to achieve greater acceptance and effectiveness, decisions, policy documents and the OGP's means of communication should be coordinated more regularly and reliably among the participating states and assessed for their compatibility with different political systems and administrative structures. The OGP's working methods should take the diversity of the political structures of its participating states into account.

7. SYNERGIES

We are endeavouring to link the OGP agenda with related discourses, processes and structures of international organisations and forums both with respect to policy and at the institutional level. We consider greater networking and coordination especially among the European community of states also in the OGP to be a worthwhile aim.

8. OGP REFORM

We are, as a matter of principle, open to discussions about institutional and procedural changes to the OGP. The organisation should work in such a way that it supports, highlights and appreciates the entire thematic spectrum of open government and the individual needs of all stakeholders in equal measure.