



Norway's second Action Plan on Open Government Partnership (OGP)

October 2013 – September 2015

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This Action Plan has been coordinated by the Norwegian Ministry of Government
Administration, Reform and Church Affairs

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1. About Norway's first Action Plan on Open Government Partnership (OGP)

The first Norwegian Action Plan on OGP was launched on 19 September 2011. Three areas of the plan were given particular priority:

- Open Public Sector and Inclusive Government:
- Measures to promote gender equality and women's full participation in civic life, the private sector, public administration and political processes
- Transparency in the management of oil and gas revenues and efforts for financial transparency

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was responsible for coordinating the Norwegian Action Plan until 25 January 2013. After this date, the task was transferred to the Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs (except the responsibility for funding).

Norway's first Action Plan can be downloaded from:
www.opengovpartnership.org/countries/norway

On this website you will also find the Norwegian Self-Assessment Report on our first Action Plan, dated April 2013.

In October 2013, the report of the OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) will be published on the same page of the OGP website.

2. Norway's Second Action Plan – the Process

The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs (hereafter referred to as the Ministry) defines “civil society” in this Action Plan as individual citizens, civil society organizations (CSOs), interest groups, the business sector and organizations connected to working life. As regards individual citizens, Norway believes that their views are best mapped by surveys, such as citizens’ surveys and omnibus surveys.

The Ministry has invited civil society to propose input to this second Action Plan. The invitation was sent out on 18 April 2013 to 27 different CSOs and organizations in the business sector and in working life. The final date for submitting proposals was three months later, 18 July 2013. The letter is available on the Ministry’s website under “*Høring*” (Consultations). Responses from civil society are available on the same website. The invitation letter is also available on a separate Norwegian “[OPG page](#)” of the Ministry’s website.

In its letter of 18 April, the Ministry also informed that an invitation to a dialogue meeting with civil society, likely to be held in the first part of June 2013, was to be sent out later.

At the same time, the local experts who worked on the IRM report on Norway’s first action plan arranged three meetings with civil society, on 3, 8 and 10 May. The Ministry was present at all three meetings, and informed about the ongoing process regarding the second Action Plan.

On 14 May, the Ministry sent out the invitation to the dialogue meeting, which was to be held on 13 June. In addition to the 27 organizations originally invited, the invitation was sent to the persons and the organizations on the mailing lists of the three IRM meetings. A total of approximately 100 addressees were invited to the meeting on 13 June. The aim of the dialogue meeting was to provide information concerning the OGP and the process of making a new Action Plan and to discuss possible commitments in the new plan. One of the local experts from IRM was also present at the meeting. He shared some of the IRM’s impressions so far, both on the content of and the process leading up to Norway’s first Action Plan. This was useful for the further work on the second Action Plan.

All ministries were invited to attend the meeting with civil society on 13 June, and they were also invited to a separate information meeting about OGP and the new Action Plan and in order to discuss subjects for possible Norwegian commitments. This meeting was held on 6 June.

As a response to the Ministry’s letter of 18 April, we have received proposals from six civil society organizations:

- The Employers’ Association Spekter (Arbeidsgiverforeningen Spekter)

- Finance Norway (Finans Norge)
- The Association of NGOs in Norway (Frivillighet Norge)
- Norwegian Society of Records Managers and Archivists (Norsk Arkivråd)
- The Norwegian Press Association (Norsk Presseforbund), the Norwegian Union of Journalists (Norsk journalistlag) and the Association of Norwegian Editors (Norsk Redaktørforening) (joint statement from three organizations)
- Transparency International Norway

All responses have been published on "Regjeringen.no" (government.no):

<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/fad/dok/horinger/horingsdokumenter/2013/horing-opg>

The proposals were sent to the competent ministries for consideration.

A first draft of this Action Plan was prepared by the Ministry during July September 2013. The draft was based on the proposals from civil society and on responses from the ministries concerning those proposals, but also on proposals from the ministries and the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS), of which all municipalities and county authorities are members.

The draft version was circulated for consultation by the ministries, the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) and civil society between 23 September and 4 October 2013. The consultation was announced on the Ministry's website. Some of the comments from the consultation are reflected in this Action Plan. Owing to time limits, other comments must be considered later.

3. Openness and Civic Participation in Norway

3.1 A culture of openness – Norway’s aspiration

The Norwegian system is based on a culture of openness and a long tradition for participation by civil society.

The principles of open government are therefore well established in the Norwegian public administration tradition. The OGP principles concur with the principles on which the Norwegian public administration is based.

Norway aspires to be one of the most open countries in the world.

3.2 The “Nordic Model”

The Norwegian public administration works within the framework of the “Nordic Model”, sometimes also referred to as “the Norwegian Model”. This is a consensus-based model based on the notion that a country’s economy is best served by tripartite cooperation between the Government, employers’ associations and trade unions, particularly in relation to collective agreements.

One concrete example of such cooperation is the Agreement on a More Inclusive Working Life (“IA agreement”), whereby the Government and the social partners work to achieve a more inclusive working life for the benefit of the employees, workplaces and society.

3.3 The voluntary sector in Norway

The scale of voluntary organization and voluntary work in Norway is very large in international terms. The proportion of the population engaged in voluntary work is just under 50%, while almost 70% of the population are members of one or more organizations. There are approximately 80 000 local and regional clubs and associations in Norway, of which the greatest proportion operate in the areas of sport, art and culture and recreational and social activities. The economic value of voluntary (unpaid) work in non-profit and voluntary organizations is estimated at NOK 60 bn (1 € is approximately NOK 8), equivalent to a total of approximately 115 000 Full-time equivalents (FTEs). The total economic value (paid and unpaid work) in non-profit and voluntary organizations is estimated at NOK 101 bn.

The Norwegian voluntary sector has undergone a number of changes during recent decades. The proportion of the population engaged in voluntary work and the number of local and regional clubs and associations has decreased somewhat. At the same time, the total number of hours and voluntary FTEs has remained the same. Attitudes and motives for participation are more often than before associated with self-development, skills and activities. Belonging to organizations means less to people. Traditional civil organization is under pressure. Broad social movements are on the decline, while organizations with a local community orientation are on the increase.

More people than before remain outside the voluntary organizations. In the case of immigrants with a command of Norwegian who have resided in Norway for more than five years, a relatively large proportion are involved in voluntary work, but mainly in other types of organization than the remainder of the population.

Particularly among young people, social involvement is in process of changing. Young people are active and participate in new ways, use different channels and express their involvement and views about specific causes. Non-membership based and virtual voluntary work is on the increase.

3.4 Important OGP-relevant legislation and documents on openness and consultation and ICT

The Public Administration Act (“Forvaltningsloven”)

The general rules for executive work in the public sector are laid down in the Act of 10 February 1967 relating to procedure in cases concerning the public administration (Public Administration Act). A general principle of this Act is that no administrative decision may be taken before thorough clarification of the case. The Act also provides special rights of access to case documents, etc. to the parties involved in individual cases. The Act also states that parties which the regulations concern or will concern, or whose interests are particularly affected shall be given an opportunity to express their opinions before regulations are issued, amended or repealed.

The Freedom of Information Act (“Offentleglova”)

Norway’s first Freedom of information act dates back to 1970. A new act was carried in 2006 and came into force in 2009. The purpose of this act is to facilitate an open and transparent public administration, and thereby strengthen freedom of information and expression, democratic participation, legal safeguards for the individual, confidence in the public authorities and control by the public. The act shall also facilitate the re-use of public information. The main rule of this act is the right for anyone to have access to the documents and public records of the public administration. Following a resolution from The Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget), the Freedom of Information Act will now

evaluated. The evaluation will be carried out by independent researchers. The formal process concerning this evaluation will start during the autumn of 2013.

The Act on the Right to Environmental Information (“Miljøinformasjonsloven”)

Act of 9 may 2003 No 31 Relating to the Right to Environmental Information and Public Participation in Decision-making Processes relating to the Environment (“Lov om rett til miljøinformasjon og deltakelse i offentlige beslutningsprosesser av betydning for miljøet” (“miljøinformasjonsloven”)).

The purpose of this Act is to ensure public access to environmental information held by public authorities and private undertakings and thus make it easier for individuals to contribute to the protection of the environment, to protect themselves against injury to health and environmental damage, and to influence public and private decision makers in environmental matters.

Environmental information held by public authorities is accessible i.a. through <http://www.environment.no/>. The Act is also intended to promote public participation in decision-making processes of significance relating to the environment.

The Archival Act (“Arkivloven”)

The Norwegian Archival Act came into force in 1999. Public administration bodies are required to keep records, and records shall be arranged and designed so that the documents are kept safe as sources of information. A logically limited amount of information stored in a medium for subsequent reading, listening, presentation, or transfer shall be regarded as a document. The purpose of public bodies’ recordkeeping is twofold. Firstly, archives are created to satisfy public administration bodies’ own documentation needs. Second, the archives will accommodate various democratic rights such as controlling public bodies’ activities, see the publicly available documents and inspect cases. The act particularly emphasises the rules for preservation and disposal of public records, but also rules relating to the preservation of archival material from the private sector.

Central Government Communication Policy (“Statens kommunikasjonspolitikk”)

The aim of the Central Government Communication Policy is to ensure that citizens:

- are provided with correct and clear information about their rights, responsibilities and opportunities
- have access to information about the government’s activities
- are invited to participate in the formulation of policies, arrangements and services

The Central Government Communication Policy has the following six principles:

- Openness
- Participation
- Reaching all citizens concerned
- Active information
- Coherency
- Line management

The Government's eGovernment Programme "Digitizing Public Service" ("Digitaliseringsprogrammet")

The Norwegian eGovernment Programme "Digitizing Public Service" was presented by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs in April 2012.

The objectives are that:

- the public sector is to be accessible online to the extent possible
- web-based services are to be the general rule for the public sector's communication with citizens and businesses
- a digital public sector is to result in improved services
- digitization of the public sector is to free up resources for areas in need of more resources

The programme raises ambitions for the use of ICT to reform the public sector. The following principles form the basis:

1. Digital communication is to be the general rule for contact with the public sector
2. The public sector is to provide unified and user-friendly digital services
3. Login to public web services is to be simple and secure
4. Secure digital mailboxes will be available to all citizens and businesses for receipt of mail from the public sector
5. Citizens and businesses will be notified via SMS text messages and e-mail
6. Necessary assistance is to be provided to citizens to ensure they will be able to find and use digital services
7. Development of ICT solutions is to be viewed in the context of the public sector's work processes and organization
8. Protection of privacy and information security are to be safeguarded
9. Digitization measures of relevance for several services are to be coordinated

Initiatives under the programme include the following:

- Paper-based forms will be phased out. By 2014/2015, digital forms will be available for citizens to complete and submit

- By 2014, all citizens will have access to personal digital mailboxes for receipt of mail from public agencies. Unlike ordinary e-mail, such mailboxes will have a level of security appropriate even for sensitive information, e.g. personal health data. Individual citizens will still have the option of using traditional paper-based mail.
- Legislation is being revised to allow for digital communication between public agencies and citizens/businesses.

Digitizing public sector services, Norwegian eGovernment Program is available at:
http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/FAD/Kampanje/DAN/Regjeringensdigitaliseringsprogram/digit_prg_eng.pdf

4. Efforts to Date and the Next Steps

4.1 Public review and public consultation

In decision-making processes, quality is to be assured by **coordination** and **consultation** and by clarifying the **consequences**. The Norwegian public administration has a long tradition for allowing the persons concerned to influence the decision-making process. Any proposal that might have administrative, financial or other important consequences for the public administration or for businesses or the general public must be identified and taken into consideration when decisions are made. The dialogue between decision makers and the public is therefore already highly institutionalized.

All important decisions are subject to public consultation before the decision is taken.

The purpose of the Norwegian public consultation system is twofold:

- To provide the best possible basis for making public policy decisions (the quality aspect)
- To ensure that affected parties and other stakeholders have the opportunity to express their opinions (the democratic aspect)

The Norwegian consultation process has two stages:

1. Proposals are made by government-appointed committees.
 2. The proposals from such committees are submitted for public consultation.
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1. New policy proposals are often made by government-appointed committees made up of experts and stakeholder representatives. The committees submit proposals for measures, new legislation, etc. Such committees usually work for about one year before submitting their reports. They are also required to provide an account of the consequences of their proposals.
 2. The proposals from the government-appointed committees are often submitted for public consultation. As a general rule, such public consultation should last three months, but not less than six weeks. During the consultation process, affected parties and all other parties with an interest in the matter at hand may express their opinion on the proposal. Therefore, it is important that the proposals are written in a plain and user-friendly language.

All public consultation documents, including the comments received, are made public as provided by law and are made available on the websites of the ministries concerned.

General rules for consultation, coordination and verification of consequences are provided by the [Instructions for Official Studies and Reports](#) (*Utredningsinstruksen*).

These instructions are now under revision.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

New Instructions for Official Studies and Reports are to be drafted. The objective is to improve the basis for decisions in the public administration. The objective is to enhance the basis for public authority decisions. More efficient use of new technology is one of the means available to achieve better involvement of stakeholders and the public.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

New Instructions for Official Studies and Reports are to be drafted.

ACTIVITIES

See Key Impact Benchmark

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

2014

CHALLENGE

More Effectively Managing Public Resources

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

FAD/JD/KUD

4.2 A better overview of committees, boards and councils – more public access to information and better opportunities for further use

The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs has responsibility for keeping a record of central government committees, boards and councils. The record is available in a database that can be accessed from the Norwegian Government website, Regjeringen.no. The database contains information provided by the various ministries, and has no facilities for advanced searching.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

Make the record of committees, boards and councils easier to use for the general public, public administration and research institutions.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

Make the information available in the form of searchable files

ACTIVITIES

In cooperation with the Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs (Government Administration Services), the Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD) and the Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) will prepare principles for technical solutions.

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

Transparency: information on government activities and decisions

DATE

1.7.2014

CHALLENGE

More Effectively Managing Public Resources

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs.

4.3 “Simplify” (“Enkelt og greit”)

The government’s “Simplify” project was initiated by the Norwegian Prime Minister in February 2013. The Project was coordinated by the Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs, and launched in June 2013. The project was based on the values in OGP, and the [final document](#) is marked with the OGP Logo.

The main goal of the project was, in cooperation with civil society, to identify fields or issues where the government can simplify the everyday lives of citizens.

In this project, the Government adopted a number of different working methods:

- Dialogue between the Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) and civil society organizations (NGOs)
- Consultation between the Prime Minister and representatives from civil society
- Dialogue between some ministries and the Office of the Prime Minister
- An electronic mailbox on the Internet where the citizens were able to make suggestions and comments

These processes resulted in more than 300 proposals from citizens, NGOs and civil servants. Different ministries are responsible for the 45 commitments. The “Simplify” document has 45 commitments.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

“Simplify” was worked out by the former government. The new government will consider this document in connection with its efforts to modernize public sector.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description

ACTIVITIES

See Key Impact Description.

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

To be decided

CHALLENGE

Improving Public Services

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs.

4.4 Electronic Public Records (OEP) – (Offentlig elektronisk postjournal)

[OEP](#) is part of the Norwegian Government's effort to promote transparency and democracy within the public sector. OEP aims to make the Norwegian public sector more open and accessible to citizens. OEP is tightly connected with the Freedom of Information Act and its foundation is regulations related to the act.

Electronic Public Records (OEP) is a collaborative tool which central government agencies use to publicize their public records online. Public record data are stored in one searchable database. Users can search this database to locate case documents relevant to their field of interest. Having located relevant case documents, users may submit requests to view these. Requests are sent to the respective agencies responsible for the case documents and public record entries. The agencies themselves then process requests sent to them via OEP, and reply to users directly.

OEP was launched on 18 May 2010 and, by August 2013, by far the the greatest number of government offices and agencies, altogether 114 different entities, exported their electronic records to OEP on a daily or weekly basis. There are nearly 8 million document titles in OEP and more than 550 000 demands for access to documents, nearly 17 000 per month. A user survey indicates that 61% of the demands were based on professional reasons, 28% on private reasons and 7% were demands from different civil society groups. 50% of the demands were from journalists, 22% from the private sector, 17% from the public sector and 3% from researchers and scientific staff.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The OEP software has been developed on the basis of open source code, mainly based on free software, and is therefore available to other levels of governments as well as public and private institutions for re-use free of charge and without restrictions. The solution is intended to be accessible to all kinds of user groups. It has been developed in keeping with universal design principles and web development standards.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

On request, Norway will share its experiences of OEP and the source code with other countries.

ACTIVITIES

See Key Impact Benchmark

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

2014 and 2015

CHALLENGE

Improving Public Services

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi)

4.5 Re-use of public sector information (PSI)

The Norwegian public administration is working hard to release the potential of PSI. All subordinate agencies are required by common instructions provided by the government to make suitable and existing accessible data publicly available.

There are several reasons for proliferating open data:

- **Efficiency and Innovation:** Knowledge is shared both within and across the public and private sectors. Sharing public data will facilitate more coordination and creativity.
- **Democratization:** With open data, citizens have easier access to the basis for decisions and priorities in the public sector. An open culture enables inclusion of a larger audience in the political processes.

- Transparency: With open data, everybody will acquire a broader understanding of public processes. This may help to boost confidence in the public sector and the political system.

In order to assist public agencies, a number of different tools have been developed to buffer the processes and relieve PS bodies of any potential uncertainty they may have, whether legal, technical or administrative. These tools include:

- Guidelines providing an introduction to the hows and whys of making PSI accessible
- A standardized license intended for use when public entities distribute data and other relevant content for further use by business and industry as well as civil society.
- A Data Hotel¹, a free service from Difi², enabling data owners to publish their data without having to invest in new infrastructure or software

Digitization Circular

This year a circular on a number of specific digital issues has been sent out to ministries, mainstream government agencies, agencies with special powers and management companies.

The circular provides guidance on how to digitize in order to provide better services and improve operational efficiency. It contains important instructions and recommendations provided by the various regulations and decisions centrally located so as to facilitate access for businesses. The circular contains a separate section on the re-use of PSI, which states that businesses shall, in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, make appropriate information available in machine-readable formats.

Apps4Norge (“Apps4Norway”)

Apps4Norge³ was a national competition to develop the best apps for mobile and web-based services based on open public data. It was run by both Difi and Norway’s IT business representative organization (IKT-Norge), Entrants competed for a prize fund of NOK 150 000 (approx. EUR 20 000). It was possible to enter both ideas and web applications/services that make use of Norwegian open public data. An award was also given to the most open municipality and state organization in Norway on the basis of their contribution to open data.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

1. All state enterprises are required to make public data available so that it can be used by others, i.e. published electronically in a user-friendly format.

¹ data.norge.no

² Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi)

³ <http://apps4norge.no/apps4norway>

2. The government has recently published a call for tender for a case-based, socio-economic analysis of the availability of public geospatial data in Norway. The aim of the analysis is to identify alternative ways of facilitating the publication of spatial data in comparison with the current situation. The analysis should determine which option provides the best overall economic solution. The study should be ready by Q2 2014.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description

ACTIVITIES

See Commitment Description

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

1. Ongoing
2. July 2014 (A socio-economic analysis of the availability of public geospatial data in Norway)

CHALLENGE

More Effectively Managing Public Resources

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs

4.6 Access to health data

One important health policy goal is to ensure each individual's opportunity to be involved in processes and decisions concerning their own health. Easy and secure digital services shall make contact with the health and care service easier and contribute to the citizens' perception of the service as accessible and comprehensive.

Citizens shall have secure and easy electronic access to their own health records, Self-service solutions and electronic dialogue with health personnel.

Information about the health and care services, such as quality, waiting times, available services and users' experiences, will give the citizens an opportunity to make real choices related to their own treatment programme.

By making public (non-personal) data available, the private sector is invited to join the effort to develop digital services. In this way, we can achieve an innovative interaction among citizens, the public health service and private sector vendors.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The services shall be available to the citizens on the national health portal, helsenorge.no.

Through "My health" on the Internet, patients and users should be able to access to their own health records. Through secure channels, it will be possible for citizens to have an electronic dialogue with health personnel. Self-service solutions for electronic scheduling and renewal of prescriptions and electronic dialogue with health personnel will also be offered.

Citizens shall also have access to information about available services and treatment quality. This information will be available on helsenorge.no and give the citizens assistance in finding health and care service that suits their needs.

Public, non-personal data from the health sector shall be made available on helsenorge.no to support development of user-adapted, Internet-based health services and apps that the public sector will not be capable of developing alone.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

Services are available on helsenorge.no. Electronic identification (eID) with high level of security is an important component in order to establish digital services for the citizens.

ACTIVITIES

Services are to be established and further improved on the health portal helsenorge.no. Collaboration between the Directorate of Health, as owner of helsenorge.no, and the health care provider's organisations is necessary to provide access to patient records.

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

Transparency: access to registries

DATE

31.12.2014

CHALLENGE

Improving Public Services

(Back office restructuring and integration. Usability of security measures.)

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

The Ministry of Health and Care Services (HOD)

Directorate of Health

4.7 Renewal of the Government's website (regjeringen.no – government.no)

[Regjeringen.no](http://regjeringen.no) is a joint portal for all of the 17 Norwegian ministries and the Office of the Prime Minister. The current technical solution is six years old.

The Government Administration Services (DSS), which is a subordinate agency of the Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs, has started work on improvement of regjeringen.no.

DSS wishes to

- improve search facilities on regjeringen.no
- make it easier for users to find relevant documents
- make it easier for users to find their way around and know exactly which websites they are visiting
- create a more user-friendly design.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The objective is to deliver improvements and further development of the solution during 2013 and 2014. Ministries are taking part in the development work, and user testing is an important instrument.

The changes must be made in such a way that they provide good support for the ongoing work of the ministries by introducing changes and restructuring step by step. Ministries must be closely involved in the development work, and user testing and evaluation will be carried out continuously.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

The first improvements must be carried out by the end of 2014.

ACTIVITIES

See Key Impact Benchmark

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

2014

CHALLENGE

Improving Public Services

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

The Government Administration Services (DSS)

4.8 Declaration of principles for interaction and dialogue with NGOs

NGOs are independent players in civil society. At the same time, Norway has a long tradition for close interaction between the voluntary sector and the public authorities in a number of different areas. In order to promote greater predictability and a common understanding in the interaction and dialogue between the authorities and the NGOs, a declaration of principles is to be prepared. The declaration of principles is to include the role of the NGOs in Norwegian society and the special characteristics of voluntary work. The declaration of principles will be based on the fundamental principles laid down in the Council of Europe's "Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process" prepared by international NGOs.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The Ministry of Culture has responsibility for the work on a declaration of principles for interaction and dialogue with NGOs. The declaration of principles will be submitted to the Government.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

Work is to be started on a declaration of principles for dialogue and interaction with voluntary organizations.

ACTIVITIES

See Key Impact Benchmark

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

2014

CHALLENGE

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Ministry of Culture

4.9 Simplification and digital administration of arrangements for NGOs

It is an aim that NGOs shall use as little time as possible on forms and as much time as possible on activities. Requirements regarding applications and reporting associated with the various state grant schemes must be simplified where appropriate, and information concerning state grant schemes must be easily accessible. In the longer term, more support schemes for NGOs will be associated with the Register of Non-Profit Organizations (Frivillighetsregisteret). Reporting of data to the Register of Non-Profit Organizations must be as simple as possible for the organizations, and greater use of data from the register must be made by the public administration and by others. The Ministry of Culture has responsibility for further development of the Register of Non-Profit Organizations in cooperation with the Brønnøysund Register Centre and the voluntary sector.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The Ministry of Culture will make efforts to ensure that the requirements regarding applications and reporting for voluntary organizations are simplified where appropriate, that information concerning state grant schemes is easily available and

that, in the long term, more schemes are linked to the Register of Non-Profit Organizations.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

More support schemes for voluntary organizations are, in the long term, to be linked to the Register of Non-Profit Organizations.

ACTIVITIES

See Key Impact Benchmark

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

2014 - 2016

CHALLENGE

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Ministry of Culture

4.10 Registering and preserving digital documentation produced by public bodies

Challenges and strategies for registering and preserving digital documentation produced by public bodies are outlined in the white paper on archiving (Meld. St. 7 (2012-2013)). The basis for public access to such information consists partly of the public bodies' systems and routines for registering and preserving digital documents. The most important measures involve developing joint solutions, standards and rules for handling of digital documents. In addition, the Norwegian archive authorities contribute to the development of cooperation on following up these challenges, both internationally and between Norwegian administrative levels.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

Automated and specialized case management systems used by public bodies will include archive functions that link to documents and associated metadata, and store these in accordance with approved standards. These functions will ensure preservation of digital documentation in the short and long term as well as transparency and freedom of information.

Consideration will also be given to establishing joint solutions for preserving and making available digital documentation as soon as it is no longer in active administrative use. This will ensure both continued transparency and public confidence that such documentation is retained in its authentic form.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

In work on revision of the Archives Act, consideration has been given to the recommendation of the white paper on archiving, Meld. St. 7 (2012–2013), that the creation of archives should be a statutory function of all electronic systems for public documents of archival value. Standards and standardized solutions have been developed within the framework of a broad cooperation between actors in both central government and municipal administration.

ACTIVITIES

Revision of the Archives Act.

Broad cooperation project on archives in e-administration including principles, methods, standards, systems solutions and organizational solutions.

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

Transparency and freedom of information: Access to the administration's decision-making processes and decisions.

Open data: Distribution and re-use of public information.

DATE

2014-2016

CHALLENGE

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

The Ministry of Culture and the National Archives of Norway in cooperation with the Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi).

4.11 The Norwegian Citizen Survey (Innbyggerundersøkelsen)

The Norwegian Citizen Survey is both a citizen survey and a customer satisfaction survey. It is one of the largest surveys of public services in Norway. The first survey was launched in 2010, the second in 2012-2013. The plan is to complete the survey every second year.

The 2012–2013 survey was sent to 30 000 inhabitants, and the questionnaires could be answered either on paper or via the Internet.

The results of the survey are fully transparent, and the results are free for all Agencies/Municipalities and citizens to adopt and use and re-use. The response rate in 2012-2013 was 41%.

Results from the surveys show that:

- All in all, citizens show great satisfaction with Norway as a country to live in and with the municipalities as a whole
- There are small differences between regions/municipalities
- There are some differences regarding age and gender
- There are clear differences in satisfaction between public services
- Government agencies are perceived differently from public services
- Users are less content with government agencies than with public services
- Both agencies and public services have potential for improvement
- Users are content with service and information in general
- Users are less satisfied with case processing time/latency, availability, filling out forms
- There is a clear potential for improvement

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

Norway will carry out a citizen survey every second year.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

1. Norway will carry out a third citizen survey in 2015.
2. The results shall be free for all Agencies/Municipalities and citizens to adopt and use and re-use

ACTIVITIES

See Key Impact Activities

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

1. 2015
2. 2015

CHALLENGE

Increasing Public Integrity

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi)

4.12 Whistleblowing

An evaluation is being carried out of the rules concerning whistleblowing. The evaluation is being conducted by an independent body. A reference group has been established for this project, with participation by the social partners.

The final report of the project is to be published by the end of 2013. The evaluation will subsequently be followed up by the Ministry of Labour, and any needs for amendments will be considered in that connection.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

An independent evaluation of the whistleblowing rules will be carried out.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description.

ACTIVITIES

See Commitment Description.

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

By the end of 2013

CHALLENGE

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Ministry of Labour

4.13 Strengthened information exchange for more efficient crime prevention and combating

Strengthening of information exchange between the various actors is a major measure for preventing and combating crime. This can be carried out both by extension of the opportunity to provide information (development of rules) and by organization of work (development of sound cooperative procedures and routines for information exchange).

Police cooperation with other actors is one of the main strategies of efforts to reduce crime. The work on improving this cooperation has already been set in motion on the basis of the Action Plan for Crime Prevention, the Action Plan to Combat Economic Crime and the white paper on the fight against organized crime (Meld. St. 7 (2010–2011)). The above-mentioned documents deal mainly with the organization and prioritization of cooperation rather than development of rules. Several of these documents particularly mention cooperation between the police and the business sector.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

Norway aims to achieve better coordination of information on combating crime. As mentioned above, initiatives have already been taken in several arenas, and follow-up of this work is continuing. No amendments to specific rules are under consideration. The

objective is that the police and other actors will give priority to information exchange and cooperation, and exploit the potential of current legislation.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description

ACTIVITIES

Pilot projects will be carried out on the cooperation between the police and other actors. An evaluation will be made of cooperation in bodies for cooperation and coordination between the police and the local authorities (*politiråd*) in order to further develop such bodies as arenas for information exchange.

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

2014–2015

CHALLENGE

Creating Safer Communities

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Ministry of Justice

4.14 Strengthening the transparency of public authorities and administration

a) Removal of the exception provision for public sector companies with no employees.

Pursuant to section 1, second paragraph (a) of the Freedom of Information Regulations, the Freedom of Information Act shall only apply to independent legal persons with employees permanently employed in administrative posts. The background for this was that such legal persons often have no-one who can practise and follow up the Act, cf. the Royal Decree of 17 October 2008, pages 63–64. Many companies have proved to be organized in such a way that, while they have no employees of their own, they are

managed by employees of parent companies, subsidiaries, external consultants, etc., and that a number of such companies have considerable turnover.

What restrictions provided by the Freedom of Information Act are to apply will always be a central topic when evaluating the Act. However, this issue will also be addressed prior to submission of the evaluation.

Norway will consider the need for amendments to section 1, second paragraph (a) of the Freedom of Information Regulations. However, it is not possible to predict with any certainty *whether* any amendments will be made or *what* such amendments would consist of.

b) Better practice of the Freedom of Information Act

Breaches of the archive legislation and the Freedom of Information Act are already subject to penalties pursuant to the provisions of the Penal Code concerning failure to perform official duties, gross lack of judgment in the course of duty, etc. The provisions of the Civil Service Act relating to disciplinary measures and dismissal may also apply here. This matter was also considered during preparation of the Act. Regular courses and lectures are held on practice of the archive legislation and the Freedom of Information Act. This will be continued. Transparency International Norway has proposed that “as part of the forthcoming evaluation of the Freedom of Information Act, consideration should be given to whether penalties may help in ensuring better practice of and compliance with the intentions of the Act”.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

- Norway will consider the need for amendments to section 1, second paragraph (a), of the Freedom of Information Regulations. However, it is not possible to predict with any certainty *whether* any amendments will be made or *what* such amendments would consist of.
- During follow-up of the evaluation of the Freedom of Information Act, consideration will be given to whether the question of the provision of separate penalty provisions in the Freedom of Information Act should be raised. However, the researchers who are to conduct the evaluation will not consider this question.
- The work on training in the practice of the archive legislation and the Freedom of Information Act will be continued.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

- Courses and lectures will be held on how the archive legislation and the Freedom of Information Act shall and should be practised.

- During follow-up of the evaluation of the Freedom of Information Act, consideration will be given to whether the question of the provision of separate penalty provisions in the Freedom of Information Act should be raised. However, the researchers who are to conduct the evaluation will not consider this question.
- The Freedom of Information Act shall be evaluated by an independent body. In connection with the evaluation, the main emphasis is to be placed on whether the intention of greater access to information has been met. During the evaluation, particular attention will be devoted to the practice of the exemption from access to internal documents.

ACTIVITIES

See Key Impact Benchmark

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

To be decided (Evaluation of the Freedom of Information Act)

CHALLENGE

Increasing Public Integrity

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Ministry of Justice

4.15 eGovernment with an end-user focus

The Norwegian public sector is undergoing continuous digitization. Many of the most important public services are available online and new services are added continuously. In the not too distant future, all the most important public services will be fully digitized. When moving public services to new platforms and with a digital-by-default approach, there is a need to understand how services are adapted to users' behaviour, needs and preferences.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment's (Difi) strategy is to have user-centric approach to digital service development. Service innovation and implementation will be based on knowledge derived from contact with end users. By 2014 Difi will develop guidelines for the screening of digital public services with a user-centred approach. Difi will also conduct user-centred studies to analyse obstacles to use and suggest improvements. Results and resources will be made available to all stakeholders involved in service innovation, production and implementation.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

Difi will develop guidelines for the provision of digital public services with a user-centred approach.

ACTIVITIES

See Key Impact Benchmark

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

Before the end of 2014

CHALLENGE

Improving Public Services

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi)

4.16 Plain Legal Language

A survey (telephone interviews) in 2009 revealed that two out of three Norwegian citizens thought that the public sector does not write in plain language and found public forms difficult to fill in.

[The Norwegian Plain Language project](#) was formally launched in March 2009 with the aim of stimulating public agencies to adopt good and user-friendly language.

Some of the policy instruments in the project were:

- A web-based toolbox for civil servants
- Courses on organising local plain language projects for civil servants and project managers
- Central Project grants and practical support to local agencies
- The Plain Language Prize

A report on this project can be found in the Norwegian OGP Self-Assessment report from April 2013, pages 4–5.

Lessons learned so far:

- Involvement by the management is crucial when working with plain language.
- Documentation and facts are important.
- Investment in plain language is important for promoting democracy, but in many cases it can save money as well (fewer complaints and fewer requests for information and help).
- The involvement of enthusiasts is very helpful in the initial phase, but is not enough in the long run. The plain language work must be included in the daily work of the organization.
- The Plain Language Prize is an effective policy instrument for gaining publicity and also an inspiration for the public agencies in their plain language work.
- Project grants and professional support from external sources are very helpful when initiating local projects.
- The origin of unclear letters and unclear forms is often unclear language in legislation. In some cases, a single Act could result in hundreds or thousands of letters to citizens. In such cases, it is more efficient to treat the cause of the problem than the symptom.

The Plain language Project was formally closed on 31 December, 2012. On the basis of the experience gained, the Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs has decided to continue the Plain Language Prize, the website and some of the central initiatives, such as different types of course.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

Norway has decided to look into the origin of unclear language through a separate project called “Plain Legal language”.

In this project, we will examine some Acts and reformulate them in plain language. Preference will be given to Acts that are important to citizens and Acts that affect many citizens. The aim of this work is to devise a general method that can be used in the

future, both when drafting new Acts and amending or revising existing Acts. We aim to begin examining the first two Acts before 1 July 2014.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

We will begin examining the first two Acts before 1 July 2014.

ACTIVITIES

See Key Impact Benchmark

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

Before 1 July 2014

CHALLENGE

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs (in cooperation with

- [The Agency for Public Management and eGovernment](#) (Difi) and
- [The Language Council of Norway](#) (Språkrådet).

4.17 Norwegian Grants Portal (MFA)

The [Ministry of Foreign Affairs' grants portal](#) is published on the Ministry's web page. The grants portal provides an overview of all signed grant agreements by the Ministry and Norad with planned or actual disbursements for 2013 and the coming four years. The portal gives easy access to data in line with the principles and objectives of IATI. The overview shows the countries in which the grants are to be used, the grant recipients the Ministry and Norad have entered into agreements with, and the sectors that are to receive funding.

In the portal, you can search for information by continent, country or region, priority area (sector) or recipient. Detailed information about individual agreements is also available. The overview is updated monthly.

This system also produces statistics for international use and ODA-approved assistance (official development assistance) is reported as is to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) on an annual basis.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The data in the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs' grants portal](#) at the [Norwegian Government website](#) complies with IATI, and is updated monthly.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description

ACTIVITIES

See Commitment Description

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

Ongoing

CHALLENGE

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

4.18 An international convention or agreement on financial transparency

Illicit financial flows are cross-border financial transactions involving money that has been obtained, transferred or used illegally. The exact figures are uncertain, given that most such transactions are unrecorded, but they are certainly in the trillions of dollars

every year. Some estimates show that 3–5 % of illicit financial flows derive from corruption, 30– 35 % from other criminal activities and 60–65 % from commercial activities. Whether the purpose of the illicit financial transaction is the generation of such funds or the concealment and laundering of them, the main enabling factor is financial secrecy. This is provided by a global financial structure that includes tax havens, secret trusts, shell companies and anonymous accounts. Huge networks of facilitators and advisers stand ready to help their customers to set up highly complex and impenetrable company structures that are impossible for an outsider to gain insight into.

In addition to the enormous amount of lost tax revenue, illicit financial flows have countless other negative effects; they increase inequality within and between countries, destabilize governments and societies, facilitate corruption and terror financing, reward organized crime, weaken the free market system and fair competition, distort investments, threaten global financial stability and eventually undermine democracy. It is secrecy that makes illicit financial flows possible; the most effective countermeasure is transparency.

Norway will initiate an international dialogue on stricter rules for financial transparency, for example, in the form of a convention or agreement. The work will be long-term and promote the normative agenda of financial and economic transparency.

Norway will build a common understanding with like-minded countries about what such rules might entail. The objective of the dialogue will be to develop rules to promote transparency in international financial transactions in order to help prevent the illicit financial flows. It may involve obligations to register and exchange information on financial transactions across borders or mutual legal assistance in tracking the flow of money.

A convention or an agreement would be a supplement to ongoing work in multilateral forums, consideration given to what extent the objective of stricter rules on financial transparency can be promoted within the framework of existing forums. Progress in existing processes, however, is often based on consensus, and can be too slow to counter the continuous development of tax haven structures, accounting techniques designed to disguise dirty money, exploitation of loop-holes in regulation, etc. Although there are a number of guidelines for how states should behave and cooperate, there are still not many examples of international legally binding rules in this area. A convention or an agreement will thus be an innovation.

To assess the need for and the content of a possible convention or agreement, it would be appropriate to have an international dialogue. This dialogue will aim to identify the relevant forums to develop new rules and the subsequent enforcement procedures, strategic alliance partners. The content of any obligations must be adapted to national legislation and obligations under other conventions such as the EU/EEA regulations. Objections of a procedural nature, including the costs of possible new reporting obligations, must be considered.

A convention or an agreement could be an important tool for a wide number of stakeholders in combating corruption, crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal arms trade, illegal trade in minerals as well as money laundering and tax fraud.

See also the white paper [Sharing for Prosperity](#) (Meld. St. 25 (2012–2013)). On page 102 of the English version of the white paper there is a reference to the Open Government Partnership initiative (on page 97 of the Norwegian version).

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The Government will initiate an international dialogue on stricter rules for financial transparency

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description

ACTIVITIES

See Commitment Description

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

Before October 2015

CHALLENGE

Increasing Corporate Accountability

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

4.19 Reducing conflicts of interests – Post-Employment Regulations

The Norwegian Post-Employment Regulations entered into force in 2005, for both

- politicians in the ministries (ministers, state secretaries and political advisers) and
- civil servants in the state sector.

The regulations apply to those who have decided to take up a new post or have accepted duty outside the state sector or intend to start up a business.

The aim of the regulations is to avoid conflict of interest, unfair competition and decrease of confidence in the state sector. The regulations may be imposed if there is a clause in the employee's working agreement (or in the appointment document for ministers and state secretaries).

According to the regulations, the following measures may be adopted:

- Temporary disqualification (quarantine) – up to six months
- A duty to abstain from involvement in certain cases or type of case – up to 12 months (maximum 6 months if a quarantine of 6 months has already been given)

In 2005, Norway also introduced regulations (temporary disqualification) for politicians moving to positions as top civil servants in the ministries.

A public committee of 11 members (both politicians and experts), cf. the Official Norwegian Report on evaluation of the Government's quarantine rules ([NOU 2012:12](#)), has recommended that the three sets of post employment regulations should be formalized by law rather than be provided as a clause in the employee's contract of employment (or the appointment document for ministers and state secretaries). Norway will consider this recommendation before 1 July 2014.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

Norway will consider formalizing the three sets of post-employment regulations by law rather than as a clause in the employee's contract of employment (or the appointment document for ministers and state secretaries).

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description

ACTIVITIES

See Commitment Description

REGION
Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE
1 July 2014

CHALLENGE
Increasing Public Integrity

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)
The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs

4.20 Centre for Integrity in the Defence Sector

As part of the Ministry's strong emphasis on integrity, transparency and accountability, the Ministry of Defence has established the *Centre for Integrity in the Defence Sector* in Oslo.

The centre will be a knowledge and competence centre and will focus on the development of good governance by building integrity, especially in terms of institution-building and preventive anti-corruption efforts.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The centre will operate as a resource for the Norwegian defence sector, and will also work closely with our allies in NATO, NATO partner nations, and relevant national and international organizations. As such, it will be an important Norwegian contribution to further progress in this vital area; building integrity, increasing transparency and reducing the risk of corruption.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK
See Commitment Description

ACTIVITIES
See Commitment Description

REGION
Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE
Ongoing

CHALLENGE
Increasing Public Integrity

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)
Ministry of Defence

4.21 Modernizing Public Governance

The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs will make efforts to strengthen the implementational capacity of the public administration, strengthen effectiveness, and simplify everyday life for people through less bureaucracy. The public administration must be adaptable and result-oriented, and must improve its capacity to work across sectors and agencies. This work will involve measures aimed at improved management practices, development of professionalism in the public administration, strengthening of leadership and competence development, strengthening of mechanisms for interaction and coordination between administrative levels and help in ensuring that ICT plays a more central role as an input factor in agency development.

The purpose of this initiative is to clarify objectives and priorities, clarify roles and responsibilities, reduce unnecessary reporting, and promote better leadership and more efficient central government agencies, among other ways, by means of better exploitation of ICT and by better interaction and coordination across sectors and administrative levels.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The Government will consider various measures to promote a more implementation-oriented and result-oriented administration. These measures will aim to strengthen interaction and coordination across agencies and sectors and across administrative levels.

This will help in ensuring that central government agencies are better managed, and that they make greater use of ICT than they do today.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description.

ACTIVITIES

Under planning.

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

15 December 2013

CHALLENGE

Increasing Public Integrity

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs

4.22 Transparency in the management of oil and gas revenues

Transparency and public participation have been leading principles in the management of the Norwegian petroleum sector ever since the first major discoveries were made on the Norwegian continental shelf in the early 1970s. This is imperative given the importance of the sector to the Norwegian economy. The petroleum sector accounts for close to 25% of GNI and state revenues, and almost half of Norway's export revenues. Norway has supported the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) politically and financially since it was founded 10 years ago. Norway is the first, and so far only, OECD country to implement EITI reporting, and hosts the EITI International Secretariat. The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum is responsible for Norwegian EITI implementation. EITI reporting means that all companies operating on the Norwegian

continental shelf report what they pay in taxes and duties to the Norwegian authorities each year (taxes, CO2 tax, NOx tax and area fees to the state). For Norway's part, these figures were already available in other connections, but they are now being compiled in an internationally harmonized format. In keeping with the EITI requirements, a broad-based multi-stakeholder group has been established which participates in the process of EITI reporting and disseminating the results. [EITI reports](#) and related information are electronically available and are used as resources/models in many international contexts.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

Norway will, in 2014-15,

- continue to live up to the EITI principles and support the EITI International Secretariat and developing countries' EITI implementation, through both bilateral and multilateral programmes
- strengthen the Oil for Development programme (OfD), the largest development programme of its kind in the world, providing support and guidance to more than 20 developing countries on management of petroleum resources.
- promote the development of a “transparency guarantee”, securing natural-resource-rich poor countries access to extractive company accounting information necessary to levy the right amount of tax
- consider adopting a country-by-country reporting system for the extractive sector
- work to strengthen financial sector transparency generally, for instance by working against typical tax haven practices of concealing beneficial ownership and financial transaction information and by supporting tax information exchange

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description

ACTIVITIES

See Commitment Description

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

2014–2015

CHALLENGE

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (general political responsibility)
- Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (responsibility for Norwegian implementation)

4.23 Transparency in the management of the Government Pension Fund (GPF)

Transparency is also a central principle in the management of the Government Pension Fund (GPF). The GPF comprises the Government Pension Fund Global (GPFG) and the Government Pension Fund Norway (GPFN) which are both instruments for general savings on the part of the State. The Ministry of Finance has the overall responsibility for the management of the two funds and submits a white paper on this every year.

These reports can be found on the [Norwegian Government website](#).

The operational management of the GPFG and the GPFN are carried out by Norges Bank and the National Insurance Scheme Fund respectively. The National Insurance Scheme Fund's reporting on the management of the GPFN (available at <http://www.ftf.no/en/home.aspx>) is similar to the following description of the reporting on Norges Bank's management of the GPFG.

Norges Bank reports quarterly and annually on the management of the Fund. The reports are published on the website <http://www.nbim.no/en/>. The intention of openness lies implicit in the investment mandate, and it is explicitly mentioned in the mandate that the reports shall be based on the greatest possible degree of transparency within the limits defined by a sound execution of the investment mandate.

There are more than 7000 companies in the Fund's portfolio. A full list of the Fund's holdings is published on the website once a year in connection with the Fund's annual report. Also the current value of the Fund is posted continuously on this website.

Further, Norges Bank informs about its vote in the various companies, right down to how it votes in individual matters. It also reports on dialogues with individual companies on corporate governance issues.

Parliament has appointed the Supervisory Council of Norges Bank. The Supervisory Council supervises the Bank's operations and ensures that the Bank is compliant with the rules governing the Bank's activities, including the management of the GPFG. The Supervisory Council's reports are available at [Norges Bank's website](#).

Companies shall be excluded from the investment universe of the Fund, pursuant to the guidelines for the Fund, if they are involved in production or undertakings that imply an

unacceptably high risk that the company contributes to grossly unethical activities. The exclusion mechanism is handled by the Ministry of Finance after receiving recommendations from a separate body, the Council on Ethics. Information on the work of the Council is made public, as are the Council's recommendations to the Ministry of Finance which is published when the Ministry of Finance has reached a decision. As of March 2013, more than 50 companies have been excluded from the GPF's investment portfolio for failing to comply with the guidelines for exclusion and observation.

The Ministry of Finance's administration of the ownership interests of the GPF and follow-up of the Storting's decisions and intentions is audited annually by the Office of the Auditor General of Norway, which reports to the Storting. The reports are published on [the Auditor General's](#) website.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

[Norges Bank](#) has recently decided to make voting results publicly available on its website one business day after the conclusion of the general meeting.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description.

ACTIVITIES

See Commitment Description.

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

One business day after the general meeting has concluded.

CHALLENGE

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Ministry of Finance and Norges Bank (Norway's Central Bank)

4.24 Transparency and anti-corruption efforts

Norwegian engagement in transparency goes beyond the extractive industry sector. Norway has an ambitious agenda in this area, as documented in recent policy documents such as the white paper on the fight against organized crime (Meld. St. 7 (2010–2011)) , and the white paper on development policies with a major focus on financial transparency and accountability (St.meld. nr. 13 (2008-2009)) .

The Norwegian commitment to these policy areas is illustrated by actions such as (i) the provision of public access to the tax records of citizens, (ii) an explicit willingness to share information with other countries, (iii) anti-corruption and transparency guidelines for state-owned businesses, and (iv) active participation in international efforts such as a range of OECD initiatives and the Financial Action Task Force against money laundering and terrorist financing (FATF). The new and revised FATF Standards to Combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation were adopted in February 2012. The Standards contain enhanced measures to improve the transparency of beneficial ownership, and legal arrangements and member states are required to take appropriate steps to ensure that relevant information is easily available in a timely manner. A new methodology to assess members' compliance with the Standards was adopted in February 2012, and in the next round of mutual evaluations, which starts in autumn 2013, emphasis will be placed on the efficiency of the AML/CFT regimes in member states.

Norway held the FATF presidency from July 2012 to July 2013. Norway also participates actively in OECD efforts to fight tax evasion, with a particular focus on the role played by tax havens. We are also working in many arenas to promote greater transparency with regard to financial transactions as a means of combating illicit financial flows/money laundering.

Transparency is also a key dimension of the Norwegian recently adopted Action Plan Against Economic Crime (March 2011). The action plan discusses measures such as country-by-country reporting (CBCR). CBCR is a different concept from regular financial reporting as it presents financial information for every country that a company operates in, rather than a single set of information at a global level. Reporting, for example, taxes, royalties and bonuses that a multinational company pays to a host government is likely to show a company's financial impact in host countries. Such a transparent approach will also encourage more sustainable businesses.

In October 2011 the European Commission proposed to introduce an EU system of CBCR, to increase transparency regarding payments to governments made by large companies and companies listed in the EU that are active in the extractive and logging industries. The proposal was adopted by the Council and the European Parliament in June 2013.

Norway generally supports the EU-provisions on CBCR. The legislation is in line with the Government's work related to increased transparency in international payment flows. The legislation is also in line with the Government's efforts to enter into information agreements with so-called "tax havens" for the purpose of fighting tax evasion.

The Norwegian Government appointed a working group in December 2012 to look at national regulation of CBCR. The Ministry received the working group report at the beginning of May, and aims to introduce such requirements from 2014.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

The Ministry of Finance has in October 2013 proceeded a bill on CBCR to the Parliament.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description

ACTIVITIES

See Commitment Description

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

During autumn 2013.

CHALLENGE

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

Ministry of Finance

4.25 The municipal sector

Municipalities and county authorities play a major role as democratic actors, service providers, exercisers of authority and social developers. The municipal sector manages a considerable share of Norwegian financial resources.

The municipal sector's income in 2012 amounted to 18% of GDP for mainland Norway. The major responsibility of the municipalities for welfare services is underlined by the fact that one out of five employed persons in Norway works for the municipal sector.

The gross operational expenditure of the municipalities was approximately NOK 322 bn in 2012, and the major service areas pre-school day care facilities, compulsory education and health and care constituted approximately two-thirds of the gross operational expenditure of the municipalities. The gross operational expenditure of the county authorities was approximately NOK 63 bn, of which upper secondary education accounted for approximately one-half and transport and communications almost one-third.

The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) is the interest organization and employers' association of the municipal sector. All municipalities and county authorities are members of KS.

COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION

- KS will further develop the Board Appointments Register (*Styrevervregisteret*) in order to make it more accessible and easier to use and to ensure greater registration of the interests and board appointments of elected representatives and municipal managers.
- KS will make efforts to further develop KOSTRA (Municipality-State Reporting) to provide better management information, among other ways, by further developing quality indicators and by identifying and removing data not used actively as management information.
- KS will work to achieve open and accessible information concerning school objectives, strategies, plans and results at all levels of the organization. Transparency is the best driving force for improvement and quality development. The municipal sector must therefore have access to all relevant data for development of high quality services.
- KS will further examine dual role issues in connection with the revision of KS's recommendations concerning sound municipal ownership, tentatively in autumn 2013.

KEY IMPACT BENCHMARK

See Commitment Description

ACTIVITIES

See Commitment Description

REGION

Western Europe

OGP PRINCIPLE

DATE

Tentatively in autumn 2013(dual role issues)

CHALLENGE

Improving Public Services
Increasing Public Integrity

EXECUTING AGENCY (IES)

KS

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