

Together for OGP



“Two years ago I was in this alone and now it’s seventy of us” – said the national coordinator for OGP in Macedonia, Irena Bojadzievska, in her opening speech for the second public consultative meeting for the action plan for OGP (2014-2016).

The Government of Macedonia has committed itself to the objectives of the Open Government Partnership - OGP in the beginning of 2012 and prepared the first action plan by April the same year. In this short period, little was known about the Initiative and the first action plan was drafted with limited participation and partnership between government institutions and the citizens.

However, during the preparation of the second action plan for OGP the Government showed more preparedness and willingness to include the civil society as representative of citizens’ interests in the process of drafting the action plan. At the same time, civil society’s awareness about the OGP process and the opportunities for contributing to it grew. The Centre for Research and Policy Making ([CRPM](#)), a leading think tank based in Skopje, which is a partner on the regional project funded by the European Union,



[Advocacy for Open Government: agenda-setting and monitoring of country action plans](#) contributed greatly to increasing public awareness about the OGP Initiative in Macedonia. The project’s activities in Macedonia were focused on (1) increasing the awareness of CSOs about the OGP Initiative, (2) increasing the inclusion of citizen associations that operate outside of the capital in the process of decision-making, and generally (3) contribute toward the quality of the action plan.



Around 70 CSOs were invited to join the coalition. More than 40 of them attended the three coalition-building meetings that focused on specific priorities of the action plan: (i) participatory policy making, (ii) public service delivery at the local level; and (iii) fiscal transparency. The coalition members discussed commitments of the national



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action plan and offered their recommendations – which were submitted to the national coordinator for OGP and included in the first draft of the new National action plan for OGP 2014-2016.

CRPM further fostered participation of the civil society organizations on the second public consultative meeting held on 26th of March 2014, attended by around seventy representatives of the civil society and government institutions. They were seated in seven working groups and together revised the specific



parts of the action plan that fell under their expertise and interest. Generally CSOs recommended that state institutions publish citizen budgets in their webpages; improve electronic forms of participation in decision-making; regular publication of open data and proactive disclosure of public information; whistleblowers' protection; and the improvement of public procurement measures. With the participation of civil society in the process about 30% of the proposed content of the action plan changed to the satisfaction and acceptance of both partners, CSOs and Government.

Do you know what is the OGP Initiative?		Yes	No
	Survey (April 2013)	39.1%	60.9%
	Survey (March 2014)	84.4%	15.6%
Have you been involved in the drafting of the action plan 2012-2014?		Yes	No
	Survey (April 2013)	26.6%	73.4%
Have you been involved in the drafting of the action plan 2014-2016?	Survey (March 2014)	51.1%	48.9%

As a direct result of the process of facilitation of CSO participation in the development of the national action plan for OGP the contribution of civil society increased from 26.6% for the first action plan for OGP (2012-2014) to 51.1% for the second one (2014-2016). Markedly, the Macedonian civil society has shown more interest and ownership over the OGP initiative, this time also by initiating to be implementing parties of many

measures included in the action plan.



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