

REPORT
WORKSHOP – TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Topic: Transparency and Accountability – 3rd Action Plan OGP 2016 - 2018

Место: EU Info Center (Sv. Kiril and Metodij 52 – V, 1000 Скопје)

Датум: 3 March 2016

The Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM) within the project “Advocacy for Open Government: Civil Society Agenda-setting and Monitoring of Country Action Plans” financed by the European Union and supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) held the first workshop entitled *Transparency and Accountability* for the process of drafting the 3rd Action Plan Open Government Partnership (OGP) 2016 – 2018.



This event is supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) within the project of the European Union “Advocacy for Open Government: Civil Society Agenda-setting and Monitoring of Country Action Plans.” The presented positions and opinions during the event do not reflect the positions and opinions of the donors.



Representatives of the state institutions, civil society organizations (CSO) and other stakeholders and citizens were invited to the conference. During the workshop the following topics were discussed: (1) Greater Citizens’ Participation in Policy Making, (2.1) Fiscal Transparency of the National Budget, (2.2) Increased Control over International Aid/Donations, (3) Public Procurement Transparency, (4) Systematic Monitoring and Evaluation of Government Policies, (5) Preventing Corruption, (6) Building Integrity Systems and (7) Managing Conflict of Interests.

After the opening remarks of the Executive Director of CRPM, Marija Risteska, representatives from UNDP and the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MISA) presented the challenges of the implementation of the 2nd Action Plan OGP 2014-2016, and the possible commitments of the new AP. Sonja Stefanovska-Trajanovska from UNDP reflected on the need of a comprehensive approach for the new AP and to include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in it, as a platform where these commitments can be achieved. *Goal 16 – Peace and Justice Strong Institutions* (from the SDG) - was identified as a commitment that can be included in OGP. Gordan Gopic-Dimitrovska, national OGP coordinator and representative of MISA, discussed about the challenges of the OGP 2014-2016 implementation process. She has also presented the framework to be used in the process of identifying and drafting the 3rd AP OGP 2016-2018.

The second part of the workshop identified the challenges within OGP. During this stage of the workshop, participants of the workshop tried to identify challenges with regard to the topics. After identifying the challenges, the participants discussed about their relevance, consistency and possibility to be implemented.

During the last part of the workshop, measures regarding the challenges were identified and discussed.

The measures were divided into the following topics:

Greater Citizens’ Participation in Policy Making

1.	Open days – direct contacts with the government
1.	➤ Creating Databases of NGOs and Organizations in clusters or sectors = this would facilitate the communication between CSOs who work in similar/same areas



This event is supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) within the project of the European Union “Advocacy for Open Government: Civil Society Agenda-setting and Monitoring of Country Action Plans.” The presented positions and opinions during the event do not reflect the positions and opinions of the donors.



	➤ NGOs in workgroups = facilitating the process of their interaction with the creation of databases.
2.	E-parliament = this measure aims to improve the transparency of the assembly, and to involve the citizens in policy-making and adoption of measures, as well as closer oversight on MPs.
3.	Creating INTRANET
4.	Investments in the existing tools, ENER and e-demokratija = the existing tools should continue to be upgraded and worked on to improve their performances.
5.	Using ENER for drafting acts/measures = this tool has been underused thus far, because of lack of publishing of information concerning laws and amendments.
6.	Building capacities for representation
7.	Community Forums = to be used as a tool for integration and involvement
8.	Digitalization of public discussions/forums

2.1. Fiscal Transparency of the National Budget

1.	Citizens' Budget
2.	Public consultations for the national budget
3.	Amendments of the guidelines for treasury operation
4.	Developing national standards for fiscal transparency pursuant to GIF and MMF
5.	Strengthening of the consultative processes for drafting and implementing the measures at local level
6.	Social review = citizens' should have the opportunity to assess whether the intended means were properly used and provided for the defined services



This event is supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) within the project of the European Union "Advocacy for Open Government: Civil Society Agenda-setting and Monitoring of Country Action Plans." The presented positions and opinions during the event do not reflect the positions and opinions of the donors.



7.	Implementation of the financial discipline laws, monitoring and reporting
8.	Local citizens' budget/ with graphs = it would be easier for the citizens to understand the offered solutions, necessary for measures to bring the process closer to them

2.2. Increased Control over International Aid/Donations

1.	Needs assessment
2.	Inclusion of NGOs in distributing foreign assistance.
3.	Database for the entire foreign assistance (donations, grants, loans) for all state institutions and NGOs and regular updates.
4.	Centralized databases for comparing policies and evaluation

3. Public Procurement Transparency

1.	Publishing public procurement plans according to the recommendations of the PPB
2.	Open Contracting = there is a need to constantly follow the public procurement, not just until the awarding of the announcement, but its implementation as well.
3.	Free trainings for registered contracting parties and economic operators
4.	Prior issuance of tender-documents, if they are higher than 130 000 EUR.
5.	Introducing control and monitoring mechanisms over the implementation of public procurement procedures and introducing scaling for not following the Law on Public Procurement



This event is supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) within the project of the European Union "Advocacy for Open Government: Civil Society Agenda-setting and Monitoring of Country Action Plans." The presented positions and opinions during the event do not reflect the positions and opinions of the donors.



4. Systematic Monitoring and Evaluation of Government Policies

1.	Introducing M&E system = it is required due to lack of systemic databases, and the need for centralized databases to create comparisons and policy evaluation
2.	Establishing social review = evaluation through creation of groups of citizens for implementing the methodologies for social review.

5. Preventing Corruption

1.	Preparation of methodology for analysis of risks of corruption, including the local self-government.
----	--

6. Building of Integrity Systems

1.	Entering into force of Code of Ethics (for public servants and holders of public functions)
2.	Counsellor/Manager for Integrity – it should assist in the in development of integrity systems within the institution/organization. These practices should be institutionalized

7. Managing Conflict of Interests

1.	Introducing of a new tool for “meeting face to face”
2.	All institutions that publish tenders for public procurements to present a list of economic operators ineligible to participate due to conflict of interests; defining the fine line where conflict of interest exists, in order to raise awareness and overcoming it through trainings.
3.	Registrar of political agents.



This event is supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) within the project of the European Union “Advocacy for Open Government: Civil Society Agenda-setting and Monitoring of Country Action Plans.” The presented positions and opinions during the event do not reflect the positions and opinions of the donors.

