

GOVERNMENT OFFICE

Estonia's Open Government Partnership Action Plan for 2014–2016

The Final Report on the Implementation of the
Action Plan

Tallinn 2016

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Open Government Partnership (hereinafter “OGP”¹) is an international initiative that aims to increase openness, transparency, and citizen-centeredness in the exercise of public authority, and use new technologies to make governance more open. Estonia has been an official member of the OGP since 2012. For Estonia, the main goal for participating in OGP is to draw the attention of the Government and the entire society to [the quality of governance](#), learn from the experiences of other countries, and share Estonia’s experience with other countries taking part in the partnership.

While developing the exercise of public authority, Estonia has followed [the principles of openness and transparency](#) in developing its legal framework and widely using modern technological solutions in public administration. Similarly to other Nordic countries, Estonia aims to implement the principles of openness, transparency, and civic engagement throughout the policy-making. Since several other activities that are being carried out simultaneously with the OGP Action Plan also support the wider implementation of the open governance principles, the OGP Action Plan inevitably reflects only a part of the initiatives advancing openness. Upon preparation of the OGP Action Plan, it is important to keep in mind which initiatives can be best promoted precisely within the OGP framework.

The commitments taken in the OGP Action Plan for 2014–2016² promote all [OGP principles](#), they address supporting transparency, participation, the accountability of public authority, technology and innovation in order to strengthen openness and accountability. The Action Plan focuses on increasing the openness of the policy-making process, the citizen-centeredness of public services, and the transparency of state budget and financial management.

According to the Government decision the Government Office is responsible for the coordination of OGP from March 2014. The Government Office is also responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Government Programme. Under the leadership of the State Secretary, the implementation of the Action Plan is coordinated by [the OGP Coordinating Council](#)³ that functions as a cooperation forum of different parties bringing together non-governmental partners and representatives of the Government. An important partner is [the OGP Roundtable](#), through which the non-governmental parties themselves selected their representatives to the OGP Coordinating Council. On the international stage, Estonia is represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In early 2016 we significantly expanded the circle of parties participating in the partnership by also inviting the representatives of the Parliament and local government level to join the partnership. Also we broadened the competence of the Coordinating Council transforming its mandate from the supervisor for the implementation of the Action Plan into the body preparing the Action Plan for 2016–2018.

¹In English: Open Government Partnership (OGP), <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/>

²<https://riigikantselei.ee/et/valitsuse-toetamine/avatud-valitsemise-partnerlus/tegevuskava-2014-2016>

³<https://riigikantselei.ee/et/valitsuse-toetamine/avatud-valitsemise-partnerlus>

This Final Report on the Implementation of the OGP Action Plan for 2014–2016 was prepared by the Government Office in cooperation with partners leading the implementation of the activities of the Action Plan, and this report encompasses the entire implementation period of the Action Plan (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2016)⁴. The guidelines from the Open Government Partnership and the Code of Good Engagement⁵ have been followed in this process. The report was sent to the members of the OGP Coordinating Council for feedback on 13 September 2016 and the report was examined by the OGP Coordinating Council at its meeting on 21 September 2016. The report passed the official approval round in the ministries and a two-weeks round of public consultation via Estonia's public engagement website osale.ee. Within the framework of the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM)^{6,7} an assessment on the implementation of the Action Plan was completed in May 2016 and the second part of the independent report is currently being prepared by the IRM.

2. IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan has been implemented as a result of the cooperation between the partners who have taken up the responsibility to carry out the activities in the Action Plan. We kindly thank everyone who has contributed to the implementation of the Action Plan.

The national coordination of the implementation of the OGP Action Plan is based on [the OGP Coordinating Council](#), which functions as the cooperation forum among different parties. This council was established by the State Secretary on 26 September 2014⁸ in order to monitor the implementation of the OGP activities and make decisions concerning the open partnership, and where the State Secretary invited seven non-governmental partners appointed by the OGP Roundtable and the secretary generals from five ministries to participate in the work. The selection of the non-governmental partners to the Coordinating Council was organised by the OGP roundtable that selected the representatives of non-governmental organisations to the OGP Coordinating Council for the implementation period of the OGP Action Plan. To this end, the OGP Roundtable organised a separate competition and made the decision on the selection of non-governmental partners at the meeting of 25 August 2014 by designating a total of seven representatives: the Estonian Network of Estonian Non-profit Organisations, the Estonian Cooperation Assembly, the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Estonian Trade Union Confederation, the OGP roundtable / the Open Estonia Foundation, the e-Governance Academy, and Praxis Centre for Policy Studies. The task of the body is to coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan, provide recommendations to the parties related to the activities, make decisions regarding the partnership, evaluate the implementation of the Action Plan, and widely reflect the objectives and activities of Estonia's participation in the Open Government Partnership. The OGP Coordinating Council is a cooperation forum that has had regular meetings every second to third month.

⁴ *The Interim Report of the OGP Action Plan for 2014–2016 covered the first implementation year of the Action Plan (01.07.2014–30.06.2015). The Government of the Republic approved the interim report on 1 October 2015.*

https://riigikantselei.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/Failid/AVP/avp_2014-2016_tegevuskava_taitmise_vahearuanne.pdf

⁵ <https://riigikantselei.ee/en/supporting-government/engagement-practices>

⁶ Independent Reporting Mechanism, <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/independent-reporting-mechanism>

⁷ <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/country/estonia/irm>

⁸ <https://riigikantselei.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/organisatsioon/failid/AVP/rs1437.pdf>

After the Action Plan was approved, [the conceptualisation of the activities](#) proposed in the Action Plan was the first focus. The OGP Action Plan for 2014–2016 outlined six commitments in three priority areas, however, several activities were defined in general terms. The competence to approve the more precise outlining of the concrete activities was given to the OGP Coordinating Council in order to agree on a common understanding about further steps to be taken to meet the commitments of the Action Plan, based on the problem description and a determined course of action. It was agreed at the first meeting of the OGP Coordinating Council on 14 November 2014 that the leading responsible agency for each activity convenes all interested parties to outline the background, objective, extent, and possible cooperation partners of the proposed activity, its relation with other activities, milestones, performance indicators, and financial sources. From December 2014 to April 2015, meetings were carried out with partners in order to clearly define the core of each activity planned in the OGP Action Plan and outline detailed tasks under these activities. The descriptions that were prepared for each activity were submitted to the OGP Coordinating Council for approval and then made public on the Government website. The explanations of the last third of activities were approved by the OGP Coordinating Council on 2 June 2015.

At the beginning of 2016, we significantly increased the circle of parties participating in the partnership by also inviting the representatives of the parliament and local government level to join the partnership in order to collectively contribute to increasing openness in the exercise of public authority. We also extended the competence of the OGP Coordinating Council by providing the body with the mission to prepare the Action Plan for 2016–2018. Thirdly, we brought substantial discussions about specific activities to be implemented to meet the commitments given in the Action Plan already to the preparation period of the Action Plan. This was done in order to grant the whole implementation period after the plan's approval by the Government to the implementation of the Action Plan as the activities had already been agreed upon during the preparation process of the Action Plan.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN COMMITMENTS

The Action Plan focuses on [three priority areas](#): to promote open and inclusive policy-making, increase the transparency of state budget and financial management, and develop citizen-centred public services.

To participate in the policy-making, it is important to know how the policy-making process works, what are the options to participate, and master the skills to use these options. To promote open and more engaging policy-making, the availability of information needed to participate and the opportunities for participation will be improved, and also specific attention is being put on increasing the capability of governmental and non-governmental partners to cooperate, involve interested parties, and engage in policy-making. Countries administer the majority of national wealth channelling it to increasing the welfare of society therefore, it is important to ensure clarity and transparency in managing public money. The second priority of the OGP Action Plan contributes to improving the transparency and intelligibility of the use of public funds in order to increase the transparency of state financial management. The exercise of public authority is more directly visible to citizens through public services,

therefore, it is important to constantly develop these services to ensure that they meet the citizens' expectations and are convenient to use. The third priority of the Action Plan continues to increase the citizen-centeredness in service design in order to improve the quality of the development and provision of public services, and access to information as the state promotes and supports the wider use of open data.

The Action Plan made **six commitments** on how to implement the principles of open governance in those priority areas and a total of **23 activities** were planned to meet the commitments given. The priority areas and commitments of the OGP Action Plan for 2014–2016:

Open and inclusive policy-making process	<p>Improve the availability of information needed to participate</p> <p>Improve the options to participate in the policy-making process</p> <p>Increase the capability of governmental authorities and non-governmental partners to cooperate, engage stakeholders, and participate</p>
Transparent state budget and financial management	<p>Increase the transparency and intelligibility of the use of public funds</p>
Citizen-centred public services	<p>Increase the quality of developing and providing public services</p> <p>Use open data more widely</p>

Long consultation period for a more detailed conceptualisation of activities significantly reduced the time available for the implementation of the activities, since the last third of activities were agreed upon a year after the approval of the Action Plan (when one half of the implementation period had already passed). Despite the tight schedule, a total of 20 activities out of 23 that had been planned to meet all commitments have been implemented. The implementation of two activities has been postponed and it was decided to discard the implementation of one activity in the proposed form, since these turned out to be more time and resource consuming than initially expected.

According to the decision of the OGP Coordinating Council adopted on 21 September 2016, the form of reporting under current report has been simplified as compared to the descriptions of the activities provided in the Action Plan, which were often primarily problem descriptions. The report focuses on the specific activities carried out and their results, and the report does not encompass assessments on the wider risks and impacts, since the limited implementation period of the Action Plan does not enable to assess the impact of the activities.

I PRIORITY AREA:

Open and inclusive policy-making process

The objective of the commitments made within the framework of this priority area is to improve the engagement of citizens in the policy-making process and make the Government's activities more transparent and open. The first commitment targets to improve the availability of information about the options to participate in the policy-making process and thereby contributing to better preconditions to take part. The second commitment focuses on the cooperation process to improve the participation culture both in policy-making and legislative drafting. The third commitment addresses the participation abilities and skills of various parties, both public authorities and non-governmental organisations, to take part and engage parties in the policy-making process. The commitments of the priority concerning inclusive and open policy-making process are targeted at the promotion of the OGP core values, namely transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making.

Commitment 1: Improve the availability of information needed to participate

One of the most important objectives is to improve the availability of information about the Government agenda that would enable better participation by connecting e-channels addressing the problems identified and based on user-friendliness. People must be able to identify their options to take part in various proceedings and thereby participate in more stages of the policy-making.

<i>Activity 1.1</i> <i>To provide a better overview of the process of policy-making and legislative drafting, explain and visualise it, and describe the participation options</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, September 2015
Responsible body and partners	Government Office Cooperation partners: Ministry of Justice, the OGP roundtable
Objective	Good policy-making enables everyone to participate in this process. There are a number of excellent IT solutions developed in Estonia. Currently as we are facing the multitude of these different channels, there is a need for a comprehensive overview to be able to take stock and navigate in this multitude of opportunities. The objective of the activity is to make information about policy-making and legislative drafting, as well as the opportunities of non-governmental parties to participate in these processes, available in a clear and comprehensive manner.
Content	Describe the policy-making and legislative drafting processes in order to give a comprehensive overview on how policies are being developed and legislation drafted, , and simultaneously outline what are the opportunities available to stakeholders to take part in these processes and provide direct links to channels through which they can participate. To this end, it was planned to explain the process of policy-making and legislative drafting, and publish the process descriptions on the government website valitsus.ee.

Results	<p>The visualisation and explanation of the policy-making and legislative drafting processes.</p> <p>(1) The visualisation and explanation of the policy-making and legislative drafting process have been developed in cooperation with partners. A visualised and descriptive overview has been given about the policy-making and legislative drafting process, also describing the options for participating in policy-making.</p> <p>(2) it has been published on the website of the Government Office https://riigikantselei.ee/et/poliitikakujundamise-ja-oigusloome-protsess</p> <p>(3) The visualisation of the policy-making and legislative drafting process has been linked to the new sub-division of the Government website – “Engaging and participating”</p> <p>A comprehensive overview in an easy-to-understand format has been given on how the policies are being developed and legislation drafted, as well as what are the opportunities for non-governmental parties to participate in these processes.</p> <p>The activities contribute to increasing the awareness of non-governmental partners and citizens on the functioning of the policy-making processes and on their participation opportunities. This contributes to better conditions for more active use of the options for taking part and the increased participation of stakeholders in policy-making.</p>
Follow-up activities	<p>Similar engagement sections will be established on the websites of the ministries in order to give citizens a better overview of the policy initiatives being prepared in ministries and simultaneously present information about the possibilities to take part in these processes.</p>

<p><i>Activity 1.2</i> <i>Making the e-participation channels more convenient for the users, integrating them, if possible, informing the potential users about the options of the e-participation channels</i></p>	
Status, term	Implemented, October 2016
Responsible body and partners	Government Office Cooperation partners: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Praxis Centre for Policy Studies, company Pulse.
Objective	<p>The objective of the activity is to solve a situation in which the e-participation environment osale.ee does not meet its goal to function as the main e-participation environment (few public consultations, little traffic, and technically outdated), while the Information System of Draft Acts, which is the government’s central information system containing drafts in different stages of policymaking (including public consultation), is inconvenient for the users.</p> <p>The activity first aimed to identify why the channel osale.ee does not function as the primary e-participation channel whilst considering the possibility that alternative channels are being used to express opinions (including the Information System of Draft Acts), and propose an analysis-based vision to address current problems.</p>
Content	To achieve the objective, it was agreed that it is necessary to carry out a user survey, develop a vision for way forward and, if necessary, conduct the necessary upgrades in web-based software.

	<p>The user analysis and the vision on the e-participation environments indicated that it is more efficient to develop further the central Information System of Draft Acts (EIS), since improving the user-friendliness of this system contributes better to increase the use of participation options. Based on the analysis of the e-environment user experience and the resulting decisions, IT-developments increasing the user-friendliness of EIS have been carried out.</p>
Results	<p>(1) An analysis on the user-comfort was conducted in order to find out why the e-participation environment osale.ee does not function as the main e-participation environment. Since the closest alternative to using the participation website is to receive an overview of the drafts submitted to public consultation through the Information System of Draft Acts, the use of this channel was also observed and it was analysed what are the options to increase the user-friendliness of the EIS . The user experience analysis of the e-participation environments and a vision for the development of the e-participation environments were completed.</p> <p>(2) Mapping options and deciding on the solution. A vision for developing the e-participation environments was completed as a part of the analysis. On this basis, the OGP Coordinating Council decided that it is necessary to focus on the development of EIS in order to increase its user comfort, including improving the search and notification options, the overall appearance and the explanatory texts of EIS.</p> <p>(3) Conducting IT-software development work. Upgrades and improvements were correspondingly commissioned to increase the user-friendliness of the Information System of Draft Acts, making it easier to use and navigate in the Information System of Draft Acts. Also the search and notification of the Information System of Draft Acts, as well as the help information was revised.</p>
Follow-up activities	<p>The IT-software upgrades of the Information System of Draft Acts carried out within the framework of this activity are a part of the development package for the Information System of Draft Acts, which improves the user-friendliness of this system (activity 1.2), the availability of information at an early stage of policy-making (activity 2.1), and the provision and notification of feedback on the policy-making results (activity 2.4).</p> <p>These developments should be viewed as an integrated solution, that support the further development of the central and public draft proceeding information system, making it more convenient and an environment integrating more functions to support participation in policymaking.</p>

<i>Activity 1.3</i>	
<i>Updating the civic engagement section and standardising the engagement-related information on the new government website</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, July 2016
Responsible body and partners	Government Office Cooperation partners: all ministries, interested partners
Objective	The objective of the activity is to improve the availability of information about the Government agenda that would enable better participation by connecting the e-channels addressing the defined problems and the user-

	friendliness. People must be able to observe their options to take part in various steps of policymaking and thereby participate in a greater number of proceeding stages.
Content	The website of the Government of the Republic (valitsus.ee) should become a place that gives an overview of the civic engagement process. It contains information on the ministerial level engagement and provides access to external e-democracy channels – to the website of valitsus.ee; and a new sub-division – engagement – will also be added to the websites of the ministries. One of the backbones of the Government portal is standardised information architecture and user-friendliness, and by creating the subdivision of civic engagement, we make the information concerning participation available in a uniform manner.
Results	<p>The information architecture and design of the civic engagement sub-division on the Government website have been developed. A new sub-division titled “Engagement, participation” has been created on the Government website valitsus.ee and on the website of the Government Office, explaining the definition of engagement, the structure of the decision-making process, where to find information, and how is it possible to participate in government policy-making and legislative drafting.</p> <p>The description of the policy-making and legislative drafting process (activity 1.1) has been linked to the page, creating a comprehensive overview of the stages of the policy-making and legislative drafting, and in parallel outlining the participation options on how and what channels could the citizens use to have their say.</p> <p>A comprehensive picture of the engagement mechanisms provided on the Government’s website increases the intelligibility of the policy-making process and offers direct links on how interested parties can contribute to policy-making.</p>
Follow-up activities	In the next stage separate sub-divisions for engagement and participation shall be created on the websites of the ministries based on the work done so far, and it will be analysed if and what kind of information should be automatically displayed between the websites of the ministries, the Information System of Draft Acts, and the Government website.

<i>Activity 1.4</i> <i>Developing a single form for submitting memoranda, requests for explanation, and requests for information to public authorities through the portal of eesti.ee</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, January 2016
Responsible body and partners	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications Cooperation partners: Data Protection Inspectorate, Ministry of the Interior, Information System Authority, Defence Resources Agency, Association of Estonian Cities, the public authorities
Objective	The objective of the activity is to solve a situation in which various public authorities and local government institutions have published forms requiring different sets of data and differing templates for the submission of memoranda, requests for explanations, and requests for information in the information portal of eesti.ee. The submission of these documents is regulated by the Public Information Act, the Response to Memoranda and Requests for Explanations and Submission of Collective Addresses Act.

	The objective is to harmonise the required data sets of these forms.
Content	A harmonised form for submitting a memorandum, a request for explanation, and a request for information in the information portal eesti.ee.
Result	<p>(1) The prototype for a memorandum, a request for explanation, and a request for information was completed and tested, resulting in an understanding that it is reasonable to establish a single form to be displayed on the authorities' websites.</p> <p>(2) In the second stage, a project to harmonise e-forms was carried out, focusing on the e-forms of the eesti.ee service "Official forms", and the single prototype for a memorandum, a request for explanation, and a request for information. Within this framework, an integrated model of e-forms was developed encompassing guidelines and proposals, and the integrated model on the description of the compliance of data fields with the data present in the national information system (including DVK).</p> <p>(3) In the third stage, forms were harmonised in the information portal eesti.ee. One e-form is now being used instead of 14 different ones (public authorities).</p>
Follow-up activities	<p>The implementation of harmonised e-forms in cooperation and according to the agreed Action Plan (including creating harmonised forms in the new e-environment, testing the instructions, updating them, and increasing the number of institutions using harmonised e-forms). Increasing the number of institutions using the e-forms (currently 144 different public sector institutions).</p> <p>Reducing the current number of e-forms (with 143 different names) to about 40–50 in the information portal eesti.ee.</p>

Commitment 2: Improve the participation options in the policy-making process

The objective of this commitment is to bring participation into an earlier phase in policy-making, provide a comprehensive and easily understandable overview on the functioning of the policy-making process and information concerning the possibilities for participation, presenting the information on the options to take part indicating when and where a policy decision is being prepared; to create opportunities for discussions on such initiatives; and continuously develop the ministries' practice to inform interested parties about specific initiatives as early as possible. This commitment contributes to promoting the OGP core values of inclusive decision-making, accountability, and transparency.

<i>Activity 2.1</i>	
<i>Making information on the procedure and the participation options available at an early stage of the policy-making process</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, October 2016
Responsible body and partners	Government Office Cooperation partners: ministries, non-governmental organisations.
Objective	Studies have shown that ministries engage stakeholders and the public in the late stages of policy-making, when a completed draft is often presented and discussion on the principal policy options is no longer possible.

	<p>The objective is to improve the possibilities of the stakeholders and the public to have their say in an early stage of policy-making. To this end, it is necessary to notify when a public authority starts to prepare a draft on a possible policy initiative.</p>
Content	<p>In order to bring partaking into an earlier phase in the policy-making process, it is necessary a) to make available the information on when and where a draft of some important decision is being prepared; b) to create opportunities for discussions on such plans; and c) continuously develop the practice of the ministries to inform the stakeholders and potential interested parties about the specific initiatives rather earlier than later. The action plans have already been developed; some ministries are organising regular discussions; capacity building is being offered.</p>
Results	<p>As a specific solution on how further improve the availability of the information about both the proceedings and participation options, it was decided to further improve the Information System of Draft Acts as a central draft proceeding system, resulting in the fact that the Information System of Draft Acts will be provided with an option to add notifications at the beginning, during or after each proceeding. A notification function will be created in the Information System of Draft Acts through which it is possible to make information available to the public on the beginning of working on the draft legislation or other issue, as well as the proceedings and the options on engaging in its development.</p> <p>Discussions with the stakeholders on the solution encompassing the needs to be addressed with the developed functionality in software have been held. The proposed solution has been approved in the OGP Coordinating Council and the roundtable of the heads of legislative departments of the ministries. Software developments in the system have been carried out.</p> <p>The possibilities for stakeholders and the public to have their say in an early stage of policy-making will be improved through better availability of information on the proceedings and participation options in the early stage of policy-making.</p>
Follow-up activities	<p>Improvement of policy-making, legislative drafting, and participation options as a result of the activities of the first commitment of the OGP Action Plan in which the functioning of the policy-making process and practical tools for participation and strengthening civic engagement in policy-making have been promoted in a combined manner.</p> <p>Introducing the wider use of the notification stage by the ministries that has been created in the Information System of Draft Acts has been planned as a follow-up activity in the OGP Action Plan for 2016–2018 in order to ensure that people can access information about earlier participation in policy-making.</p>

Activity 2.2

Promoting initiatives that enable participation in the initial discussions over policy choices in the early stage of policy-making

Status, term	Implemented, June 2016
Responsible	Government Office

body and partners	Cooperation partners: all ministries, the representatives of stakeholders
Objective	This activity aims to create better opportunities primarily to non-governmental parties for the intervention in the policy debate.
Content	Discussion in the early stage of policy-making on principal choices to create better opportunities to extend the use of Green Papers and White Papers, and concept papers.
Results	<p>The Government Programme encourages to use more Green Papers and White Papers, as well as concepts in the early stage of policy-making. The Government Programme sets out the development of 20 concepts, three Green Papers and two White Papers. Furthermore, seven concepts were added to the Government Programme in 2016.</p> <p>The practice of discussions on the principal choices in the early stage of policy-making is expanding. The practice of engaging stakeholders into the principal discussions in the early stage of policy-making is being strengthened.</p>
Follow-up activities	Additionally, the capabilities of the stakeholders to perform analyses and increase their capacities to participate and engage their own members into policymaking (activity 2.5) is being supported from the Structural Fund measure “Developing the quality of policy-making”.

<i>Activity 2.3</i>	
<i>A recommendation to make important budgetary and fiscal policy decisions in spring along with the budget strategy</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, July 2015
Responsible body and partners	Ministry of Finance Cooperation partners: Tax and Customs Board, ministries
Objective	<p>Longer time span is needed for the implementation of the amendments concerning tax policies to enable more substantive discussion on the amendments proposed in draft legislation and to enable more time for adapting with the changes.</p> <p>Deriving from the aims of the State Budget Act, the proposals on tax changes are made by the Government of the Republic in parallel with the preparation of the budget strategy each year in April (in May in case of regular elections of the <i>Riigikogu</i>) and the <i>Riigikogu</i> reviews them before going on summer holidays, if possible. Adhering to this approach enables more than half a year between the enforcement of the decision of the <i>Riigikogu</i> and its entry into force.</p>
Content	To improve the transparency of public finances, enable more time for planning the state budget, and the predictability of tax policy. The proposals on tax changes are made by the Government of the Republic in parallel with the preparation of the budget strategy each year in April (in May in case of regular elections of the <i>Riigikogu</i>) and the <i>Riigikogu</i> reviews them before going to the summer holidays, if possible.
Results	<p>On 19 February 2015, the amendment to the Taxation Law was approved, according to which at least six months should generally remain between the adoption and enforcement of the amendment to Taxation Law.</p> <p>Longer time for the implementation of the amendments concerning tax</p>

	policies enables more substantive discussion on the amendments proposed in draft legislation and to adaptation with the amendments. Thereby, the quality of budget preparation improves, including the accuracy of economic forecast, and this enables the ministries to better plan activities and resources of the corresponding budgetary year.
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Activity 2.4 <i>Introducing and implementing various options and methods by the government authorities to ensure better feedback on the results of policy-making</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, October 2016
Responsible body and partners	Government Office Cooperation partners: all ministries
Objective	The objective of the activity is to contribute to the widening of the practice that stakeholders having participated in policy-making will be given feedback on whether their opinions had been integrated or not taken into consideration along with explanations, and that will be done in a timely manner and with sufficient thoroughness and clarity.
Content	The publication of the summary on the results from the civic engagement is necessary in order to give better feedback on the results of policy-making. To streamline this practice, it was considered necessary to publish these summaries on the Information System of Draft Acts (in addition to such summaries are already being the compulsory part of any explanatory letter that needs to accompany any draft legislation).
Results	Correspondingly, the Information System of Draft Acts software was further developed, which created an option in the Information System of Draft Acts to add public consultation summaries to the draft file and make other necessary notifications. Discussions with the stakeholders on a substance of the solution have been held. IT-development work has been carried out. The publication of the summaries of the results from engaging different parties in the policymaking contributes to improving the feedback practices.
Follow-up activities	In order to develop the skills of the officials to engage parties in policy-making, training will be provided. Due to the decision that the Estonian presidency of the Council of the EU shall start half a year earlier than originally planned, the implementation of other training programmes has been postponed.

Activity 2.5 <i>Conceptualising and implementing the engagement-promoting projects that are funded from the Structural Funds, in cooperation with non-governmental organisations</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, June 2016
Responsible body and partners	Government Office Cooperation partners: state authorities, non-governmental organisations
Objective	The objective is to improve the quality of policy-making by providing support to increase the parties' capabilities to participate and engage in

	policy-making and strengthen the practice of engaging. Making civic engagement more systematic in policy-making increases the quality of policy-making.
Content	Supporting the practice of civic engagement by offering additional funding to increase the parties' capabilities to take part and to engage.
Results	<p>Establishing the framework for additional funding to support civic engagement projects, consulting with the governmental and non-governmental partners during the preparation that led as a result to a decision to support three types of programmes: a) testing the new ways to engage; b) development of the national policy on engagement; c) development of the capability of non-governmental organisations to participate in policy-making. The formation of the Projects Selection Committee, bearing an advisory role and consisting of the representatives of state and non-governmental organisations. A total of three projects have been launched, one in each of the three directions.</p> <p>Increases the civic engagement practice and improves the capability of different parties to substantially contribute to the policy-making process.</p>
Follow-up activities	The funding measure administered by the Government Office will be continued under the same objectives and priority directions also in the future. The objective is to support the testing of innovative solutions and the growth of the parties' capability through additional projects.

Activity 2.6 <i>Establishing a non-governmental web-based discussion environment to enable citizens to initiate, plan, prepare, and then submit digitally signed collective memoranda to the national and local authorities</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, March 2015
Responsible body and partners	Foundation Estonian Cooperation Assembly Cooperation partners: Government Office, Chancellery of the <i>Riigikogu</i>
Objective	<p>To offer citizens an actual opportunity to realise their right under the framework of the Response to Memoranda and Requests for Explanations and Submission of Collective Addresses Act (518 SE) approved by the <i>Riigikogu</i> on 12 March 2014 by creating a web environment for the preparation of collective inquiries, their discussion and submission to the <i>Riigikogu</i>.</p> <p>The aim is to establish a functioning web environment, where it is possible to initiate discussions on topics important in society, prepare public inquiries on the principle of cooperation, collect votes for and against, delegate one's vote to another person, prepare collective inquiries from initiated discussions, and submit inquiries with at least 1,000 digital signatures to the <i>Riigikogu</i>, observe the proceedings of the inquiry in the <i>Riigikogu</i>, and receive a response to the inquiry from the <i>Riigikogu</i>.</p>
Content	The web environment to prepare collective inquiries and submit them to the Parliament (www.rahvaalgatus.ee) was opened in cooperation between the Estonian Cooperation Assembly and the Chancellery of the <i>Riigikogu</i> in March 2016. The Estonian Cooperation Assembly continues to administer the web environment, ensuring the user support and technical developing, and informing the target groups about the web environment and the right of

	<p>citizen initiative, however, in the long run, it wants to transfer the web environment to the Chancellery of the <i>Riigikogu</i>. It is likely that the number of collective inquiries increases in the future and the collective inquiries become a natural part of the Parliament's work, therefore, it could be reasonable to integrate the technical side (Citizen Initiative Portal) with the work organisation of the <i>Riigikogu</i>.</p>
Results	<p>The establishment of the Citizen Initiative Portal has significantly improved the citizens' options to submit proposals to the Parliament to improve community life, amend or initiate laws as provided in one of the proposals of the process of the Estonian Cooperation Assembly – to legalise citizen initiative.</p> <p>By identifying oneself on the website of rahvaalgatus.ee, each citizen can raise societal problem or issue, have a public debate, initiate the preparation of an inquiry to be submitted to the <i>Riigikogu</i>, and collect digital signatures to the completed inquiry (by means of ID card or mobile ID). If the inquiry collects at least 1,000 signatures, it can be sent to the <i>Riigikogu</i> with a single click and track its further proceeding in the committee(s) and the response of the <i>Riigikogu</i> to the inquiry.</p> <p>The Citizen Initiative Portal is still in beta version and it is too early to assess its impact, especially since greater publicity and the establishment of critical mass of users still lies ahead. Although the success and impact of the Citizen Initiative Portal cannot be assessed only on the basis of statistics, the user numbers speak for themselves: till September 2016, the platform has been visited by about 45,000 unique users, four discussions have been launched, five initiatives are collecting supportive signatures, and three initiatives with at least 1,000 signatures have been sent to the Parliament.</p>
Follow-up activities	<p>According to agile and sustainable IT development logic, the next objective is to attract a critical mass of users to the Citizen Initiative Portal. Starting from autumn 2016, the Estonian Cooperation Assembly begins to actively inform the target groups (young people, non-nationals speaking other languages, and digitally proficient elderly people) in cooperation with partner organisations.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with the Chancellery of the <i>Riigikogu</i> to better integrate these information systems. The opportunities to link the Citizen Initiative Portal to the local level (initiating draft acts with 1% of the eligible voters) with the VOLIS information system; and to link it to the notification stage in the Government information system EIS (in cooperation with the Government Office). Furthermore, international cooperation is taking place with the representatives of Latvia, Finland, Great Britain, and other countries, which have experience or interest in the citizen initiative platforms.</p>

Commitment 3: Increase the capability of governmental authorities and non-governmental partners to cooperate, engage and participate

The commitment stems from the need to support government officials with tools that would enable them independently review all key questions of inclusive policy-making process. This includes recording good practice, exchange experiences and learn, and increase the capabilities of partners. This commitment promotes the OGP core values - inclusive decision-making and accountability.

<i>Activity 3.1</i> <i>Providing guidelines for making engaging and participation methods and the best practices available for different policy-making situations (for example, an interactive website with samples and methods)</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, June 2016
Responsible body and partners	Government Office Cooperation partners: all ministries, non-governmental organisations
Objective	<p>The objective is to make the experience of others on the methods and examples of engagement practices available to different sides taking part in civic engagement processes that could serve as a source for learning and guidance when preparing future processes to engage different parties.</p> <p>In order to achieve this objective, it was considered important to present different engagement and participation methods and exchange experiences.</p>
Content	The initial idea to create an interactive website was abandoned, since on one hand, it is extremely resource consuming (including maintenance and continuous updating) and on the other hand, it was considered more important to contribute to support the emergence of good practices.
Results	<p>The experience is being shared and good practices are introduced through different networks (e.g. the network of involvement coordinators). The monitoring of the engagement practice is the task of a monitoring working group that has been established at the Government committee of the Estonian Civil Society Development Concept, analysing the problems in the engagement practice.</p> <p>With these activities, we contribute to increasing the quality of engagement and participation practice. The work of the monitoring working group of the Estonian Civil Society Development Concept has not turned out to be as initially planned – non-governmental organisations and public authorities have not followed the calling to submit an official complaint against the partner if the non-compliance with the principles of the Estonian Civil Society Development Concept has been discovered. The Network of Estonian Non-profit Organisations submitted the 2014 summary at the joint committee of the representatives of the Government of the Republic and civil society organisations, which took place in January 2015, and suggested that if there is and will be a lack of inquiries concerning the non-compliance with the principles of the Estonian Civil Society Development Concept, it is the committee’s task to discuss the observed cases. Three cases were analysed during 2015 on the basis of which recommendations were made to improve engagement.</p>

<i>Activity 3.2</i> <i>Increasing the capability of the social partners and other associations of the third sector in order to ensure that they could better analyse public policy and involve their member organisations in the development of opinions concerning public policy</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, June 2016
Responsible body and partners	Government Office Cooperation partners: Ministry of the Interior, Network of Estonian Non-profit Organisations, Estonian Trade Union Confederation, Estonian Employers' Confederation
Objective	The objective of the activity is strong representative organisations that are efficient participants in the policy-making. To this end, increasing the capability of the social partners and other third sector associations to participate in the policy-making is being supported.
Content	The harmonisation of the strategic partnership forms in relations between the ministries and the citizens' associations, as well as increasing the participating capability of non-governmental organisations in the policy-making process.
Results	<p>(1) The Ministry of the Interior has developed a concept of strategic partnership.</p> <p>(2) In order to increase the participation of non-governmental organisations in the policy-making, a capacity building programme for the heads of non-governmental organisations has been implemented under the leadership of the Government Office. The implementation of the development programme for non-governmental organisations is ongoing; this provides the non-governmental organisations with a two-year support programme as these NGO-s implement their advocacy processes. The programme includes individual as well as group counselling, knowledge learning and up-skilling, and continuous mentoring throughout their advocacy processes during the programme.</p> <p>(3) To increase the capability of the Estonian Trade Union Confederation, a survey on the administrative capacity of the Estonian Trade Union Confederation and branch associations has been carried out, which provided an important input to make development plans for the umbrella organisation. An information system is being developed, providing the Estonian Trade Union Confederation and branch associations with better options to function as legislative drafting partners and collect proposals from their member-organisations. The Estonian Trade Union Confederation is actively engaged in attracting new sectors to join the Estonian Trade Union Confederation. The development of the Estonian Trade Union Confederation's training system has been launched. Sector-level meetings with the representatives of employers have been launched in cooperation with the branch trade unions.</p> <p>(4) The Estonian Employers' Confederation estimates that their analytical capacity has improved by confirming that the impact analysis has become an organic and natural part of the confederation's work. In order to make economic and financial decisions, they provide the policy-makers and also the public with feedback on the expectations of the employers, which includes regularly (4 times a quarter) commissioning, publishing, and</p>

	<p>commenting the surveys carried out by the Estonian Institute of Economic Research. A total of five surveys were commissioned by the end of 2015.</p> <p>According to the Estonian Employers' Confederation, the confederation's engaging of its members has significantly improved – the internal work processes of the confederation have been reviewed to participate in the policy-making, store information, and share it with members. A total of four sectoral working groups have been established and launched, meetings and discussions have taken place (among other things, one task of the working groups resulted in the Employers' Manifesto issued in autumn 2014). The confederation employees and the key staff of professional associations have been trained with regard to engagement process and cooperation skills; they know how to prepare an engagement agenda and present their positions in an effective manner. The direct monitoring of engagement starts in 2016. In 2015, the Estonian Employers' Confederation conducted a survey among its members in order to find out how involved they feel and on which topics they would like to receive information and have their say. Based on this, information lists have been created by topics.</p> <p>By these activities, we contribute to a more thoughtful partnership between public authorities and non-governmental organisations, more effective cooperation forms, and improved capability of non-governmental organisations to contribute to policy-making.</p>
Follow-up activities	<p>Awareness of the instructional materials can be considered good, however, the use of "Instructional Materials for Community Funding" continues to be problematic. Therefore, it is important to continue with introducing the instructional materials and popularising its use that the Ministry of Interior shall continue in 2016 and 2017. Several ministries are ready to review the procedures for activity supports, however, they are still cautious in regard to considering the strategic partnership agreements.</p> <p>The funding measure administered by the Government Office to increase the participation of different parties in policy-making and improve their involvement capability will be continued under the same objectives and priorities also in the future. The objective is to support innovative solutions and increase in the capability of different parties through additional projects.</p>

II PRIORITY AREA:

Transparent state budget and financial management

Commitment 4: Increase the transparency and intelligibility of the use of public funds

The objective of the commitment is to make the usage of public funds more transparent and to enable the government sector accounting data to be used as open data both by the public and the public sector. The financial data of the entire public sector are disclosed in the

Government Portal for Public Funds similarly to the local government data. The goal is also to prevent corruption by increasing public control through the disclosure of the transaction partners of the local governments and the central government and persons related to the transactions, as well as through the disclosure of non-governmental organisations receiving support from the state budget and the volumes of the financing allocated to them. This commitment contributes to promoting the OGP core values - transparency and accountability.

Activity 4.1 <i>Upgrading the Government Portal For Public Funds: adding the accounting data of the central government, legal persons under public law, and other units belonging to the public sector to the greatest extent possible in such a detailed way as required with the chart of accounts</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, February 2016
Responsible body and partners	Ministry of Finance Cooperation partners: Praxis, the citizens' associations
Objective	To make the use of public funds of the units belonging to the public sector more transparent and to enable the use of the accounting data as open data by the public and the public sector. To disclose the accounting data of the units belonging to the public sector in the Government Portal For Public Funds in such a detailed way as required with the chart of accounts.
Content	The accounting data of the units belonging to the public sector has been disclosed in the Government Portal For Public Funds in such a detailed way as required with the chart of accounts. The terms of reference for the public procurement has been prepared, the public procurement has been carried out and works have been conducted.
Results	The detailed accounting data of the public sector units have been disclosed and made easily accessible in the Government Portal For Public Funds. From February to October 2016, the website of the Government Portal For Public Funds has been visited for 8,300 times with 15% of the visits from abroad. Several units belonging to the public sector have started to use more actively the data and analysis options offered in the Government Portal for Public Funds to inform sectoral policy-making in a more informed and effective manner. As a socio-economic benefit, the disclosure of information contributes to increasing effectiveness in the public sector, transparency, and public awareness.

Activity 4.2 <i>Disclosing local government transaction partners belonging to the private sector and third sector, and attaching this information to the Business Register in order to identify the persons related to the transactions</i>	
Status	Deferred
Responsible body and partners	Ministry of Finance Cooperation partners: Ministry of Justice, National Audit Office
Objective	To prevent corruption, increase public control through the disclosure of the

	transaction partners of local governments and persons related to them, and to enable an overview of the beneficiaries.
Content	To this end, it was deemed necessary to make it possible to identify the legal persons that are the financial transaction partners to the local government, disclosing it in the Government Portal for Public Funds.
Expected results	<p>The terms of reference have been discussed together with the partners and a draft plan has been prepared. The local governments have been informed about the request to start collecting more detailed data in 2016. The exchange of data on the members of the management boards has been agreed with the Business Register. The draft passed the official consulting, but the Ministry of Finance is currently waiting for the solution concerning the publication of the data of non-governmental organisations, etc. (activity 4.3) to decide to what extent these solutions should follow the same logic.</p> <p>Increase in transparency; increase in public awareness and trust, decrease in corruption, increase in efficiency in the public sector.</p>
Follow-up activities	The availability of the information on transaction partners enables to create additional links to other data. In addition to the Business Register, it was planned to link the database to the Public Procurement Register, that to date has already been done. The Government Portal for Public Funds also provides information on the management board members concerning the public sector.

<i>Activity 4.3</i> <i>Adding non-governmental organisations that have received support from the state budget to the Government Portal For Public Funds.</i>	
Status	Deferred
Responsible body and partners	Ministry of Finance Cooperation partners: Ministry of the Interior, Network of Estonian Non-profit Organisations
Objective	<p>To make the use of public funds more transparent and to enable to receive an overview of the non-governmental organisations receiving support from the state budget and the financial volumes allocated to them.</p> <p>To this end, it was considered important to identify the compatibility of the SAP and the Government Portal for Public Funds, as well as decide on the need and the scope of the developmental activities.</p>
Content	The content and structure of the overview to the target groups' detail is being determined in cooperation with the different parties, and according to this, the possibilities and development needs of the SAP.
Expected results	The meetings with the parties have taken place. A report was prepared on the amounts paid directly to non-governmental organisations by the public authorities, which must be processed by the Network of Estonian Non-profit Organisations before publishing the data on its website. The problem, however, continues to be the fact that a large amount of funds are transferred to the final consumer through different mediators (for example, Foundation Innove, Archimedes Foundation, Enterprise Estonia, Environmental Investment Centre, Cultural Endowment of Estonia, etc.) and it is complicated to obtain the information on their transactions in detail. Organisations use different databases, the volumes are nigg, and the

	<p>level of detail /dimension of data is different, etc. Making this information publicly available, it is necessary to carry out developmental works to integrate the databases and to this end, funds from the structural funds measure could be used that open at the beginning of 2016 administered by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications.</p> <p>The donors and the ones responsible for the development of the field of non-governmental organisations, as well as the public have an overview of the volume of support provided for the NGOs in each field.</p>
Follow-up activities	The overview provides basic information and therefore, contributes to carrying out a detailed analysis on the performance and impact of investments, as well as direct and plan further funding according to the national priorities and the objectives established in sectoral strategies.

Activity 4.4 <i>Providing guidance for the local governments on preparing a brief overview of the local budget that is understandable for citizens, and in a similar form as the state budget strategy and the state budget</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, January 2015
Responsible body and partners	Ministry of Finance Cooperation partners: e-Governance Academy, local government associations, Government Office
Objective	To increase the transparency and intelligibility of the use of public funds at a community level, and thereby improve involvement.
Content	The guidelines and the samples of a brief overview of a budget have been prepared, and these have been published on the website of the Ministry of Finance and also presented to the local governments.
Results	<p>As a result of the first year, approximately 20% of the local governments have introduced such a brief overview of their budget.</p> <p>Brief overviews increase the circle of citizens who understand the financial activities of the local government and hence, their desire to participate in decision-making. This should result in the local governments that correspond better to the needs of citizens.</p>

III PRIORITY AREA:

Citizen-centred public services

The priority focuses on the development of public services by the co-creation principle in order to make the services more convenient for citizens, and make the data available in the form of open data. Open data contributes to boosting the co-creation processes.

Commitment 5: Increase the quality of developing and providing public services

The objective of the commitment is to increase the user-friendliness of the public services by changing the perspective of the official into the perspective of the consumer, and to test co-creation in shaping the services. In order to facilitate the development of over-institutional services, a clear overview of public services that are being offered, and of the related information and service channels will be established. In order to support the development of public services, various guidelines will be drawn together into a single toolbox to facilitate the development of services. This is a new commitment that contributes to the promotion of the OGP core values - accountability and inclusive decision-making.

<i>Activity 5.1</i> <i>Establishing such an interactive web-based toolbox for the development of public services that provides the developers from the public, private, and third sector with instructions, methodology, manuals, and best practices in terms of developing new services or reshaping the existing ones</i>	
Status	Not realised. The work is not commenced as planned due to not finding funding.
Responsible body and partners	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications Cooperation partners: Information System Authority (RIHA), Ministry of Finance, other public authorities
Objective	<p>There are some handbooks (Green Paper on public services, handbook on the public sector business processes, handbook on the design of a user-friendly e-service) and documents establishing broader directions (for example, the interoperability framework, the development plan for information society). These materials have been published on the website of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, however, the files have no reciprocal links, and it is difficult for the developer to obtain a coherent overview. These materials should be made available in a simple form for the public service developers and other cooperation partners in such a way that according to the maturity of a specific service, the participants have been provided with an access to the most suitable tools and comparable experience on developing such public services.</p> <p>The objective of the activity is to provide the public services' developers with a toolbox from which they would get information on the development and management of the public services in a quick, interactive, and suitable manner. There is currently no such central solution.</p>
Content	Within the framework of Horizon 2020, an application for funding was prepared in cooperation with the Estonian Design Centre. Unfortunately, the application submitted by the Estonian Design Centre within the framework of Digitally Enhanced Public Service Innovation (DEPSI) was refused to be funded.

<i>Activity 5.2</i> <i>Providing an overview of the public services in such a way that all public services have been described in a single machine and human readable language, and citizens know at what quality the services are promised to be provided to them</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, December 2015
Responsible	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications

body and partners	Cooperation partner: Estonian Information System Authority
Objective	<p>The activity aims to solve a situation in where the Government lacks a specific and accurate overview about the facts, where, what, and on which level of quality are the services being provided by the public authorities and local government authorities, and what kind of information and service channels are being used in the provision of these services.</p> <p>The introduction of the quality management system on the services being provided in the governing area of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications.</p>
Content	The service owners were designated within the administration of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications. The administrative services of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications have been described in the service description application on the website of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications.
Results	<p>A web-based service catalogue was established within the framework of the supported IT project and this can be re-used in other administrative areas. The public services provided in the governing area of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications have been described on the common grounds and published on the website of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications (link to the service search: https://www.mkm.ee/et/teenuste-otsing) (link to the service statistics: https://www.mkm.ee/et/statistika/ministeerium). The services of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications have been designated top responsible persons (heads of authorities) and the service owners (at the level of a specific service). Today, approximately 300 services have been described. The catalogue is located on the following website: http://mkm.ee/et/teenuste-otsing The statistics view already covers 390 services: http://mkm.ee/et/statistika/valitsus</p> <p>The services have been uniformly described and the information about the services has been assembled and centrally published. It is possible to compare the services and authorities providing the services.</p>
Follow-up activities	Present the quality management system of the public services of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications to the representatives of other administrative areas, the analysis and introduction of the such a system in other administrative fields.

Activity 5.3	
<i>Implementing such pilot projects under which selected public services have been prepared according to the user-friendly e-service design instructions</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, June 2016
Responsible body and partners	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications Cooperation partners: all public authorities that develop public services
Objective	The activity aims to solve a situation in which the public services would be developed according to common principles.
Content	The implementation of pilot projects under which the selected public services have been prepared according to the user-friendly e-service design

	instructions
Results	<p>The pilot projects have been carried out. As a result of the 20 e-service project, a total of four services have received funding for IT solution and four pilot projects have been carried out.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The project of the Estonian Tax and Customs Board “E- rescheduling service”, amounting to 200,000 euros, 2) The project of the Estonian Road Administration: “The rights and privileges of the Traffic Register” amounting to 20,280 euros; 3) The project of the Estonian Road Administration: “Sample number logbook” amounting to 34,910 euros; 4) The project of the Estonian Road Administration: “The ordering and maintenance of vehicle registration plates” amounting to 148,640 euros.
Follow-up activities	Extending this practice to other public services.

Activity 5.4	
<i>Start issuing the non-resident digital identity card</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, June 2016
Responsible body and partners	<p>Government Office</p> <p>Cooperation partners: e-residency was initially launched under the joint leadership of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, and the Government Office. The implementation of the programme of Ten Million e-Estonians is further managed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications. The programme council includes representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, the Government Office, Enterprise Estonia, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A wide circle of public and private parties has been involved in the development of the concept and the legal framework, and also to the development of services for the e-residents, on an ongoing basis.</p>
Objective	To improve the possibilities of non-residents to use e-services, participate in public affairs and do business.
Content	The main necessary (public and private sector) services have been opened or created for the non-residents who have received their e-residency digital personal certificate, and these are convenient to use.
Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The issuing of e-residency of Estonia was launched on 1 December 2014. From May 2015, it is also obtainable from the Estonian foreign embassies. 2) The application process was modified and simplified on an ongoing and constant basis, including making it possible to apply on the website of eresidency.gov.ee from May 2015. 3) The development of e-residency (including the development of services) was launched as a programme titled “10 Million e-Estonians”. Since April 2015, a seven-member team has been working at Enterprise Estonia, and in July 2015, the Government approved the Action Plan for 2015–2016. 4) The legal analyses were completed in order to facilitate two important services, namely the establishment of a company and the digital opening of bank accounts. The corresponding draft amendments to the law were prepared, etc. In June 2016, the law enabling to digitally open

	<p>the bank accounts was adopted.</p> <p>5) In order to introduce new services to e-residents, outreach events for the public and private sector representatives, direct meetings, and hackathons have been organised, as well as sought for foreign key partners through seminars and direct meetings (the event series of identit.ee), etc. As of June 2016, ten new services have been launched or are currently under development.</p> <p>As of the end of June 2016, the results were the following:</p> <p>1) A total of 11,775 e-residency applications (the initial target was 5,000 applications by the end of 2015) had been submitted from 133 countries.</p> <p>2) The e-residents had established 688 new companies (the target was 1,000 new companies by the end of 2016); the e-residents had a total of 1,786 companies (including previously established companies) in Estonia.</p> <p>As a result, Estonian economic space has therefore expanded in the number of e-service users, which brings export opportunities, additional income for the companies, and additional tax return for the Government. At the same time, the access of non-residents to the Estonian e-services has grown from all over the world – particularly with regard to participating in business.</p>
Follow-up activities	<p>Access to public services is extended; the openness and reputation of the state increases. The establishment of the community of e-residents, in other words, the plan to involve them in the Estonian society and economic interests will be carried out later than scheduled.</p>

Commitment 6: Use open data more widely

This commitment aims to promote innovation through wider use of open data, boost co-creation processes, revive the economy, and increase the transparency of the public sector. This commitment contributes to the promotion of the OGP core values - namely accountability and transparency.

<i>Activity 6.1</i>	
<i>Fully implementing the open data portal opendata.riik.ee: transferring the portal from test version to actual use while ensuring the primary organisational support</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, January 2015
Responsible body and partners	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications. Cooperation partners: Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications, the open data community, the holders of information
Objective	This activity aims to develop the central component of the open data infrastructure – the open data portal opendata.riik.ee. An access to public sector data without unrestricted access, their re-use and redistribution for commercial and non-commercial purposes will be ensured for all through a central portal. The portal functions and open data is being uploaded to the portal.
Content	The terms of reference for the portal were prepared, the public procurement and testing were carried out, and the portal was taken into use. The portal has been established, tested, and opened (January 2015). The managing organisation has been launched; the portal is being administered (from

	February 2015).
Results	<p>The project resulted in a portal, which assembles the open data of the public sector. The users of the portal are public authorities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The holders of information can register and upload open data to the portal. Anyone can download the data and re-use it. 2) Anyone can give feedback in the portal on what kind of open data they are expecting and then the relevant authority can respond to the query, if possible 3) Instructions have been prepared to the holders of information 4) The portal is developed and administered by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
Follow-up activities	Further it is planned to collect feedback from the portal's users, carry out additional developments, and measure the use of open data more precisely.

Activity 6.2	
<i>Organising calls for proposal to open up data, and implement a pilot project of link data</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, February 2014
Responsible body	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
Objective	<p>This activity aims to assist the holders of information in submitting their data as open data, and increase the quality and maturity of data.</p> <p>Funds have been allocated to all applicants whose project was approved.</p>
Content	<p>Calls for proposals were prepared to finance the opening of data. The calls for proposals were opened in February 2014 and financing decisions were made in May 2014.</p>
Results	<p>The calls for proposals have resulted in a large amount of data and content (such as statistics, space data, economic data, environmental data, archival material, books, museum collections) being prepared, collected, and preserved by the public sector institutions can be accessed and used as open data through the portal. Additionally, as a result of the call for applications, the holders of information have organised operation processes around their information systems in order to ensure the availability of public information in a reproducible manner through the information portal of open data according to the requirements of the Public Information Act, the EU Directive on the re-use of public sector information (2003/98/EC), and the Green Paper on the machine-readable publication of the Estonian public data, which is in the consultation process.</p>
Follow-up activities	The holders of information are further provided with an opportunity to apply for funding for the development activities related to the opening of data.

Activity 6.3	
<i>Organisation of the events promoting the reuse of open data (hacking days or hackathons, information days, seminars, etc.)</i>	
Status, term	Implemented, June 2016
Responsible body and partners	<p>Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications</p> <p>Cooperation partners: Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications, the open data community, the holders of information.</p>
Objective	This activity aims to facilitate the reuse of data and increase the awareness

	of the holders of information, the re-users of information, and general public about creating and reusing open data. Open data will be used more and the awareness concerning the use of data will increase.
Content	Organising events to promote the reuse of open data.
Results	<p>The information day took place in spring 2015. The information day was targeted at all holders of information and those who were interested in open data. An overview was given on the essence of open data, what is their purpose, and why this topic is essential. Training sessions have been carried out for the holders of information, who want to start opening data, and this already provides us a more technical picture about the problems concerning the opening of data. Hackathon has been carried out to find use for open data, what can be done with open data, and what kind of benefits and value the data entails.</p> <p>The introduction of the open data theme to a wider circle showed that a large number of parties are interested in this topic, it generates conflicting opinions, and makes people think differently. The most important direct impact is the acceleration of the opening of data and the increase in the amount of open data.</p>
Follow-up activities	It is planned to continue with the organising such events.

It can be said that the lessons learned include the need to bring the discussions concerning specific activities to an earlier stage in the preparations of the Action Plan in order to ensure that the implementation of the activities can already start from the beginning of the implementation period. The performance of IT developments indicated a shortage of experts/partners having the capability to develop the existing systems. It is necessary to provide more feedback on the functioning of the launched solutions, for example, little feedback is given on the use of portals and not enough proposals are made on what and how could be done better. It was noted with regard to hampered activities that the exact role and obligations of all parties should have been agreed and fixed in writing at the beginning of the project. Interest in the e-residency programme has been greater than initially expected and this has led to the need to act quicker than planned, therefore creating challenges to find both additional human resources and funding. The holders of information are not familiar with the issue of open data, therefore, training is extremely important in order to direct them towards open data. It was also pointed out that the definition of open data is not clear to a majority of the public sector.

4. FURTHER STEPS

Estonia continues to participate in the OGP initiative, continuously contributing to increasing openness and transparency in the exercise of public authority also through the OGP Action Plan for 2016–2018, which was approved on 30 June 2016. Estonia also participates in the cooperation network of Nordic officials in order to learn from mutual exchange of experiences and share them.