



Republic of North Macedonia

**Ministry of Information  
Society and Administration**



**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP  
2024-2026**

Skopje, February 2024

## ACRONYMS

ESARNM - Employment Service Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia  
FLA – Free legal aid  
GRNM – Government of the Republic of North Macedonia  
CSOs – Civil organizations  
GS of GRNM - General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia  
SAO – State Audit Office  
SSO - State Statistics Office  
SEC – State Election Commission  
SCPC - State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption  
LGUs – Local Self-Government Units  
ENER – Single national electronic register of regulations  
ESE - Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women  
ESPP – Electronic system for Public Procurement  
EU – European Union  
ZELS – Association of Local Self-Government Units  
ZMAI – Association for Research and Analysis  
IDSCS – Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis Skopje  
ICT – Information and communication technology  
IPA – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance  
IRI – International Republican Institute  
IT – Information Technology  
PPP – Public Private Partnership  
LMS – Learning Management System  
MoI - Ministry of Internal Affairs  
MESP - Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning  
MoH - Ministry of Health  
MAFWM - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management  
MISA - Ministry of Information Society and Administration  
MLS - Ministry of Local Self-Government  
MJ - Ministry of Justice  
MPIN – Monthly Calculation for Integrated Collection  
MLSP - Ministry of Labor and Social Policy  
MoF - Ministry of Finance  
NGO – Non-Governmental Organizations  
NAP – National Action Plan  
NAP 6 - Sixth National Action Plan for Open Government Partnership for the period 2024-2026  
BPPO – Basic Public Prosecutor's Office  
OGP –Open Government Partnership  
RSM – Republic of North Macedonia  
IRS – Internal Revenue Service  
CCC – Center for Civil Communications  
CRRNM - Central Registry of the Republic of North Macedonia  
SWCs–Social Work Centers

## CONTENT

INTRODUCTION .....	5
PREVIOUS EFFORTS UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP .....	7
COUNCIL FOR COORDINATION AND MONITORING THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP PROCESS AND OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2021-2023 .....	7
WORKING GROUP WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 2021-2023 .....	8
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP NETWORK OF CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS.....	8
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP PORTAL ( <a href="https://ovp.gov.mk">https://ovp.gov.mk</a> ) .....	8
DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2026 .....	9
TIMEFRAME FOR CO-CREATION OF NAP 6.....	9
STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION IN CO-CREATION PROCESS .....	11
OVERVIEW OF COMMITMENTS PER PRIORITY AREA UNDER NAP 6 .....	11
OGP CHALLENGE.....	14
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 2024-2026.....	15
– OPEN GOVERNMENT-.....	15
1. ANTICORRUPTION.....	16
1.1 TRANSPARENCY IMPROVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT SESSIONS AND MEETINGS .....	16
1.2 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP IN COMPANIES - BIDDERS AND COMPANIES THAT ARE AWARDED PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS, FOR CONCESSIONS (IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY) AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHMENT	19
1.3 PUBLIC DUSCLOSURE OF CONCLUDED CONCESSION AGREEMENTS NAD PUBLIC- PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHMENT .....	23
2. PARTICIPATORY DECISION MAKING AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION .....	26
2.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN CREATING ACTIVE MEASURES, EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AND SERVICES.....	26
2.2 INTRODUCE COMPULSORY TRAINING FOR ADMINISTATIVE SERVANTS ON TOPICS RELATED TO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY,ANTICORRUPTION,CITIZENS’ INCUSION IN DECISION ADOPTION PROCESSES, ETC.....	30
2.3 IMPROVE PUBLIC CONSULTATION QUALITY AT NATIONAL LEVEL .....	34

2.4 REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS ON EQUAL OPORTUNITIES FOR MAN AND WOMAN BY MINISTRIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.....	37
2.5 DETERMINE THE METHODOLOGY FOR SELECTION OF E-CONSULTATION TOOLS AND PARTICIPATORY CITIZENS' INCLUSION IN DECISION MAKING PROCESSES IN MUNICIPALITIES.....	40
2.6 DRAFT A PLAN FOR DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AFFECTING CITIZENS HEALTH, WITH PARTICIPATION OF NGOs .....	44
3. LEGAL EMPOWERMENT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE.....	46
3.2 PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE .....	51
4. DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES.....	59
4.1 DIGITALIZATION OF PROCESSES FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING OF POLITICAL PARTIES	59
4.2 DIGITALIZATION OF DATA FOR THE PROMOTION OF LOCAL ECONOMIC POLICIES ....	64
5. IMPROVEMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES .....	69
5.1 EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC IN DECISION-MAKING IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES LAW .....	69
5.2 INCREASED AWARENESS OF CITIZENS REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF INSTITUTIONS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF INTERSECTORAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING .....	73
ACTION PLAN 2024-2026 OF THE ASSEMBLY TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP).....	76
1. REGISTRY OF THE REGULATORY BODIES ESTABLISHED BY THE ASSEMBLY .....	77
2. INFORMING THE PUBLIC TROUGH ASSEMBLY TV CHANNEL.....	80
3.SUPERVISORY DISCUSSION IN THE ASSEMBLY TO CONDUCT THE NATIONAL OGP PLAN 2024-2026.....	83
4.PARLIAMENTARY CARAVAN-Mobile Parliament for direct communication of the MPs with the citizens.....	85
ACTION PLAN FOR OPEN JUDICIARY 2024 – 2026 .....	88
1. ACCESS TO INFORMATION .....	90
1.1 IMPROVING THE ELECTRONIC JUDICIAL PORTAL (WWW.SUD.MK) .....	90
1.2 IMPROVING THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OF THE COURTS.....	92
1.3 IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF DATA AND INFORMATION REGARDING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL.....	95
2. PERFORMANCE .....	97

**2.1 STRENGTHENING THE SUPERVISORY ROLE OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OVER COURT TRANSPARENCY ..... 97**

**2.2 IMPROVING/STANDARDIZING THE STRUCTURE OF COURT REPORTS AND DATA QUALITY .....100**

**2.3 IMPROVING THE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR BASIC AND CONTINUOUS TRAINING OF JUDGES .....102**

Since its establishment in 2011 until today, 75 countries and 104 local authorities take part in OGP, working together with thousands of civil society organizations. Every two years, each member state submits an Action plan co-created with civil society, which sets out specific commitments to improve transparency, accountability, and public participation in decision-making.

**INTRODUCTION**

Republic of North Macedonia (RNM) is member of Open Government Partnership (OGP) member since the end of 2011.

The OGP model allows members to use the benefits resulting from the collaboration between the public and non-governmental sectors to address challenges by establishing coalitions to advance reforms and spread innovation across countries. OGP helps authorities co-create, implement and report on national action plans making the government more inclusive, accountable and responsible.

RNM is committed to this initiative and has achieved good and recognized progress over the past years. From the very beginning, RNM devotedly followed the need for greater engagement and inclusion of citizens in the decision-making process, introduction of higher integrity standards and greater access to technology for all citizens.

The commitment to openness has created many benefits, making the Government more transparent and accountable, creating a potential for development of a dynamic environment of

inclusion, efficient management of public resources, building integrity systems, an enabling environment at local level, access to information and open data. By opening up and making our resources available to the public, we've been able to advance the dialogue, innovation and application of technology that make citizens' lives better and easier.

The sixth Open Government Partnership National Action Plan for the period 2024-2026 (NAP 6) builds on the previous intensity of work by undertaking commitments to increase public participation and deliver truly transformative solutions. It also recognizes the need for the public sector to innovate, to develop policies that respond to the citizens' needs in response to contemporary trends.

The new NAP 6 confirms the need to deepen the previous obligations and improve their quality through commitments for an open government, an open parliament, and an open judiciary. It is expected that after a two-year period of implementation of the commitments laid down in this Action plan, real recognition of the results will be ensured, and the citizens will be able to confirm the change herein.

NAP 6 contains the following priority areas/commitments:

<b>OPEN GOVERNMENT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory decision-making and civic participation,</li> <li>• Legal empowerment and access to justice,</li> <li>• Fight against corruption,</li> <li>• Development and use of digital technologies and</li> <li>• Promotion of climate change activities.</li> </ul>
<b>OPEN PARLIAMENT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register of regulatory bodies established by the Parliament,</li> <li>• Informing the public through the parliamentary TV channel,</li> <li>• Supervisory discussion in the Assembly on the implementation of the national OGP plan 2024-2026 and</li> <li>• Parliamentary caravan - mobile parliament for direct communication between MPs and citizens.</li> </ul>
<b>OPEN JUDICIARY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to information and data and</li> <li>• Performance.</li> </ul>

## PREVIOUS EFFORTS UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

To present, RNM has implemented five

The Council for Open Government Partnership is comprised of [16 members](#), eight of which represent the Government, the Parliament and the Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia and an equal number of representatives from civil society organizations nominated through the Network of Civil Organizations for Open Government Partnership Government Partnership.

To monitor the implementation status of the NAP and to develop the Self-Assessment Report and the Final Implementation Assessment Report, MISA uses the data provided by the working subgroups.

action plans (2012-2014; 2014-2016; 2016-2018, 2018-2020 and 2021-2023) through this initiative, and has achieved significant results in various areas of importance including fiscal transparency and open finance, cooperation with civil society, access to public information, participatory policy making, public services, enabling legal environment for social agreements, open data, anticorruption, public procurement, transparency at the local level, access to justice and climate change.

A good practice introduced under OGP concerns establishment of links between Action plan commitments and Sustainable Development Agenda by 2030, especially SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG11: Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities, SDG13: Climate Action, and SDG17: Partnership for the Goals.

Basic precondition for success of the Open Government Partnership is participation of civil society organizations and institutions. Civil participation is of crucial importance for open government and essential element of the national cycle for development of action plans.

By virtue of the guidelines for management and participation in the Open Government Partnership initiative and the Standards for co-creating and designing a multi-stakeholder forum, an appropriate structure for coordination, monitoring and participation in this process has been established, namely:

## [COUNCIL FOR COORDINATION AND MONITORING THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP PROCESS AND OGP NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2021-2023](#)

The Council has a significant role and aims to maximize participation and cooperation between institutions and civil society in a structured way, by including relevant partners in the discussion and enabling everyone's voices to be heard.

The OGP Council monitors the implementation of the current NAP for OGP, reviews and proposes reports on the implementation of the action plan, in accordance with the deadlines established by the GRNM and the international initiative, reviews and proposes guidelines for the advancement of the process in accordance with the guidelines arising from the international initiative, determines the time framework and the method of implementation of the process of co-creation of the action plan, conducts a consultation procedure for the draft action plan and proposes the NAP for the OGP to the GRNM for adoption and ensures a continuous dialogue of the state administration bodies, as well as other state government institutions, civil society organizations, the business sector, the academic community, the media and other representatives from the affected public for the promotion of the authorities' standards for openness and transparency.

#### **WORKING GROUP WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 2021-2023**

The coordination of the implementation of the commitments and milestones from the National Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2021-2023 is provided by the national coordinator for Open Government Partnership, while the working group consists of priority coordinators, deputy priority coordinators, coordinators for commitments and working subgroup members per commitment under the National Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2021-2023.

#### **OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP NETWORK OF CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS**

The main objective of the Network is to coordinate and strengthen the voice of civil society organizations that advocate for participation, openness and accountability of the authorities. The network is committed to initiating, encouraging, supporting, implementing, and monitoring the OGP process and encouraging the authorities and other institutions to increase their transparency, accountability and openness to participation. More than 70 civil organizations are included in the Network.

**OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP PORTAL ( <https://ovp.gov.mk> )**



The OGP portal is a central point for consultation, monitoring, involvement, networking and reporting of all stakeholders and interested parties in the process. The OGP portal serves as a platform for interaction and exchange of information in four segments: consultation for the preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP), monitoring the implementation of the NAP, as well as monitoring the work of the OGP Council and the OGP Network of Civil Organizations. The portal offers the possibility of holding online virtual meetings with live chat and video connection of the participants.

The OGP Council, the working group with all stakeholders for implementing the National Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2021-2023 and the Open Government Partnership Civil Society Network represent the structure for coordination, monitoring and implementation of the OGP process in RNM.

Hence, the OGP process in the sixth cycle was also supported by the OGP Council, the OGP Working Group and the OGP Network of Civil Organizations and enabled in a structured way to maximize the participation and contribution of both public and non-governmental representatives' sector.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2026**

The OGP Council and the OGP Network continue the good practice of support and active involvement in the co-creation process of NAP 6.

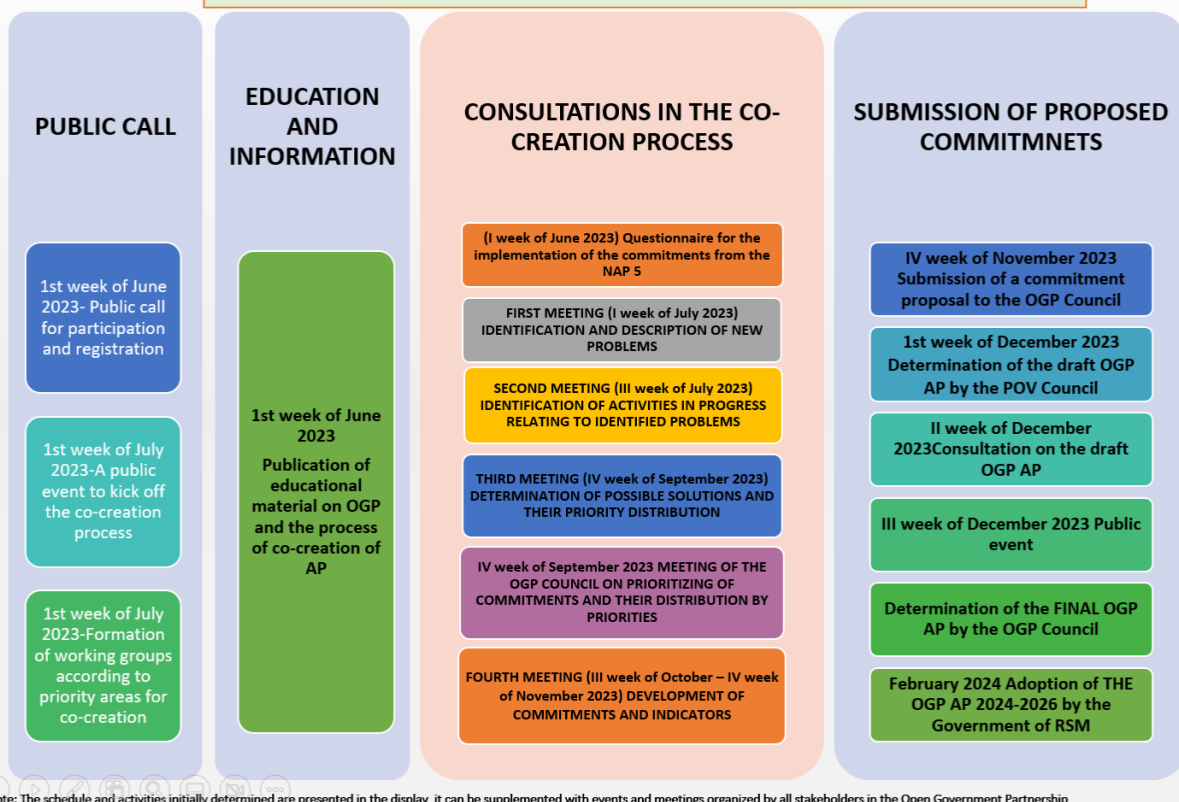
In order to ensure a systematized way of planning and implementing the consultation process, which will ensure a timely, smooth, inclusive and transparent process of co-creating the new NAP, in 2023 the method of implementing the process of co-creating the NAP 6, as well as a Procedure for conducting consultations with stakeholders for the creation of new priorities and commitments within the OGP process with a time frame and a Public Call for participation in the process of co-creating the NAP 6 thereat.

Also, materials resulting from the consultation procedure were prepared herein: Time frame for preparation, educational material, and Criteria for evaluating the relevance and connection with the OGP principles. All [documents](#) are available on the POV portal.

## **TIMEFRAME FOR CO-CREATION OF NAP 6**

Aimed at timely planning and preparation of the NAP 6 co-creation process, in May 2023, the OGP Council has adopted the Activity Timeframe for preparation of the Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2024-2026.

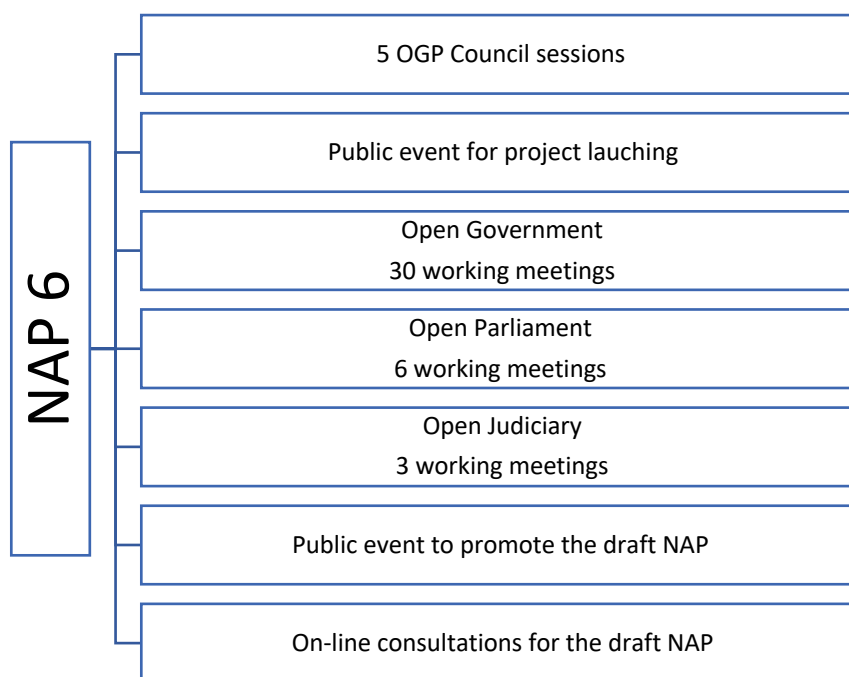
## TIME FRAMEWORK OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 2024-2026 OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN



The preparation process of the sixth National Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2024-2026 begun in July 2023, by virtue of the predictable and properly arranged procedure of the co-creation process, in a dynamic and inclusive environment.

When preparing the action plan for the Open Parliament 2024-2026, the Assembly generally followed the established timeframe for co-creation and carried out the activities in a manner pursuant to the work of the assembly and the Decision on the establishment of a working group for the preparation and adoption of the Action Plan of the Assembly for 2024-2026 for Open Government Partnership, adopted by the President of the Assembly of the RNM. With regards to the plan related to Open Judiciary, in the second cycle of joining the judicial authority in OGP, the Open Judiciary Council decided to implement the commitments from the Open Judiciary Action Plan 2021-2023 that were not fully implemented in the new Open Judiciary Action Plan 2024-2026.

During the planning and implementation of the NAP 6 co-creation process, during the period of May 2023 – January 2024, the following events were held:



## STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION IN CO-CREATION PROCESS

Throughout the broad consultative process and improved existing practices, based on the experiences of previous OGP action plans, advice and recommendations from OGP Secretariat, recommendations from independent reporting mechanism, creative proposals from interested stakeholders and with the direct involvement of over 100 representatives from the government and the civil sector has prepared a draft National Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2024-2026, where 15 commitments are defined in 5 priority areas for Open Government, 4 commitments in Open Parliament section and 6 commitments in two priority areas in Open section judiciary.

## OVERVIEW OF COMMITMENTS PER PRIORITY AREA UNDER NAP 6

### Open Government

PRIORITY AREAS	COMMITMENTS
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<p><b>1. ANTICORRUPTION</b></p>	<p>1.1. Transparency improvement of government sessions and meetings</p> <p>1.2. Public disclosure of beneficial ownership in companies that are awarded public procurement contract, for concessions (in the Ministry of Economy)</p> <p>1.3. Public disclosure of concluded concession agreements and public-private partnership establishment</p>
<p><b>2. PARTICIPATORY DECISION MAKING AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION</b></p>	<p>2.1 Public participation in creating active measures, employment policies and services</p> <p>2.2 Introduce compulsory training for administrative servants on topics related to transparency and accountability, anticorruption, citizens' inclusion in decision adoption processes, etc.</p> <p>2.3 Improve public consultation quality at national level</p> <p>2.4 Regular and continuous publication of annual reports on equal opportunities for man and woman by Ministries and municipalities</p> <p>2.5 Determine the methodology for selection of e-consultation tools and participatory citizens' inclusion in decision making processes in municipalities</p> <p>2.6 Draft a Plan for dealing with environmental changes affecting citizens' health, with participation of NGOs</p>
<p><b>3. LEGAL EMPOWERMENT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE</b></p>	<p>3.1 Digitalization and improvement of the Free legal aid system</p> <p>3.2 Prevent violence against women and domestic violence</p>
<p><b>4. DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES</b></p>	<p>4.1 Digitization of processes for financial reporting of political parties</p> <p>4.2 Digitization of data for the promotion of local economic policies</p>

<b>5. IMPROVEMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES</b>	<p>5.1 Effective participation of the public in decision-making in the field of water resources law</p> <p>5.2 Increased awareness of citizens regarding the activities of institutions related to climate change through the promotion of intersectoral cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning</p>
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### Open Parliament

<b>OPEN PARLIAMENT</b>	<b>COMMITMENTS</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Register of regulatory bodies established by the Assembly</li> <li>2. Informing the public through the parliamentary TV channel</li> <li>3. Supervisory debate in the Assembly on the implementation of the national OGP plan 2024-2026</li> <li>4. Parliamentary caravan - mobile parliament for direct communication between MPs and citizens</li> </ol>

### Open Judiciary

<b>PRIORITY AREA</b>	<b>COMMITMENTS</b>
<b>1. ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND DATA</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Improve RNM's electronic judicial portal (<a href="http://www.sud.mk">www.sud.mk</a>)</li> <li>1.2. Improve the public relations of courts</li> <li>1.3. Improve the quality and availability of data</li> <li>1.4. and information on the Judicial Council's operation</li> </ol>
<b>2. PERFORMANCES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Strengthen the supervisory role of the Judicial Council on Court's transparency</li> <li>2.2 Improve/standardize the structure of court reports and data quality</li> <li>2.3 Improve the electronic system for basic and continuous training of judges</li> </ol>

## OGP CHALLENGE

During 2023, the OGP Steering Committee and Secretariat for OGP support called on the OGP community to channel their ideas and energy into lasting policy change to address current and future challenges. The OGP Strategy 2023-2028 identifies areas of action through which societies can be strengthened and communities improved, namely: access to information, anti-corruption, civil space, climate and environment, digital governance, fiscal openness, gender and inclusion, justice, media freedom and public participation. According to the strategy, during the next five years, all members of the Partnership are expected to join the "challenge" to raise the ambition for reforms in these areas and to identify commitment/s demonstrating relevant progress thereat. It is planned that the most ambitious "reformers" will be recognized and promoted in international forums and serve as inspirational stories, and the progress itself will be shared with the OGP community worldwide.

Taking into account the OGP Strategy 2023-2028 and the call to join the above-mentioned challenge, during the co-creation process of NAP 6, the OGP Council decided to join this call and identify an appropriate challenge. From the commitments that are part of NAP 6, The OGP Council decided that the commitment "1.2 Public disclosure of beneficial ownership in companies that are awarded public procurement contract, for concessions (Ministry of Economy) and for establishing public private partnership" to serve as an adequate response to the challenge posed by OGP.

The implementation of this commitment as part of NAP 6 is expected to enable the public disclosure of the names of beneficial ownership of companies. The public disclosure of names of beneficial ownership of companies, will allow to cross-check the data from several publicly available databases and thus it will be possible to do a complete check on the selected and appointed persons - whether they are hidden behind companies that are awarded tenders and concessions, that is, state contracts using the position and function to which they are elected or appointed to. Using the full potential of this data will contribute to the fight against corruption and crime, that is, it can lead not only to the discovery of corruption, but even more to its prevention.

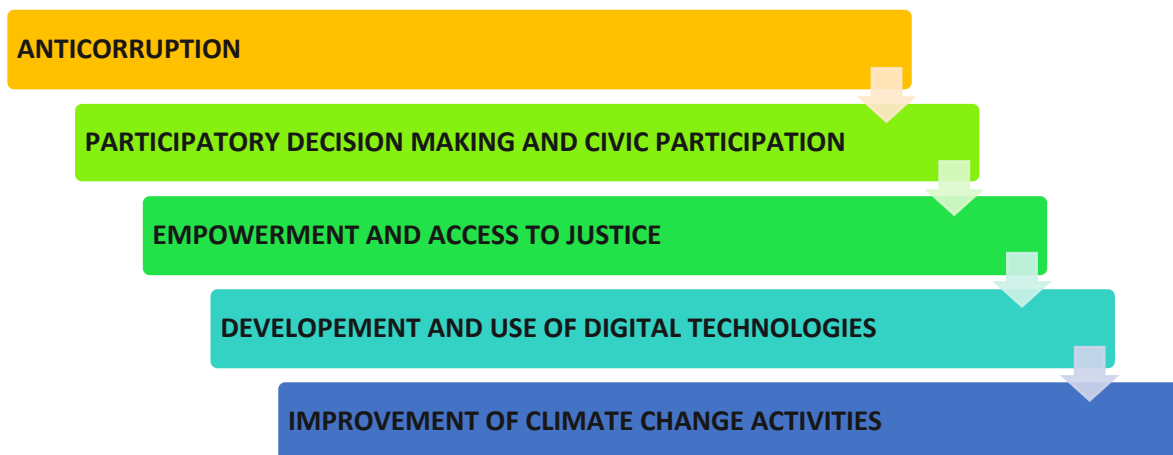
## OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 2024-2026

### – OPEN GOVERNMENT–

This document promotes openness and the possibility of further expansion and deepening of the below laid down priorities in close cooperation with all stakeholders in the area of OGP.

The entire process of creating, implementing and monitoring the commitments is supported by the Ministry of Information Society and Administration, the OGP Council and the OGP Network.

For this cycle of co-creation, the OGP Council has determined the following five priority areas and working groups in the Open Government section:



In the Action plan co-creation process in the Open Government section, 24 proposed ideas for commitments resulted from the operation of the working groups. After the held meetings with institutions for harmonizing the proposals and implementing the consultative process, the OGP Council adopted the final text of NAP 6, which contains 15 commitments and 57 achievements.

### OPEN GOVERNMENT

## 1. ANTICORRUPTION

<b>Number and Name of Commitment</b>	<b>1.1 TRANSPARENCY IMPROVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT SESSIONS AND MEETINGS</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	<p>The aim of the commitment is to <b>improve transparency of government sessions and meetings</b>, because citizens point to the existence of a high risk of corruption related to the integrity of the Government when making decisions, which would be reduced by <b>increasing the transparency of government meetings and meetings of government representatives, i.e. The president of GRNM and the ministers</b>.</p> <p>To this end, it is necessary to ensure <b>mandatory management and announcement of a calendar of meetings of government representatives</b>, i.e. the President of GRNM and ministers with information regarding the persons with whom the meetings are scheduled, i.e. held, and which will be available and updated at least seven days in advance, with the time and topic of the event. In addition, the calendar of meetings should be accompanied by notes, that is, a record of the meetings held, according to a previously established unified order of content.</p> <p>In terms of improving the transparency of the government sessions, it is necessary to publish a <b>calendar (announcement of the sessions), that is, announcement of the government sessions' agenda</b>. In order to promote the transparency of the sessions, it is necessary to publish the agenda at least seven working days in advance prior to its holding. In addition to the fact that these activities will affect the promotion of the transparency of the Government, they will further contribute to increasing the trust of citizens towards the institutions, improve the integrity of the Government, as well as reduce and eradicate corruption, which is essential for increasing the protection of democracy, promoting equity and good governance.</p> <p>Finally, this approach with announcements of calendars of government representatives, followed by notes from the meetings, as well as announcement of daily agendas for government sessions in advance, will increase the work efficiency of both the government services and the Government, because it is expected that this will reduce the amount of information access requests.</p>		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	General Secretariat of the Republic of North Macedonia		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, International Organizations, etc.)</b>
	/	<i>Metamorphosis Foundation</i>	/
<b>Period covered</b>	March 2024 – January 2026		

Problem Definition
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>The commitment refers to the detected risk of corruption related to the integrity of the Government in making decisions, which would be reduced by increasing the transparency of government sessions and meetings. At the same time, citizens' trust in the institutions and their supervisory function as the main corrective to the work of the executive power would increase herein. For several years in a row, the Regional Openness Index (<a href="https://metamorphosis.org.mk/izdanija_arhiva/procenka-na-dobroto-vladeenje-vo-severna-makedonija-i-regionot-preku-indeksot-na-otvorenost-sobranie-i-izvrshna-vlast-merenje-za-2021/">https://metamorphosis.org.mk/izdanija_arhiva/procenka-na-dobroto-vladeenje-vo-severna-makedonija-i-regionot-preku-indeksot-na-otvorenost-sobranie-i-izvrshna-vlast-merenje-za-2021/</a>) notes this problem that government sessions are not timely announced with accompanying agendas at least one day before holding the</p>



session, and also notes seven years in a row that the documents that are reviewed and discussed during the Government sessions should be published together with the agenda in accordance with international practices.

**2. What are the causes of the problem?**

A key reason for this problem is that the public does not have on-time and complete insight into the agenda (and documents) or information that is discussed and reviewed during government sessions, due to which the perception of citizens is that decisions are made in a non-transparent manner and for personal or political purposes. The last few years note delayed publication of the agendas and minutes of government meetings on the Government's website, while the documents or information reviewed or discussed at the meetings have not been made public until now.

**Commitment Description**

**1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?**

Agendas for the following government sessions are published on the e-Government portal, which is not available to the general public. Information about past meetings and government sessions is published on the calendar on the Government's website, but not about the upcoming ones. Additionally, the minutes of the sessions are published on the Government's website with delay.

**2. What solution are you proposing?**

The implementation of the commitment will introduce a procedure for maintaining and publishing a calendar on the GRNM's website in the direction of greater transparency of the work of the Government and increase the trust of the citizens towards the institutions. The procedure will regulate the following procedures: 1) Announcement of the next meetings of the government representatives, the Prime Minister and the ministers, at least seven days in advance, with standardized information about the announcement; 2) Publication of information from the meetings according to a standardized format of minutes/notes within 5 working days after holding the meetings; and 3) Publication of the next government sessions with the schedule of the sessions seven working days in advance, the session agenda.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

By establishing and implementing the procedure for maintaining and publishing a calendar on the GRNM's website, we aim to achieve greater transparency of the work of the Government and thereby increase the supervisory role of the civil sector and the trust of citizens towards the institutions.

**Commitment Analysis**

Questions	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	Above all, stakeholders will have timely and full access to information regarding the meetings and sessions of government representatives, which will enable them to exercise their role as supervisors of the government's work in a timely and informed manner and to react according to the need.
<b>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</b>	The public provision of information related to government sessions and meetings, together with documents and minutes, will allow the public to react in a timely and informed manner and demand responsibility from government representatives if there is (non)adoption of disputable documents or information that goes against the interests of the citizens.
<b>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b>	The key objective of the commitment is to provide a procedure for continuous and timely informing of stakeholders regarding government sessions and meetings, through which the public will be able to react in a timely and informed manner and demand

	responsibility from government representatives if there is (non)adoption of disputable documents or information, that goes against the interests of the citizens. Thus, the citizens become more aware and informed on the Government's work by understanding the order and the information that is processed during the government sessions and meetings.
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Commitment planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
1.1.1 Prepare a procedure for managing and publishing a calendar on the GRNM's website that arranges the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Announcement of next meetings of government representatives at least seven days in advance, with standardized information regarding the announcement;</li> <li>- Publication of information from meetings according to a standardized format of minutes/notes within 5 working days after holding the meetings;</li> <li>- Announcement of next government sessions with schedule of sessions seven working days in advance, along with the session agenda.</li> </ul>	Prepare a procedure for managing and publishing a calendar on the GRNM's website that arranges the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Announcement of next meetings of government representatives at least seven days in advance, with standardized information regarding the announcement.</li> <li>- Publication of information from the meetings according to a standardized format of minutes/notes within 5 working days after holding the meetings.</li> <li>- Announcement of next government sessions with schedule of sessions seven working days in advance, along with session agenda.</li> </ul>	December, 2024	GS of GRNM		
			<u>Supporting stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Other
			GS of GRNM	Metamorphosis Foundation	/
1.1.2 Implement a procedure for maintaining and publishing a calendar on the GRNM's website.	Implement a procedure for maintaining and publishing a calendar on the GRNM's website.	January, 2026	GS of GRNM	/	/

<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<b>1.2 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP IN COMPANIES - BIDDERS AND COMPANIES THAT ARE AWARDED PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS, FOR CONCESSIONS (IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY) AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHMENT</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	<p>In 2019, the Republic of North Macedonia established the Registry of Beneficial Ownership. These registries began to be established after it was discovered that many politically exposed persons "secretly" own companies that use public (state) money. Information about the actual owners immediately became one of the most important tools in the fight against corruption. Providing easy and widespread access to this information is the most effective way to enable all relevant users – from law enforcement institutions to investigative journalists and civil society organizations – to be able to use the information in the fight against corruption. This is especially important for companies that are granted public funding and for whom information about who owns and controls the companies is fundamental to oversight and accountability. Today, despite the recent judgment by the European Court, these registers are publicly available in about third of the EU member states and many other countries around the world. This is also a condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) for granting financial aid to countries (such as the RSM uses). Public publication of the names of the actual/beneficial owners is also part of the United Nations resolution on this matter. Hence, it is very important that such data is finally publicly available in our country, in which, compared to all EU countries where these registers are publicly available, there is significantly more corruption, hence a greater need for this information. The commitment refers to enabling public availability of the data for the beneficial owners, firstly, for companies that use public funds, i.e. have concluded public procurement contracts, for concessions for the exploitation of mineral resources, contracts for the concession of detailed geological research, as well as those with concluded contracts for the establishment of PPP. Also, in the direction of even greater protection against corruption, and in accordance with world trends in this area, the commitment provides for the publication of the names of beneficial owners and of bidding companies in public procurement procedures.</p>		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Deputy President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in charge of good governance policies		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors (Parliament, private Sector, international Organizations, etc.)</b>
	MoF, Ministry of Economy, Public Procurement Bureau and CRRNM	CCC ( <i>Center for Civil Communications</i> )	/
<b>Period Covered</b>	May 2024 - December 2025		

## Problem Definition

### 1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

There are numerous examples of corrupt individuals exploiting the non-transparency of ownership structures of companies, either to enter into or obtain contracts with state institutions by favoring companies in which they have a vested interest. Official data from the world say that in 70% of cases of high corruption involve companies with anonymous owners (for which there were numerous cases in our country, before they were discovered in the investigations by the Special Prosecutor's Office and investigative journalists). Lack of transparency in the actual ownership of legal entities not only contributes to corruption, but also seriously hinders investigations and the ability to track, freeze and confiscate illegally acquired assets and enforce the law. In public procurement, corrupt individuals may try to exploit the non-transparency of ownership structures to be awarded with tenders, favoring companies in which they have a hidden interest. On the contrary, by enabling ownership transparency, the authorities and all other interested parties will be able to discover the actual owners behind the tender bidders, and on the other hand, it will be more difficult for corrupt officials to manipulate the procurement process for personal gain. Such transparency encourages fair competition and discourages corrupt actors from using complex ownership structures to conceal their involvement in deals. In addition, the combination of ownership and public procurement transparency improves the overall accountability of the procurement process, enabling identification of potential conflicts of interest and ensuring that contracts are awarded based on merit and not through favoritism or bribery.

### 2. What are the causes of the problem?

Insufficient transparency in the actual ownership of legal entities leaves room for corrupt activities during the conclusion of public procurement contracts, concession contracts for exploitation of mineral resources, concession contracts of detailed geological research, as well as those with concluded contracts for establishment of PPPs.

## Commitment Description

### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

With several subsequent activities carried out in the last few years, preconditions have been created for the final solution of the named problem. First, all concluded public procurement contracts (and their annexes) must be published on the single Electronic System for Public Procurement (ESPP). Afterwards, also on ESPP, the Notice for concluded contract, contains publicly published not only the names of the companies with which the public procurement contract was concluded, but also of all the companies that participated in the procurement therein. Furthermore, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption established and publicly publishes the Register of elected and appointed persons. But all these and other solutions are only partial and do not fully implement their idea - to be a powerful tool for preventing and detecting corruption. What is missing is publicly available data on the ownership of companies to cross-reference all this data and prevent the misuse of public funds.

The last Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2021-2023 (NAP for OGP) made an attempt to start this process by adopting a commitment to publish the names of beneficial ownership of the companies that won a public procurement contract. Unfortunately, the commitment, although recognized as one of the best worldwide commitments by the OGP Secretariat, was not implemented mainly due to aspects related to the protection of personal data. Having regard that the efforts to implement the commitment have not stopped, now an attempt is being made to allow additional time for, allegedly, the necessary legal amendments so that the commitment can be implemented, but it also includes similar public procurement contracts, such as concessions and contracts for the establishment of PPPs.

### 2. What solution are you proposing?

The proposed public announcement of the name of the actual, i.e. the beneficial ownership of the companies, will allow to cross-check the data from several publicly available databases and thus it will be possible to carry out a complete check of the selected and appointed persons - whether they are concealed from companies that are awarded tenders and concessions, that is, state contracts using the position and function to which they are elected or appointed to.

However, the problem will be solved only partially because the data on the registered beneficial ownership of companies is also not publicly available in the country, so that North Macedonia is among the 15 countries in the world in which a fee is paid for obtaining this information about the companies (information as of October 2023, UNODC). There was a commitment for this in the past, which made certain basic data about the companies publicly available, but not the name of the company owners, as is the case in almost all countries of the world. This remains a problem for the full disclosure of companies' connections and for the prevention and detection of corruption, which needs to be solved in the future. The public unavailability of this data, in a way makes the corruption possible because its discovery is prevented, which would occur if this data were publicly available.

Also, the fact that all these data are not in the form of open data and thus their use remains difficult, which only works in favor of the corrupt, remains as a problem.

In the near future, data on both ownership and beneficial ownership of companies should become fully publicly available to enable their wider use (eg. linking to data on property, court judgments, etc.). There are successful examples of this data application in France, the United Kingdom, Kenya, Malaysia, Ukraine, etc.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

By making public the names of the actual or beneficial ownership of companies, it will be possible to use the full potential of this data in the fight against corruption and crime. Namely, it will enable checking the data from the aforementioned publicly available registers and databases, which can lead not only to the discovery of corruption, but even more to its prevention. It is believed that the very fact that this data will be publicly available will deter those who intend to misuse public funds to do so, as the chances of being discovered will increase.

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	The commitment will actually mean a historic opening of data from the Register of Beneficial Ownership, which is now only available through an official procedure and payment of a fee. By implementing the commitment, these data will be publicly open, which will make them easily accessible to all interested parties, such as citizens, civil society organizations, the media, etc.
<b>2. How will commitment help foster accountability?</b>	Transparency of names of end users of legal entities will enable civil society organizations, media, citizens and all other interested parties to increase the supervision of public institutions, and thus the pressure for more responsible operation. This will not only discover possible political abuses in the use of public money for private benefit, but it will enable to prevent such occurrences in the future, which will directly affect the increase public institutions' accountability in spending public money.
<b>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing and monitoring solutions?</b>	Having information and constant insight into who are the beneficial owners, i.e. end users of the companies, with simultaneously available other important data such as - who gets awarded tenders and concessions, will allow the citizens to get involved more intensively in the fight against corruption. Thus citizens, instead of just being passive observers and part of the problem, will be able to play their social role as active stakeholders in the fight against corruption, and protection of their own assets.

Commitment Planning

Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
<p><i>1.2.1 Detecting the necessary prerequisites for public announcement of names of beneficial ownership, with a possible deadline for implementation</i></p>	<p>Drafted list with all prerequisites and a timetable for the implementation of the commitment</p>	<p>May 2024</p>	<p>Lead: Deputy President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in charge of good governance policies</p>		
			<p><u>Supporting Stakeholders</u></p>		
			<p>Government</p>	<p>CSOs</p>	<p>Other</p>
<p>Deputy President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in charge of good governance policies), MoF, Ministry of Economy, Public Procurement Bureau, CRRNM and Financial Intelligence Office</p>	<p>Center for Civil Communications</p>	<p>/</p>			
<p><i>1.2.2 Implementation of the detected prerequisites for public publication of names of beneficial ownership of the bidding companies and of the companies with concluded contracts for public procurement, concessions and PPP</i></p>	<p>Implemented necessary prerequisites for commitment implementation</p>	<p>December 2024</p>	<p>Deputy President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in charge of good governance policies, MoF, Ministry of Economy, Public Procurement Bureau, CRRNM and Financial Intelligence Office</p>	<p>Center for Civil Communications</p>	<p>/</p>
<p><i>1.2.3 Public publication of names of beneficial ownership of the bidding companies and of the companies with</i></p>	<p>Data on beneficial ownership of companies that have concluded contracts for public</p>	<p>May 2025</p>	<p>Deputy President of the Government of the Republic of North</p>	<p>Center for Civil Communications</p>	<p>/</p>

<i>concluded contracts for public procurement, concessions and PPP</i>	procurement, concessions for mineral resources and for establishment of PPPs are published publicly		Macedonia in charge of good governance policies, MoF, Ministry of Economy, Public Procurement Bureau, CRRNM and Financial Intelligence Office		
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<b>Number and name of the commitment</b>	<b>1.3 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF CONCLUDED CONCESSION AGREEMENTS AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHMENT</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the commitment</b>	<p>The commitment implies mandatory public disclosure of concluded concession agreements and PPP establishment, in the same way that public procurement contracts are also publicly available thereat. Concessions, public procurement and PPP are the three basic types of public agreements of state institutions with the private sector. Although in our country, these three types of public agreements are not yet unified in the sense that the procedures for their conclusion are managed from one centralized place, such as the Electronic System for Public Procurement (ESPP), they are still related agreements. Hence, it is necessary to make available concession agreements and for PPPs in the same transparent manner as public procurement agreements. In terms of concessions, at least during the implementation of this commitment, we refer to concession agreements for the exploitation of mineral resources and concession agreements for detailed geological research concluded by the Ministry of Economy. The commitment refers to the public publication of these agreements on the website of this Ministry. In relation to the contracts for the establishment of PPP, the commitment refers to the publication of the contracts within the ESPP. Namely, the announcements for the establishment of PPPs are published on ESPP. Following the example of public procurements, the commitment implies publishing concluded PPP agreements in the "documents" section, separately for each concluded agreement. In this way, although the commitment covers ministries, municipalities as well as public and state enterprises established by them, it actually covers only the Public Procurement Bureau because the mentioned institutions have to submit concluded agreements to the ESPP for publication (as they do with public procurement contracts).</p>		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Ministry of Economy		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors (Parliament, Private sector, International organizations, etc.)</b>

	<i>Public Procurement Bureau (MoF), Deputy President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in charge of good governance, municipalities, public and state enterprises</i>	<i>Center for Civil Communications</i>	/
<b>Period Covered</b>	February 2024 – January 2026		

**Problem Definition**

**1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?**

Although they belong to the same group of agreements between private sector and public sector institutions, concession and PPP agreements are not made public as is the case with public procurement contracts. With this, for an important sector which, among other things, is also one of the most susceptible to corruption, citizens, civil society organizations, journalists, even state institutions that need this information, do not have access to details of what was agreed, especially in view of concessionaires' obligations. On the other hand, there are numerous examples of abuses of these agreements. Making agreements unavailable not only makes it impossible to monitor their proper implementation, but in a way also supports corruption because such important information is kept secret. Although there is an obligation under the National Strategy for Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest 2021-2025, concession agreements are not publicly announced thereto. The same is the case with the agreements for the establishment of PPP. For both types of agreements, the opinion that prevails in the public is that they are generally corrupt, which limits the possible further investments of the business sector through these two types of agreements. Unlike North Macedonia, in the world, precisely concessions and PPPs are a significant instrument for attracting foreign investments and for economic development, contributing 2 to 3 percentage points to the annual growth of the countries' gross domestic product.

**2. What are the causes of the problem?**

It seems that the root of the problem is the human factor, that is, the lack of will to publish these agreements. Namely, the Ministry of Economy is now publishing a document in closed pdf format on the granted concessions for mineral resources, with the basic data on about 370 such concessions such as: name of the concessionaire, address, e-mail, duration of the contract, date of conclusion of the agreement, raw material, site of the concession, the municipality in which it is located and the covered area in square kilometers. However, among the publicly published data there is no data on the compensation paid for the concession area, either the fixed compensation per square kilometer or the variable one, for the amount of raw material exploited. Also, the terms and conditions that the concessionaire has with the concession agreement are not known, which makes these agreements completely impossible for any kind of public inspection or control in their implementation. The situation is similar to the agreements for the establishment of PPPs. Open calls for such agreements are published on ESPP, but not information about the concluded agreements, nor the agreements themselves, although we are talking about only a few agreements per year.

**Commitment Description**

**1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?**

As mentioned, although in the domain of public procurement, the transparency and availability to the public of a large number of information and documents related to tenders gradually increased, this trend was not followed for the other two types of agreements, such as concessions and PPPs, regardless of the fact that they are similar



agreements. Partly because of this, but also because of outdated regulations, the full potentials they offer have not been used in both areas, especially for attracting investments and for economic development, not only at national level, but also within local environments. There were attempts to improve the situation with other initiatives, but they were also unsuccessful. Regarding concessions, as a result of a commitment in the OGP Action Plan 2016-2018, a register of concessions for mineral resources is published on the website of the Ministry of Economy, but it does not include the concluded agreements. As for PPPs, only the announcements for such agreements and the tender documents are published on ESPP, but that possibility is not used to publish, in the same place, notices regarding the concluded agreements, as well as the agreements themselves, as is the case with public procurement.

**2. What solution are you proposing?**

As far as PPPs are concerned, the problem will be completely solved, because the already existing opportunity will be used - to publish the concluded PPP agreements on ESPP, in the section where information about PPPs, such as the announcement and the tender documentation are now being published.

For concessions, this is only a partial solution, as the agreements will be published on the website of the Ministry of Economy, where basic information about concessions is being published thereat. Partly, because it is necessary to have a fully electronic solution for concessions, such as ESPP, and because not all concessions are covered, but only those for mineral resources and exploitation. But the publication of these concession agreements will mean a first step towards transparency of other concession agreements concluded by other institutions as well, which may follow in the next NAP for OGP.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

The commitment will actually mean encompassing the transparency of public agreements (public procurement, concessions, PPP), which is of great importance in order to enable public insight into these agreements and public verification of whether they protect the public interest. All these agreements are among the most susceptible to corruption and this will enable its detection, but also its prevention, with the direct role of citizens and civil society organizations. The commitment will actually continue the efforts of the Ministry of Economy for increased transparency of the awarded concessions.

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	This commitment leads to achieving significant progress in transparency in the area of concessions and PPPs. The commitment for public publication of these agreements is in line with the measures foreseen in the National Strategy for the Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest 2021-2025, as well as with the recommendations of the State Audit Office in the conducted Audit Report to the Basic Budget of RNM for 2022, in order for the municipalities to have the concession agreements granted for their territories.
<b>2. How will the commitment foster accountability?</b>	By making concessions and PPP agreements available to the public and all stakeholders, the accountability of public institutions will increase significantly thereat. Thus, the commitment will also contribute to increasing the trust in public institutions by the public and potential investors in these two areas which are now still taking place under the veil of non-transparency and suspicions of corruption.
<b>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b>	Having the details of the agreements, especially the financial and other aspects and the terms and conditions under which the concession was granted, citizens can evaluate whether the

	agreement is good or bad for public resources, such as mineral resources, or whether and how the public interest is protected in the PPP agreements. Knowing that, citizens can also prevent potentially harmful contracts, which means their direct participation in improving the situation.
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Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
1.3.1 Coordination and reaching an agreement on the commitment implementation manner and the technical preconditions	An agreement and a specific technical solution were reached for publication of concession agreements on the website of the Ministry of Economy and for publication of PPP agreements on ESPP	May 2024	Lead: Ministry of Economy		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Other
			Ministry of Economy, Public Procurement Bureau ( MoF),	Center for Civil Communications	/
1.3.2 Publicly announce the concession and PPP agreements	Agreements are publicly announced	February 2025	Ministry of Economy	Center for Civil Communications	/

## 2. PARTICIPATORY DECISION MAKING AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Number and name of the Commitment	2.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN CREATING ACTIVE MEASURES, EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AND SERVICES
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	The commitment aims to map the existing processes, practices and policies of ESARNM for consulting stakeholders (unemployed, businesses, NGOs and other institutions) before creating and adopting the annual operational plan for active measures, policies and employment services, as well as during its implementation. In addition, the commitment aims to standardize and expand these processes, practices and policies, in such a way that all stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide informed suggestions during the planning, implementation and evaluation of the annual operational employment plan. Also, the commitment will contribute to the creation of a base stakeholders who will continuously receive information about the opportunities for inclusion and will eventually get the opportunity to provide their proposals for improving the efficiency and economy of active

	<p>employment policies, measures and services. This commitment is a continuation of the efforts to improve transparency, accountability, and participation in ESARNM’s operation started in the previous OGP Action plan 2021-2023. What is important to note is that ESARNM publishes information on the implementation of annual operational plans, which will enable stakeholders to get involved in an informed manner and provide their proposal for the improvement of employment measures, policies and services.</p> <p>Essentially, the commitment means much more than simply collecting proposals from target groups and it is set at several levels, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first level refers to the promotion of policies, processes and practices of ESARNM for the inclusion of interested parties, establishing a broad group of stakeholders (unemployed citizens, NGOs working on various issues, businesses, academia, etc.) that will provide long-term input for the creation of a better Annual Operational Plan and the creation of a local network and capacities between the 30 regional units of ESARNM for mobilizing and involving the local unemployed local population and stakeholders in providing input before the creation of the Annual Operational Plan.</li> <li>- The second level refers to the creation of a technical solution for collecting proposals from the general public (those not covered by the first level) prior to adoption of the Annual Operational Plan and evaluating the implementation of the adopted plan thereat.</li> <li>- The third level refers to the promotion and putting the entire system into operation.</li> </ul>		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, international Organizations, etc.)</b>
	<i>Employment Service Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia (ESARNM)</i>	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE)	/
<b>Period Covered</b>	1 February 2024 – 31 January 2026		

<b>Problem Definition</b>
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>Employment Service Agency has an established practice for consulting the business sector and civil society organizations. However, the consultation process and the method of involving stakeholders is not available to the public, which in turn limits the opportunity for all those who are not directly invited but are interested, to ensure their contribution to the decision-making process. In addition, the unemployed, as one of the key users of employment programs and services, except through daily communication with employees, do not have the opportunity to provide their proposals for their improvement in an organized manner.</p>
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p> <p>A key reason for this problem is that the public is not informed about the existing opportunities for inclusion, due to the lack of publicly available information about the method and opportunities for inclusion, as well as the lack of a public channel for submitting proposals and solutions.</p>

Commitment Description
<p><b>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</b></p> <p>During 2021-2023, the Employment Service Agency and Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE), with the support of GRNM, have developed and published a platform that actively generates information on the degree of utilization of funds from the current annual operational plan of active employment measures, policies and services, as well as information on the coverage of persons/businesses with each of them. Additionally, ESARNM publishes a series of statistical and financial indicators that give all stakeholders the opportunity to conduct an independent analysis of the functionality of measures, policies and services. In the same period, ESARNM and ESE developed a standardized questionnaire to assess the level of satisfaction with employment measures, policies and services and piloted it in three regional units of the Agency. In addition, during the implementation of the fifth OGP Action plan, a working group was established and the same consist of representatives of MLSP, ESARNM, ESE, and three local NGOs, but the objective of this working group was only to coordinate the activities under the fifth action plan, but our aim is to be a key group for consultations before creating the annual operational plans therein.</p>
<p><b>2. What solution are you proposing?</b></p> <p>The implementation of the commitment will allow preparation of a procedure for the inclusion of stakeholders that will be publicly available (method, time limits, criteria, etc.), other stakeholders will be identified and involved, and the possibility of electronic submission and processing of proposals will be developed thereat.</p>
<p><b>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</b></p> <p>Establishing a procedure for consultation and collection of proposals from stakeholders for the creation of measures, policies and employment services based on their requirements.</p>

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
<p><b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b></p>	<p>First of all, stakeholders will have access to information on the proposal of the annual operational plan prior to its adoption and access to information on the implementation of previous plans. This information will enable them to engage in an informed discussion and propose concrete and efficient solutions that will help ESARNM to adopt a plan based on the needs of the end users.</p>
<p><b>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</b></p>	<p>The received proposals will be publicly available, and the public will be informed in advance about the criteria for selecting the relevance of the proposals. In addition, information will be provided for each received proposal on whether and how it was accepted (according to the criteria) and, if not accepted, what is the reason for its non-acceptance.</p>
<p><b>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b></p>	<p>The commitment has a key goal of providing a channel for continuous communication with stakeholders, by standardizing the consultation procedure and opening the possibility for electronic submission of proposals.</p>

Commitment Planning			
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders
		September 2024	Lead: ESARNM

			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Other
			2.1.1 Preparation of a procedure for collecting proposals and conducting a public consultation prior to the adoption of the Annual Operational Plan of active measures, programs and services for employment.	Prepared and published procedure	
2.1.2 Creating a base of NGOs, academia, business, unemployed, who have an interest in being consulted by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and ESARNM prior to the preparation and adoption of the Annual Operational Plan.	Created base	September 2024	ESARNM, MLSP	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE)	/
2.1.3 Development of a consultation section on the ESARNM site.	Developed consultation section on ESARNM site.	December 2024	ESARNM, MLSP	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE)	/
2.1.4 Putting the procedure and the consultation section into operation during the adoption of the 2026 Annual Operational Plan	Conducted one round of consultations and included proposals in the 2026 Annual Operational Plan	December 2025	ESARNM, MLSP	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE)	/

<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<b>2.2 INTRODUCE COMPULSORY TRAINING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVANTS ON TOPICS RELATED TO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY, ANTICORRUPTION, CITIZENS' INCUSION IN DECISION ADOPTION PROCESSES, ETC.</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	<p>The commitment aims to contribute to the improvement of the regular annual programs for generic training of administrative servants, as well as the specialized trainings that are available on MISA's learning system - (LMS). In this way, administrative servants (at national and local level) will be enabled to continuously learn and acquire knowledge through training on topics related to transparency and accountability, anticorruption, participation of citizens in decision-making, etc. This commitment, in addition to improving knowledge, also aims to build continuous cooperation between civil society organizations and MISA in the direction of sharing and using permanent resources for joint learning, building skills and cooperation.</p> <p>In that direction, the permanent training provided by civil society organizations in the areas of interest will be adapted and made available for the continuous skills building of administrative servants, through the electronic learning management system (LMS), once a year, all administrative servants will be obliged to successfully pass the developed trainings related to the topics of interest for this commitment through an obligation set forth by the Government and finally to get a certificate - to have a certificate that he has successfully completed the set trainings that will result from this commitment thereat.</p>		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Ministry of Information Society and Administration		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other Actors (Parliament, Private Sector, International Organizations, etc.)</b>
	/	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE)	/
<b>Period Covered</b>	1 February 2024 – 31 January 2026		

<b>Problem Definition</b>	
<b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b>	
<p>A key problem addressed through this commitment is the low capacity of public servants to recognize, report and act in cases of corruption; the low capacities of public servants to identify and share information and data with the public; and the low capacities for creating mechanisms for continuous communication with target groups.</p>	
<b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b>	
<p>The reason for this problem is that public servants are not obliged to attend trainings on these topics. In addition to national regulations, public servants do not have the opportunity to find relevant information, literature, examples, tools, etc. in one place, which can help them in building their knowledge.</p>	

<b>Commitment Description</b>
<b>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</b>

There is an Academy for professional development of administrative servants within the framework of the Ministry of Information Society and Administration, which organizes trainings to strengthen the capacities of public servants. In addition, every year, following the proposal of public servants and an assessment by the Ministry, an annual training program for public servants is prepared on various topics, such as: strategies, programs, communication, cyber security, etc. The trainings are conducted through the LMS e-learning portal. During 2023, MISA implemented a procedure to improve the functionality of this portal. Part of the public servants in the past period had the opportunity to attend trainings related to corruption, access to information, inclusion of citizens, which were organized by relevant institutions or NGOs. This approach did not allow all employees to be covered, and those who were covered to have the opportunity to improve their knowledge in these areas.

**2. What solution are you proposing?**

In order to enable all public servants to have access to content, materials and training on topics related to corruption, access to information, and the participation of citizens, as well as to enable the continuous renewal of their knowledge, this commitment will enable the upgrade of the electronic learning system with content from the above areas that will be continuously available and updated with the latest information and content. Additionally, these trainings will be mandatory for all public servants and will generate a certificate that will be key in measuring their performance.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

The operation of the public sector as a provider of services to citizens and the business community represents the largest part of every society. Without its continuous improvement, i.e. modernization, the overall development of the country is not possible. Hence, the basis of the action of every government, in addition to policies and strategies, also consists of expert, professional administration. The knowledge and skills of administrative servants, the use of information and communication technologies should ensure efficient service for citizens. With the rapid development of society and through digitalization, the expectations of citizens from the work of the administration are also increasing. Also, the administrative capacity is a prerequisite for the delivery of the agreed obligations to the European Union. That is why it is necessary to improve human resources and their performance, which is the primary task of professional development. In addition to the expertise of the officers, their commitment to high values such as ethics, integrity, responsibility, efficiency, professionalism, and adaptability generate trust and security among citizens and the business community.

To that end, the permanent training provided by civil society organizations in the areas of interest will be adapted and made available for the continuous building of skills of the administrative servants, through the electronic LMS, guidance and obligation from the Government will be provided to visit those trainings and finally to get a certificate - to have a certificate for successfully completed the set trainings that will result from this commitment.

Commitment Analysis	
Question	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	The information, materials, examples, positive practice, and tools that will be presented to them during the trainings will contribute to improving the awareness of public servants about the meaning, importance and opportunities for improving the transparency of the institution in which they work.
<b>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</b>	The information, materials, examples, positive practice, and tools that will be presented to them during the trainings will contribute to improving the awareness of public servants about the meaning, importance and possibilities for improving the institution's accountability for the decisions it makes.
<b>3. How will commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b>	The information, materials, examples, positive practice, and tools that will be presented to them during the trainings will contribute to improving the awareness of public officials about the meaning,

	importance and possibilities of communication and consulting the public prior to making key decisions.
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Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
2.2.1 Signing Memorandum of Cooperation between MISA and Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE)	Signed Memorandum of Cooperation	May, 2024	Lead: MISA		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSO's	Other
			MISA	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE)	/
2.2.2 Identifying topics of importance for building administrative servants' skills in the field of transparency, accountability, corruption, good governance, citizen participation, etc. (example: proactive publication of information, provision of information in a procedure for free access to public information, how to recognize and prevent corruption, what are the benefits of involving citizens in decision-making processes and what are the mechanisms you can apply, etc.	Prepared list of topics. Developed standards (technical and content) that the training should meet. Developed criteria for selection of e-learning materials (next point)	June 2024	Agency for protection of the right to free access to public information, State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC), etc..	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE) and other Civil Society Organizations that will express interest for participation	/



2.2.3 Public call for collection of e-learning materials developed and implemented by civil society and other organizations in the field of transparency, accountability, corruption, good governance, civil participation, etc.	Collected at least three proposals	September 2024	MISA	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE)	/
2.2.4 Scoring and selection of received materials.	Selected at least 1 e-learning material/solution for each topic	October 2024	MISA	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE)	/
2.2.5 Posting materials that should be in Macedonian, Albanian and English on the LMS - platform	Posted at least one training from each area on the LMS	December 2024	MISA	/	/
2.2.6 The government should adopt a decision on mandatory attendance of these trainings on an annual basis and obtaining a certificate)	Adopted decision that the trainings are mandatory	December 2024	Government	/	/
2.2.7 Inserting into a training program - training of administrative servants	Inserted all set trainings in the LMS training program	December 2024 and 2025	MISA	/	/
2.2.8 Notifying all administrative servants regarding the availability of trainings and the need to adopt the trainings.	Delivered notification to all administrative servants	January 2025	MISA	/	/
2.2.9 Conducting the trainings	60% of the administrative servants got a certificate for completed training	January 2026	MISA	/	/

<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<b>2.3 IMPROVE PUBLIC CONSULTATION QUALITY AT NATIONAL LEVEL</b>		
<b>Brief description of the commitment</b>	Timely and considerable participation of citizens in the creation of policies is a prerequisite for a democratic society to be recognized as transparent and accountable, which is why the objective of the commitment is to improve the quality of public consultations thereat. The general conclusion is that the electronic public consultation system (ENER) has not been used to its full potential, and the quality control and monitoring of the public consultation process needs to be improved. For this purpose, the practice of creating and publishing annual plans for consultations should be applied together with a time frame in the direction of greater involvement of stakeholders in the processes, and the establishment of quality control of public consultations (institutions should provide feedback from consultations, that is, to create minutes from the consultative processes, as a follow-up activity with reasons why some proposals are or are not accepted). In addition, greater promotion and education of the population regarding ENER should be ensured within the framework of their greater inclusion with their own contribution to various regulations. In order to facilitate citizens' information and involvement in policymaking, all state websites should have a special section with the necessary information on the consultation processes (consultation plan, notice on public debate, minutes, documents discussed, etc.) with a direct link to ENER.		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Генерален секретаријат на Владата на Република Северна Македонија		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, Private Sector, International Organizations, etc.)</b>
	<i>MISA</i> <i>Ministries</i>	<i>Metamorphosis Foundation</i>	/
<b>Period Covered</b>	December 2024 – December 2025		

<b>Problem Definition</b>
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>The commitment addresses the lack of essential participation of citizens in the creation of policies as a prerequisite for building a transparent and accountable democratic society, due to the lack of clear, regular and timely information on the official communication channels of public institutions. In addition, the perception of the citizens is that public consultations are conducted in a non-transparent and unplanned manner, due to which their trust in the institutions is reduced and in addition they have the suspicion that some of the policies and laws are adopted formally due to the satisfaction of international standards while not paying attention to the local context or strictly for the benefit of certain individuals or groups. At the same time, the platform ENER remains unused in its full capacity as a platform for online public consultations due to citizens' lack of information about it, as well as the low quality of feedback received by its users. The number of comments on ENER indicates the need for increased information to citizens about the opportunities offered by ENER, and above all, building trust that commenting on ENER can really influence the content of draft laws.</p>
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p> <p>A key reason for this problem is that the public is not sufficiently, regularly and systematically informed about the public consultation process, as well as the existing opportunities and ways for their involvement, which is why key policies are adopted without substantial input from all stakeholders whose needs should be met through them.</p>

No institution in the country prepares and publishes annual plans for consultations together with an indicative time frame, so that key stakeholders can prepare in time to participate in them. In addition, the institutions do not regularly publish timely, clear and transparent information related to the consultations they conduct with the public, as well as the ways through which the public can get involved, and there are few institutions that publish minutes after the consultations with explanations for the proposals that were considered, accepted or not. At the same time, the ENER platform is usually used by experts, chambers of commerce, and part of the representatives of the civil sector who, according to their activity, follow the development of various policies and have knowledge of using this platform, while citizens and smaller NGOs that work at local level and are in direct contact with different categories of citizens whose needs should be taken into account through public policies, remain excluded from the entire process due to a lack of information about the platform and the opportunities it offers. Those stakeholders who use ENER are further discouraged from using this platform because they do not always receive feedback on their input on their comments, and in cases where they do, the information is generic or incomprehensible.

Commitment Description	
<b>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</b>	
<p>The efforts so far are based on an ENER announcement tab on some of the public institutions' websites, and some of them leave a link to ENER in their announcements for public consultations that leads to the document that is subject of consultation. Certain institutions, after the end of the public consultations, publish a short news about the public consultation, but without specifying the proposals that were discussed during the consultation, as well as the reasons for accepting or not accepting certain proposals or comments made by the stakeholders.</p>	
<b>2. What solution are you proposing?</b>	
<p>By implementing the commitment, there will be preparation of a procedure for improving the quality of public consultations at national level which will include 1) creation and publication of annual plans for consultations (name of document, time frame for preparation of the document, method and time frame for public consultations, etc.), together with a unified template for plans elaboration; 2) establishment of quality control of public consultations through the creation of unified minutes of the consultation processes (data on the consultations and a link to the document that is the subject of the consultation, those present at the consultation, a list of the proposals given with a rationale for those that were adopted or not adopted) . In addition, through the implementation of the commitment, a plan for the promotion and education of the population for ENER will be created and implemented in the direction of their greater involvement with their own contribution to various regulations.</p>	
<b>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</b>	
<p>Establishing a procedure for improving the quality of public consultations at national level and creating and implementing a plan for the promotion and education of the population for ENER in the direction of their greater involvement with their own contribution to various regulations.</p>	

Commitment Analysis	
Question	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	Stakeholders will mainly have access to information about the public consultations that are planned and implemented at the national level, which will allow them to take part in a timely and informed discussion and give their specific proposals based on their needs as users.
<b>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</b>	The time frame for public consultations as well as the received proposals with the reasons on which they were accepted or not

	accepted will be publicly available on the public institutions’ official channels, which will further allow the public to demand liability from the stakeholders if there is an unfounded attempt at non-acceptance on a certain proposal.
<b>3.How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing and monitoring solutions?</b>	The commitment has a key objective to provide guidelines and mechanisms for continuous information of stakeholders through the creation of annual plans for public consultations, standardizing the minutes of public consultations, and at the same time setting a long-term plan for continuous promotion and educating the public about the possibility of using ENER for public consultations.

Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Results	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
2.3.1 Developing a procedure for the creation and publication of annual plans for consultations, along with a unified template for the preparation of the plans.	Developed and adopted procedure	December 2024	Lead: GS of the GRNM		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Other
			GS of the GRNM, MISA, Ministries	Metamorphosis Foundation	/
2.3.2 Developing a standardized template for the minutes of the consultative processes.	Developed and adopted template	September 2025	GS of the GRNM, MISA, Ministries	Metamorphosis Foundation	/
2.3.3 Creating a plan for the promotion and education of the population for ENER in the direction of their greater participation with their own contribution to various regulations	Created plan	December 2025	GS of the GRNM, MISA, Ministries	Metamorphosis Foundation	/
2.3.4 Implementing a plan for the promotion and education of the population for ENER in the direction of their greater participation with their own contribution to various regulations.	Conducted one plan cycle	December 2025	GS of the GRNM, MISA, Ministries	Metamorphosis Foundation	/

<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<b>2.4 REGULAR AND CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAN AND WOMAN BY MINISTRIES AND MUNICIPALITIES</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	The annual reports on gender equality are prepared by the ministries and municipalities as their legal obligation, however, they are not publicly available so that citizens, civil society organizations can use them, and we can monitor the work done thereat. Currently, hardly any of the ministries or municipalities publish such reports publicly		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, Private Sector, International Organizations, etc.)</b>
	<i>Ministries and Municipalities</i>	<i>Rural Coalition</i>	/
<b>Period Covered</b>	March 2024 - January 2026		

<b>Problem Definition</b>
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>Only half of the municipalities submit reports on equal opportunities to the MTSP on an annual basis. Almost no municipality publishes such reports on its website, nor does it use any other mechanisms and tools to inform the general public regarding the activities undertaken in the area of promoting equal opportunities for women and men at local level. At national level, the situation is not much better, the ministries do not publish the reports on equal opportunities, so the citizens and civil organizations, and the institutions themselves are not sufficiently informed about the activities that are undertaken in this area of social life. All this often contributes to inadequate creation of measures, policies, programs that should contribute to the advancement of gender equality at national and local level.</p>
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p> <p>Unfortunately, gender equality has not been put as a priority by national institutions and local self-government, and in order to make informed decisions on how to advance gender equality, but also how to take into account the specific needs of different categories of citizens. Preparation and sharing of annual reports are a legal obligation according to the Law on Equal Opportunities, but it is not practiced by the institutions. This obligation is defined in Article 12 of the Law, but also the promotion of the concept of gender equality at institutional level is one of the strategic Government priorities, and in the direction of the state's contribution to the achievement of the objective for sustainable development no. 5-Gender equality from the Objectives and Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030. Also in this period, the state is in the process of drafting and adopting a new Law on Gender Equality, which should strengthen the obligations of the institutions towards the promotion of gender equality, and at the same time, to report on the work done on this topic. By means of notification, according to the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, it is possible to inform the general public regarding the current situation, but also to provide information to the citizens, which they can further use to participate in the consultative processes and in</p>

the decision-making processes nationally as well as at local level. (Annual report on the activities undertaken and the progress achieved in establishing equal opportunities for women and men in RNM, 2022, MTSP).

#### Commitment Description

##### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

The legal obligation is set in the Law on Equal Opportunities, but not all ministries and some municipalities adhere to the same. Namely, in 2022, 73 municipalities submitted an annual report on equal opportunities, but not even half of them have undertaken activities to promote equal opportunities at local level, nor can those reports be read publicly on websites or other channels for communication with the municipalities unless they are requested through a Request for free access to public information. Among state administrative bodies, only 33 of them submitted such a report, and according to the research by the Rural Coalition, specifically in the sector of agriculture and rural development, more than 90% of over 500 respondents do not recognize the coordinator for equal opportunities in the Ministry of Agriculture, nor is there any easily available data about his role, competences, etc. Also specifically for this ministry, it says that it did not submit a report on equal opportunities to the Ministry of Education and Culture for 2022, so it is not possible to see what the status quo was with women in rural areas for 2022 so that citizens, civil society organizations and other stakeholders can have the necessary information to know how and in which domain and with what proposals to get involved in decision-making processes herein.

##### 2. What solution are you proposing?

What is proposed is that during this period of OGP implementation, several pilot municipalities and ministries will be selected, and they will work together in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy to improve the process of information and publication of annual reports on the promotion of equal opportunities for women and men. Such positive practices will further serve as an example for other municipalities and ministries, with the aim of being able to fully implement and practice the legal obligation to develop reports, but also to share information with the general public on how citizens could get involved in the processes of creating measures and policies and making decisions thereat. By insisting on compliance with the legal obligation by municipalities and state administration bodies, not only the process of publishing the reports will be affected, but also the quality of their development, the number of measures proposed by the institutions, further, measures will be proposed which at the same time will contribute to the fulfillment of the indicators set according to Sustainable Development Goal no. 5 – Gender equality, and the process of monitoring by citizens will be therefore improved.

##### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing the commitment?

In a period of two years, we would like to achieve regular awareness of the general public and civil society organizations regarding the activities that are undertaken on an annual level, in the area of equal opportunities promotion. This will directly contribute to the monitoring of the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy, and the publication of reports and sharing with the general public will directly contribute to the promotion of transparency and accountability of national institutions (ministries) and local self-government (municipalities). As it was mentioned above, such reports will also enable citizen monitoring in the area, and they will also enable informed inclusion of citizens in decision-making processes. Such reports are of particular importance because they contain data on the real situation with equal opportunities for men and women at the national and local level, then data on the extent to which women are involved in the economic, political and social life of society, which in turn is of particular importance for appropriate public involvement in the decision-making process by proposing measures and initiatives that will reflect the real situation and that will be aimed at its improvement. These reports also contain specific measures and activities that state administration bodies and the municipalities have taken, giving a picture of implementation percentage of annual programs for equal opportunities, where you can often read answers of the type “no activities” or as activities only certain trainings completed by the employees are mentioned therein, which is not a real improvement of gender equality, so this clearly indicates the need for the inclusion of citizens in these processes, especially in proposing measures and participating in decision-making

processes, as in the section of monitoring. It starts with a certain number of pilot municipalities and state administration bodies with the rationale received by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy that it is not possible to work with all municipalities and state administration bodies at the same time. The improvement of the process will be visible through improved formats and content of reports because pilot municipalities and state administration bodies will work together with MTSP and civil society organizations on their improvement, and through their regular publication on the websites of the institutions, of course the level of awareness of the general public will also increase because they will have available information, and this will also affect the increase in transparency of institutions and municipalities.

Commitment Analysis	
Question	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	The commitment will contribute to increased transparency, as well as improving citizens' access to information and activities related to climate change. At the same time, it will make both ministries more open and transparent towards the citizens, and at the same time, the confidence of the citizens in the institutions will increase after they see the joint investments of the institutions in improving the awareness and involvement of the citizens in the processes related to the response by the state and the institutions in view of the effects of climate change and the Green Agenda of the state.
<b>2. How will commitment help foster accountability?</b>	Such commitment will open the work processes in the area of equal opportunities, will encourage compliance with legal obligations, and at the same time will enable an increase in the opportunities for monitoring the activities carried out by the citizens. On the other hand, the institutions themselves will improve their transparency and accountability, but their involvement in the strategy implementation for gender equality and the law on equal opportunities for women and men will also be seen herein.
<b>3. How will commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b>	By increasing awareness in the area of equal opportunities, conditions will be created for citizens to get involved in decision-making processes and/or implementation of legal regulations and by-laws. At the same time, the proactive involvement of citizens in the implementation of legal solutions will be enabled, but also in the part of monitoring the implementation results of legal regulation at state level as well as at local self-government level.

Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
2.4.1 <i>Determined real status quo and challenges of municipalities and state administration bodies in the area of preparation and publication of annual reports on gender equality</i>	-An advisory group of NGOs and MTSP has been established that will work with the pilot municipalities and selected state administration	January 2026	Lead: MLSP		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSO's	Other
			MTSP MAFWM	Rural Coalition	/

	bodies (municipalities and state administration bodies will be selected according to criteria drawn up by the advisory group, different regions will be covered, their previous activity in the field of gender equality will be taken into account, i.e. those who were as active as possible, but also those who did not show any significant activities in the field of gender equality will be selected)				
2.4.2 Improved reporting and accountability of institutions in the area of equal opportunities for women and men	Determined minimum criteria and indicators by virtue of which the publication of annual reports and the quality of their content will be monitored. Carried out monitoring of developed and published reports for 2025	January 2026	MTSP MAFWM	Rural Coalition	/

<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<b>2.5 DETERMINE THE METHODOLOGY FOR SELECTION OF E-CONSULTATION TOOLS AND PARTICIPATORY CITIZENS' INCLUSION IN DECISION MAKING PROCESSES IN MUNICIPALITIES</b>
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	The lack of unified mechanisms and tools for citizen participation at local level is a long-standing problem that we face as citizens, so in a municipality you can see all the tools through which you can communicate with the municipality and submit an initiative, and you have such municipalities where you cannot find even basic information about the activities of the municipality and the inclusion of citizens in decision-making processes. For example, you have municipalities that publicly record and broadcast the sessions of the Council, and you have those where there is no information about when the session was held or what was discussed,



	etc. This is a commitment that was part of the last action plan, but nothing was done regarding it, and it is extremely necessary for the citizens in municipalities.		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Ministry of Local Self-Government		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, Private Sector, International Organizations, etc.)</b>
	Ministry of Local Self-Government	<i>Rural Coalition, ZELS</i>	/
<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2024 – January 2026		

Problem Definition	
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>Based on the research by Rural Coalition, none out of 350 respondents, women, and young people from only two regions - Northeastern and Poloshki, participated in budget forums, they do not know the tools and mechanisms that are available to them.</p> <p>The municipalities are not open and transparent in the processes, so most of the processes that require involvement of citizens are scheduled from today to tomorrow, information is not disseminated, especially in rural areas that do not use many means for electronic communication and information.</p> <p>Ignorance of decision-making processes.</p> <p>Dysfunction of local communities, etc.</p> <p>Only 12% of the youth in municipalities participated in public sessions of the Municipality Council, and only 36% have knowledge of the tools for inclusion in the decision-making processes at local level. Additionally, out of 300 women from rural areas, not a single one has been to a local community meeting, nor have they ever received an invitation to hold a budget forum. Also, out of 400 citizens from all 8 planning regions, even 2/3 do not know nor do they have any information on how to get involved in the processes of providing information at local level.</p> <p>At the same time, we are also affected by digitization processes, so as mentioned above, there are municipalities with which it is possible to communicate electronically on as many grounds as possible, electronic documents are issued, etc., but there are also such municipalities where you can't even get the basic information about the work of the municipality from their web- page, let alone get involved in the decision-making processes. On the other hand, the international community is working in the field of digitization with some of the municipalities where progress is being noted, but there is a failure again by those municipalities that are not involved in such projects. Also, not all citizens, even municipalities, do not know what should be put at public consultation's agendas, so the implementation of this commitment will be in that direction, i.e. identifying all processes that require mandatory consultation, as well as selection of a tool or mechanism that would be suitable for use by citizens, easily applicable and understandable so that it can be used thereat.</p>	
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p> <p>In the explanation of the problem, the reasons for the problem have already been explained to a large extent, namely the insufficient participation of the public, i.e. the citizens in the decision-making processes in the municipalities. At the same time, a coordinated and harmonized approach is needed using the same tools in each</p>	

of the municipalities, as well as all citizens, would be equal in their right to obtain information for public consultations and the inclusion of citizens in decision-making processes.

**Transparency and accountability** of the municipalities is also a question mark in itself, and this is largely due to the fact that the municipalities do not have a positive practice of real inclusion of citizens in decision-making processes, as well as timely and regular information about the work of the municipality. This directly contributes to reducing the trust that citizens have in local institutions, which does not favor any of the stakeholders in the process.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Improving the consultations with citizens is done continuously, so forums have already been introduced in the communities, mandatory public consultations for certain decisions made by the municipalities, the processes for creating e-municipalities with the support of the international community, but as we mentioned, these solutions in a large part are also partial or are implemented only in the territory of certain municipalities. This is precisely why unification of the mechanisms and tools used for consultation with citizens in municipalities is necessary, as well as determination of documents and public decisions, for which consultation with citizens is mandatory.

#### 2. What solution are you proposing?

The implementation of these activities will enable definition of a methodology through which the documents will be identified, as well as the methods and tools for public consultations with the citizens in the municipalities, and in such a way that during these two years we will prepare for digitization process of local consultations with citizens in a way and with tools that will be most suitable for them. Apart from the fact that the documents for public consultations will be available electronically, of course they will be open to comments and improvement through the submission of written submissions and proposals for those who have less knowledge of digital tools, and at the same time in cooperation with the MLS, the local NGOs, such as the Rural Coalition, which has 58 member associations from all over the country, but also similar ones, will work in the field of information provision about the tools and mechanisms available to citizens for consultation. It is important to determine the methodology, the method, the criteria on the basis of which all the documents that require public consultation will be determined and, in such manner,

give the citizens opportunity to participate in the creation of local policies and decision-making which are of public interest. The decision that will be adopted, that is, the methodology and the public consultations for the documents of public interest for which this will be determined, after consultations with the MLS, will be mandatory for all municipalities thereat.

#### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

Increasing transparency and accountability in local self-government, as well as proactive inclusion of citizens in local decision-making processes are the main results that will be achieved with the implementation of this commitment. At the same time, the capacities of the municipalities will be improved for their prepared participation in the processes of digitization and introduction of the concept of e-municipalities.

On the other hand, the public will have easier access to get involved in decision-making related to improving the quality of life in the local community through digitization and the use of ICT tools.

### Commitment Analysis

Question	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	The commitment will contribute to increased transparency, but also to the improvement of citizens' access to information and

	activities of the municipalities, especially for documents and decisions for which consultation with citizens is mandatory.
<b>2. How will commitment help foster accountability?</b>	This kind of commitment will open up the work processes and the manner of making decisions in municipalities, and at the same time it will increase the possibilities for monitoring the implemented activities by the citizens. Through access to information as well as the rise of opportunities for citizens to participate in decision-making processes, the implementation of decisions and regulations at local level will be improved, and the processes of monitoring and evaluation of the work of the local self-government will increase thereat.
<b>3. How will commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b>	Through the creation of a methodology for the identification of mandatory documents for consultation, as well as the selection of mechanisms for e-consultations that will be most appropriate and accessible for citizens, it will directly contribute to increasing the transparency of the municipalities, but also openness to cooperation, and with that citizens will have the opportunity to be involved in decision making processes, and further in their implementation and monitoring.

Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
2.5.1 <i>Prerequisites created for the introduction of a unified system of public consultations at local level with a focus on digitization and e-consultations</i>	Defined methodology for determining and classifying documents that are mandatory for public consultations in local self-government	June 2025	Lead: Ministry of Local Self Government		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Other
			MLS	Rural Coalition, Metamorphosis Foundation, local grassroots organizations, ZELS	/
2.5.2 <i>Improvement of tools for public consultations and e-consultations with citizens</i>	Established tools and mechanisms for public consultations and e-consultations with citizens that will be applicable for every municipality	January 2026	MLS	Rural Coalition, Metamorphosis Foundation, local grassroots organizations, ZELS	/

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<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<b>2.6 DRAFT A PLAN FOR DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AFFECTING CITIZENS HEALTH, WITH PARTICIPATION OF NGOs</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	The commitment aims to map all risk factors resulting from changes in the environment, which have a direct or indirect impact on citizens health with a special focus on women, children and citizens who live under economic-social risk. In addition to mapping the risks, the commitment aims to create a multi-sectoral working group (institutions and NGOs) that collect information, create policies and can influence the prevention of risks. More precisely, within the framework of the commitment, in addition to the risks, the information that is available and the sources of that information should be identified, and based on that, a plan for centralized collection and publication of the same should be prepared herein. This commitment should contribute in two ways, first of all to ensure multi-sector cooperation and second, to provide information that will help the state in preparing strategies and programs to prevent the impact of environmental changes on the health of citizens.		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, Private Sector, International Institutions, etc.)</b>
	<i>MoH</i>	<i>ESE</i>	/
<b>Period Covered</b>	1 February 2024 – 31 January 2026		

<b>Problem Definition</b>
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>A greater number of institutions in the country create information related to changes in living environment and changes in citizens health (local self-governments, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, etc.)</p>
<p><b>2. What are the causes of the problem?</b></p> <p>A key reason for this problem is that the information generated by different institutions is not published and shared between institutions. And what is most important is that they are not used in policy planning, with a focus on health policies.</p>

<b>Commitment Description</b>
<p><b>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</b></p>

At national level, a series of plans have been created related to the arrangement of riverbeds, water and air pollution, dealing with illegal waste depot, etc.
<b>2. What solution are you proposing?</b>
Institutions and NGOs should create a space for continuous mutual cooperation and exchange of information that will be used in policy creation in different sectors and will be made publicly available for further monitoring and processing.
<b>3. What solution do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</b>
Identified risk factors from environmental changes that negatively affect citizens health, created plan for their collection and publication, multi-sector cooperation and exchange of information and creation of policies to protect citizens health based on a set of relevant information.

Commitment Analysis	
Question	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	Continuously publish information regarding environmental changes and their impact on citizens' health changes.
<b>2. How will the commitment help foster accountability?</b>	The institutions will create policies by combining information and facts.
<b>3. How will the commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing and monitoring solutions?</b>	The commitment has a key objective to provide a channel for continuous communication between all institutions and CSOs working in the field of environment and health.

Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Results	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
2.6.1 Preparation and publication of an open call for NGOs and institutions participation in the procedure for creating the plan.	Developed and published open call.	June 2024	Lead: Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Other
			MESP, MoH	ECE	/
2.6.2 Collection of applications for participation and proposals (including proposals for publication of data and information)	Collected applications for participation and proposals	September 2024	MESP, MoH	ESE	/

2.6.3 Selection and distribution of representatives of MESP, MoH, other institutions and NGOs for working groups (according to previous criteria).	Established working groups	December 2024	MESP, MoH	ESE	/
2.6.4 Holding meetings to discuss the proposals and finalize them (the number would be according to the requirement).	Held meetings	June 2025	MESP, MoH	ESE	/
2.6.5 Preparation of a plan	Prepared plan	September 2025	MESP, MoH	ESE	/
2.6.6 Publishing a plan and information	Published plan and information	October 2025	MESP, MoH	ESE	/

### 3. LEGAL EMPOWERMENT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<b>3.1 DIGITALIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE FREE LEGAL AID SYSTEM</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	This commitment refers to the digitization and improvement of the free legal aid system (FLA) by upgrading and starting to put into practice the software for managing FLA cases, improving the system of collecting data and keeping statistics, ensuring interoperability for the exchange of data with other institutions included in the FLA system, as well as amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid.		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	<b>Ministry of Justice</b>		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, Private sector, International organizations, etc.)</b>
	-Regional departments of the Ministry of Justice  - Legal clinics (operating as part of universities) registered for the FLA	Associations of citizens registered for FLA	European Council / EU  (European Council has been working in this area for many years and can significantly contribute to the implementation of the commitment)

<b>Period Covered</b>	January 2024 –January 2026
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**Problem Definition**

**1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?**

The commitment for digitalization and improvement of the FLA system affects all citizens who, due to lack of financial resources, cannot exercise their rights and freedoms, and especially citizens who belong to the vulnerable categories. The absence of digitization, i.e. interoperable software for managing cases and collecting data affects the quality of the provided FLA, services, the duration of the procedure of collecting documents from the relevant institutions, the transparency and accountability of the Ministry of Justice and regional departments, which ultimately directly affects citizens' access to justice. In addition, with the entry into force of the new Law on Expertise, beneficiaries of the right to secondary legal aid lose their right to a free expert opinion and opinion that they are entitled to according to the Law on Free Legal Aid. Bearing this in mind, there is an urgent and immediate need to start a process for drafting amendments and supplements to the Law on Free Legal Aid in order to comply with the emerging situation with the adoption of the Law on Expertise. In addition to this issue, it is necessary to solve the problems related to several other areas for which the National Coordinating Body for Free Legal Aid has discussed on several occasions, and to overcome which amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid are necessary (such as FLA for victims of crimes, FLA for victims of family and gender-based violence, exemption from "other costs in the procedure", etc., explained in more detail below).

**2. What are the causes of the problem?**

➤ **Problems arising from the provisions in the Law on Free Legal Aid**

The need for an urgent and immediate need to start a process for making amendments and supplements to the Law on Free Legal Aid arises primarily from the newly created situation with the adoption of the Law on Expertise. With Article 62 of the Law on Expertise, the Bureau of Forensic Expertise was transformed into the Bureau of Assessment. From July 29th 2023, it no longer performs expert opinions, but only assessments. On the other hand, in accordance with Article 13 paragraph 6 of the Law on Free Legal Aid, expert opinions for the needs of persons who have been granted secondary legal aid are provided through the Bureau of Judicial Expertise in accordance with the Law on Expertise. Considering that the Bureau of Forensic Expertise as such no longer exists, users of secondary legal aid were left without access to the services of an expert. In practice, this gap can have particularly severe consequences in relation to persons, because expert reports are a particularly important means of evidence in civil proceedings, which according to Article 235 of the Law on Civil Procedure is usually submitted with the lawsuit or with the response to the lawsuit. What is necessary to arrange are: a) the entities that will be able to perform expertise in cases for which FLA has been approved; b) the method of selection of the subjects in an individual case, taking into account the rules of procedural laws; c) the procedure for making a skilled finding and opinion as well as giving a statement in the context of the FLA; and d) the procedure for payment of the award and expenses of the expert. In order to regulate these circumstances, it is necessary to amend the Law on Free Legal Aid, which should be carried out by a working group in which all stakeholders, including experts, will participate, regardless of how they will be organized thereat.

In addition to the problem of expert evidence, particularly important issues that should be regulated by the amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid are:

- The absence of a clear and unequivocal right of FLA for the victims of crimes as damaged in the criminal procedure, which limits the possibility of the victims to protect and exercise their rights in the criminal procedure. This is contrary to EU law, in particular the Victims' Rights Directive;
- Ensuring access to secondary legal assistance for victims of family and gender-based violence without determining property status;
- The absence of provisions regulating the exemption from the so-called "other costs in the procedure" (eg. costs for a temporary representative, super expert evidence, inspection, etc.) which results in practice, although

according to the law the beneficiaries are free of charge, they are still forced to pay them in order to continue the procedure.

- Expansion of the legal issues for which a secondary procedure can be approved by including procedures that disproportionately affect poor people (eg. procedure for determining and collecting a debt before notaries i.e. executors, disputes regarding public and communal services, etc.);
- Harmonize the approval terms and conditions for secondary legal aid with the standards established in the practice by the European Court of Human Rights;
- Alignment of incomes that are not considered income with the new model of social protection established by the Law on Social Protection of 2019;
- Deleting the engine displacement requirement and limiting the ownership of only one registered motor vehicle regardless of the vehicle's performance;
- Beneficiaries of cash compensation from social assistance as a result of their financial situation when submitting a request for secondary legal assistance should not be subject to a financial inspection.

➤ **Lack of digitalization in the free legal aid system**

The process of developing software for managing FLA cases was started by the Ministry of Justice, but it is not functional and is not used in practice. The absence of such software makes it difficult to collect data, keep relevant statistics and plan policies. In addition, the absence of interoperability with other institutions complicates the process of the regional departments of the Ministry of Justice for obtaining data from other relevant authorities (such as the Center for Social Affairs, Public Revenue Office, Ministry of Interior, Cadastre, etc.), which significantly slows down and complicates the process of approving requests for secondary legal aid.

**Commitment Description?**

**1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?**

➤ **In view of the required legal amendments**

The National Coordination Body for FLA (in which all stakeholders are members: MoJ and its regional departments, Bar Chamber, authorized associations and legal clinics) with the support of the European Council in 2022 identified problems in the Law on FLA arising from the practice of providers and prepared an [Analysis on the need for amendments to the Law on FLA](#), which lists the key issues that the amendments should cover.

The problem of expert evidences was discussed at the last [13-th meeting of the National Coordinating Body for FLA](#) after the adoption of the new Law on Expert Evidence, which resulted in a recommendation for urgent and immediate amendments to the Law on Free legal Aid. A letter with the opinion of the National Coordinating Body for FLA was sent to the Minister of Justice and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice.

➤ **In view of digitalization of the FLA system**

As mentioned above, case management software for the FLA was developed by the Ministry of Justice, but it was never put into practice. Some trainings on the application of the software were conducted for employees in the regional departments of the MoJ, but without much success (partly due to the insufficient IT skills of the employees in the regional departments, and partly due to shortcomings in the software itself).

**2. What solution are you proposing?**

➤ **In view of legal amendments**

It is necessary to urgently and immediately establish a working group by the Ministry of Justice for amendments and supplements to the Law on Free Legal Aid with the involvement of all stakeholders and a discussion of all identified shortcomings that cause problems in the use of these services by citizens. The Council of Europe and authorized citizens' associations and legal clinics should be involved in this process thereat.



➤ **In view of the digitalization process**

It is necessary to identify the problems of the already existing FLA case management software of the Ministry of Justice and upgrade it, as well as trainings for the employees of the regional departments (both for the acquisition of basic IT skills and trainings for the use of the software itself). In addition, it is necessary to ensure the interoperability of the software with the software of other institutions and to ensure the access of the employees in the regional departments to the relevant data necessary for deciding on the requests for the provision of secondary legal aid.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

The problems faced by citizens when using FLA services, access to justice for all is strengthened, data collection, statistics management, transparency of FLA providers are removed with this commitment, policy making in this area are improved, the confidence of citizens in the institutions/organizations that provide FLA is strengthened and the number of people who benefit from FLA increases.

Commitment Analysis	
Question	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	Digitization in this area will significantly improve transparency in the management of FLA cases, the quality of annual reports and the possession of statistical data, which will significantly improve awareness among citizens. In addition, the proposed amendments to the legal solutions would improve the access to justice for the citizens, which would increase the range of users of these services, and thus the trust in the institutions.
<b>2. How will commitment help foster accountability?</b>	The digitization and revitalization of the FLA case management software will significantly help the tracking of cases and the preparation of reports, and thus the accountability of the Ministry of Justice and regional departments towards the citizens. In addition, this commitment is expected to support the accountability of the Ministry of Justice because it will launch an initiative to improve regulations, which in itself would mean bringing justice closer to citizens and especially to the poor population.
<b>3. How will commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b>	Associations of citizens registered for providing FLA as well as other relevant associations of citizens are actively involved in the work of the National Coordinating Body for FLA, from where the main proposals for amendments to the Law on FLA derive. It is expected that they will also be part of the working group for the preparation of the amendments to the Law, where the problems arising in practice for the citizens will be discussed jointly with all stakeholders.

Commitment Planning			
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders
		December 2024	Lead: Ministry of Justice

3.1.1 Formation of a working group for amendments and additions to the Law on FLA	Implemented amendments to the Law on FLA in the area of already identified problems		Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Other:
			MoJ, Legal Clinics (at the Universities) authorized for FLA provision	All authorized Citizens associations	European Council/ EU
3.1.2 Identifying the gaps in the existing software of the Ministry of Justice for the management of FLA cases and determining the problems for its non-functioning in practice	Clearly identified software gaps and suggestions for its upgrade	December 2024	MoJ	/	European Council/ EU
3.1.3 Improvement and upgrade of the software of the Ministry of Justice for the management of FLA cases	Upgraded case management software, applicable in practice	December 2025	MoJ	/	European Council/ EU
3.1.4 Trainings for MoJ staff (FLA Department and Regional Departments) on IT skills and application of FLA case management software	Trained employees to use the software and start using it in practice	January 2026	MoJ	/	European Council/ EU
3.1.5 Informative activities for the	Various informative activities,	January 2026			

promotion of the new amendments to the Law on FLA (after the implementation of activity number 1)	promotional events, open days, micro promotions in different cities, promotions through social and traditional media		Legal Clinics (at the Universities) authorized for FLA provision	All authorized Citizens associations	European Council/ EU
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<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<b>3.2 PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	<p>The commitment is aimed at raising public awareness and educating practitioners from competent institutions for the prevention of domestic violence. Namely, in addition to the legal regulation of domestic violence since 2004, women still do not recognize separate forms of domestic violence, such as psychological and economic, and are not familiar with the legal protection mechanisms. Hence the need for continuous systemic education of practitioners from the police, courts, PPO, SWCs, health facilities and other institutions that are involved in the protection system. Despite the fact that the NAP for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention 2018-2023 and the Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. /04 and RSM No. 24/21) single out prevention as a priority area of action, which does not include the allocation of funds and the implementation of preventive measures. Vulnerable groups of women, such as women living in rural areas, women with disabilities, and members of ethnic minorities, are particularly affected by such situations. The commitment envisages the implementation of a comprehensive national campaign to inform the public, and especially vulnerable groups of women, about the nature of domestic violence and the legal obligations of the institutions responsible for reporting violence against women and domestic violence, as well as the education of practitioners from these institutions.</p>		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Ministry of Interior Affairs (Moi)		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, Private Sector, International Organizations, etc.)</b>

	<p><i>MoJ and Basic Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices</i></p> <p><i>MLSP and SWCs</i></p> <p><i>MoH and health institutions</i></p> <p><i>Local-Self Government Units</i></p>	<p><i>Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE) and other CSOs</i></p>	<p>Parliament,</p> <p>Private Sector,</p> <p>International Organizations</p>
<b>Period Covered</b>	February 2024 – January 2026		

Problem Definition
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p><b>Insufficient prevention of domestic violence, due to insufficient public understanding of the nature of domestic violence and legal mechanisms for protection, as well as the necessity of further education of practitioners from the police, basic civil and criminal courts, public prosecutor's offices, Social Work Centers (SWCs) and health institutions.</b></p> <p>Domestic violence is a serious social problem that is the result of gender inequality and discrimination against women in our society. The high representation of gender stereotypes and prejudices that require a subordinate role of women in relation to men in the family and society is the main reason for the emergence and persistence of domestic violence. The prevention of violence against women and domestic violence has been singled out as a priority area in all relevant documents at international level that have been ratified by our country, including the European Council's Convention on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). For the effective handling of domestic violence, it is necessary to improve public awareness of gender equality, the nature and characteristics of domestic violence, as well as the legal mechanisms within the civil legal and criminal legal system of protection established since 2004. Namely, criminal legal protection is provided through the incrimination of acts of domestic violence and the application of a stricter punishment policy to perpetrators, while civil legal protection of victims of domestic violence is provided through the imposition of temporary measures for protection against domestic violence. Despite this legal regulation, in practice there is still a lack of effective protection for women who have suffered domestic violence. This situation is due to the failure to provide the necessary budgetary and human resources for the implementation of the institutions' legal obligations, as well as the failure to overcome long-term systemic problems, including insufficient information to the general public, as well as the need for systematic education of the practitioners from the competent institutions that are involved in the protection system. <b>There is no implementation of a comprehensive national campaign to inform the public, especially the vulnerable categories of women, about the nature of domestic violence.</b> Women still do not recognize separate forms of domestic violence (psychological and economic violence) and are not familiar with the criminal procedure for crimes committed as a result of domestic violence. The same applies to the procedure for imposing temporary measures for protection against domestic violence. Women are not familiar with their legally guaranteed rights in the procedures that lead them to solve problems arising from</p>

domestic violence, such as divorce, custody and alimention for children, division of property, compensation for damage, etc. Due to the costs related to domestic violence and the unfavorable financial situation, the victims are not able to seek an effective judicial resolution of the mentioned problems, and at the same time, they are not aware of and do not use the right to exemption from paying costs in the proceedings in accordance with the Law on Civil Procedure and the right to free legal (secondary) legal aid according to the Law on Free Legal Aid. **It is precisely for this reason that it is necessary to establish a systematic continuous education of the practitioners from the institutions that are involved in providing aid and support to the victims.**

In this regard, existing empirical research and official statistics on reported cases of domestic violence show that in the last 20 years there has been a continuous trend of high representation of domestic violence. Research on violence against women in the Republic of North Macedonia shows that 44% of women have experienced psychological violence from an intimate partner, and 60% believe that domestic violence is quite widespread in the country. 48% of the women in the country think that domestic violence is a private matter that should be dealt with at home, compared to women from countries across the EU. Even two-thirds are not sufficiently informed about what to do in case of violence, while only 2% of those who have suffered domestic violence reported it to the police (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - OSCE 2019, Report on Violence against Women in North Macedonia, Women's Well-being and Security). The statistical data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on domestic violence in the period 2017-2023 show a trend of continuous increase in the number of reported cases on an annual basis. In 2022, the highest number of cases were recorded, i.e. 1117 crimes, 366 misdemeanors and as many as 4421 complaints as a result of domestic violence. This trend will continue in 2023, i.e. in the period from January to September 2023 (9 months) a total of 841 crimes, 245 misdemeanors and as many as 3776 complaints were recorded (Ministry of Interior, Domestic Violence Statistics for 2017-2022 and quarterly statistical data for 2023).

This commitment includes measures to overcome the justified systemic deficiencies in dealing with domestic violence in the field of prevention, through planning and implementation of activities to improve understanding by the general public and mandatory education of practitioners from competent institutions and allocation of the necessary resources for their implementation herein.

## **2. What are the causes of the problem?**

**One of the main reasons for such situations is the "neglect" of the prevention of domestic violence by the state,** despite the fact that policies and laws impose an obligation to allocate budget funds for the implementation of activities to raise public awareness and educate practitioners from the institutions involved in the protection system.

The NAP for the implementation of the Convention of the Council of Europe 2018-2023 and the Law on prevention and protection against violence against women and domestic violence single out prevention as a priority area of action, but the allocation of financial resources and the implementation of the foreseen preventive activities towards the general and professional public are missing. Namely, article 27 of the Law on prevention and protection from violence against women and domestic violence, states that the competences of the state administration bodies, LSGUs and legal entities exercising public powers will be implemented by providing financial resources within the departmental budgets. Article 34 of the Law regulates the obligation to adopt a program for preventive measures and activities and conduct a campaign and establish a system for regular publication of data on prevention of violence. The law also provides for explicit individual obligations to create prevention policies and provide financial resources for their implementation by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (Art. 17), the

Ministry of Internal Affairs (Art. 18), the Ministry of Health (Art. 19), the Ministry of Justice (Art. 20) and Local Self-Government Units (Art. 21).

The justification for this commitment is greater if it is taken into account that international bodies for monitoring the implementation of standards for women's human rights, such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at the United Nations (UN), continuously indicate the need to undertake preventive actions by the state. The need to intensify and diversify the activities for raising public awareness is also emphasized in the first report on the evaluation of the RNM by the Expert Group of the Council of Europe on combating violence against women and domestic violence - GREVIO, the body for monitoring the implementation of the Convention on combating violence against women and domestic violence of the Council of Europe (Istanbul Convention)

## Commitment Description

### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

Until now, the state's approach was mainly declarative and consisted of the adoption of strategies, policies and laws without providing the necessary preconditions for their implementation in practice. Although the prevention of domestic violence, i.e. the need to undertake activities to raise public awareness and educate practitioners by competent institutions, is recognized as one of the priority areas of action in policies and laws in the field of gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence, however, the effective implementation of the planned goals, measures and activities in this field is still missing. All the more so that the explicit legal obligations for providing financial resources from the Law on prevention and protection against violence against women and family violence, explained earlier, are not implemented either.

The efforts so far in the field of raising public awareness and educating practitioners have been undertaken mainly at the initiative of international and civil society organizations, which were declaratively supported by the competent ministries and institutions. However, the limited coverage of the population with these campaigns (especially the population from rural areas) and their dependence on donor support directly reflects on the impact they have at national level.

### 2. What solution are you proposing?

The planning and implementation of comprehensive preventive activities by the competent ministries and institutions involved in the domestic violence protection system will directly contribute to the recognition of violence and will encourage women to report it, while at the same time enabling the improvement of actions by practitioners from competent institutions. The focus will be on intensifying the implementation of legal obligations regarding the prevention of domestic violence by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is the leading ministry for the implementation of the planned activities, taking into account that the police is the entry point in the criminal-legal system for protection against domestic violence, and also has a very significant role in the implementation of the emergency protection measure "removal of the perpetrator from the home" and "restraining orders", as well as in relation to the temporary measures of protection that make up the civil legal system of protection. The Ministry of Justice will be actively involved in the

implementation of the planned activities, and other entities will be invited to join the working group, such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, LSGUs and others.

The starting point for the implementation of the commitment is the preparation of a Plan by competent ministries for prevention of domestic violence, which will cover two priority areas of action:

1. Raising public awareness, especially for vulnerable groups of women, about the nature of violence against women and domestic violence, the mechanisms for protection of legally guaranteed rights, through a comprehensive national campaign in urban and rural areas, using "traditional" and alternative channels for communication with the public.
2. Improved capacities of practitioners from the police, civil and criminal judges and public prosecutors to deal with domestic violence, through the organization of initial and continuous trainings, including other types of educational events.

For each of the priority areas, specific measures, indicators, commitment leads and the necessary budget funds for their implementation will be specified therein. Planning will be based on the experience and needs of women who have suffered domestic violence and the practitioners themselves involved in the protection system, thus promoting evidence-based planning. Preparation of the plan and preparatory activities for its implementation undertaken in 2024, implementation will begin starting from 2025. It is significant to note that the commitment foresees the continuation of the activities regarding domestic violence contained in the current NAP for OGP 2021-2023, such as regular publication of data on the reported cases and measures undertaken to protect the victims.

### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

1. Raised level of public awareness regarding the nature, characteristics and consequences of domestic violence, as well as legal protection mechanisms. The commitment should result in the recognition of domestic violence, mandatory reporting to institutions, familiarity with legal protection mechanisms, such as criminal procedure for crimes committed as a result of domestic violence and the civil procedure for imposing temporary protection measures, as well as legal guaranteed rights such as the right to exemption from payment of costs and the right to free legal aid in civil court proceedings.
2. The actions of the police, criminal and civil judges and public prosecutors have improved as a result of the strengthened knowledge and skills through continuous education. Practitioners will acquire appropriate knowledge and skills to improve individual aspects of their actions and ensure effective protection and resolution of specific problems of women who have suffered domestic violence.

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
1. How will the commitment promote transparency?	<p>➤ <b>THE COMMITMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR TRANSPARENCY because:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enables access to new information and more information for the public, victims of domestic violence and practitioners from institutions and justice</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improves the quality of information, by developing and communicating special messages for each target group</li> <li>Improves accessibility to information about domestic violence through proactive involvement of the police and the judiciary</li> </ul>
<b>2. How will commitment help foster accountability?</b>	<p>➤ <b>THE COMMITMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR ACCOUNTABILITY because:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates/improves rules, regulations and mechanisms for public accountability of officials, by improving the behavior of institutions and the judiciary and the public periodic publication of data on reported cases and actions taken</li> </ul>
<b>3. How will commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b>	<p>➤ <b>THE COMMITMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR CIVIL PARTICIPATION because:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates/improves opportunities and conditions for public participation and influence in decision-making, by planning preventive measures based on the specific needs of women who have suffered domestic violence, including vulnerable groups, such as women from rural areas, ethnic minorities and women with disabilities</li> <li>Creates/improves an enabling environment for civil society by solving long-term problems at preventive level that civil organizations working for gender equality and protection from gender-based violence have continuously advocated for 20 years</li> </ul>

Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
3.2.1 Develop a Plan for the prevention of domestic violence	Adopted Plan for prevention of domestic violence, which includes:  - raising public awareness about the nature and mechanisms for protection against domestic violence	Mart - October 2024	lead: Ministry of Interior Affairs		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Other
			Ministry of Justice (regional departments of justice, PPOs, basic courts)	ESE and other CSOs	Private Sector  International



	- implementation of education of practitioners		MLSP (Social Work Centers), MoH (health facilities), Local Self-Government Units  Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE)		Organizations
3.2.2 Promote educational materials to raise public awareness and the role of practitioners	- Drafted manual for raising public awareness about the nature of domestic violence and the procedures before the competent institutions  - Development of materials (programs and guidelines for education of practitioners)	Juni – December 2024			
3.2.3 Hold (two) workshops for practitioners to familiarize themselves with the prevention plan and promotional-preventive materials	-Improved communication between practitioners on how to inform the public	January – February 2025	Lead Institution  Ministry of Interior  Support:  Public Sector:  Ministry of Justice (regional departments of justice, PPOs, basic courts)	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE) and other CSOs	

			LSGUs		
3.2.4 Holding four information tribunals for the general public in four cities and distributing promotional materials in 78 police stations, 27 Basic Courts, 22 Public Prosecutor's Offices,	Raised public awareness about the nature and legal mechanisms for protection against domestic violence	April–October 2025	Lead Institution Ministry of Interior Support: Public Sector: Ministry of Justice (regional departments of justice, PPOs, basic courts) LSGUs	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE) and other CSOs	
3.2.5 To conduct two trainings for practitioners to improve their handling in domestic violence cases	Improved knowledge and skills of practitioners when acting within the framework of the criminal justice system for protection, emergency measures and temporary measures for protection against domestic violence	May 2025 – January 2026			

#### 4. DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

<b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b>	<b>4.1 DIGITALIZATION OF PROCESSES FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING OF POLITICAL PARTIES</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	The aim of the commitment is to enable systemic transparency of funding political parties because it has been identified that the current manners of financing political parties create a favorable environment for corruption. Namely, through the financing of political parties, opportunities are opened for the creation of strong connections and strong positions that can later (from the position of the government-donor) be used for corruption. Therefore, in order to strengthen the supervision by the institutions, but also to enable the monitoring of funding by citizens, it is proposed to establish systemic transparency of funding, which means access to the data from the funding of political parties in one place in an open format, but also to simplify the form, content and method of financial reporting of political parties by revising the form and content of the Register of Donations, Report on Donations Received, Annual Financial Report and reports during election campaigns.		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Ministry of Finance, State Commission for prevention of corruption, Ministry of Justice		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, Private Sector, International Organizations, etc.)</b>
	SAO, IRS, SEC, CRRNM, The Council of Municipalities and the City of Skopje	ZMAI, IDSCS, IRI, Metamorphosis, CCC	Political parties - are the main stakeholders in the process and it is necessary that their experiences be taken into account during implementation
<b>Period Covered</b>	March 2024 – October 2025		

Problem Definition
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>In accordance with the Law on financing political parties in the Republic of North Macedonia, the sources of financing of political parties and their expenses are public and transparent and subject to control by state authorities. In order to fulfill transparency in financial operations, the parties should publish the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register for donations, which contains the name of each individual donor, the type and value of the donation, as well as the date of receipt of the donation;</li> <li>• Report on received donations;</li> <li>• Annual financial report, which contains the financial operation of the account of the political party, as well as the sub-accounts of the local branches and the sub-account of the party research-analytical center;</li> <li>• Annual account for financial operations;</li> <li>• For election campaigns: total financial report for the campaign.</li> </ul> <p>The financing of political parties, if it is not transparent, creates an environment in which the risk of corruption increases. If the legislation and the audit by the institutions fail and do not provide transparency of the data on the money, which the parties receive and spend, then the probability of corruption is high. In accordance with the Law</p>

on financing of political parties in the Republic of North Macedonia, the sources of financing of political parties and their expenses are public and transparent and subject to control by state authorities<sup>1</sup>.

On the other hand, the current regulation prescribes non-digital submission of financial reports, which makes it difficult to monitor the financing of political parties by the supervising institutions. The current way of reporting includes scanned reports submitted on paper, which are not machine-readable and cannot be easily and quickly entered into the database but require labor-intensive and lengthy work that leads to inefficient use of human resources in institutions. Institutions are slow to respond because the data is not available in a digital open format in the form of datasets, which does not enable rapid, automated analysis of report data. At the same time, civil society cannot timely and early warn about possible corrupt practices that appear through the financing of political parties.

The supervision over the financial and material operations of political parties is carried out by the SAO. Documents related to the financial operations of political parties are also submitted to the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), State Election Commission (SEC), Ministry of Finance (MoF), which also have a legal obligation to publish the data.

## **2. What are the causes of the problem?**

In addition to the legally stipulated forms of publishing the financial reports of political parties on the party websites, as well as on the websites of the institutions responsible for their work, there is no established format for presenting the finances of political parties in the RNM that would be unified and simplified for search. Accordingly, North Macedonia cannot be said to have a sufficiently transparent and easily accessible reporting system for political party financing, and it is necessary to work on its improvement and advancement.

When collecting financial data inside the party, but also when reporting them to the institutions and the public, it is necessary to take advantage of digitalization. Introducing an integrated software solution, where an authorized person from the party can submit financial reports directly from their spreadsheets, will significantly ease the administrative burden of this process.

### **Commitment Description**

#### **1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?**

So far, no efforts have been made to digitize the process of filling out reports of political parties related to regular and election financing of political parties and other entities involved in an election campaign, in terms of the software solution. Until now, the prescribed formats for preparing reports of political parties related to regular and election financing of parties and other entities involved in an election campaign are in "Word" or "Excel" format.

#### **2. What solution are you proposing?**

A software solution will be made with this commitment that will enable the preparation of financial reports directly on an online system. In this way, at the same time, the institutions will have all the data in a digital format in the form of data sets that can be easily analyzed and processed for the implementation of their legal competences in exercising control and monitoring the financing of political parties thereat. Political parties will be able to quickly and efficiently prepare and electronically submit reports in the prescribed format. The public will have access to data sets at the same moment when the reports are submitted to the competent institutions.

#### **3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

The implementation of the commitment will enable systemic transparency of the financing of political parties. Through a digital solution for the preparation of financial reports, access to a database needed for the analysis of the financial data of political parties will be facilitated, which will strengthen the supervision by the institutions,

<sup>1</sup> IRI and ZMAI, Spasovska N., Trajkovska M. (2022) „Good practices and financial data presentation of political parties and candidates“

but also enable the monitoring of the financing of political parties by the public. Through the establishment of systemic transparency of funding, access to the data from the funding of political parties in one place in an open format will be enabled, as well as simplification of the form, content and method of financial reporting of political parties by revising the form and content of the Register of Donations, Report on received donations, Annual financial report and reports during election campaigns.

Commitment	
Questions	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	Investing in digital technologies to disclose financial reports of political parties is one way to increase transparency. In many democracies (e.g. the United Kingdom, Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, etc.) the benefits of digitalization are actively being used, so that political parties report online and send reports to supervisory bodies, who then make these reports publicly available on their website. Such an online reporting system in many countries is also connected to other systems through data sharing, such as the tax system, the population system and the business register, whereby additional cross-checking of data from different databases can give certain indications of the existence of corruption and illegal transfers. <sup>2</sup>
<b>2. How will commitment help foster accountability?</b>	Full disclosure of financial information of political parties can also serve as a barrier to reduce unwanted influences on them. According to GRECO (Group of States Against Corruption), the system that does not ensure proper disclosure of the sources of income and accounts of the parties, often has difficulties in supervising the application of the laws regulating the financing of political parties and campaigns, as well as in the implementation the necessary sanctions. At the same time, it is necessary to emphasize that the publication of the data itself are not proof of the financial transparency of the political parties. According to the definition of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, financial transparency implies timely, meaningful and reliable disclosure of financial performance.
<b>3. How will commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b>	Financial transparency of political campaigns is one of the most important features of functional democracies. It is the basis for ensuring accountability of political parties and a tool for voters - to make informed decisions more easily, and for institutions to effectively supervise the work of political parties therein.

Commitment Planning			
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders
4.1.1 Identified by-laws related to the financing of	1. Prepared list of by-laws related to	March 2024	Lead: Ministry of Finance <u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>

<sup>2</sup> IRI and ZMAI, Spasovska N., Trajkovska M. (2022) „Good practices and financial data presentation of political parties and candidates“

political parties adopted by the Minister of Finance and legal bases for digitizing the procedure for electronic preparation of reports	financing of political parties adopted by the Minister of Finance and legal bases for digitizing the procedure for electronic preparation of reports 2. Defined dynamics for amendments to by-laws related to the financing of political parties in the direction of digitizing the procedure of financial reports' preparation related to regular and election operations of political parties (and other entities involved in election campaigns)		Government	CSOs	Other
			MoF, SCPC, SAO, IRS, SEC, CRNM	ZMAI, IDSCS, IRI, Metamorphosis, CCC	Political Parties
4.1.2 Adopted new by-laws related to financing of political parties which are adopted by the Minister of Finance	1. Established working group for preparation of new formats for financial reporting 2. Drafted by-laws related to the financing of political parties, which are adopted by the Minister of Finance	June 2025	MoF, SCPC, SAO, IRS, SEC, CRNM	ZMAI, IDSCS, IRI, Metamorphosis, CCC	Political Parties

<p>4.1.3 Prepared software solution for electronic filling of reports of political parties related to regular and election financing of political parties and other entities involved in an election campaign</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepared technical specification for software solution</li> <li>2. Development of a software solution</li> <li>3. Testing of a software solution</li> <li>4. Implementation of a software solution in</li> </ol>	<p>September 2024 – March 2025</p>	<p>MoF, SCPC, SAO, IRS, SEC, CRNM</p>	<p>ZMAI, IDSCS, IRI, Metamorphosis, CCC</p>	<p>Political Parties</p>
<p>4.1.4 Enabled electronic submission of reports of political parties related to regular and electoral funding of political parties and other entities involved in an election campaign to the institutions in accordance with the laws</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopted amendments to the Electoral Code and the Law on Financing Political Parties in order to enable the electronic submission of reports using a digital certificate for signing</li> <li>2. Activation of a module within the developed software solution for electronic submission of reports to the institutions in accordance with the laws (SCPC)</li> </ol>	<p>June 2025</p>	<p>MoF, SCPC, SAO, IRS, SEC, CRNM</p>	<p>ZMAI, IDSCS, IRI, Metamorphosis, CCC</p>	<p>Political Parties</p>

<p>4.1.5 Political parties are trained in electronic preparation and submission of reports related to regular and electoral funding of political parties and other entities involved in an election campaign to the institutions in accordance with the laws</p>	<p>1. Developed manuals for software solution usage 2. Conducted trainings for political parties on electronic preparation and submission of reports related to regular and electoral funding of political parties</p>	<p>April – June 2025</p>	<p>SCPC, MoF, SAO</p>	<p>ZMAI, IDSCS, IRI, Metamorphosis, CCC</p>	<p>Political Parties</p>
<p>4.1.6 The media and civil society organizations are trained to use the data from the software solution for financing political parties</p>	<p>1. Conducted trainings for the media and civil society organizations on the use of data from the software solution for financing political parties</p>	<p>September-December 2025</p>	<p>SCPC</p>	<p>ZMAI, IDSCS, IRI, Metamorphosis, CCC</p>	<p>/</p>

<p><b>Number and Name of the Commitment</b></p>	<p><b>4.2 DIGITALIZATION OF DATA FOR THE PROMOTION OF LOCAL ECONOMIC POLICIES</b></p>
<p><b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b></p>	<p>The centralization of North Macedonia's public policies deepened regional differences. Decentralization through smart regional specialization, based on local data observatories, can reduce these differences. However, barriers to access and gaps in the digital competencies of officials to use this data limit the transformation.</p> <p>The goal of the commitment is to accelerate the decentralization process by promoting a system for building regional and local development policies based on data. This will be achieved by increasing the quality and availability of municipal data as well as by introducing modern tools for their analysis and interpretation.</p> <p>This commitment aims at cooperation with three public institutions in the direction of improving and publishing the local economic data that they have, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Employment Service Agency of the Republic of Macedonia (ESARNM). Thus, this commitment will increase the availability and usefulness of economic data under the authority of public institutions.</p> <p>For example, the IRS has data on VAT and income of individuals by activities and municipalities, but they are published on an aggregated level. The Employment Service Agency also has similar data: the employment situation can be measured at municipal and</p>



	sector level. If these data are presented with a lower aggregation (at the municipality level), then the possibilities for cross-referencing the data and building evidence-based public policies will be simplified and more efficient. Digitizing and opening this data to the general public can drive data-driven local economic growth, encouraging every institution at the central and local level to build informed, effective and sustainable development strategies.		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Employment Service Agency of the Republic of Macedonia (ESARNM)		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, Private Sector, International Organizations, etc.)</b>
	IRS, ESARNM	ZMAI, IRI, ESE	/
<b>Period Covered</b>	February 2024 – January 2026		

<b>Problem Definition</b>
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?</b></p> <p>How much is the salary of programmers in Bitola? What are the gender pay gaps? What is income inequality in the textile industry?</p> <p>How many jobs were there in the ICT industry in Bitola? What are the gender differences in employment in the textile industry? What is the education level of employment in the banking sector? Answers to these questions are necessary to ensure the creation of public policies based on evidence and information. At the same time, these questions are often asked and analyzed in academic circles for scientific research and by civil society organizations for activist, expert or advocacy needs. However, any individual who wishes to gain access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "local income data", it is necessary to submit a request to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS))</li> <li>- "local employment data", it is necessary to submit a request to ESARNM.</li> </ul> <p>The IRS, in order to deliver this data to the individual, performs a service of aggregating micro data collected from the MPIN form. ESARNM, in order to deliver this data to the individual, performs a manual process of aggregating and anonymizing micro data collected from the Agency's database.</p> <p>In order to overcome this problem, this commitment aims to digitize the process of publication of public data produced by the IRS, ESARNM through the development of a methodology and tool for systematization, aggregation and publication. The tool will be made available to the IRS for uninterrupted use. The digitization of income data up to the municipality level is part of the EU's commitment to better information when building public policies and new laws. This attitude was emphasized in the last report on the progress of North Macedonia, where in the section "Creation of policies and coordination"<sup>3</sup> is noted that "Many institutions have not yet digitized their registers. Administrative data sharing should be expanded and data should be simplified in order to better inform on policy-making and new legislation."<sup>4</sup>. At the same time, an increasing number of countries in the EU<sup>5,6</sup>, as well</p>

<sup>3</sup>[https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/SWD\\_2023\\_693%20North%20Macedonia%20report.pdf](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/SWD_2023_693%20North%20Macedonia%20report.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>[https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/SWD\\_2023\\_693%20North%20Macedonia%20report.pdf](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/SWD_2023_693%20North%20Macedonia%20report.pdf)

<sup>5</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Regional\\_household\\_income\\_statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Regional_household_income_statistics)

<sup>6</sup> <https://juhtimislauad.stat.ee/en>

as outside the EU<sup>7,8</sup>, use digital tools to publish income data at the level of the municipality, that is, local self-government.

## 2. What are the causes of the problem?

Access to "local income data" almost always represents a long bureaucratic process that requires a huge commitment from both stakeholders. Namely, on the one hand, every time there is a need for data, the individual has to submit a request (even for restoring access to the same data). On the other hand, the employees of the institutions should act on that request every time and aggregate the data. Such an approach complicates the work of public servants and slows down the process of creating public policies, and this is especially the case with economic policies.

### Commitment Description

#### 1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?

The current practice shows that the largest number of institutions that produce or collect economic data, currently collect the same in a non-standard form and share it with the SSO as raw data. Then, the SSO standardizes the data and publishes them at an aggregated level in the SSO's MAKStat database. The system set up in this way bureaucratizes the process of data collection and processing and places the entire burden for the data on the SSO. On the contrary, European practices show that institutions are the ones who have ownership over the data and standardize their collection, processing and publication/sharing of that data. Therefore, there is often a delay in the publication of some of the key economic data in North Macedonia.

#### 2. What solution are you proposing?

##### Internal Revenue Service

This commitment will provide creation of an automated system of aggregating MPIN data, which will then be published on the website of the IRS (they will be revised on a regular basis). The data that the IRS will make public are the amounts of the average salary, total paid salaries, and salaries by quintiles (lowest 20%, up to the highest 80%) divided by municipality, gender, activity and age group. Examples of such data are:

1. Average salary of women aged 20 to 30 years, with predominant activity of lawyer services in the municipality of Center.
2. Total salaries paid to persons aged 40-50 in the municipality of Tetovo.
3. Average income of the lowest paid 20% of employees in the municipality of Ohrid.

Implementing this commitment will foster data-driven regional growth, encouraging the development of informed, effective and sustainable development strategies.

##### Employment Service Agency of the Republic of Macedonia (ESARNM)

This commitment will provide creation of an automated system of aggregating data from the existing database, which will then be published on the ESARNM website (they will be revised on a regular basis) or forwarded to the relevant institutions such as the SSO. The data that ESARNM will publish publicly are numbers of total employment in a specific activity, in a specific municipality, at a specific point in time. In addition, this data will be divided by municipality, gender, activity and age group. Examples of such data are:

1. Number of employments of women aged 20 to 30, with predominant activity of legal services in the municipality of Center.
2. Total number of employed and unemployed persons aged 40-50 in the municipality of Tetovo.
3. Schedule of education level of employment in the agriculture sector in the municipality of Ohrid.

<sup>7</sup> <https://datausa.io/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.economia.gob.mx/datamexico/>

At the same time, it is important to note that the right to data privacy and personal data protection will be fully met during the publication of the data. That is, personal data of natural or legal entities will not be published in any step of the publication procedure.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

An automated system of data aggregation will be created from the existing databases of the ESARNM and the Internal Revenue Service through this commitment, which will then be published on the website of the three institutions (they will be revised on a regular basis).

Implementing this commitment will foster data-driven regional growth, encouraging the development of informed, effective and sustainable development strategies.

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	<p>The automation and improvement of database systems and digital infrastructure in public institutions significantly promotes the transparency of central and local government.</p> <p>Digital solutions for processes related to economic data reduce the likelihood of human error, ensuring accuracy and consistency of data. Accuracy and consistency underpin the reliability of public information, which is significant for the trust and credibility of public institutions. (that participate in the collection and processing of economic data.)</p> <p>Furthermore, reliable data is crucial for effective management and policy development, as it provides the necessary basis for analysis, planning and implementation of public services and business needs. The activities in this commitment lead to the accurate, timely and transparent publication of economic data suitable for the needs of business operators, local governments, the academic community, and citizens. The availability of data in aggregations that meet the needs of citizens increases the benefits of economic data, and thus their use and visibility.</p> <p>This commitment also promotes local government transparency. Providing data on economic indicators at municipal level increases the visibility of local economic needs and results.</p> <p>At the same time, the activities in this commitment contribute to the reduction of corruption, as a threat to the transparency of public institutions. The automation of processes related to the collection, storage, processing, and publication of economic data minimizes the opportunities for corruption by reducing human influence in the processes. In addition, the effective use of source economic data by public institutions is a significant tool in isolating problematic economic activities and exposing corruption.</p>
<b>2. How will commitment help foster accountability?</b>	<p>This commitment encourages accountability of public institutions and local self-government to citizens by increasing the availability of data that monitor and evaluate economic activities and their changes. Increasing the availability of useful economic data is an important mechanism for monitoring and evaluating various</p>

	<p>national and local initiatives. The different aggregations of the source data of these three institutions (for example, unemployment, the growth of export of goods and the most common profession in the municipality of Bitola) will allow measuring the outcomes of different local policies and national policies for regional development. Making data available in an appropriately aggregated form is a key mechanism for evaluating public policies and their outcomes. In addition, timely and continuous publication of this data will enable monitoring of key processes over time.</p> <p>National statistics related to economic activities often contain significant regional differences. The absence of data on key economic activities at municipal level represents a barrier to measuring and monitoring regional economic differences as well as the effect of various national and local policies on them. It complicates the process of determining responsibility for the causes that contribute to national statistics. With this commitment, barriers to access to relevant economic data that are used to evaluate the effect of public policies and determine accountability for them are reduced.</p>
<p><b>3. How will commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b></p>	<p>Automating and improving database systems and digital infrastructure in public institutions will significantly facilitate access to public information.</p>

Commitment Planning																	
Milestones	Expected Results	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders														
<p>4.2.1. Automated system for aggregating data from ESARNM which will then be published on the website of the IRS (they will be revised on a regular basis).</p>	<p>1. Timely and standardized collection, processing and publication of income data, aggregated at local level, according to an internationally recognized methodology 2. Increased competences of civil servants in the IRS for digitization of processes related to income data</p>	<p>January 2026</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="967 1230 1446 1262">Lead: IRS</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="967 1262 1446 1293"><u>Supporting Stakeholders</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="967 1293 1149 1325">Government</td> <td data-bbox="1149 1293 1281 1325">CSOs</td> <td data-bbox="1281 1293 1446 1325">Other</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="967 1325 1149 1749">IRS</td> <td data-bbox="1149 1325 1281 1749">ZMAI, IRI</td> <td data-bbox="1281 1325 1446 1749"></td> </tr> </table>			Lead: IRS			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>			Government	CSOs	Other	IRS	ZMAI, IRI	
Lead: IRS																	
<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>																	
Government	CSOs	Other															
IRS	ZMAI, IRI																
<p>4.2.2 Automated system for aggregating data from the existing database</p>	<p>1. Timely and standardized collection, processing</p>	<p>January 2026</p>	<p>ESARNM</p>	<p>ZMAI, IRI</p>	<p>/</p>												

which will then be published on the ESARNM website (they will be revised on a regular basis) or forwarded to the relevant institutions such as SSO	and publication of data on employment and unemployed persons and the labor market, aggregated at the local level, according to an internationally recognized methodology 2. Increased competencies of civil servants in ESARNM for digitalization of processes related to labor market data.				
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## 5. IMPROVEMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES

Number and Name of the Commitment	<b>5.1 EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC IN DECISION-MAKING IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES LAW</b>		
Brief Description of the Commitment	The commitment aims to facilitate and increase public participation in decision-making in the area of the environment or that affect the environment.		
Commitment Lead	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning		
Supporting Stakeholders	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, Private Sector, International Organizations, etc.)</b>
	<i>MESP (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning)</i>	<i>Macedonian Association of Young Lawyers</i>	/
Period Covered	January 2024 – January 2026		

### Problem Definition

#### 1. What problem does the commitment aim to address?

Transparency, access to information and public participation in decision-making related to the environment is a challenge that the state faces, and which is continuously stated by the European Commission in reports on the state's progress for [2020](#), [2021](#) and [2022](#). Challenges regarding public participation have also been identified by [Macedonian NGOs](#). Public participation in the field of the environment occupies an important place in international law, so one of the pillars of the Aarhus Convention, ratified by North Macedonia in 1999, is precisely the obligation

of public participation in decision-making, at least for processes and activities that the Convention itself stipulates. At the same time, the European Union acceded to the Aarhus Convention, and the EU itself, with its directives, foresees mandatory public participation in decisions and processes related to the environment. The public (citizens, NGOs, etc.), and especially the affected public (citizens who are currently and/or in the future may be affected or have an interest in making a decision about the environment and/or who are likely to feel the consequences of making the decision, including the civil organizations formed for the protection and improvement of the environment) face difficulties, and in certain cases, the denial of the right to participate in decision-making related to the environment. Taking into account the reports of the EC, this challenge has existed in the country for at least 4 years, and its persistence does not allow the public and the affected public to effectively get involved and influence decision-making in the field of the environment, in a way that would prevent or reduced negative impact on the environment.

The commitment refers primarily to the importance of public participation in the procedures for the preparation and implementation of: 1) environmental protection reports and 2) water resources right permits. In a large part of the procedures related to granting a water resources right permit, an environmental protection report needs to be approved beforehand, so because of that, and in the direction of reforming the water management system and active involvement of the public in the whole process, the commitment it also focuses on the elaborations for environmental protection, as a previous part of granting the permission to use the waters or discharge into the waters.

## 2. What are the causes of the problem?

The reasons for public participation in the processes could be grouped into three groups:

- **Legal** - The Law on the Environment in Article 24 does not stipulate 1) publication of reports on environmental protection, 2) possibility and deadlines for public participation by submitting written comments and observations, 3) obligation to take opinions from the public during the approval of the reports, 4) legal protection for the public and the affected public. The issue has been elaborated in [analyses by Macedonian NGOs.](#) At the same time, although the Law on Water Supplies stipulates that the content of the publication of the application for a water supplies right permit in a daily newspaper and on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is defined by a by-law, which , [has not yet been adopted](#) , and the publication is based on the practice of the Water Supply Sector in the Environment Administration within the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. The last request for a water right permit is from 2016, when the request was not published, only the accompanying letter that the requester submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.
- **Technical** - there is no central place in the country where all documents and notices are published to which the public has the right to submit comments and opinions. Such documents are published in various places on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and on portals developed by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. So, for example: 1) information on submitted applications for permits for water rights is published on the section of the website of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning intended for the Water Supply Sector in the "Publications" section; 2) information related to environmental impact assessment is published in the "Services" section, subsection "Environmental Impact Assessment Studies" on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning; 3) information related to integrated environmental permits is published in the section "Services" subsection "Integrated pollution prevention and control-ISKZ" on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and at the same time on the [REGISTER](#) portal, and separate information is also published on the [REGISTER OF SUPERVISED SUBJECTS AND INSPECTION REPORTS](#) of the State Environmental Inspectorate. Given that public participation is bound by deadlines, on all these portals there is no automatic generation of dates when the document is published, so a challenge may arise in terms of considering the deadlines for submitting comments, and then in terms of deadlines for legal protection, where it is foreseen.
- **Personnel** – Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is faced with a [lack of employees](#) for the efficient implementation of all the numerous competences it has.

Commitment Description	
<p><b>1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?</b></p> <p>What has been done so far is that most of the documents in the Water Supply Sector have been adopted, but they are not properly systematized and are not publicly available so that citizens can have access to them and get involved in the consultation process at any time. Such announcements are not made, perhaps because they are not mandatory according to the Law on the Environment (Article 24), but within the framework of increasing transparency, openness and accountability for what has been done, it is very necessary to do so and in this way all previously adopted decisions and documentation to be successful also in the part of satisfying the criteria for OGP.</p>	
<p><b>2. What solution are you proposing?</b></p> <p>1. Improving the availability and information related to the water registers that are prepared and edited on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning according to the following principle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possibility to comment on documents that have already been uploaded to the website;</li> <li>- Publication of all documents related to the subject <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o For ex. When the Water Department has to publish a request for obtaining a permit, the software itself will provide a field in which the entire request form should be attached, a field in which the solution for the approved environmental protection report or the impact assessment study should be attached on the environment etc. It will be mandatory to filled with files, before proceeding to the next stage of publishing the information on the portal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The implementation of these activities will 1) provide prerequisites for public participation in all decision-making procedures related to the use of water supplies, 2) will facilitate public access to information that will lead to effective public involvement in the decision-making process and opportunity for substantial impact on water management. Hence, the implementation of these activities is expected to fully solve the legal and technical problems identified above, but it will also contribute to the consistent implementation of Macedonian environmental legislation, as well as the fulfillment of the objective of international documents for public participation in decisions, related to the environment in the area of water law.</p>	
<p><b>3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?</b></p> <p>The improvement of the existing registers of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in the area of water law, that will stipulate a mandatory publication of specific documents from certain processes, before moving to the next stage of the procedure regulated by law, will contribute to the full implementation of the Macedonian legislation and will affect the change of the remarks by the European Commission regarding the participation of the public in the processes related to environment. The obligation of the employees of Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning to first publish all documents on the platform before proceeding with the next phase of the legal procedure will contribute to changing possible negative practices.</p> <p>On the other hand, the public and the affected public will have easier access to inclusion in the decision-making related to water management, and the established platform in the manner described earlier will also serve as a roadmap for their successful participation in the processes. Having access to all documents necessary for effective involvement in decision-making will increase public influence and participation in environmental protection. In that way, the knowledge, skills and capacities of the public and the affected public in making decisions related to the environment will be strengthened, through digitalization and the application of ICT tools.</p>	

Commitment Analysis	
Questions	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	Implementation of the commitment will make it possible to directly increase the transparency of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning by making all documents that are of interest to the public available in one place and organized, and every citizen who

	is interested will be able to read them and submit their own comments or observations.
<b>2. How will commitment help foster accountability?</b>	The publication of documents of interest to citizens on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning will greatly influence the increase of institutions responsibility, both for consultations with citizens and in the area of implementing legal accountability or obligations arising from strategic documents.
<b>3. 3. How will commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b>  How will citizens and Civil groups be proactively involved?	The process of availability and opportunities to review the processes and documents will provide possibility to actively involve citizens in the public consultation processes, citizens will have the opportunity to be informed in a timely manner and to react where necessary, and through the strategic processes, again, they will have the opportunity to be directly involved in the implementation of measures and activities, but also to monitor the implementation.

Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
5.1.1 <i>Defined components, functions, appearance of the platform as an integral part of the website of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning</i>	A platform has been developed within the website of the MESP, which will be intended for the publication of documents in the field of water law that are mandatory for consultation with citizens and the general public.	December 2024	Lead: MESP		
			Supporting Stakeholders		
			Government	CSOs	Other
			MESP	Macedonian Association of Young Lawyers	/
5.1.2 <i>Regular and timely publication of all documents related to water right permits on the developed platform and strengthening the effectiveness of informing citizens and CSOs by promoting information about published documents on the communication channels of the MESP</i>	100% of the requests for water resource rights received in the period from 2024-2026 are published on the developed platform and promoted through the communication channels of the MESP	October 2025	MESP	Macedonian Association of Young Lawyers	/



5.1.3 <i>Amendment of Article 24 of the Law on the Environment</i>	The Law on the Environment enables public participation in the procedures for the preparation and approval of environmental protection reports.	January 2026	MESP	Macedonian Association of Young Lawyers	
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<b>Number and Name of Commitment</b>	<b>5.2 INCREASED AWARENESS OF CITIZENS REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF INSTITUTIONS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF INTERSECTORAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING</b>		
<b>Brief Description of the Commitment</b>	The measures and activities that are planned and implemented in the two ministries are, most of the time, not coordinated and there is no regular cooperation in the field of climate change, so the ministries work separately as institutions, although their joint engagement is required in the area of climate change, which will be implemented precisely through the implementation of this commitment. The commitment envisages regular exchange and sharing of information related to climate change, as well as their public publication on the websites of the two ministries, as well as the strengthening of intersectoral cooperation and coordination between the two ministries.		
<b>Commitment Lead</b>	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning		
<b>Supporting Stakeholders</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Other (Parliament, Private Sector, International Organizations, etc.)</b>
	<i>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM), Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP)</i>	<i>Rural Coalition</i>	/
<b>Period Covered</b>	March 2024- January 2026		

<b>Problem Definition</b>
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment address?</b></p> <p>There is a lack of regular cooperation between the two indicated ministries, which is why for a large part of the activities related to climate change that are applied in the area of the environment, farmers mostly remain uninformed. There is no regular sharing of information related to climate change, education opportunities, new regulations, etc., or if there is, then it is only in one of the two ministries. Here we would especially mention the fact that agricultural production is most affected by climate change and joint engagement of the two ministries is needed in the direction of increased awareness of all citizens, but also the application of measures that will cover all sectors that are affected by climate change. In the past 20 years, even if there was talk about climate change, maybe the challenge was not taken seriously. However, it has now reached a point where every step and measure is important to mitigate the effects. Especially in the last few years, our country has been affected by the effects</p>

of climate change, so we have significant reductions in agricultural production in certain regions, and this affects the sustainable development of both the community and national policies and measures. This is exactly why an intervention is needed which, through the promotion of cooperation between the ministries, will directly affect the improvement of citizens' awareness, thus increasing the transparency and accountability of the two ministries in the area of climate change, and at the same time they will provide sufficient information to the citizens so that they can be included in the decision-making processes.

## **2. What are the causes of the problem?**

When talking about climate change, one gets the impression that the two ministries are working separately instead of combining their capacities, knowledge and action on the ground. The same applies to legislation. For example, there is a Law on Climate Action in which there is very little, if any, consultation with agricultural associations or farmers. When preparing reports, especially, for example, for Chapter 27, climate change and its effects are taken from the aspect of the environment only, but not from the aspect of agricultural production or other activities and effects in the sector. That is why it is necessary to improve the cooperation between the two ministries and the exchange of information in the area of climate change. It will also increase the possibility of citizens' participation both in the decision-making process and in the part of the implementation of the legislation related to climate action. At the same time, the level of awareness will be improved, as well as the timely delivery of information to all stakeholders.

### **Commitment Description**

#### **1. What has been done so far to solve the problem?**

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has also developed a special website intended for increasing public information in the area of climate change <https://klimatskipromeni.mk/> but this is not the case with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, so since the information already exists and has been published, it is proposed to increase cooperation and exchange of information between these two institutions in order to fully solve the problem.

#### **2. What solution are you proposing?**

It is proposed to form an intersectoral group between the two ministries in which all stakeholders will be members, as well as coordination of the websites of the two ministries in the climate change section and regular information about the activities and meetings of the two IPA sector groups within the ministries. Of course, during the implementation of the commitment, other measures and activities are possible that the institutions would propose, which will mean overcoming this problem and will increase joint action and coordination in the area of climate change. With the promotion of cooperation between ministries, as well as the opening of a special "tab" on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, where information and opportunities for education and involvement in the implementation of legislation in the area of climate change will be shared, it will directly contribute to greater awareness of the citizens and towards greater transparency and accountability of the ministries in the area of climate change. At the same time, the openness of the IPA sector groups in both ministries will increase, and at the planning level there will be greater coordination when it comes to action in the area of climate change.

#### **3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

In a period of two years, regular information and coordinated activities would be achieved between the two ministries in the field of climate change, as well as joint action on the ground in cooperation with municipalities and civil society organizations. In such a way, awareness among the general public and among stakeholders about the activities that will be undertaken in the field of climate change will be increased and a joint coordinated approach and response to the effects caused by climate change will be enabled in all sectors that are affected by them. In this way, we will create a new practice of information exchange between institutions, but it will also

contribute to greater transparency and cooperation of institutions with citizens, and in the direction of implementing the regulation related to climate change.

Commitment Analysis	
Question	Answer
<b>1. How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	The commitment will contribute to increased transparency, as well as improving citizens' access to information and activities related to climate change. At the same time, it will make both ministries more open and transparent towards the citizens, and at the same time, the confidence of the citizens in the institutions will increase after they see the joint investments of the institutions in improving the awareness and involvement of the citizens in the processes related to the response of the state and institutions towards the effects of climate change and the Green Agenda of the state.
<b>2. How will commitment help foster accountability?</b>	Such a commitment will open up the work processes in the area of climate change and at the same time will allow increasing the opportunities for monitoring the activities carried out by the citizens. Through access to information related to climate change, as well as the promotion of cooperation and mutual interaction between these two institutions, citizens will regularly be familiar with the processes that are taking place in this area, which there are many, especially in the area of adoption of legislation and by-laws that should be implemented precisely by the citizens with the support of the institutions, so it will be possible to facilitate these processes through the implementation of the commitment.
<b>3. How will commitment improve citizen participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring solutions?</b>	By increasing awareness in the area of climate change, conditions will be created for citizens, and especially farmers, to be involved in decision-making processes and/or implementation of legal regulations and by-laws. At the same time, through education, the proactive involvement of citizens in the implementation of legal solutions will be enabled, as well as in the part of monitoring the results of the implementation of legal regulations at state level.

Commitment Planning					
Milestones	Expected Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Stakeholders		
5.2.1 <i>Increased cooperation between Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM), Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP)</i>	Established an intersectoral group or other mechanism that will enable regular communication between institutions in the area of climate change. Determined content that will be regularly published on the portals of the two	January 2026	Lead: Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP)		
			<u>Supporting Stakeholders</u>		
			Government	CSOs	Other
			Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM),	Rural Coalition	/

	ministries in consultation with the sub-sectoral groups of farmers in MAFWM		Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP)		
5.2.2 <i>Increased transparency and accountability of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM), Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) in climate change area</i>	A special tab for climate change was created within the MAFWM. Implemented at least 5 promotional events in cooperation with the ministries and civil society organizations for the promotion of the tab, as well as the creation of a tool for adding news and activities by farmers and civil society organizations. Determined number of visits to the tab for 2025 as a "baseline" for the coming years and number of news shared annually. Promoted climate change tab on social media with the support and sharing of CSOs and the National Rural Network (CSO network established by MAFWM).	January 2026	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM), Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP)	Rural Coalition	/

**ACTION PLAN 2024-2026 OF THE ASSEMBLY TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)**

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a voluntary international initiative based on the idea that open government is available, responsible, and accountable towards citizens. This unique partnership combines forces of the government representatives and the civil society to promote open, participative, inclusive, and responsible governing.

The Assembly recognizes the importance of the openness and transparency of the legislature. Parliamentary information belongs to the public and it is the understanding of the Legislature to ensure openness of data, in a proactive manner, in digital format as much as possible.

The Assembly has determined its strategic goals and priorities in the Strategic Plan of the Assembly for 2024-2028, adopted on 31.8.2023. The strategic plan has 6 goals (functional, open, digital, and secure parliament, parliamentary diplomacy and efficient service).

The purpose of an open parliament from the Strategic Plan, develops priorities and activities related to promoting a culture of openness, involving the public and marginalized groups in society, reform of the Parliamentary Channel, the Open Government Partnership, communication with the public and open data.

The Assembly joined the OGP in 2017 and since then has worked on two Action Plans 2018-2021 and 2021-2023.

The Assembly proposes the following 4 commitments/pledges in the new Action Plan that have been elaborated in this document below:

- Registry of the Regulatory Bodies established by the Assembly
- Informing the public through Assembly TV channel
- Supervisory discussion in the Assembly to conduct the National OGP Plan 2024-2026
- Parliamentary Caravan-Mobile parliament for direct communication of the MPs with the citizens.

Number and name of the commitment	1. REGISTRY OF THE REGULATORY BODIES ESTABLISHED BY THE ASSEMBLY
Brief description of the commitment	Aside from the legislative, supervisory, and representative function, the Assembly has and plays a great role in forming various regulatory bodies, agencies, and authorities, which are directly responsible for their work before the legislator. Starting from its establishment to the appointment of managing persons within it, members of supervisory and/or Board of Management, etc., approval of their annual operational programs, the annual financial plans to the monitoring of their work and adopting the annual operational programs, the Assembly has its role in the operation of these authorities. The Acts and documents that these authorities deliver to the Assembly in the moment are available as points, i.e. materials received in appropriate operational bodies and are available in the e-parliament system and on <a href="http://www.sobranie.mk">www.sobranie.mk</a> . We want this commitment to create an exhaustive list of these bodies, which are now registered by officials as locally preserved lists at the Committee on Election and Appointment Issues. For that purpose, the Assembly has recognised the importance of creating a completely available inventory of these authorities, the areas of operation, the mandates of the managing persons and all attached documents that enter and upon suitable proceedings exit from the Assembly in a form that is public, available, searchable, digitalised for use and from informing the citizens, the civil organisations, academic institutions as well, etc.

<b>Leading institution</b>	The Assembly		
<b>Support from the parties concerned</b>	<b>The Public Sector</b>	<b>Non-governmental sector</b>	<b>Others (Parliament, private sector, international organisations, etc.)</b>
	All authorities that can be subject to this process, can be contacted if such a need arises.	The Parliamentary Institute will consider cooperation with non-governmental organizations that have professional reports or analyses on this topic for more comprehensive data processing.	The Assembly in its capacity will implement the commitment according to the documents and data available to it.
<b>Timeframe of the commitment</b>	16 months, 2024-2025		
<b>Defining a problem</b>			
<b>2. What problem does the commitment address?</b>			
<p>The process of approaching the legislation of the European Union brought many areas where authorities and bodies that would act independently of the executive power in their work are explicitly required. This is important for those sectors and activities to be freed from influence in their operations and leads to the formation of a whole regulatory sphere in many areas that are directly under the authority of the legislative government, where both the majority and the opposition have a role to monitor and control in their operation. The implementation of the commitment as described will proactively provide information for the public in digital form, who those authorities and bodies are, who the appointed managers are, with what mandates with a complete set of data about them. This is expected to reduce the public's perception of the way they work, to the understanding that independent work refers to the functioning and provision of services and that everyone is part of the single administrative space in the state that is accountable to the sovereign legislative authority and the citizens. In addition, it will provide timely information about those management positions for which it is mandatory an announcement to be published by the Assembly so that the citizens be informed and possibly those who are interested can apply. And finally, editing such a list will reduce the requests for access to public information in accordance with the law, from this sphere to the Assembly, given that this information will be proactively available.</p> <p>For a long period of time, the public lacks information about the work of various authorities, commissions, agencies, regulators, etc. The lack of information is often connected to a public event where the media calls these authorities, and a public discourse is developed about their work that they are independent and implicitly answerable to no one.</p> <p>Therefore, parties concerned are citizens in the broadest sense, but especially professional organizations when they seek information as well. All of this is indirectly related to the supervisory role of the Assembly over these bodies and authorities, where it appears as the founder.</p>			
<b>3. What are the reasons for the problem?</b>			
<p>The causes of the problem are linked to the communication of newly adopted legislation in the last two decades, which resulted in many bodies and authorities with different competences. The public wants to know about these bodies, the appointment of their executives, etc.</p>			
<b>Description of the commitment</b>			
<b>1. What has been done so far for the problem to be solved?</b>			
<p>Information on the items of the daily agenda for the Assembly sessions are available on <a href="http://www.sobranie.mk">www.sobranie.mk</a>. If one looks for something in terms of regulatory bodies, one looks in the sessions and agenda items, or in the search</p>			

fields, but it is not possible to identify a single list of all of them and information about all of them in one place. In addition, the Assembly has a portal for open data where there is a lot of information as data sets, but these ones specifically from the commitment are not part of it.

**2. What solution are you proposing?**

The availability of this information defined in the commitment can be subject to a special registry of such data where they would be described in detail and would be available on [www.sobranie.mk](http://www.sobranie.mk). Alternatively, it can be a part of a data set in the open data portal <https://data.sobranie.mk/en/>. We are talking about digital forms of data because now, even if there is an exhaustive list, it is not public and it is not in one place. The problem will be solved completely, because an exhaustive list of everything that exists will be given. The data will be accessible from the web directly, without having to request access to public information.

**3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

The existence of a detailed register will, first of all, allow for easier monitoring of the mandates of the appointed persons, and the Assembly will be able to publish calls for appointments to the expiring positions within the deadline. It will improve predictability and efficiency.

In addition, the citizens will get a real-time overview of what exists, whether action has been taken in terms of the tasks of the Assembly, then what information and reports are offered by the regulatory bodies.

The MPs would have a real-time information if a condition of whether there is a specific competent authority that is directly responsible before the Assembly and not before the executive government, etc. arises in the public and the media.

**Analysis of the commitment**

Question	Answer
<b>1.How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	The implementation of the commitment will signify the processing of information that the citizens will know about in real time, which will be available electronically, searchable and will be published on a proactive basis without the need for a request for access to information or addresses to the Assembly.
<b>2.How will the commitment help to encourage responsibility?</b>	With the publication of the data, predictability is indirectly improved, especially in terms of expiration of mandates, procedure, and deadlines for new appointments, etc. With the register, information is directly provided for the deputies to exercise their constitutional rights and duties.
<b>3.How will the commitment improve the citizens' participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring of the solutions?</b>	The implementation of the commitment will involve professional organizations that have previous analyses of the topic. In addition, in the process of co-creation and consultation, it is indirectly informed about other possibilities from websites or other software for other information. With the public on the register, we also expect more interest from the citizens in the form of a legislative idea or a question to an authorized proposer (MPs).

**Planning the commitment**

Milestones	Expected outputs	Expected Completion date	Stakeholders
Quarterly notification of coordination about the expiration of the mandate		March 2025	Leading institution: Assembly, with a Parliamentary Institute <u>Support</u>

<p>or deadlines for the appointment of new mandates in bodies established by the Assembly.</p> <p>Creating a working group for the description of all bodies and organs established by the Assembly as well as other appointments.</p> <p>Conducting a public procurement if the solution requires a new software tool to be made available on the website.</p> <p>Conducting an agreement Digitalisation and publishing a web page.</p>			Public sector	NGO National Democratic Institute (NDI), Centre for Change Management, and Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis	Others (e.g. Parliament, private sector, international organisations)
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<b>Number and name of the commitment</b>	<b>2. INFORMING THE PUBLIC THROUGH ASSEMBLY TV CHANNEL</b>		
<b>Brief description of the commitment</b>	The Assembly will continue the reform with the full functionality of the parliamentary channel. Informing the public through the Assembly TV channel must be of high-quality, timely, regular, predictable, through non-editable content, live broadcasts, and transmission of recordings from plenary sessions and committees, councils and other activities, but also through design and production of own content from the Assembly TV studio. The general goal of this commitment is to increase the viewership of the TV channel or indirectly increase public information about the legislative agenda.		
<b>Leading institution</b>	The Assembly		
<b>Support from the parties concerned</b>	<b>Public sector</b>	<b>Non-governmental sector</b>	<b>Others (e.g. Parliament, private sector, international organisations)</b>
	Makedonska radio televizija	National Democratic Institute (NDI), Centre for Change Management, and Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis	The Assembly in its capacity will implement the commitment.
<b>Timeframe of the commitment</b>	2024-2026		
<b>Defining a problem</b>			
<b>4. What problem does the commitment address?</b>			



Communicating with the public on the legislative authority through its own television channel is a classic solution for communicating with a live camera and sound or with a recording.

In this sense, the Assembly worked on the modernization of the Assembly channel, through laws amending the Law on the Assembly, with the purchase of modern equipment where 250,000 euros were invested and the employment of a professional staff of 7 people.

The implementation of the commitment will enable its own content and production of a functional TV channel for the Assembly to communicate with a category of citizens who are informed about the Assembly in this way (in parallel with the website, social networks or media coverage on national televisions).

Modernization and digitalisation in society over the years has made a change upon which citizens have been informed mainly from national televisions, and much less from the Assembly TV channel about what is happening in the legislature. According to some studies, there is a category of older citizens who follow the Assembly TV channel more, and a larger part of the younger population who are informed in a different way.

## **2. What are the reasons for the problem?**

The reasons for this go to the easily accessible modern ways of informing through television and especially through internet portals and related news from portals to social networks. Accurate information is also important for the fight against fake news and partial and biased information.

The drop in viewership of the Assembly TV channel is also related to the quality of the broadcasting itself, which has lagged behind due to lack of investment over the years.

The lack of its own program such as debate shows, legislative news, etc. makes the program unattractive when there is no live broadcast from the session or recordings of working bodies.

### **Description of the commitment**

## **1. What has been done so far for the problem to be solved?**

This commitment is a continuation of the commitment from the previous OGP Assembly Action Plan 2021-2023.

Equipping the studio with modern broadcast equipment was a priority and a challenge for the service to describe, conduct and implement it as a project involving equipment, operations and premises.

In addition, changes in the legal framework were necessary, and in that sense, amendments were implemented to the Law on the Assembly, where the work and competencies, the annual work program, annual plan for the type and content of the programs, the relationship with MRTV, financial and investment plan, editorial responsibility, etc. were determined more closely.

The work of the studio is necessarily connected to a professional staff as well, therefore, according to the Act on the Systematisation of the Service of the Assembly, new positions were projected, and an announcement was made on two occasions for 7 vacancies.

## **2. What solution are you proposing?**

The commitment projected here will enable the development of a concrete program for the work of the Assembly channel, together with the establishment of the Council of the Assembly channel which should approve all documents. The Council of the Assembly channel is a legal obligation that the TV channel of the legislator is jointly managed by the majority and the opposition. According to the law, the Council is managed by the Vice-president of the Assembly from the opposition, together with deputies from the majority and the opposition, a representative of MRTV, but also the possibility of appointing external experts with the right to speak without the right to vote. In addition to that, it will be necessary to develop content for communication with the public, which will be produced independently and/or with co-production, involving several organizational units. In this sense, we expect to develop daily legislative news, program predictability, legislative briefs/short multimedia contents in an explanatory role for the proposals for the viewers, etc., debate shows between MPs, etc.

## **3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?**

The general result of the commitment is that the proposed solutions are implemented and the Assembly channel functions. An indirect result should be an increase in viewership of the Assembly TV channel. The way in which citizens are informed is continuously monitored by the Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis in relevant surveys

and studies, and that data will be taken as relevant over the years to monitor the viewership trend. <a href="https://idscs.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/A4_ENG-ANKETA-2022.pdf">https://idscs.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/A4_ENG-ANKETA-2022.pdf</a>					
Analysis of the commitment					
Question		Answer			
<b>1.How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>		The implementation of the commitment will signify predictability of the daily agenda of the Assembly channel (maybe of the weekly one as well). In this way, it will offer a calendar in advance for interested citizens to follow. Educational content will educate citizens on the legislative power. Debate shows will confront views and arguments. The legislative brief will provide an explanation of the proposals.			
<b>2.How will the commitment help to encourage responsibility?</b>		The presence itself in a public medium helps with the sense of responsibility for what is done and said. The implementation of the activity will be directly monitored by the quality of programs on the Assembly TV channel.			
<b>3.How will the commitment improve the citizens' participation in defining, implementing and monitoring of the solutions?</b>		As part of the program activities, there will be short informational attachments for citizens, such as how to come to the Assembly and register for an open day, how to register for participation in educational activities (Children's Parliament, Imam Stav), etc.			
Planning the commitment					
Milestones	Expected outputs	Expected Completion date	Stakeholders		
Formation of the Council for the Assembly channel Engaging external experts in the Council Adoption of the work program Creating content for broadcasting Equipment and training of the staff Engagement of co-production		2024-2026 throughout the entire duration of this action plan	Leading institution:		
			Support		
			Public sector The Assembly, MTV	NGO National Democratic Institute (NDI), Centre for Change Management, and Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis	Others (e.g. Parliament, private sector, international organisations)

<b>Number and name of the commitment</b>	<b>3.SUPERVISORY DISCUSSION IN THE ASSEMBLY TO CONDUCT THE NATIONAL OGP PLAN 2024-2026</b>		
<b>Brief description of the commitment</b>	<p>The Assembly is a legislative government in the system of organization of state power in the country and the sovereign representative of the will of the citizens.</p> <p>In the Decisions of openness and transparency of the legislative authority, the Assembly has been a part of the Open Government Partnership since 2018, with a special working group, a special Action Plan with commitments to the OGP and approaches to external monitoring of the implementation of the planned activities.</p> <p>Apart from this, in the capacity of its legislative function, the Assembly supports all legal solutions that other governments, executive and judicial, propose for the realization of their OGP commitments.</p> <p>Finally, the Assembly also has a supervisory function, and in this sense it is interested in fully monitoring the implementation of the national OGP plan 2024-2026.</p> <p>That is why the Action Plan 2024-2026 projects holding a supervisory meeting in the appropriate working body.</p>		
<b>Leading institution</b>	The Assembly		
<b>Support from the parties concerned</b>	<b>Public sector</b>	<b>Non-governmental sector</b>	<b>Others (e.g. Parliament, private sector, international organisations)</b>
	The representatives of the executive and judicial governments will have the obligation to participate in the supervisory discussion	Representatives from civil organizations that are a part of the OGP Council, but also others interested and/or consulted in the process of preparing the national OGP plan.	Participation opportunity for official representatives of OGP for the region and Europe.
<b>Timeframe of the commitment</b>	November 2024-February 2025		
<b>Defining a problem</b>			
<p><b>1. What problem does the commitment address?</b></p> <p>The commitment should stimulate the exercise of the supervisory role of the parliaments, even in relation to the implementation of the OGP. According to the Memorandum on Parliamentary Engagement by the OGP, it is recommended that parliaments, apart for themselves, should also be involved in monitoring what other governments are implementing.</p> <p>Considering that it is a matter of programming the fifth cycle of the Action Plan towards the OGP, the Assembly, as a legislative government in its constitutional capacity to supervise the bodies of the executive authority, has not conducted a supervisory hearing until now. The National OGP Plan is an executive government document proposed by the MIOA (Ministry of Information Society and Administration) and adopted by the Government.</p> <p>The Assembly is affected by this commitment, because it signifies the exercise of constitutional competences of the legislative government.</p> <p>Others affected are all bodies from the executive and judicial governments that propose measures in the national OGP plan.</p>			

## 2. What are the reasons for the problem?

The implementation of the supervisory discussion should give a report and inform the deputies about the implementation of the activities from the national OGP plan.

In addition, the programming of such a commitment itself gives predictability to the supervisory discussions in the Assembly. Namely, the legislator in the Law on the Assembly has already provided that at the coordination institute, the coordinators of the political parties with the President of the Assembly make an annual plan of supervisory discussions in the Assembly.

### Description of the commitment

#### 1. What has been done so far for the problem to be solved?

The Assembly, considering the fact that it is included in the OGP through its own Action Plan, within the process of co-creation of the document, is involved at the level of a working group of MPs, representatives of parliamentary political parties, employees of the Assembly's service, international and domestic civil society partner organizations. Furthermore, in relation to specific commitments, there are also working subgroups.

So, as far as its own Action Plan is concerned, the Assembly is familiar with it and is implementing it.

The MPs were partially informed about the principles and the nature of the OGP within the framework of various events for the promotion of activities and the partnership. The working group is informed only about the Action Plan of the Assembly, so the Coordinators or the MPs are not familiar with the commitments of other governments and bodies.

#### 2. What solution are you proposing?

The commitment projects the organization of a supervisory discussion in one of the working bodies, with all the steps provided for in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

The supervisory discussion will provide information for the MPs about what the country is doing in relation to the national OGP plan, but in the form of presentations as well, witnesses will be able to learn about the problems, the degree of implementation, leaders in implementation, etc.

#### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

The result of this commitment is direct and indirect.

Direct results are the involvement of the legislative government in its supervisory capacity.

Informing MPs about OGP.

Indirect results are the predictability of the use of the Supervisory Discussion Institute in the Assembly in relation to other topics and policies.

### Analysis of the commitment

Question	Answer
<b>1.How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	In the implementation of the commitment, the supervisory discussion is open to the public. Additionally, it will be broadcast on the Assembly TV channel. The media will also have the opportunity to attend directly. The public opening of the implementation of the policies makes the Parliament engaged in monitoring the work of the executive and judicial governments in the area of implementation of the OGP.
<b>2.How will the commitment help to encourage responsibility?</b>	The presence of the public at the supervisory discussion causes greater interest among the MPs as well. Informing MPs by informing the public and citizens can get to know with what is going on directly and from the source.
<b>3.How will the commitment improve the citizens' participation in defining,</b>	

implementing and monitoring of the solutions?			
<b>Planning the commitment</b>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected outputs</b>	<b>Expected Completion date</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>
Making a coordination decision on organizing a supervisory discussion Determining a working body for conducting the supervisory discussion Determination of the agenda, guests, addresses from other authorities Inviting guests, media, NGOs and citizens		February 2025	Leading institution:
			<u>Support</u>
			Public sector MPs from the executive and judiciary government

<b>Number and name of the commitment</b>	<b>4.PARLIAMENTARY CARAVAN-Mobile Parliament for direct communication of the MPs with the citizens</b>		
<b>Brief description of the commitment</b>	The Assembly holds open days regularly and organizes visits to the building for citizens. This contributes to the process of improving the image of the institution and gradually builds the perception that the Assembly is open and transparent. However, some citizens for various reasons, weather, practical or economic, cannot travel to Skopje and visit the Assembly building. By organizing the proposed caravan, the institutional and civil partners will make the Assembly "mobile".		
<b>Leading institution</b>	The Assembly		
<b>Support from the parties concerned</b>	<b>Public sector</b>	<b>Non-governmental sector</b>	<b>Others (Parliament, private sector, international organisations)</b>
	The units of the local self-government Offices for contact with citizens of the MPs	Local non-governmental organisations	Schools, colleges in the units of the local self-government
<b>Timeframe of the commitment</b>	2024-2026 The activity will be implemented once a year.		

## Defining a problem

### 1. What problem does the commitment address?

The main goals of the caravan are to present the Assembly as an open, responsible and transparent institution, as well as to bring it closer to those citizens who are unable to visit the building.

Some of the key goals will be:

- educational: adults, youth and children as well will hear information about the legislative, supervisory and other processes
- promotional: meeting rooms for the caravan will be the contact offices of the MPs in order for them to be more visible to the citizens
- informational: visitors to the caravan will get to know transparency initiatives, such as the new website of the Assembly, the TV studio and channel, the Parliamentary Institute, etc.
- increasing visibility: the caravan will also be an opportunity to further promote the transparency and supervisory roles of the Assembly
- The "Mobile Parliamentary Caravan" is projected as a wider communication campaign and in order to maximize its visibility and reach to citizens, it will require a slogan (key message) and a visual identity
- The visual identity will be developed at a later stage of the preparation process, while at this point, it is crucial to define the key message of the campaign that will also serve as the slogan of the caravan and will be conveyed in all supporting elements
- Specifically, it is suggested that the slogan be simple, clear and effective, similar to the Campaign slogan "Independent Assembly" - and to link some parts of the key messages from those activities so that there is continuity
- The proposed slogan/key message for the "Mobile Parliamentary Caravan" is:  
„Parliament for citizens" is a very simple and clear message that everyone understands
- With it, the idea is to underline that the Assembly exists for the citizens, to represent their needs, to engage in a democratic debate with them in order to draft legal solutions that will improve life both in the short and long term.
- The subtitle "Open and responsible" (Open and responsible) will inform that the Assembly is open (as well as transparent) and that it is responsible as an institution towards the citizens.
- Using 'responsible' (responsible), it will link to the subtitle of the Independent Assembly campaign which was titled 'For Representative and Responsible Governance'

### 2. What are the reasons for the problem?

The legislature, like the parliaments of the world, and the Assembly are public in their work and exposed to the opinion and insight of the public daily, at least as far as the legislative agenda is concerned. Because of that, the perceptions of the citizens are mainly related to the public events of the MPs, the proposed legal solutions, the debate and the arguments conducted, etc. In general, MPs work in Skopje, although they come from 8 electoral units and from many municipalities in the country. If we take into account the engagement with committees and plenary sessions and the work in Skopje, only Friday of the entire week is allocated for contact with those who voted for these MPs so that they can exchange ideas and hear the needs of the citizens.

The commitment as projected will add more time for this direct communication with citizens

## Description of the commitment

### 1. What has been done so far for the problem to be solved?

The parliamentary caravan in an experimental form was implemented in 2022, as part of the PSP program in cooperation with NDI.

In order for the activity to be implemented more than once, and for the sake of the interest of the MPs and the citizens, the proposed commitment is trying to establish it as a regular activity with a defined work curriculum.

### 2. What solution are you proposing?

Parliamentary caravan will be held in all cities where there is an office for contact with the citizens of the MPs.

To each of these points, an Assembly van with employees from the Parliamentary Institute and the Assembly Service and/or MPs will travel carrying the equipment needed to set up the "Mobile Parliament" point - depending on the locations, or the MP's offices will be used directly or the space in front of or very close to them.

The van will carry a set of:

- a branded banner and a speaking stand
- small stage audio and video settings (PA, microphones, TV for presentation)
- foldable chairs (maximum 20)
- promotional printed materials of the Parliamentary Institute

With regards to the content, in any moment, the duration of the entire meeting will be around 60 minutes and it will include:

- meeting minutes from a moderator
- address of the local MP
- educational presentation on the processes in the Assembly by a JU Representative
- presentation on the activities related to transparency (web page, TV studio, safety)
- moderated Question-and-Answer session

### 3. What results do we want to achieve by implementing this commitment?

With the implementation of this commitment, the presence of MPs in their electoral municipalities will be ensured, they will promote their work and that of the Assembly, they will hear the impressions of citizens from their work and problems that require a legislative initiative, clarification of the competences of the MP against questions and problems which are under the jurisdiction of the executive authority or the local self-government.

#### Analysis of the commitment

Question	Answer
<b>1.How will the commitment promote transparency?</b>	The direct access to the citizens will show transparency by implementing this commitment. With the presence of MPs, assistants in their offices for contact with citizens, a greater visibility of the system for the needs of citizens is enabled.
<b>2.How will the commitment help to encourage responsibility?</b> How will it help public institutions to become more accountable to the public? How will it facilitate the opportunity for citizens to get to know how the implementation is progressing? How will it support transparent monitoring and evaluation systems?	Direct exposure of citizens' thoughts, ideas and criticism increases the responsibility of MPs for what they do before those who elected them.
<b>3.How will the commitment improve the citizens' participation in defining, implementing, and monitoring of the solutions?</b> How will it proactively involve the citizens and the citizen groups?	The implementation of the commitment will produce a complete description in the form of a report of all remarks and ideas by the citizens.

#### Planning the commitment

(This is an initial planning process that, in great part looks at the achievements and the expected results, as well as the key parties concerned that are involved.)

Milestones	Expected outputs	Expected Completion date	Stakeholders

Achievements	Expected results	Expected end date	Parties concerned		
<p>Making a coordination decision for the implementation of the activity</p> <p>Informing all parliamentary groups and MPs</p> <p>Organization of a working group from the Parliamentary Institute and the Assembly service for the implementation of the events</p> <p>Defining agendas, time frame, resources</p>		<p>In the proposed plan, depending on the obligations for the election year, an indicator is placed once a year (minimum two and maximum 3 events)</p>	Leading institution: The Assembly		
			<u>Support</u>		
			Public sector The MPs The Assembly Service Units of the local self-government MPs Offices for contact with the citizens ZELS, local schools	NGO	Others (e.g. Parliament, private sector, international organisations)

**ACTION PLAN FOR OPEN JUDICIARY 2024 – 2026**

**1.Introduction**

Republic of North Macedonia has been part of the Open Government Partnership since 2011, with four successfully implemented action plans aimed at increasing transparency and openness of state institutions. By joining the global voluntary initiative of the Open Government Partnership, Republic of North Macedonia committed and reaffirmed its dedication to



continuously improving and basing its work on open, transparent, secure, and efficient government institutions that communicate and collaborate with citizens.

Over the past decade, the country has continuously worked on improving the efficiency of state institutions, increasing transparency and access to information, fighting corruption, and providing quality public services to citizens and businesses through the use of technology and innovation.

The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia joined the Open Government Partnership initiative in 2018 as part of the Action Plan for 2018-2020. Starting this year, in the fifth National Action Plan (2021-2023), the judiciary is also joining with specific commitments and measures to improve the transparency and openness of the courts and restore public trust in the judicial institutions.

## **2. Open Judiciary**

The first Action Plan for Open Judiciary was developed through extensive discussions among court presidents, judges, representatives of the judicial service from all courts in North Macedonia, representatives from the Judicial Council, the Ministry of Justice, the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, and representatives of civil society (monitoring organizations). Consultations with this diverse composition were conducted from January to March 2020 and involved direct participation of the National Coordinator for OGP and other experts in the field to familiarize the concept of Open Data with the institutions and organizations. Ideas and needs of institutions and the civil sector were thoroughly discussed at roundtable discussions and transformed into the First Action Plan for Open Judiciary.

Leading institutions responsible for implementing the Action Plan are the Supreme Court, the Judicial Council, and the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors, while the plan encompasses activities in two primary areas:

- Access to information and data
- Performance

The activities are planned to be implemented through six commitments focused on: Improving the electronic court portal of North Macedonia, Enhancing public relations of the courts, Improving the quality and accessibility of data and information on the functioning of the Judicial Council, Strengthening the supervisory role of the Judicial Council over the transparency of the courts, Unifying the structure of court reports and data quality, and Enhancing the electronic system for basic and continuous training of judges. The activities are planned to be realized within the timeframe of 2021-2023, for which a monitoring mechanism for tracking progress of the Action Plan for Open Judiciary 2021-2023 will be established.

The commitments from the Action Plan for Open Judiciary 2021-2023 were not fully implemented, which is why they are included in the new Action Plan for Open Judiciary 2024-

2025 due to their relevance and importance for the openness of the judiciary and judicial institutions in North Macedonia.

<b>1. ACCESS TO INFORMATION</b>	
<b>1.1 IMPROVING THE ELECTRONIC JUDICIAL PORTAL (WWW.SUD.MK)</b> (1 February 2024 – 31 December 2025)	
Which public issue does the commitment address?	<p>The introduction of the electronic Court Portal of North Macedonia (<a href="http://www.sud.mk">www.sud.mk</a>) in 2017 was expected to contribute to greater transparency of the courts, but significant disparities still exist in the quality and volume of data available to the courts. The information published on the websites for each court is not standardized, not regularly updated, and not all data is published in an open format. For example, court reports and judge biographies are not standardized, not all can be found on the websites, and in some cases, they are unclear. Inconsistency in selective data publication raises doubts about hiding the published data, directly affecting public trust in the judiciary as the third branch of power in the country. Additionally, courts are not proactive in sharing information related to judges' property status, so links to the page of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) where judges' property statuses are published are not included in judge biographies. Not all courts have published data on publicly available information (contact information, email/phone), and there is no regular practice of publishing data that someone has already requested through access to public information. Openness is necessary to raise public trust in judges, courts, and the entire judicial system, as well as to understand how justice is conducted by the courts. Moreover, openness is one of the main components of the legitimacy of the judicial process and the reason why the public trusts the work and decisions of the courts. The Court Portal is not adapted for use by users with visual impairments.</p>
Main goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Enabling standardized and unified information and data about the courts and judicial practices and increasing the number of data in open format related to the judiciary.</li> <li>-Expanding the volume of data available in open format on the portal.</li> <li>-Increasing the volume and improving the quality of the data and information being published.</li> </ul>

How will the commitment contribute to solving the problem?	The increased volume, improved quality, and regular updating of the data included in the judicial portal will introduce a new practice in the Macedonian judiciary that mandates transparent, accountable, and most importantly, visible work of the courts for the citizens of North Macedonia.			
Why is this commitment relevant?	The commitment enables access to more information, improves data quality and improves the accessibility of information to the public indicating that the commitment is important for transparency.			
Additional Information	<p>Link to Goal 16 "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions"</p> <p>Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.</p> <p>Target 16.10: Ensure access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.</p> <p>This commitment will contribute to improving public accountability of all actors in the judiciary by enhancing and increasing the volume and quality of data on the judicial portal.</p>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Indicators (enter measurable indicators/criteria for monitoring and verifying the achievement)</b>	<b>Activity Implementer (Courts, judiciary institutions, NGOs, or other)</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
1.1.1 Defining the catalog of open data and standardized quality and scope of information in accordance with the previous practice of publishing information on the judicial portal, the requirements for access to public information and already available analyzes for transparency and openness of the judiciary.	Reduced number of requests for free access to public information to the courts in North Macedonia	Supreme Court of North Macedonia, Center for Legal Research and Analysis	02.2024	06.2024
1.1.2 Preparation of individual assessments for compliance with the defined catalog of open data and standardized quality and quantity of information for each court.	Reduced number of requests for free access to public information to the courts in North Macedonia	Supreme Court of North Macedonia, Center for Legal Research and Analysis	07.2024	12.2024
1.1.3 Implementation of necessary improvements and publication of open data and information with standardized quality in accordance with assessments made for each court separately.	Web portal with standardized information and data for the public	Supreme Court of North Macedonia, Center for Legal Research and Analysis	01.2025	03.2025
1.1.4 Improvement and customization of the content of the judicial portal for use by visually impaired individuals, including providing an audio version of key legal opinions, legal opinions, and verdicts of the Supreme Court of North Macedonia.	Established text-to-speech tool on the website of the Supreme Court of North Macedonia.	Supreme Court of North Macedonia, Center for Legal Research and Analysis	03.2025	12.2025

	<i>Commitment from the previous action plan</i>	
Leading institution for implementation		
Name of the responsible person in the implementing institution.		
Function, Department		
Email		
Phone		
Other involved parties	Courts, judicial institutions	<i>All courts in North Macedonia, the Judicial Council of North Macedonia</i>
	Civil society organizations, private sector, multilateral and working groups	<i>Association of Judges, Association of Court Administration, Center for Legal Research and Analysis, Inkluziva</i>

<b>1.2 IMPROVING THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OF THE COURTS</b> (1 February 2024 - 31 March 2025)	
Which public issue does the commitment address?	In the institutional framework and practice of genuine transparency and openness of the courts, numerous problems and challenges arise. Courts lack resources and knowledge to comply with the relevant norms of the Judicial Code regarding relations with the public. Judges do not regularly strive to communicate with the public directly through press conferences, interviews, electronic media, etc. There is a need to renew the link or connection between the courts and the media in order to restore public trust in the judiciary and legal authorities.
Main goal	- Improvement of active communication and transparency of the courts with the public -Establishment of a comprehensive framework according to which courts would communicate with the public and media

	-Development of a Strategy for Judicial Openness -Enhancing collaboration with the Court-Media Council			
How will the commitment contribute to solving the problem?	The implementation of the commitment establishes long-term guidelines for improving the transparency and openness of the judiciary through an established methodology for communication with the public.			
Why is this commitment relevant?	The commitment enables access to more information, improves the quality of data, and enhances accessibility to information for the public, signifying its importance for transparency. This will bring the work of the courts closer to citizens through timely information.			
Additional Information	The commitment aligns with Goal 16 "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions", particularly Target 16.6: Developing effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels, and Target 16.10: Ensuring access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. This commitment will contribute to increasing the transparency of the courts in North Macedonia by regularly sharing information with the media and the public.			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Indicators (enter measurable indicators/criteria for monitoring and verifying achievement)</b>	<b>Activity Implementer (Courts, judiciary institutions, NGOs, or other)</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
1.2.1 Preparation of a methodology and/or guidelines according to which the courts would communicate with the public and the methods of informing it, aiming to cover various topics such as preparing annual reports, drafting annual plans, and determining the format in which they will be published.	Adopted Methodology and other regulations (Guidelines, Rules) for communication with the public of the courts in North Macedonia.	Supreme Court of North Macedonia and the Judicial Council of North Macedonia	02.2024	06.2024
1.2.2 Conducting consultative meetings with media and other stakeholders as direct users of the Methodology.	Adopted Methodology and other regulations (Guidelines, Rules) for communication with the public by the courts in North Macedonia.	Supreme Court of North Macedonia and the Judicial Council of North Macedonia	04.2024	06.2024
1.2.3 Preparation and adoption of a new comprehensive Handbook/Guidelines/Regulation for the judiciary's relations with the media.	Adopted Methodology and other regulations (Instructions, Rules) for communication with the public by the courts in North Macedonia.	Supreme Court of North Macedonia	07.2024	10.2024

1.2.4 Development of a Strategy for Judicial Openness as a 5-year document accompanied by an Action Plan, so that all efforts to increase transparency and overall openness of the judiciary are systematically organized.	Adopted Strategy for Judicial Openness by the Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia.	Judicial Council of North Macedonia	09.2024	03.2025
	<i>Commitment from the previous action plan</i>			
Leading institution for implementation				
Name of the responsible person in the implementing institution.				
Function, Department				
Email				
Phone				
Other involved parties	Courts, judicial institutions	<i>All courts in North Macedonia</i>		
	Civil society organizations, private sector, multilateral and working groups	<i>Association of Judges, Court-Media Council, Center for Legal Research and Analysis</i>		

**1.3 IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF DATA AND INFORMATION REGARDING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

(1 February 2024 – 31 December 2025)

<p>Which public issue does the commitment address?</p>	<p>The Judicial Council of North Macedonia has a dual role when it comes to transparency in the judiciary system. On one hand, it has an active role in monitoring the transparency and openness of the judiciary. On the other hand, it is seen as a passive entity that must fulfill legal obligations to achieve transparency.</p> <p>The Law on the Judicial Council of North Macedonia stipulates obligations for the Council to publish on its website essential data, including: the election of its members (Article 14 and Article 25), processed quarterly and annual reports on the judiciary's work (Article 36, paragraph 1, point 14), records of its sessions (Article 39), decisions made in a repeated procedure (Article 72, paragraph 5), and its annual reports.</p> <p>According to recent analyses, the accessibility of the Judicial Council of North Macedonia is rated poorly, indicating that the Council lacks effective channels of communication with citizens and the media. There is no guide for filing complaints and submissions from citizens through the website, nor is there a guide for the media. The Council's obligations arising from citizen submissions are regulated by the Law on the Judicial Council of North Macedonia. However, there is no information on the Council's website regarding the submission or response to citizen submissions in North Macedonia.</p> <p>The principle of transparency is also at a low level because, despite good ratings in terms of available information about the organizational structure, there are no policies for public procurement, and information related to conducted public procurements is not published.</p> <p>The Judicial Council holds information according to the Law on Free Access to Information, which means it is obliged to fulfill the obligations arising from that law.</p>
<p>Main goal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Increased availability and quality of information held by the Judicial Council, and facilitating citizens' access to submit petitions to the Council.</li> <li>-Standardization of the quality and volume of data that courts must publish as a mandatory requirement.</li> <li>-Establishment of standards and methods for publishing data on the website of the Judicial Council.</li> <li>-Easier access for filing complaints and submissions from citizens through the website of the Judicial Council of North Macedonia.</li> <li>-Improvement of the functionality of the website of the Judicial Council of North Macedonia.</li> </ul>
<p>How will the commitment contribute to solving the problem?</p>	<p>The commitment directly impacts access to information, the accountability of institutions, and public participation in the work of the courts by enabling standards and procedures for data publication and establishing tools for citizens of North Macedonia to submit complaints and petitions.</p>
<p>Why is this commitment relevant?</p>	<p>The commitment enables improvement of the legal framework and accountability mechanisms, making it crucial for public accountability in the judiciary.</p>

Additional Information		The commitment contributes to increasing the transparency of the Judicial Council of North Macedonia by improving the quality and accessibility of data and information about its operations, in line with Goal 16 "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions," Target 16.6: Developing effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.		
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Indicators (enter measurable indicators/criteria for monitoring and verifying the achievement)</b>	<b>Activity Implementer (Courts, judiciary institutions, NGOs, or other)</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
1.3.1 Defining the data catalog based on previous practices, history of requests for access to public information, and conducted consultations.		Judicial Council of North Macedonia	02.2024	06.2024
1.3.2 Preparation of standard operating procedures and definition of process maps for publishing data on the website of the Judicial Council.	A reduced number of requests for free access to public information to the Judicial Council of North Macedonia.	Judicial Council of North Macedonia	06.2024	12.2024
1.3.3 Preparation of a guide and establishment of a tool for filing complaints and submissions from citizens through the website of the Judicial Council of North Macedonia.	Increased number of submissions from citizens of North Macedonia through the website of the Judicial Council of North Macedonia and decreased number of rejected submissions by citizens.	Judicial Council of North Macedonia	06.2024	12.2024
1.3.4 Implementation of identified necessary software enhancements on the website of the Judicial Council of North Macedonia	New section on the website with more information for the media and on the ways to submit complaints to the Judicial Council of North Macedonia.	Judicial Council of North Macedonia	01.2025	12.2025
		<i>Commitment from the previous action plan</i>		
Leading institution for implementation				
Name of the responsible person in the implementing institution.				
Function, Department				
Email				



Phone		
Other involved parties	Courts, judicial institutions	<i>All courts in North Macedonia</i>
	Civil society organizations, private sector, multilateral and working groups	<i>Association of Judges, Center for Legal Research and Analysis</i>

2. PERFORMANCE	
2.1 STRENGTHENING THE SUPERVISORY ROLE OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OVER COURT TRANSPARENCY (1 February 2024 – 31 December 2024)	
Which public issue does the commitment address?	<p>The new provision in Macedonian legal framework, according to Article 92, paragraph 1, point 5 of the Law on the Judicial Council, introduces an innovation. This provision states that the Judicial Council assesses whether the presidents of the courts consistently take care of their relations with the public. The Judicial Council should do this by inspecting the websites of the courts, specifically by reviewing the announcements, decisions, analyses, and reports that are published. Additionally, the Judicial Council should evaluate whether the president of the court is handling requests for free access to public information appropriately.</p> <p>At the end of 2019, the Judicial Council adopted a new Working Order, but monitoring of court websites has not yet begun. To monitor the court websites and evaluate the work of the presidents, specific procedural rules need to be established for this purpose (such as which employee or organizational unit within the Judicial Council of North Macedonia will conduct the inspection of court websites, how this individual/unit will report findings to the Judicial Council, how members of the Judicial Council will</p>

	assess whether the president of a specific court has acted in accordance with the law, etc.).			
Main goal	<p>- Strengthening the active role of the Judicial Council in monitoring the provision of transparency by the presidents of the courts in their relations with the public.</p> <p>-Preparation of new acts for internal organization and systematization of workplaces in accordance with the new Work Guide of the Judicial Council of North Macedonia.</p>			
How will the commitment contribute to solving the problem?	The commitment envisages activities that are entirely aimed at increasing the transparency of the courts through the introduction of a system of monitoring the work of the presidents of the courts in RNM through the web pages of the courts.			
Why is this commitment relevant?	The commitment includes activities aimed at increasing the transparency of the courts by introducing a monitoring system for the work of court presidents in North Macedonia through the websites of the courts.			
Additional Information	<p>In connection with Goal 16 "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions" Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.</p> <p>This commitment is important for improving the public accountability of the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia by enhancing the rules and mechanisms that ensure accountability of members of the Judicial Council and employees in actively ensuring transparency in the judiciary.</p>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Indicators (enter measurable indicators/criteria for monitoring and verifying the achievement)</b>	<b>Activity Implementer (Courts, judiciary institutions, NGOs, or other)</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
2.1.1 Developing a methodology for evaluating the presidents of the courts regarding their public relations and transparency in their work.	Adopted Methodology and Other Regulations (Rules, Procedures) for Evaluating Presidents of Courts by the Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia.	Judicial Council of North Macedonia	02.2024	06.2024
2.1.2 Qualitative definition of scoring the criterion of public relations and transparency in operation	Adopted Methodology and other regulations (Rules, Procedures) for evaluating the websites of the courts by the Judicial Council of North Macedonia (JCNM)	Judicial Council of North Macedonia	06.2024	09.2024
2.1.3 Preparation of standard operating procedures and definition of process maps for monitoring the websites of the courts, i.e., for evaluating		Judicial Council of North Macedonia	09.2024	12.2024

the work of the presidents regarding relations with the public and transparency in operations.	Implemented methodology and other regulations (rules, procedures) for evaluating the websites of the courts by the Judicial Council of North Macedonia.			
		<i>Commitment from the previous action plan</i>		
Leading institution for implementation	Judicial Council of North Macedonia			
Name of the responsible person in the implementing institution.				
Function, Department				
Email				
Phone				
Other involved parties	Courts, judicial institutions	<i>All courts in North Macedonia</i>		
	Civil society organizations, private sector, multilateral and working groups	<i>Association of Judges, Center for Legal Research and Analysis</i>		

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<b>2.2 IMPROVING/STANDARDIZING THE STRUCTURE OF COURT REPORTS AND DATA QUALITY</b> (01 February 2024 – 31 December 2024)				
Which public issue does the commitment address?	Continuous mention in the strategic documents for the judiciary indicates that the format of the annual reports of the courts, the Judicial Council, and the Supreme Court is inconsistent, creating problems in terms of clarity and comprehensibility of the reports, especially regarding statistical data due to the lack of synchronization of data. Most courts maintain statistics on the number of cases filed, resolved, and pending, which significantly differs from the statistics provided by the Judicial Council for these courts. Therefore, it is necessary to standardize and harmonize all reports (monthly and annual) prepared by the courts and judicial institutions			
Main goal	<p>-The reports of the courts are standardized, providing comprehensive qualitative and quantitative information about the functioning of the courts.</p> <p>-There is a need to prepare and adopt a Methodology for standardized templates for annual reports, followed by the development of an appropriate report template for the courts, accompanied by detailed instructions for their completion.</p>			
How will the commitment contribute to solving the problem?	The introduction of a methodology for standardized templates for uniform dissemination of information and data to the public will ultimately lead to the final synchronization of the data available to the judiciary institutions. The current practice of collecting and systematizing various statistical data for the courts in the Republic of North Macedonia will be replaced by a unified approach and template for gathering and publishing this data.			
Why is this commitment relevant?	The commitment enables uniformity of the data from the courts accessible to the public, making it crucial for improving transparency and openness.			
Additional Information	<p>In relation to Goal 16 "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions," Target 16.6 aims to develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.</p> <p>This commitment is important for improving the public accountability of the courts in North Macedonia by enhancing and standardizing the structure of court reports and the quality of data. This will enable the public to access comprehensive qualitative and quantitative information about the functioning of the courts.</p>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Indicators (enter measurable indicators/criteria for monitoring and verifying the achievement)</b>	<b>Activity Implementer (Courts, judiciary institutions, NGOs, or other)</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>

2.2.1 Preparation and adoption of methodologies for standardized templates for annual reports.	Adopted methodology and other regulations (rules, guidelines, sample) for standardized templates for annual reports of the courts in North Macedonia	Supreme Court of North Macedonia, Judicial Council of North Macedonia	02.2024	06.2024
2.2.2 Preparation of a template for court reports	Adopted Methodology and other regulations (rules, guidelines, template) for standardized templates for annual reports of courts in North Macedonia.	Supreme Court of North Macedonia, Judicial Council of North Macedonia	06.2024	09.2024
2.2.3 Instructions for completing court reports	Adopted methodology and other regulations (rules, guidelines, templates) for standardized forms for annual reports of courts in North Macedonia	Supreme Court of North Macedonia, judicial Council of North Macedonia	09.2024	12.2024
		<i>Commitment from the previous action plan</i>		
Leading institution for implementation		Supreme Court of North Macedonia		
Name of the responsible person in the implementing institution.				
Function, Department				
Email				
Phone				
Other involved parties	Courts, judicial institutions	Judicial Council of North Macedonia , <i>All courts in North Macedonia</i>		
	Civil society organizations, private sector, multilateral and working groups	<i>Association of Judges, Association of Court Staff, and Center for Legal Research and Analysis</i>		

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<b>2.3 IMPROVING THE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR BASIC AND CONTINUOUS TRAINING OF JUDGES</b> (01 February 2024 – 30 June 2025)	
Which public issue does the commitment address?	<p>The new website of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors was launched in September 2019; however, there is still room and a need for modernization of the work of the Academy through the implementation of a modern e-learning platform. This platform would cater to both candidates for judges and public prosecutors, as well as practicing judges and public prosecutors, by offering webinars and learning through sophisticated search capabilities within documents available in a modern e-library and e-archive. The upgrade of the e-library and archive of the Academy is necessary to provide appropriate materials for the continuous education of (future) judges and public prosecutors.</p>
Main goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing easier access to content for initial and continuous education of judges.</li> <li>-Through an online platform for conducting basic and continuous training for judges (e-learning), a modern e-library, and e-archive, easier access to materials for professional development of judges will be facilitated.</li> <li>- By systematizing and regularly publishing conclusions from the Appellate Courts and the fundamental principles and opinions of the Supreme Court for harmonizing judicial practice, it will contribute to increasing quality and equal justice for all.</li> </ul>
How will the commitment contribute to solving the problem?	<p>Through the commitment to modernize the system for basic and continuous training of judges and public prosecutors, full accessibility of basic and continuous training for participants will be enabled, especially in circumstances where distance learning is the only option for enhancing the capacities of judges and prosecutors..</p>
Why is this commitment relevant?	<p>The commitment includes public disclosure and accessibility of the programs and materials used for initial and continuous training of judges and public prosecutors, including the conclusions from the meetings of the four appellate courts and the Supreme Court of North Macedonia. This commitment indicates an improvement in the</p>

	transparency of the work of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors and the courts in North Macedonia and an increase in the quality of judicial justice.			
Additional Information	<p>In relation to Goal 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" Target 16.6: To develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p> <p>This commitment is important for improving the quality of judicial decisions in the Republic of North Macedonia by improving the electronic system for basic and continuous training of judges at the Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, to which all judges in North Macedonia have access.</p>			
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Indicators (enter measurable indicators/criteria for monitoring and verifying the achievement)</b>	<b>Activity Implementer (Courts, judiciary institutions, NGOs, or other)</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
1.1.1 Developing an online platform for conducting basic and continuous training for judges (e-learning) and preparing electronic educational materials with access to online databases	Number of training sessions conducted through the E-Learning Platform of the Academy for judges and Public Prosecutors	Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors	02.2024	06.2024
2.3.2 Systematizing and regularly publishing the conclusions of the appellate courts and the chief opinions and views of the Supreme Court to standardize judicial practice on the website of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors	Number of published conclusions, legal opinions and views on the website of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors	Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors	06.2024	09.2024
2.3.3 Strengthening the capacities of judges to use the e-learning platform for continuous learning	Number of judges and public prosecutors who attended training through the e-learning platform of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors	Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors	10.2024	12.2024
2.3.4 Publishing statistical reports on the activities of judges in the e-learning platform for continuous learning	Number of published reports	Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors	01.2025	03.2025
2.3.5 Establishment of a modern e-library and e-archive.	Number of e-books available in the e-library	Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors	02.2024	06.2025
		<i>Commitment from the previous action plan</i>		

Leading institution for implementation		Supreme Court of North Macedonia
Name of the responsible person in the implementing institution.		
Function, Department		
Email		
Phone		
Other involved parties	Courts, judicial institutions	Judicial Council of North Macedonia , <i>All courts in North Macedonia</i>
	Civil society organizations, private sector, multilateral and working groups	<i>Association of Judges, Center for Legal Research and Analysis</i>