

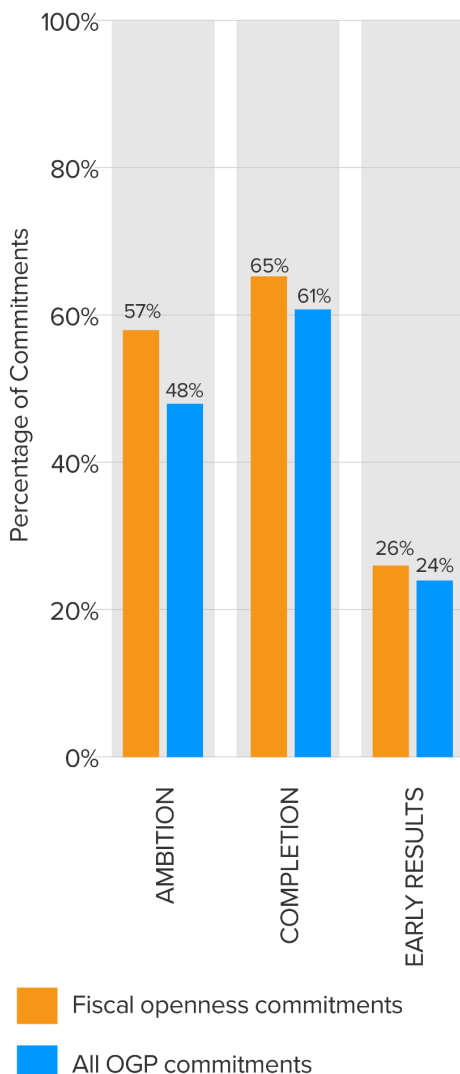
# Fiscal Openness in the Nordic+ Region

Open Government Partnership, June 2024

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **High levels of transparency:** Fiscal transparency has been an area of great achievement for members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), including the Nordic+ region.
- **Focus on public participation:** Most OGP commitments on fiscal openness focus on transparency, despite commitments with participatory elements showing even stronger results in opening government. The Open Budget Survey notes that Nordic+ countries provide few opportunities for public participation in the budget process.
- **Improvements in open procurement:** According to the Global Data Barometer, the Nordic+ region publishes quality budget and spending data, but many countries could improve the publication of open contracting data.

## Commitment Performance



## GLOBAL TRENDS IN OGP

- **Popular policy area:** Fiscal openness commitments are the most popular policy area addressed across OGP action plans. Since 2011, 107 OGP members have made a total of 760 fiscal openness commitments.
- **Importance of citizen involvement:** A majority of fiscal openness commitments focus on increasing the transparency of fiscal information, but commitments that include participatory and oversight elements show even stronger results.

## WHAT ARE OGP MEMBERS DOING?

- **Publishing budgets** and other fiscal information in accessible language, including COVID-19 emergency funds and public debt
  - Increasing **public participation** in budgeting, specifically participation of women and under-represented groups
- Opening **budgetary oversight** through feedback mechanisms



## NORDIC+ STATE OF FISCAL OPENNESS

The table below summarizes the current state of fiscal openness and open procurement in the Nordic+ region along with OGP commitments for each area. Assessments of publicly available budget and procurement data are from the Global Data Barometer’s 2021 study.

	Machine-readable budget/spending data published	Machine-readable procurement data published	Has made OGP commitment(s) on fiscal openness	Has made OGP commitment(s) on open procurement
Denmark	Yes	Partially	Yes	No
Estonia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Finland	Yes	Yes	Yes ( <a href="#">early results</a> )	Yes ( <a href="#">early results</a> )
Germany	Yes	No	Yes ( <a href="#">early results</a> )	Yes
Latvia	Yes	Yes	Yes ( <a href="#">early results</a> )	Yes
Lithuania	Yes	Yes	Yes ( <a href="#">early results</a> )	Yes
Netherlands	Yes	Partially	Yes	Yes
Norway	Not assessed	Not assessed	Yes ( <a href="#">early results</a> )	Yes
Scotland	Not assessed	Not assessed	Yes ( <a href="#">early results</a> )	Yes ( <a href="#">early results</a> )
Sweden	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

## COMMITMENT EXAMPLES



**Finland (2017-2019):** The public in Finland can access all non-sensitive government procurement data without having to submit information requests following the creation of an online platform.



**Scotland (2017; 2018-2020):** Scotland achieved strong results through OGP by publishing its first open data sets on public procurement and implementing participatory budgeting through the Community Choices program.



**Germany (2023-2025):** At the subnational level, [Berlin](#) and [Schleswig-Holstein](#) are committed to opening budget data and creating accessible visualizations.

## OGP RESOURCES



**Fact sheets:** OGP [fact sheets](#) on fiscal openness and open contracting offer a look at global progress and examples of reforms implemented through OGP action plans.



**Open Gov Guide:** The new [Open Gov Guide](#) – OGP’s go-to resource for detailed reform recommendations and examples of good practice from OGP members – features chapters on open contracting and open budgets.

