



[President of the Autonomous Community of Navarre]

Pamplona, December 22, 2023.

Dear Open Government Partnership Co-chairs:

As the President and head representative of the Autonomous Community of Navarre, I would like to express the Navarrese citizens' interest in forming part of Open Government Partnership Local.

Navarre is an autonomous community with its own government, autonomy and institutions, it is an indivisible part of Spain and stands united with all of its communities. Located in the north of Spain, it has a population of 664,117 people. Navarre borders with France and as such we have had a long-standing tradition of collaborating with other countries.

Historically, Navarre was a kingdom, and since its origins the kingdom was based on pledging to the General Charter of Navarre. In fact, in order to be coronated, the King had to swear loyalty to the Navarrese regulations. As you can observe, even since the initial conformation of Navarre, agreements have been very present.

This negotiating nature is also clearly represented in the formation of the governments of Navarre that have traditionally resulted from necessary agreements for the constitution of the executive authority.

With regard to open government and good governance, the autonomous community of Navarre has also been a pioneer and adopted legislation that for a long time now has been regulating this sphere. This is exemplified in the following regulations:

- Regional Law 21/2005, of December 29, on the evaluation of public policies and the quality of public services.

- Regional Law 5/2018, of May 17, on transparency, access to public information and good governance. This law was repealed and exceeded by the pioneering Regional Law 11/2012, of June 21, on transparency and open government – a law that was enacted prior to Spain's national transparency law.

- Regional Law 12/2019, of March 22, on democratic participation in Navarre.

It can therefore be said that the Autonomous Community of Navarre has been committed to open government principles by means of an extensive set of regulations of the highest degree, and it has done so with a pioneering historical trajectory in Spain.



These regulatory developments have been accompanied by acts by different Navarrese public administrations, including those of the Government of the Autonomous Community of Navarre itself, with jurisdiction throughout our region.

These include the following:

- Approval of the 1st Open Government Plan of the Government of Navarre on June 23, 2021. This Plan, with a temporary validity from 2021-2023, was created together with the citizens of Navarre (there were nearly 3,000 contributions) and includes 25 commitments.
- The Autonomous Community of Navarre has websites relating to open government: transparency (<https://gobiernoabierto.navarra.es/es>), open data (<https://datosabiertos.navarra.es>) and citizen participation (<https://participa.navarra.es>).
- We have also established alliances to forge ahead with the development of open government in all the administrations of Navarre (agreement with the Navarrese Federation of Municipalities and Councils), to open new data sets (agreement with datosgob.es and with the Public University of Navarre) and to promote more inclusive participation (agreement with UNICEF for the participation of children and agreement with the Navarrese Committee of Entities Representing People with Disabilities).

Another two facts that demonstrate Navarre's commitment to transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and public integrity are:

- That the Autonomous Community of Navarre has the independent figures of the Ombudsperson of Navarre, of the Transparency Council of Navarre and of the Office of Good Practices and anti-corruption.
- That the program agreement underpinning the current Government of Navarre, "2023-2027 Program Agreement for a progressive and plural Government of Navarre", expressly provides for the commitment of the three forces that sign it (Socialist Party of Navarre, Geroa Bai and Contigo/Zurekin), with the consolidation of the rights of citizens, together with a culture of shared responsibility towards the common good, as well as the strengthening of the democratic system and its mechanisms of control, transparency and participation. One axis of the program agreement is dedicated to transparency, political ethics and new governance where five commitments are detailed.

To continue with these commitments, the Government of Navarre has a team that is coordinating and promoting these projects, in the knowledge that it is essential that all authorities and all citizens collaborate to make a more resilient and prosperous society, where searching for the common good is a shared responsibility, from the outset, of all the people who make up the community.

Our possible membership of OGP Local will be clearly linked to the future and upcoming establishment of the 2nd Open Government Plan of the Government of Navarre – a plan that, akin to all of our actions, we want to design, implement and evaluate on the basis of collaboration. Consequently, we undertake to deliver and implement an action plan jointly created in a participatory manner, involving local non-governmental organizations, academia, the private sector and citizens.



Our Administration is used to sharing its projects with other entities. In fact, and as OGP has seen first-hand, we are part of the Autonomous Network of Citizen Participation, a space where the different Spanish administrations share experiences and collaborate with citizens to improve services and public policies.

In addition, we are part of different open government forums where the verb that unites us is to share and not to compete.

We are undertaking part of this collaboration with neighboring and sister regions that already form part of OGP such as the Autonomous Community of Aragon and the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

We have the resources necessary to integrate open government principles into Navarre, as well as a team that is committed and prepared to advance with all of the institutions and entities that we have been collaborating with and others that may arise along the way. Specifically, in its organizational structure, the Department of the Presidency and Equality has the Directorate General of the Presidency, Open Government and Relations with the Parliament of Navarre, composed of a team of people who lead, support and collaborate with the development of this public policy.

Our region is also affected by the specific challenges facing rural areas where the geography complicates access and participation. We prioritize collaboration with local government entities and attending to municipalities with low populations, many with less than 2,000 inhabitants, for their inclusion in open government processes.

I would like to highlight the participation of children as one of our priority areas in the development of an open government and recognize its importance in the design of policies and in the formation of a critical citizenship.

We therefore reinforce our commitment to the OGP values detailed in the Open Government Declaration and we believe that the Autonomous Community of Navarre is at the right level of maturity to be able to apply to form part of OGP local, which would enable us to access other inspiring experiences and, in turn, disseminate our progress and projects that can have a positive impact on other members.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Chivite Navascués
President of Navarre

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Open Government Partnership

Re: Government of Navarre application to join the Open Government Partnership

Pamplona, December 5, 2023

Dear members of the Steering Committee,

The United Nations General Assembly entrusted UNICEF with the mandate to promote the protection of the rights of girls, boys and adolescents, to help to fulfil their basic needs and to increase the opportunities offered to them so they can reach their full potential. The Spanish National Committee for UNICEF that the Navarrese Committee for UNICEF forms part of is the Spanish representation of the United Nations Children's Fund. And as such, in Navarre it works – among other areas – on promoting the participation of children so that the public institutions adopt all of the measures necessary to guarantee that boys, girls and adolescents can exercise their right to participation under equal conditions, as detailed in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Navarrese Committee for UNICEF participates in several advisory spaces as well as meeting and participation forums, by specialized entities and associations with the Government of Navarre, which deal with topics related to guaranteeing children's rights.

In addition, the Navarrese Committee for UNICEF maintains a stable dialogue with the departments responsible for the area of childhood, and, in the framework of the agreements entered into, maintains stable collaboration with the Department of Education to promote the Children's Rights Reference Centers initiative, and to guarantee children's rights in the digital sphere in Navarre. And with the General Directorate for Open Government, to promote the participation of children in the local and autonomous sphere in the framework of the "child-friendly cities" initiative promoted by UNICEF together with the Ministry of Youth and Children, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) and the University Institute of "Needs and Rights of Children and Adolescents" (IUNDIA).

If the Government of Navarre were to join OGP, it would be an opportunity to further disseminate the values of protecting children, raising awareness of the activities carried out with the Navarrese Committee for UNICEF in other regions and contributing towards actively including childhood in the Open Government policies. In the same vein, it would also constitute a privileged observatory for assessing the good practices of other territorial areas that may be replicated in our region. Given all of the aforementioned, we strongly support the Government of Navarre's application to join OGP local.

In Pamplona, December 1, 2023


Mikel Aguirre Errea
Presidente
UNICEF Comité de Navarra

Dear Steering Committee members,

The Navarrese Committee of Entities Representing People with Disabilities (CERMIN) is the platform created in 2001, which encompasses a large majority of not-for-profit entities working in the field of disabilities. It currently comprises 52 Navarrese associations. Our mission is to protect the rights and interests of people with disabilities in Navarre and their families.

CERMIN communicates the needs and demands of people with disabilities to the public authorities, different agents and institutions, and to society, through constructive and articulated proposals, by assuming and channeling their representation, becoming an interlocutor and reference point in the disability sector in Navarre. Its aim is to promote all of the rights of people with disabilities, non-discrimination, equal opportunities and, in general, the improvement of the living conditions of people with disabilities and their families.

The collaboration between CERMIN and the Government of Navarre on open government matters is exemplified by means of the participation of CERMIN and its member entities in the participation processes promoted in relation to public policies, whether sectoral from the area of disability, or general.

We have additionally signed a protocol with the Directorate General of the Presidency and Open Government and the Navarrese Agency for the Autonomy and Development of People, both of the Government of Navarre, to promote inclusive participation in public matters. This protocol states that actions geared towards promoting the right to participation by people with disabilities in an accessible and inclusive manner will be promoted.

To continue to support the innovation and integration of open government principles in our region we, by means of this letter, firmly support the application submitted by the Government of Navarre. In addition, we undertake to continue to support its work should it be accepted as a member of OGP Local.

In Pamplona, December 5, 2023

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Maria Luz Sanz Escudero

President of CERMIN

Open Government Partnership

Pamplona, December 11, 2023

Dear Steering Committee members,

The Navarrese Federation of Municipalities and Councils (FNMC) currently comprises 266 town halls, 295 councils and 22 local entities of other kinds such as municipal associations, groups and so on. In accordance with Spanish legislation, the Federation is the entity that represents the interests of the local entities of our Autonomous Community and, over the 41 years since its establishment, it has become a reference point for all matters related to the municipal policy of Navarre. As a result, it consequently acts as a point of contact with all other Administrations, with which it collaborates to constantly improve the Local Administrations.

In addition, it works to strengthen the integration of the whole region of Navarre, a region marked by depopulation and an increasing lack of opportunities in rural areas (population density of 65 inhabitants per km²).

Furthermore, we would like to highlight the unfaltering work by the Navarrese local entities, and that this Federation has supported, to promote and develop bodies for the participation of children and adolescents in the municipalities of Navarre, currently 11, and training on the subject of citizen participation.

In terms of transparency, the local entities of our community have made a notable effort that has translated into the widespread fulfilment of the obligations that the laws impose and into the fulfilment of the resolutions and reports issued by the Transparency Council of Navarre.

We are convinced that the Autonomous Community of Navarre's association with the Open Government Partnership will drive our current strong commitment, as well as the work of the Government of Navarre in disseminating and integrating open government principles throughout the region. We are aware that the creation of an OGP action plan will facilitate the participation of citizens from new groups in Navarre, it will promote the integration of transparency principles among citizens, the creation of new technological tools for accountability and it will increase the joint creation of public policies.

To continue to support innovation and the integration of open government principles into our region, by means of this letter we firmly support the application of the Government of Navarre. We additionally undertake to continue to support its work should it be accepted as a member of OGP Local.



Xabier Alcuaz Andueza

President of the Navarrese Federation of Municipalities and Councils

In Pamplona, January 11, 2024

Dear Steering Committee members,

The Public University of Navarre (UPNa), founded in 1987, is a public law institution, with legal personality and its own assets which, in the scope of its competences, is responsible for the public service of Higher Education. It is thus a young academic institution that heads the list of Spanish universities offering the highest level of teaching quality, an ability to attract new students and employability. With an international vocation and a strong commitment to teaching, the UPNA has a campus in Pamplona and another in Tudela, Navarre. It has excellent facilities and services, provides its region with human capital, technological capital and entrepreneurial capital that generate a very positive socioeconomic impact.

Its Statutes define the principles that guide its actions and that are entirely aligned with Open Government. These are the principles of equality, democratic participation, transparency and academic freedom that have been reflected as follows:

- a) It shall promote quality and excellence in its education, teaching, research and management, and, to this end, detail the training, incentivization, control and relevant evaluation measures.
- b) It shall establish relationships with other universities, research centers and Higher Education centers, promote its international projection and facilitate the mobility of the university community members.
- c) It shall favor dialogue, debate and the exchange of ideas to further social and cultural progress, with a vocation to become a responsible and reference institution as regards cultural, scientific and technological matters.
- d) It shall seek to project its activities as much as possible and have preferential interaction with Navarrese society.

We recently signed a collaboration agreement with the Government of Navarre so that the Navarre Open Data Website can incorporate information provided by the university in formats that can be reused by private individuals, associations and companies.

Progress is therefore being made in promoting a culture of transparency and providing citizens with, without any type of technical or legal restriction, information and datasets that can be reused and harnessed in the field of research or business, whether for educational, commercial or non-commercial purposes. This commitment is made in the framework of the international Open Data initiative.

To continue to support innovation and the integration of open government principles in our region, by means of this letter, we firmly support the application of the Government of Navarre. In addition, we undertake to continue to support its work should we be accepted as an OGP Local member.

Do not hesitate to contact us for any further information you may require.

Yours sincerely,

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Ramón Gonzalo García

Dean of the Public University of Navarre



**Defensor del Pueblo
de Navarra
Nafarroako Arartekoa**

[Ombudsperson of Navarre]

Dear Steering Committee members,

The Ombudsperson of Navarre is the institution that has the mission of supervising the actions of the Administration of the Autonomous Community of Navarre and of the local entities of Navarre, as well as of their respective subsidiary entities and public services, to defend and improve the level of protection of the rights that the Constitution and the Organic Law on the reintegration and improvement of the Autonomous Community of Navarre acknowledges for its citizens.

Created and regulated by Regional Law 4/2000, of July 3, the figure of the Ombudsperson of Navarre is not subject to any imperative mandate and cannot receive instructions from any authority, performing their duties autonomously and according to their own criteria. The Ombudsperson of Navarre is elected and appointed by the Parliament of Navarre, the only institution before which they have to present the outcomes of their actions. They have complete independence with regard to the Government of Navarre and the public Administrations of Navarre and have guarantees of inviolability and immunity in exercising their role. The position of Ombudsperson of Navarre, in accordance with the aforementioned regional law, has a qualified regime of incompatibilities, due to its independence, and therefore the person holding the position cannot, among other circumstances, exercise a mandate representative of a popular election or a freely appointed political position, or be affiliated to a political party or trade union.

The figure of the Ombudsperson of Navarre in itself constitutes a mechanism or channel for citizen complaints or claims when any rights are violated by the public administration or its agents, including the rights encompassed under the concept of open government, such as those relating to transparency, information, participation or public integrity. Consequently, the role of the institution is, in general, directly linked to furthering democratic quality and, in particular, to the fostering or promotion of open and transparent governments, in the regional and local spheres.

With the aim of continuing to promote innovation and the integration of open government principles in our region, by means of this letter we firmly support the application of the Government of Navarre. In addition, we undertake, in the scope corresponding to this institution, to continue to collaborate with the Government of Navarre if we are accepted as a member of OGP Local, and to supervise the activity of the Administration it directs, and all in favor of the rights of citizens and, particularly, of the aforementioned.

In Pamplona, December 22, 2023

Electronically signed by
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**Patxi Vera Donazar
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