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Results Report:
North Macedonia 2021-2023

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Executive Summary

North Macedonia's fifth action plan was more ambitious than previous plans, but there were no significant early results following implementation. A lack of funding, personnel changes in government institutions, and the need for legislative changes delayed the completion of many commitments. North Macedonia continued to demonstrate high levels of public participation during the co-creation and implementation of the action plan.

Early Results:
North Macedonia's fifth action plan was organized in five themes: transparency, anti-corruption, public-service delivery, access to justice, and environment and climate action. The commitments covered numerous topics, including public procurement, monitoring public officials' asset declarations, public-service delivery, and strengthening access to free legal aid. North Macedonia also included its second Open Parliament action plan and its first Open Judiciary action plan.

Of the 40 commitments, none achieved significant early results, while 10 saw moderate early results. This differed from the previous action plan (2018-2020), which saw major improvements in fiscal transparency and access to justice.[1] Many commitments did not lead to early results because of their limited implementation. For commitments that were fully or substantially completed, the IRM found little evidence to demonstrate they achieved early results. For example, many commitments involved training public sector employees, and it was difficult for the IRM to assess the impact of these efforts in opening government.

IMPLEMENTATION AT A GLANCE

LEVEL OF COMPLETION

16/40 Complete or substantially complete commitments

EARLY RESULTS

10/40 Commitments with early results

0/40 Commitments with significant early results

COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM

Acting according to OGP process.

In the Action Plan Review, the IRM identified eight commitments as promising.[2] Six were clustered into two clusters of three commitments each, one (Commitments 1.1, 1.3, and 2.1) on public procurement, and another (Commitments 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3) on citizen-focused public-service delivery. The other two promising commitments were Commitment 4.3 on improving data in cases of domestic violence and Commitment 4.4 on legal empowerment of citizens. There is no evidence of significant early results from these commitments. Some were not completed. In several instances, the IRM did not receive responses from government and civil society stakeholders when asked to provide information on the commitments.

Completion
Of the 40 commitments, 16 (40 percent) were fully or substantially completed. This was a decrease compared to the previous action plan, where 62 percent (16 of 26) commitments were fully or substantially implemented. As with previous action plans, the commitments that saw the most progress were led by or involved civil society organizations (CSOs). Donors' support was also crucial for commitments that required technological solutions, databases, or trainings. In

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addition, many commitments had been continued from the previous action plan, such as publishing open data, publishing information on public procurements, improving financial transparency and accountability at the local level, improving access to free legal aid, and improving access to justice for marginalized groups.[3] Some commitments were not completed because the necessary legal changes were not made, which was outside of the remits of the implementing institutions. For example, the publication of beneficial ownership information (Commitment 1.1) saw limited implementation due to a difference of opinions regarding the legal basis needed for the compulsory publication of data. Why this issue was not discussed during the co-creation phase remains unclear.

Seven of 11 Open Parliament commitments were substantially or fully completed. This was an improvement compared to the previous Open Parliament action plan, where three of the five commitments were substantially completed but none were fully completed. However, none of the six Open Judiciary commitments were started. This was largely due to a disagreement over the composition and leadership of the Judicial Council of North Macedonia, the body tasked with overseeing the implementation of these commitments as part of the Council for Open Judiciary. The contact person of the Judicial Council did not respond to the IRM's requests for information for this report. These six commitments have been carried over into North Macedonia's sixth action plan (2024-2026).

Participation and Co-Creation
The Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MISA) continued to coordinate the OGP process, with support from the OGP Council (the multi-stakeholder forum) and the OGP Working Group. During the co-creation process, civil society actively shaped the scope of the commitments, particularly around public service delivery and access to justice.[4] Civil society continued to play an active role during the implementation phase, though the levels of engagement varied by thematic area and by commitment.

Implementation in context
As with previous action plans, donor funding was important for the completion of the commitments from the fifth action plan.[5] Some milestones were implemented by CSOs as part of donor projects. Delays in implementation often occurred due to the need to take additional (unanticipated) steps, such as legislative interventions, the need to involve additional institutions, lack of financial means for implementation and, in certain cases, the change of coordinators and members in the working groups.[6] Personnel changes in lead institutions, and lack of involvement of some institutions, affected the implementation of some commitments.

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[1] Open Government Partnership, North Macedonia Transitional Results Report 2018-2020, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/north-macedonia-transitional-results-report-2018-2020/
[2] Open Government Partnership, North Macedonia Action Plan Review 2021-2023, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/north-macedonia-action-plan-review-2021-2023/
[3] See: North Macedonia Action Plan 2018-2020, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/macedonia-action-plan-2018-2020/ and North Macedonia Transitional Results Report 2018-2020, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/north-macedonia-transitional-results-report-2018-2020/
[4] Open Government Partnership, North Macedonia Action Plan Review 2021-2023, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/north-macedonia-action-plan-review-2021-2023/
[5] Darko Antik (ESE), interview by the IRM, 29 March 2024.
[6] Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact).

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Section I: Key Observations

Observation 1: A low level of involvement of public institutions negatively affected the completion of commitments.

As with previous action plans, the implementation of the commitments in the fifth action plan largely depended on the level of involvement of the responsible public institutions. When changes in staffing occurred, such as in the Ministry of Justice, the commitments under that ministry were affected. Similarly, the lack of engagement from the Ministry of Health or the Ministry for Labor and Social Policies affected the implementation of commitments in the areas of education and health services (3.1 and 3.2).[7] For commitments where cooperation between civil society and public institutions pre-dated the action plan (for example, through commitments in previous action plans), the levels of cooperation were generally maintained. For future action plans, the government could grant the contact persons in public institutions more powers to implement the commitments under their jurisdiction and provide senior-level support to complete the milestones.

Observation 2: Support from international donors and civil society continued to drive implementation.

Financial and technical support from international partners remained crucial for the implementation of commitments, particularly those that involved technological solutions, databases, or trainings. As a European Union (EU) candidate country, North Macedonia can apply for funds to implement reforms that align the country's laws and policies to those of the EU. Support from CSOs also helped advance implementation of certain commitments. For example, the creation of the database for employment services[8] for Commitment 3.1 was implemented by the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE) with financial support (approximately 10,000 Euros) from the government. Future action plans could benefit from greater funding from the national budget, to supplement donor funds.

Observation 3: Issues around legal reforms prevented the implementation of some commitments.

Several commitments involved passing legal reforms which were outside the remits of the implementing institutions, preventing their completion. For example, the need for additional legal regulation prevented the implementation of Commitment 1.1 on beneficial ownership transparency. There was a disagreement as to whether the current legal framework allowed for personal data of beneficial owners to be published. The Central Register of the Republic of North Macedonia sought an opinion from the Agency for the Protection of Personal Data, which stated that there is no legal basis for publishing data at present, and the Law on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing must be amended before publishing data on the real owners.[9] Even though the technical solution for publishing the data was in place, implementation could only begin after the necessary legal changes. Additionally, amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid were pending at the end of the action plan, which prevented the implementation of Commitment 4.4.

Observation 4: The Open Judiciary commitments were not implemented because the Council for Open Judiciary did not meet.

None of the six Open Judiciary commitments were fulfilled. In October 2022, the Council for Open Judiciary adopted a shortened timeline to meet the original deadlines in the action plan.

However, this process was interrupted by developments in the dismissal of the president of the Judicial Council by its deputy-president in April 2023. Legal experts and NGO representatives considered the dismissal unlawful and against procedures.[10] The self-assessment report stated that some of the members of the Judicial Council from citizens' associations did not recognize the legitimacy of the current leadership of the Judicial Council, due to the illegal change of the head of the Judicial Council. As the Judicial Council was involved in the Council for Open Judiciary, the Council for Open Judiciary agreed that its activities cannot proceed without the Judicial Council's involvement.[11] The Council for Open Judiciary has not met since then. The IRM researcher contacted the relevant persons and organizations involved in these commitments for additional information but did not receive a reply. These commitments are carried forward to the sixth action plan (2024-2026). The government could consider alternative structures to oversee their implementation, should the Council for Open Judiciary's work continue to be hampered.

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[7] Darko Antik (ESE), interview by the IRM, 29 March 2024.

[8] See: https://e-rabota.av.gov.mk/Default.aspx

[9] Vlatko Naumovski, interview by the IRM, 8 March 2024.

[10] Cancarevik, O. Illegal and null decision – the expert public with sharp reactions after Dameva's dismissal, 27 April 2023, Telma, https://telma.com.mk/2023/04/27/nezakonski-i-nishtovna-odluka-ekspertskata-javnost-so-ostri-reakcii-po-razreshuvanjeto-na-dameva/, accessed 31 August 2024.

[11] Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact).

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Section II: Implementation and Early Results

The following section typically looks at the commitments or clusters that the IRM identified as having the strongest results from implementation. To assess early results, the IRM referred to commitments or clusters identified as promising in the Action Plan Review as a starting point. After verification of completion evidence, the IRM also took into account commitments or clusters that were not determined as promising but that, as implemented, yielded predominantly positive or significant results.

None of the commitments in North Macedonia's fifth action plan achieved significant early results. The institutional and contextual factors that supported or limited implementation are addressed in Section 1 (Key Observations). Annex 1 includes detailed information on the implementation of all commitments in the action plan, including the commitments the IRM identified as promising in the Action Plan Review.[12] They were Commitments 1.1, 1.3, and 2.1 (cluster on public procurement transparency), Commitments 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 (cluster on strengthening citizen monitoring and involvement in public-service delivery), Commitment 4.3 (access to justice for women who are victims of domestic violence), and Commitment 4.4 (amending the Law on Free Legal to provide more protection and access to free secondary aid). Commitments 1.1, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3, and 4.4 either saw limited completion or were not started, and thus did not achieve any early results. Commitment 2.1, 3.1, and 4.3 were substantially or fully completed but there was insufficient evidence that they had higher than moderate early results.

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[12] Open Government Partnership, North Macedonia Action Plan Review 2021-2023, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/north-macedonia-action-plan-review-2021-2023/

Section III. Participation and Co-Creation

The government continued to actively consult civil society during co-creation and implementation through the OGP Council. The level of civil society engagement during implementation varied by commitment by the lead public institution. Civil society was actively engaged in the implementation of the Open Parliament action plan but not in the Open Judiciary action plan.

The Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MISA) continued to coordinate North Macedonia's OGP process. North Macedonia has two main coordination mechanisms, both formed in 2020: the OGP Council and the OGP Working Group. The OGP Council is North Macedonia's multi-stakeholder forum.[13] The members of the OGP Council jointly developed its remit, membership, and governance. During the co-creation of the fifth action plan, the OGP Council had 16 members with equal representation between government and civil society and gender balance. Members of the OGP Council mainly come from the capital and focus on national-level policies. The OGP Working Group consists of governmental and CSOs working on each thematic area in the action plan. In addition, the OGP CSO Network (consisting of 77 CSOs) continued to assist in the co-creation, implementation, and monitoring of the OGP process. Civil society members of the OGP Council and the OGP Working Group are drawn from the CSO Network.

Overall, the levels of engagement, dialogue, and joint decision-making around the fifth action plan were similar to previous action plans. MISA issued a call for participation in the co-creation process, which included educational materials and the criteria for evaluating proposals against their relevance to OGP's principles.[14] MISA actively communicated to participants on the scope of the commitments and how they would be implemented. The final commitments largely aligned with the country's and stakeholders' priorities and most commitments suggested by civil society were included in the action plan. The government provided justification when proposals could not be included.[15]

A separate council was formed on 4 March 2022 for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the action plan.[16] CSOs played a crucial role in implementing several commitments. For example, the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE), Open State Foundation (OSF), and Lastrada provided training, shared knowledge, and information on several commitments. The OGP Council held seven sessions during the implementation period.[17] However, not all working groups for each thematic area met every three months, as planned.[18]

The national OGP webpage remained the main source of information on the implementation of the action plan. MISA also published some information on its institutional webpage and prepared an end-of-term self-assessment report.[19] The OGP webpage did not always provide up-to-date information on the commitments. For example, the latest update for Commitment 3.1 is from 26 January 2023 stating that only one of four milestones were completed, which is not the most recent update in the self-assessment report.[20] This was the case for most commitments, indicating a need for MISA to provide more timely updates on progress of the sixth action plan.

The second Open Parliament action plan was developed through a participatory process that included hybrid events, workshops, an e-conference,[21] webinars, and online consultations for draft versions of the action plan. According to the self-assessment report,[22] seven CSOs submitted contributions as part of the process.[23] The director of the Parliamentary Institute confirmed that the working group continued to meet regularly during implementation to discuss the progress of these commitments.[24]

The first Open Judiciary action plan was developed through discussions and three round tables with the following participants: court presidents, judges representatives from judicial services at courts, representatives from the Judicial Council, the Ministry of Justice, Academy of Judges and Public Prosecutors, civil society, and other experts in this field.[25] 51 representatives from the government and non-governmental sectors, including the national point of contact to OGP from MISA, took part in the consultations. However, due to issues with the Open Judiciary Council discussed in Section 1 (Key Observations), the commitments were not started, and stakeholders did not meet during implementation.

Compliance with the Minimum Requirements
The IRM assesses whether member countries met the minimum requirements under OGP's Participation and Co-Creation Standards for the purposes of procedural review.[26] During co-creation, North Macedonia acted according to OGP process. The two minimum requirements listed below must achieve at least the level of 'in progress' for a country to have acted according to OGP process.

Key:
Green= Meets standard
Yellow= In progress (steps have been taken to meet this standard, but standard is not met)
Red= No evidence of action

Acted according to OGP process during the implementation period?	
The government maintained an OGP repository that is online, updated at least once during the action plan cycle, and contains evidence of development and implementation of the action plan.	Green
The government provided the public with information on the action plan during the implementation period.	Yellow

[13] The Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE) and the Center for Civil Communications (CCC) are the main CSOs involved in the OGP Council. Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact).
[14] See: Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, OGP North Macedonia, https://ovp.gov.mk/dokumenti/
[15] Gordana Dimitrovska (MISA), interview by the IRM, 19 December 2023.
[16] See: Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, OGP North Macedonia, https://ovp.gov.mk/council_sessions/%d0%ba%d0%be%d0%bd%d1%81%d1%82%d0%b8%d1%82%d1%83%d1%82%d0%b8%d0%b2%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d0%b5%d0%b4%d0%bd%d0%b8%d1%86%d0%b0-%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%82%d0%be%d1%82-2/

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[17] See: Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, OGP North Macedonia, Sessions, https://ovp.gov.mk/%D1%81%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BF/%D1%81%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B8/

[18] Darko Antik (ESE), interview by the IRM, 29 March 2024, See also:

[19] https://ovp.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/7.-Informacija-so-Finalen-Izvestaj-za-samoocenuvanje-NAP5-2021-2023.docx

[20] Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, OGP North Macedonia, https://ovp.gov.mk/nap_proposals/%d1%98%d0%b0%d0%b2%d0%bd%d0%b8-%d1%83%d1%81%d0%bb%d1%83%d0%b3%d0%b8-%d0%b8-%d0%bf%d0%be%d0%bb%d0%b8%d1%82%d0%b8%d0%ba%d0%b8-%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%bc%d0%b5%d0%bb%d0%b5%d0%bd%d0%b8-%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d0%b3%d1%80/

[21] Organized as part of the Global Legislative Openness Week #GLOW2020, co-organized by the Open Parliament Network (OPeN).

[22] Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact).

[23] Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis" Skopje, National Democratic Institute, FOSM, Association of Public Servants in North Macedonia, EKOZVON, Rural Coalition, and OGP Regional Director for Europe.

[24] Zlatko Atanasov, interview by the IRM, 2 April 2024.

[25] Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact).

[26] Please note that future IRM assessment will focus on compliance with the updated OGP Co-Creation and Participation Standards that came into effect on 1 January 2022, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/ogp-participation-co-creation-standards/.

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Section IV. Methodology and IRM Indicators

This report supports members' accountability and learning through assessment of (i) the level of completion for commitments' implementation, (ii) early results for commitments with a high level of completion identified as promising or that yielded significant results through implementation, and (iii) participation and co-creation practices throughout the action plan cycle. The IRM commenced the research process after the first year of implementation of the action plan with the development of a research plan, preliminary desk research, and verification of evidence provided in the country's OGP repository.[27]

In 2022, OGP launched a consultation process to co-create a new strategy for 2023–2028.[28] The IRM will revisit its products, process, and indicators once the strategy co-creation is complete. Until then, Results Reports continue to assess the same indicators as previous IRM reports:

Completion

The IRM assesses the level of completion for each commitment in the action plan, including commitments clustered in the Action Plan Review.[29] The level of completion for all commitments is assessed as one of the following:

- *No Evidence Available*
- *Not Started*
- *Limited*
- *Substantial*
- *Complete*

Early Results

The IRM assesses the level of results achieved from the implementation of commitments that have a clear open government lens, a high level of completion or show evidence of achieving early results (as defined below). It considers the expected aim of the commitment prior to its implementation, the specific country context in which the commitment was implemented, the specific policy area and the changes reported.

The early results indicator establishes three levels of results:

- **No Notable Results:** According to the evidence collected (through desk research, interviews, etc.), the implementation of the open government commitment led to little or no positive results. After assessing the activities carried forward during the period of implementation and its outcomes (if any), the IRM did not find meaningful changes toward:
  - improving practices, policies, or institutions governing a policy area or within the public sector,
  - enhancing the enabling environment to build trust between citizens and the state.
- **Moderate Results:** According to the evidence collected (through desk research, interviews, etc.) the implementation of the open government commitment led to positive

results. After assessing the activities carried forward during the period of implementation and its outcomes, the IRM found meaningful changes toward:

- o improving practices, policies, or institutions governing a policy area or within the public sector, or
- o enhancing the enabling environment to build trust between citizens and the state.

- **Significant Results:** According to the evidence collected (through desk research, interviews, etc.) the implementation of the open government commitment led to significant positive results. After assessing the activities carried forward during the period of implementation and its outcomes, the IRM found meaningful changes toward:
  - o improving practices, policies, or institutions governing a policy area or within the public sector, or
  - o enhancing the enabling environment to build trust between citizens and the state.

  Significant positive results show clear expectations for these changes (as defined above) will be sustainable in time.

This report was prepared by the IRM in collaboration with Liljana Cvetanoska and was reviewed by German Emanuele, IRM external expert. The IRM methodology, quality of IRM products, and review process is overseen by the IRM's International Experts Panel (IEP).

This review process, including the procedure for incorporating comments received, is outlined in greater detail in Section III of the Procedures Manual[30] and in the North Macedonia Action Plan Review 2021-2023. For more information, refer to the "IRM Overview" section of the OGP website.[31] A glossary on IRM and OGP terms is available on the OGP website.[32]

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[27] North Macedonia, OGP repository, accessed 04 May 2024, https://ovp.gov.mk/
[28] See OGP, Creating OGP's Future Together: Strategic Planning 2023–2028, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/creating-ogps-future-together/
[29] The IRM clusters commitments that share a common policy objective during the Action Plan Review process. In these instances, the IRM assesses "potential for results" and "Early Results" at the cluster level. The level of completion is assessed at the commitment level. For more information on how the IRM clusters commitments, see Section IV on Methodology and IRM Indicators of the Action Plan Review.
[30] Independent Reporting Mechanism, *IRM Procedures Manual, V.3*, 16 September 2017, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/irm-procedures-manual
[31] Open Government Partnership, *IRM Overview,* https://www.opengovpartnership.org/irm-guidance-overview/
[32] Open Government Partnership, *OGP Glossary,* https://www.opengovpartnership.org/glossary/

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Annex I. Commitment Data[33]

Commitment 1.1: Public disclosure of beneficial ownership in companies that are awarded public procurement contracts

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Limited • **Early results:** No Notable Results

Under this commitment, the Public Procurement Bureau (PPB) aimed to publish to the Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) information on the beneficial owners of companies that are awarded state tenders. This commitment saw limited completion. The PPB, the Central Register of the Republic of North Macedonia (CRRNM), and other members of the work group, including civil society organizations, the Ministry of Finance and the Finance Intelligence Unit, reached an agreement on the criteria for disclosure of beneficial ownership in public procurement contracts, including the means of publishing this information and on transferring data via a national interoperability platform. The CRRNM and the PPB drafted a memorandum for cooperation and began developing the software solutions.[34] However, the Law on Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing and the Law on Public Procurement needed to be amended before beneficial ownership data could be published.[35] This commitment is continued in the 2024-2026 action plan. The new commitment aims to publish the names of beneficial ownership of bidding companies and of companies with concluded contracts for public procurement, concessions and public-private partnerships (PPPs). For successful implementation, the legal basis to publish the names of the beneficial owners will need to be addressed.

Commitment 1.2: Proactive publication of information on institutions' official websites

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Limited • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed for all public institutions to proactively publish information and report on their compliance with the Law on Free Access to Information. Of 1,449 registered information holders, around 23 percent demonstrated proactive transparency by fulfilling their obligations.[36] Conversely, around 67 percent of entities were not proactively transparent, and around 7 percent were partially transparent. The self-assessment report does not compare these percentages to the situation before the action plan. According to 2021 Index of Active Transparency from the Center for Civil Communications, on average, ministries' public institutions published 79 percent of required information.[37] Regarding the other milestones, the Agency for Protection of the Right to Free Access to Public Information received annual reports from 96.86 percent of the entities with a legal obligation to submit a report on compliance, totaling 1,404 submissions.[38] The Agency has prepared its annual report for 2022.[39] However, as only 23 percent of public institutions proactively published their information compared to the target of 50 percent, the commitment had limited completion.

The IRM researcher attempted contacting the CSO listed in the action plan for additional information, but did not receive a reply.

Commitment 1.3: Publish basic information on public procurement on institutions' official websites

• **Verifiable:** Yes	• **Completion:** Limited
• **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes	• **Early results:** No Notable Results
• **Potential for results:** Modest	

This commitment aimed for contracting authorities to create tabs on their websites to publish all information and documents related to their public procurement, including links to procurement notices on the EPPS. At its 40th session on 19 April 2022, the government obliged all budget users, state public enterprises, and state-owned joint stock companies to publish public procurement data and recommended local self-government units (LSGUs) to create a tab on their webpages for public procurement and publish the documents listed in the commitment.[40] 120 of 1,332 institutions created these tabs.[41] As this is less than the commitment's target of 50 percent, the completion was limited.

Commitment 1.4: Improve access to information and the amount of open data published by local self-government units (LSGUs)

• **Verifiable:** Yes	• **Completion:** Complete
• **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes	• **Early results:** Moderate Results
• **Potential for results:** Modest	

This commitment aimed to have 30 LSGUs publish at least five datasets in open format. The commitment was carried out for a USAID project by the CSO Metamorphosis. 20 LSGUs took part in the first cycle of support, resulting in over 300 new datasets being open.[42] 24 new LSGUs opened over 270 datasets during the second cycle.[43] However, according to the Metamorphosis' Openness Index, the average openness of LSGUs was around 25 percent in 2021[44] and 27 percent for 2022,[45] with both indices concluding that the LSGUs have low standards regarding transparency, monitoring, and oversight of their work. Nevertheless, the milestones were completed, as over 30 municipalities took part, two trainings were organized, and the planned reports were published.

Commitment 1.5: Ensure free access to data for CSOs

• **Verifiable:** Yes	• **Completion:** Substantial
• **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes	• **Early results:** No Notable Results
• **Potential for results:** Modest	

This commitment aimed to publish data on CSOs in North Macedonia in open format and in one place. Data on CSOs has been published in open format on the portal of the Central Registry[46] and is updated every two weeks.[47] The number of registered associations according to the Central Register as of 26 April 2024 is 15,563. Access to reports with adjustable data

for CSOs is available for budget users (central and local government). Trainings for public servants at the central level were carried out[48] but there is no information on whether trainings for local authorities took place, and no information on whether the working group was established (milestone 1.5.3). The data has been downloaded from the Central Register 954 times and 13 times from the national open data portal as of 7 December 2022, but it is unclear how the data has been used by those that have accessed it. Although this commitment provided a single place (Excel table) for information on all CSOs, this data was previously available via the Central Register's search feature.

Commitment 1.6: Fiscal transparency and accountability at local levels and improved involvement of citizens through innovative mechanisms and tools

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes
- **Potential for results:** Modest

- **Completion:** Substantial
- **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to continue to improve transparency and public participation in the budget process of LSGUs, with an emphasis on innovative tools and involving marginalized groups. According to the self-assessment report, over 50 percent of the LSGUs publish their financial reports on the implementation of the budget on the control panel with financial indicators. The data includes information on current operating balance, capital balance, revenues and expenditure per category, liabilities etc.[49] Ten LSGUs established tools for easier access to information and established mechanisms for citizen participation in decision-making and priority setting, which fell short of the commitment's goal of 20 tools in 20 LSGUs. The self-assessment report does not mention whether the minimum 80 consultations with citizens was reached. The IRM researcher could not find data on citizens' satisfaction with information on municipal budget spending, so it is difficult to assess any early results.

Commitment 2.1: Public procurements as open data

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes
- **Potential for results:** Modest

- **Completion:** Complete
- **Early results:** Moderate Results

Under this commitment, the Public Procurement Bureau (PPB) aimed to provide data on public procurement in open format, specifically as comma separated value export (CVS). Both milestones as envisaged in the action plan were completed: a plan was prepared and published on the OGP webpage,[50] and the contracts are published on the e-nabavki.gov.mk webpage. The IRM attempted to contact the PPB and relevant CSOs to learn more about the early results achieved by this commitment but did not receive any replies.

Commitment 2.2: Improve the mechanism for monitoring asset declarations of elected and appointed officials

● **Verifiable:** Yes ● **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes ● **Potential for results:** Modest	● **Completion:** Limited ● **Early results:** Moderate Results

This commitment aimed to establish a tool to verify asset declarations of elected and appointed officials. The new software solutions for the register of elected and appointed persons and for electronic reporting of property status and interests are operational since Q4 2023 and January 2024.[51] By the end of the action plan period, the new form which contains information after 1 January 2024 was yet to be filled out by those with a responsibility to do so. The latest update of the forms at the end of the reporting period was up to 1 January 2024.[52] However, since the end of the action plan (August 2023), this commitment has been implemented, and now data from 1 January 2024 onwards is available. Data on immovable and movable property, bank accounts and savings both for the elected/appointed official, as well as for their immediate family, is available.[53]

Commitment 2.3: Publish files on appointment of managers/directors at public institutions by the Government of North Macedonia

● **Verifiable:** Yes ● **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes ● **Potential for results:** Modest	● **Completion:** Not Started ● **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to publish information on the selection and appointment of managers and directors at public institutions. The Cabinet of the Deputy President of the Government, in charge of good governance policies, started the process but none of the relevant information was published, as the Cabinet withdrew from the activities on 26 December 2022. Per the action plan, the lead institution for this commitment was the General Secretariat of the Government.[54] It is unclear why the Cabinet of the Deputy President started the process.

Commitment 3.1: Employment policies and services based on citizens' priorities

● **Verifiable:** Yes ● **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes ● **Potential for results:** Substantial	● **Completion:** Complete ● **Early results:** Moderate Results

This commitment aimed to establish a coordination body for civil society and government representatives to monitor and implement policies in the employment sector. All milestones were completed. The coordination body was established, and the website of the Employment Service Agency now includes the platform for information, monitoring, and involvement of citizens in employment policies.[55] The Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE) supported the commitment by developing a questionnaire with other CSOs surveying 1,003 households on unemployment in four municipalities. ESE analyzed the results and shared them with the Employment Agency for its next operational plan. 998 people were educated on employment rights. According to ESE, this commitment helped raise awareness regarding the rights of unemployed persons, but it is difficult to ascertain whether it made employment policies more citizen-focused.[56] The sixth action plan (2024-2026) includes a

commitment (2.1) to continue these efforts.[57] The new commitment involves establishing a permanent procedure for consultation and collection of proposals from stakeholders for the creation of measures, policies, and employment services.

Commitment 3.2: Preventive healthcare policies and services based on citizens' priorities

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes
- **Potential for results:** Substantial

- **Completion:** Not Started
- **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to establish a coordination body for civil society and government representatives to monitor and implement policies in the health sector. The Ministry of Health sent a list of nominees for the coordination body to ESE.[58] Only one meeting was held, to discuss avenues for obtaining funding.[59] The self-assessment report describes other work related to preventative healthcare, but outside of the scope of this commitment.[60]

Commitment 3.3: Education policies and services based on citizens' priorities

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes
- **Potential for results:** Substantial

- **Completion:** Not started
- **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to improve access to education materials. A meeting was held where ESE, Foundation Open Society–Macedonia (FOSM) and MISA informed the Ministry of Education and Science and the Bureau of Education about the commitment after a new contact person in that ministry was appointed. The self-assessment report mentions contact persons were nominated in high schools in select municipalities that were supposed to be responsible for the commitment, but none of the activities were started.[61]

Commitment 3.4: Local policies and services based on citizens' priorities

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes
- **Potential for results:** Modest

- **Completion:** Limited
- **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment built on previous commitments to allow citizen input in creating and budgeting local services. The Ministry of Local Self-Government (MLSG) prepared a code for transparency at the local level with USAID support.[62] While the code is not legally binding, it provides standards for publishing information in line with the country's legal requirements. The code also calls for an online tool for communication and consultation, as well as a calendar of consultation activities, but there is no evidence this tool was created. Commitment 2.5 of the 2024-2026 action plan continues efforts toward incorporating e-consultations in decision-making processes.

Commitment 3.5: Available e-services in rural areas	
• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** No • **Potential for results:** Unclear	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to promote the use of e-services and digital skills among rural populations. According to the OGP webpage, by June 2023, none of the activities were started.[63] The portal https://uslugi.gov.mk/ lists 80 services from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, but it is only possible to apply online for one of these services.[64] According to the self-assessment report, the digitalization process has been delayed due to new institutional prioritization within the IPA project which presumably was to fund these activities.[65]

Commitment 3.6: Better access to guaranteed forms of protection for victims of human trafficking	
• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Limited • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to strengthen the fight against human trafficking in the Republic of North Macedonia and to provide effective protection of victims. The National Commission for Fight Against Human Trafficking decided to establish three mobile teams (milestone 3.6.1.) but there is no evidence that the teams were established.[66] The self-assessment report mentions the formulation of an operations team, consisting of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office, and the Ministry of Labour & Social Policy. This team decides on identifying and monitoring cases for victims of human trafficking. However, it is not clear if the obligation from milestone 3.6.1 to create mobile teams in the municipalities of Ohrid, Stip, and Struga was met. The Commission established an electronic database for victims' identification (milestone 3.6.2.) which is not publicly available and produced several analyses and a public policy document.[67] It also held three trainings to medical staff during the implementation period (milestone 3.6.6.) which was less than the planned two per year. The program for redress was adopted in 2022 but the self-assessment report does not provide information on its implementation (the plan aimed to present information on the implementation of this program), though some promotional activities took place.[68] The implementation of the other milestones has not started.[69]

Commitment 3.7: Improve protection mechanisms for victims of harassment in the workplace	
• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Completed • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment involved disseminating information to employees about their rights, selecting mediators to resolve harassment cases, and consulting practitioners to finalize the Law on Protection Against Harassment in the Workplace (Law on Mobbing). By March 2022, two "SOS" links for reporting harassment were opened, brochures on rights of employees were distributed (milestone 3.7.1), two regional seminars with 120 participants and three national workshops were delivered for 80 participants by the Solidarity Centre AFL-CIO, and two trainings were held for the Trade Union for 25 representatives, but it is not clear who delivered these trainings (milestone 3.7.2.).[70] A working group was formed to prepare the amendments to the Law on Protection against Harassment at the Workplace but the self-assessment report does not provide any information on what it achieved. The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia adopted the Law on the Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the Field of Labor 2019 (K190).[71]

Commitment 3.8: Provide access to therapy and health services for people who use drugs following prison sentences

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** No
- **Potential for results:** Modest

- **Completion:** Not Started
- **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to facilitate access to healthcare and rehabilitation for persons who use drugs after they serve prison sentences. No program was established to simplify the procedure for obtaining a personal ID for people who use drugs who lack an ID while serving a prison sentence. A system for cooperation between the Day Centers for prevention and treatment of drug abuse and addiction, the Sanctions Enforcement Administration, the Health Insurance Fund, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and CSOs was not established.[72]

Commitment 4.1: Promote protection of sex workers and persons who use drugs

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes
- **Potential for results:** Modest

- **Completion:** Complete
- **Early results:** Moderate Results

This commitment aimed to protect human rights for sex workers and persons who use drugs, by improving the professionalization of police and prison staff when dealing with such cases. According to the self-assessment report, during implementation, 744 police officers were trained on dealing with vulnerable categories of persons, including sex workers and persons who use drugs, 125 prison officers received training for dealing with sex workers and people who use drugs. There are now 11 interrogation rooms equipped with video recording in police stations in the area of Skopje, of which nine are operational. The interrogation rooms in the police stations in Gostivar, Tetovo, Prilep, Kicevo, Shtip, Radovish, and Berovo are also equipped with video recording, which is more than the target of five in the action plan.[73] The possibility of accessing the interrogation recordings by attorneys and defendants in practice is a preventative measure that is likely to reduce breaches to detainees' rights.

Commitment 4.2: Promote access to justice for socially disadvantaged and citizens at social risk

Open Government Partnership

Independent Reporting Mechanism

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to promote access to justice for welfare beneficiaries and citizens at social risk. The milestones involved developing internal guidelines concerning data collection on material, financial, and property statuses of households and family members. According to the self-assessment, none of the activities were started.[74]

Commitment 4.3: Access to justice for women who suffered domestic violence

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Substantial	• **Completion:** Substantial • **Early results:** Moderate Results

This commitment aimed to improve data collection and publication among public institutions, courts, police, and social work centers on domestic violence cases. According to the self-assessment report, two regulations have been adopted for recording data on domestic violence in the courts and public prosecutor's offices.[75] Duty judges are appointed by courts and a national strategy for protecting domestic violence victims was adopted in 2024. According to a representative of ESE, the data on domestic violence cases was useful for the creation of this document.[76] The Ministry of the Interior regularly publishes data on domestic violence since May 2022 on https://www.data.gov.mk, starting with Q1 2022. However, the data from the courts regarding the emergency protection measure is not published, and courts still need to improve their data systems to contain information for all proceedings related to domestic violence cases.[77] Work is still in progress for milestones 4.3.1, 4.3.4, and 4.3.6. Commitment 3.2 in the 2024-2026 action plan continues these efforts by focusing on preventing violence against women.

Commitment 4.4: Legal empowerment of citizens through available information and open institutions

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Limited • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to amend the Law on Free Legal Aid (LFLA) to provide more comprehensive protection and access to free secondary aid throughout. It also aimed to create a publicly available registry of individuals and institutions licensed in forensics who can serve as expert witnesses for cases involving free legal aid.

No progress was made regarding the provision of free expertise for people who have been granted secondary legal assistance. The Council of Europe and the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association conducted analyses[78] on how to ensure access to expertise, following the transformation of the Bureau of Expertise into the Assessment Bureau. However, the harmonization of the LFLA with the new Law on Expertise from 2023 are pending, which has

prevented the implementation of some milestones.[79] The Ministry of Justice provided greater visibility and accessibility of information on the LFLA for persons with dyslexia, persons with visual and auditory impairments, and for members of linguistic minorities. In addition, the ministry adapted its webpage, including the webpage for legal aid, for people with visual and auditory disabilities, as well as for ethnic minorities.[80] Further improvements to the free legal aid system, including amendments to the LFLA and trainings, are included in the sixth action plan under Commitment 3.1.

Commitment 5.1: Reduce climate change impact and protect the environment from agricultural activities

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes
- **Potential for results:** Modest

- **Completion:** Limited
- **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to increase rural populations' access to information about the negative effects of climate change and pollution and promote good agricultural practices. The Agency for Promotion of Agricultural Development delivered training among the rural population on good agricultural practices, but no information is available on the numbers and attendees. A rulebook with minimum conditions for good agricultural practice and with prescribed sanctions is yet to be adopted.[81] Commitment 5.2 of the sixth action plan aims to continue increasing awareness among citizens regarding the activities of public institutions responsible for addressing climate change.

Commitment 5.2: Access to information on air pollution levels

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes
- **Potential for results:** Modest

- **Completion:** Substantial
- **Early results:** Moderate Results

This commitment aimed to provide reliable information on air pollution in North Macedonia, including a mobile application on air quality. In 2021, upgrades were made to the "AIRVIRO" data management system,[82] and new monitoring instruments were procured to replace outdated ones in air quality monitoring stations. These included four instruments for PM10, eight instruments for PM5, eight for nitrogen oxides, two for ozone, and four instruments for logging data. In January 2021, low-volume air samplers were procured. In December 2021, new measuring instruments were installed, including for carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone. In 2022, a procurement process for spare parts was completed, ensuring continuous operation of the monitoring systems via IPA funds.[83] These efforts helped improve access to information for citizens regarding air pollution levels in some municipalities compared to before the action plan.[84] However, at the end of the action plan, the tender specification and documentation for the mobile application was not finalized.[85]

Open Parliament

Commitment 1.1: Design an open data portal to facilitate access to information for citizens

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Substantial • **Early results:** Moderate Results

This commitment aimed to create an open data portal for the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. The portal was created in May 2022.[86] Initially, 22 datasets were identified, but the Assembly plans to supplement this list with other datasets. At the time of writing this report, 17 datasets are published, including data on end-of-year accounts for the Assembly, public procurement plans, information on MPs, and working groups. The Assembly is currently completing the rest.[87] Work is also under way to connect the portal with the Assembly's other software systems, such as e-parliament and the enterprise resource planning software.

Commitment 1.2: Platform for citizen suggestions and initiatives to the legislative government and registry of CSOs

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Limited • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to develop a platform for citizens to submit suggestions to MPs and to inform them about public parliamentary events. The self-assessment report discusses plans for the commitment but does not mention if the Assembly created the platform for CSOs.[88] Only registered organizations can use the platform. According to the rules for usage, CSOs can only follow developments on topics of their interest, but without the possibility of participating.[89] As the platform was originally expected to be open to citizens, not only registered CSOs, the IRM assesses the completion as limited.

Commitment 1.3: Digital security through electronic signatures for MPs and parliament services

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** No • **Potential for results:** Unclear	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to allow electronic signatures by MPs and parliament services in case they are unable to physically attend plenary and working committee sessions. The introduction of digital signature certificates for MPs is conditional on legal changes, which have not taken place. Therefore, the commitment was not started.[90]

Commitment 2.1: Design a new website for the Assembly

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Complete • **Early results:** Moderate Results

Open Government Partnership

Independent Reporting Mechanism

This commitment was carried forward from the 2018-2020 action plan. The main deficiencies with the Assembly's old webpage were insufficient content regarding the Assembly's operations, the legislative process, the voting of MPs in the Parliament, and limited accessibility for persons with visual impairment. A contract for the development of a new website was concluded on 5 June 2021 with funds from the Parliamentary Support Programme. The new website was launched in May 2022, and it seems to address many of the above-mentioned deficiencies.[91] Additionally, need-based interventions are being carried out regarding the software solution, to align the website with the needs of the users, especially to improve its search functions. According to the self-assessment report, even at the early stage of publication, the website has seen increases in visits. For example, in June 2022, the website had 19,700 visits, while in July that number rose to 25,600 visits. In November 2022, an average of 4,900 openings per day was noted, which continued in 2023.[92] While these numbers suggest that the webpage is accessed often, without the numbers of visits for the previous website, it is difficult to compare the changes in traffic for the new webpage.

Commitment 2.2: Fully functional parliamentary TV channel

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes
- **Potential for results:** Modest

- **Completion:** Substantial
- **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to develop a television channel for the Assembly. A contract was signed to fulfill the commitment, and seven employees were hired in the support department of the channel. The channel is now functional.[93] The amendments to the Law of the Assembly of 29 July 2021 provided the legal framework to further develop the channel's studio. However, it is not clear if these technical improvements have resulted in better programing or higher viewership. Further improvements to the channel are planned in the sixth action plan in Commitment 2 of the third Open Parliament action plan.

Commitment 2.3: Develop software for public monitoring of the legislative process

- **Verifiable:** Yes
- **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes
- **Potential for results:** Modest

- **Completion:** Complete
- **Early results:** Moderate Results

Under this commitment, the Assembly aimed to procure software so that the public can follow, in real time, the stages of proposed legislation, and allow browsing by proposed law. The software solution provides an overview of the status of each item on the agenda of the plenary or committee session, details of each reading, as well as the accompanying documentation in relation to each item.[94] Details are available for each session, as well as the stenographic records for plenary sessions and for committees.[95] It also now possible to follow the legislative process by phases.[96]

Commitment 2.4: Open e-archive software for browsing by the public

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• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

Under this commitment, the Assembly aimed to open its e-archive to the public. The Assembly was unable to find a solution that would allow access to the e-archive without compromising security, so this commitment was not started.[97]

Commitment 2.5: Procurement of cameras and equipment for online streaming of parliamentary sessions

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Complete • **Early results:** No Notable Results

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) procured the cameras for online streaming of parliamentary sessions in September 2022. The cameras were installed in the Assembly. The commitment was completed, but to be able to determine its effects there is no information on how many sessions are streamed on the Assembly's website.[98]

Commitment 3.1: Produce news reports and familiarize the public to promote the contact offices with citizens

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Unclear	• **Completion:** Complete • **Early results:** No Notable Results

The Assembly changed this activity during the implementation period. In cooperation with NDI, the Presidency decided to conduct a "Parliamentary Caravan" of promotional content for the Assembly in 12 cities across the country.[99] The goal was to present their work, to introduce citizens to the MPs from their city, and for citizens to get to know the role and work of the offices and assistants of the MPs. The feedback from citizens was positive, highlighting the importance of having such events more often.[100] There were also promotional video interviews with citizens and news coverage as well as direct contact with MPs, by 49 MPs visiting 13 cities to speak with citizens in person. The video interviews captured a variety of views, including negative comments, such as citizens commenting that they do not trust the Assembly. This provided greater visibility of the Assembly and improved citizens' access to MPs' offices, but most have not been used. Such initiatives, in a more structured manner, could increase citizen engagement in public life. This commitment is continued in the 2024-2026 Open Parliament action plan as Commitment 4.

Commitment 3.2: Promote the Open Government Partnership

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Unclear	• **Completion:** Substantial • **Early results:** No notable results

Several activities took place under this commitment. During Open Government Week 2022, some of the Assembly's OGP activities were promoted via social media, supported by the Parliamentary Support Programme. The OGP coordinator for the Assembly took part in a panel discussion at the International Conference for Open Data 2022, and MPs participated in regional events. NDI organized a workshop for civil society and employees of the Assembly, resulting in the formation of three sub-groups for the implementation of the 2021-2023 action plan.[101] The self-assessment report does not mention if the milestone to analyze OGP trends was completed. Commitment 3 of the third Open Parliament action plan calls for a supervisory discussion in the Assembly to discuss the 2024-2026 OGP action plan.

Commitment 3.3: Procure voice-to-speech software

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to procure software to automate transcription of plenary and committee sessions from text to audio format. According to the self-assessment report, the activities for this commitment have not started.[102]

Open Judiciary

Commitment 1.1: Improve the electronic judicial portal of RNM (www.sud.mk)

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

Under this commitment, the Supreme Court will standardize court information on the http://www.sud.mk portal and make the portal accessible for visually impaired persons. According to the self-assessment report, the activities for this commitment have not started.[103] This commitment, along with the other five Open Justice commitments, are carried over into North Macedonia's 2024-2026 action plan.

Commitment 1.2: Improve the courts' public relations

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to develop a five-year transparency strategy for courts in North Macedonia. According to the self-assessment report, the activities for this commitment have not started.

Commitment 1.3: Improve quality and availability of data and information on the Judicial Council's performance

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to increase the amount and quality of information on the website of the Judicial Council, including information on the Judicial Council's performance. The Judicial Council would also develop a tool for citizens' complaints and appeals. According to the self-assessment report, the activities toward completing this commitment have not started.

Commitment 2.1: Enhance the Judicial Council's oversight of court transparency

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

Under this commitment, the Judicial Council aimed to assess and monitor the transparency of court presidents and court websites. According to the self-assessment report, the activities for this commitment have not started.

Commitment 2.2: Improve and unify the structure of court reports and quality of data

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

This commitment aimed to unify court reports and ensure they provide quantitative and qualitative information on court performance. According to the self-assessment report, the activities for this commitment have not started.

Commitment 2.3: Improve electronic system for inception and continuous training of judges

• **Verifiable:** Yes • **Does it have an open government lens?** Yes • **Potential for results:** Modest	• **Completion:** Not Started • **Early results:** No Notable Results

Open Government Partnership

Independent Reporting Mechanism

This commitment aimed to ensure access to materials for professional advancement of judges and continuous training of judges through a modern e-library and e-archive. According to the self-assessment report, the activities for this commitment have not started.

[33] Editorial notes:
1. For commitments that are clustered: The assessment of potential for results and "Early Results" is conducted at the cluster level, rather than the individual commitment level.
2. Commitments' short titles may have been edited for brevity. For the complete text of commitments, please see North Macedonia's action plan: https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/north-macedonia-action-plan-2021-2023/
3. For more information on the assessment of the commitments' design, see North Macedonia Action Plan Review: https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/north-macedonia-action-plan-review-2021-2023/

[34] Vlatko Naumovski, interview by the IRM, 8 March 2024; Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact)

[35] Vlatko Naumovski, interview by the IRM, 8 March 2024; Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact)

[36] According to 2021 Index of Active Transparency developed by the Center for Civil Communications, on average, ministries and the government publish 79 percent of required information, while municipalities publish only 60 percent. Individual percentages calculated per institution range from 10 to 100 percent. The same research conducted among public enterprises shows they publish 41 percent of required information.

[37] Center for Civil Communications, Active transparency index 2021, https://www.ccc.org.mk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=441:-2021-&lang=en&Itemid=

[38] Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact)

[39] https://aspi.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/%D0%93%D0%9E%D0%94%D0%98%D0%A8%D0%95%D0%9D-%D0%98%D0%97%D0%92%D0%95%D0%A8%D0%A2%D0%90%D0%88-2022.pdf.

[40] Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact)

[41] Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, National Action Plan monitoring, https://ovp.gov.mk/%d1%81%d0%bb%d0%b5%d0%b4%d0%b5%d1%9a%d0%b5-%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d0%bd%d0%b0%d0%bf/.

[42] Metamorphosis, Open data and open municipalities – data visualization from the first cycle of support for the LSGU, 17 March 2022, https://metamorphosis.org.mk/aktivnosti_arhiva/otvoreni-podatoci-i-otvoreni-opshtini-vizuelizacija-na-podatoci-od-prviot-ciklus-na-poddrshka-na-els/#_blank

[43] Metamorphosis, The second cycle of support for opening the data of LSGUs is finished, 9 May 2022, https://metamorphosis.org.mk/aktivnosti_arhiva/zavrshi-vtoriot-ciklus-na-poddrshka-na-els-za-otvoreni-podatoci-i-transparentnost/#_blank

[44] Metamorphosis, Openness index of the Local Self-Government 2021 23 September 2021, https://metamorphosis.org.mk/aktivnosti_arhiva/indeks-na-otvorenost-na-lokalnata-samouprava-2021-godina/#_blank

[45] Metamorphosis, Openness index for the Local Government for 2022, https://metamorphosis.org.mk/izdanija_arhiva/indeks-na-otvorenost-na-lokalnata-samouprava-za-2022-godina/#_blank

[46] https://www.crm.com.mk/mk/otvoreni-podatotsi/gragjanski-organizatsii

[47] See: Central Registry of the Republic of North Macedonia, Civil society organizations, https://www.crm.com.mk/mk/otvoreni-podatotsi/gragjanski-organizatsii.

[48] Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact)

[49] Financial indicators, https://indikatori.opstinskisoveti.mk

[50] The plan is published in the 2.1.1. milestone box at the bottom, https://ovp.gov.mk/nap_proposals/%d1%98%d0%b0%d0%b2%d0%bd%d0%b8%d1%82%d0%b5-%d0%bd%d0%b0%d0%b1%d0%b0%d0%b2%d0%ba%d0%b8-%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%ba%d0%be-%d0%be%d1%82%d0%b2%d0%be%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%bd%d0%b8-%d0%bf%d0%be%d0%b4%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%be/

[51] Submission forms, https://registar.dksk.mk/submission-forms?page=0&rowsPerPage=5&naming=true

[52] Appointed people, https://registar.dksk.mk/old-forms?page=0&rowsPerPage=5

[53] See: https://registar.dksk.mk/appointed-person?page=0&rowsPerPage=5

[54] Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact)

[55] https://av.gov.mk/

[56] Darko Antik (ESE), interview by the IRM, 29 March 2024.

[57] See: Open Government Partnership, North Macedonia Action Plan 2024-2026, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/documents/north-macedonia-action-plan-2024-2026-june/

58 Darko Antik (ESE), interview by the IRM, 29 March 2024.

59 Darko Antik (ESE), interview by the IRM, 29 March 2024.

60 Self-assessment report 2024 (shared with the researcher by the point of contact)

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62
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