

As civil society, we appreciate the change of the development of the third Italian Action Plan. The born of the first Italian Open Gov Forum as a permanent multi-stakeholder Forum is a good step in the right direction. We appreciate also the presence of the Institution (Minister Marianna Madia) from the beginning to the end of the process: it was an important signal about how much the Italian government is believing on OGP program.

As civil society, we started from the beginning to give our contribute making proposals, fixing inconsistencies and suggesting solutions. For the first time, we had the opportunity to work together with the government sharing ideas and strategies.

Because of all these reasons we have now elements to suggest strong improvements to the whole participation process.

The participation process costs money and these costs fall on civil society. The civil society can accepts these costs in exchange for results that have or may have some impacts on their current activities. Improving the whole participation process means can reduce costs to generate better results.

For these reasons, a document containing instructions for improving the entire process of participation by describing what worked well and less well will be delivered to the competent Minister and the staff of the department responsible for OGP.

Here some critical issues:

Starting from the timeline of the process of design and drafting of the third Italian National Action Plan. The first meeting of the Forum was on the 6th of June 2016 and the end of the first part was on the 15th of July. It's approximately 40 days versus 6 months, as the official Italian roadmap says. It was impossible to manage a real bottom-up awareness of priorities and ideas between participants: there wasn't enough time.

The people mostly active on this part have a lot of difficulties to be involved in the consultation of the Plan: they don't know the responses to their contributes done so far.

As result, the top-down approach is the approach most used inside the final version of this Action Plan. We only approved and integrated some actions born outside the Forum, at most.

The potential behind the Forum is still here: that's why we need to work together to improve the engagement with the civil society.

We hope that this will still be possible in the future.

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