



Ministro per la Semplificazione
e la Pubblica Amministrazione

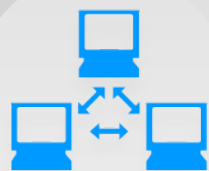
OPEN GOVERNMENT

IN ITALY

3rd Action Plan

2016 - 2018

Addendum Institutions of the Republic



Open
Government
Partnership



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Foreword

A simpler, more efficient and more transparent country: this is the objective that the Italian Government set when it launched a broad reform package in 2014. The reform of public administration is pivotal in this process of change. It is the result of a public consultation – about 40,000 mails with comments and proposals examined in early 2014 – and is meant to turn Italian PA into a driver for growth and opportunities for citizens and businesses by investing in innovation and providing citizens with clear rules and time frames for decision-making.

Open Government, with its inspiring principles of transparency, digital citizenship, citizens' participation and accountability, is fully in line with the general goals of the reform of public administration, including the objective to bring citizens closer to institutions.

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, in his inauguration speech announced, among the goals of his term, a “revolution in the relationship between citizens and public administration so that every citizen can find evidence of what their representatives are doing from day to day”.

This is why over the last two years, several initiatives were launched including “open” websites such as *soldipubblici*, *Opencantieri*, *OpenExpo* allowing citizens to effectively monitor the use of public money. As to digital citizenship, the SPID system is already operational. It provides citizens with a single digital identity to access online PA services and interact with public administration in a simple and transparent manner. At present, several public administrations already grant access to their online services through SPID. The process will be completed by the end of 2017.

In June, the Government introduced a major innovation in the field of transparency by approving legislation based on the Freedom of Information Act. For the first time in Italy, citizens are granted the right to access public data and documents without having to prove a subjective interest, as it is the case in the most advanced democracies. This is a major innovation strongly encouraged by the Government with the active involvement of all civil society associations and representatives dealing with this topic.

On the wake of these innovations, we decided to strongly relaunch Italy's commitment within the Open Government Partnership and stand among the leading countries in the field of transparency, digital citizenship and participation.

To draft the third Italian action plan we set up the first National Open Government Forum which liaised with the panel of central and local administrations. The Forum saw the participation of over 50 organizations from the world of associations, universities, research centers, consumers' and professional associations that worked actively with public administration in proposing and drafting the actions included in the Plan. The cooperation with civil society provided suggestions and tangible proposals on many issues: the

implementation of FOIA, the involvement of civil society in the SPID project, an increased publication and use of public data, cooperation between start-ups and public administrations, the role of young people at the forefront of innovation processes.

This is undoubtedly a major commitment for our country and results are certainly appreciable: we increased the number of actions five times compared to the previous Plan with the active involvement of over 20 public administrations that, regardless of political majorities, accepted the Government's invitation to be part of a major process of change in our country with enthusiasm and commitment.

The actions included in the Plan were submitted for public consultation (<http://open.gov.it/partecipa/consultazioni-attive/consultation-terzo-nap/>) until August 31 and will be constantly monitored together with the members of the Forum. The implementation phase can now begin. The aim is to have the preliminary results of the planned actions for all 70 countries participating in the Paris meeting by next December.

The Minister

Marianna Madia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marianna Madia', written in a cursive style.

Introduction

Background

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a multilateral initiative promoted by Governments and civil society for the adoption of public policies relying on the principles of transparency, participation, anticorruption, accountability and innovation in the public sector.

It is not just about adhering to generic principles: participating countries are committed to pursuing the OGP goals through specific initiatives included in two-year period action plans developed with the involvement of civil society that will have to oversee their implementation.

Italy joined the Open Government Partnership in September 2011, sharing its basic principles and values.

The third action plan is for our country a step forward in our commitment towards achieving these objectives in the period 2016-2018.

We live in the age of transparency and digital transformation and it is the task of Governments to fight corruption, improve the quality of administrative choices and services delivered to citizens and businesses, ensuring the participation of citizens and allowing their control over the process.

It is not accidental that the implementation of open government coincided with the digital revolution: the principles of transparency, participation, accountability and collaboration which are at the basis of it, can be fully implemented only through an appropriate and informed use of ICT and the Internet.

The development of this movement is effectively represented by the rapid growth of the Open Government Partnership which has gone from 8 founding countries in 2011 to as many as 70 participating countries today, and involves hundreds of civil society organizations and thousands of innovators from around the world.

Although Italy was among the first countries to have joined the Partnership, it never had a leading role so far. However – with this action plan – Italy intends to deploy a comprehensive strategy to achieve significant results in transparency, participation, anticorruption and innovation in the public sector.

We strongly believe that the effective implementation of the open government principles is crucial to have a public sector that:

- » improves the quality of its decisions;
- » is transparent about the use of public resources;
- » effectively fights corruption;

» cooperates with citizens, capitalizing on the experiences and skills of civil society.

Italy's third action plan marks a significant improvement compared to past editions: not only because commitments are numerous, ambitious and significant – and we believe they can really implement the principles of open government – but also for the way they were developed.

The document was drafted with the involvement of representatives of civil society, gathered in the newly established Open Government Forum, open to all organizations engaged in open government issues. The plan was drawn up by the Department for Public Administration on the basis of proposals made by the relevant public institutions that, when designing actions, took into account, where possible, the priorities suggested by the civil society organizations consulted.

Of course, having cooperated with civil society does not mean that this plan contains all the actions they requested and there are certainly areas where the plan could have been more ambitious. This constant commitment to improvement, a distinctive feature of an open administration, allows us to learn about the expectations of civil society and therefore influence future commitments.

The third Action Plan

The plan includes actions for the country to become more open, in line with the OGP values of access to government-held information, civic participation, accountability and digitalization of public administration.

These commitments are a major step forward.

As a result of the adoption of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), under the reform of public administration, we will work to enact the right to civic access and monitor its implementation, since we want to understand how to further strengthen it in the future.

Italy was among the first countries to join the International Open Data Charter and is going to develop a strategy on open data in public administration to meet the demands of civil society, improve the quality and availability of information, strengthen transparency and encourage the reuse of released data.

In the past few years, Italy implemented major transparency projects such as *Soldipubblici*, *OpenCoesione*, *ItaliaSicura* and *Opencantieri*: with our third action plan we will ensure the continuity of these projects, we will strength them, develop additional initiatives on transparency of public investment, on the ultra broad band, on spending for international cooperation, education, the penitentiary system and the very important transport sector. These commitments are aimed at promoting transparency as a tool of civic participation and monitoring but also at improving the quality of services delivered to citizens.

Our dialogue with civil society and citizens, which started with the drafting of the plan, will continue throughout the implementation of a participation strategy that – learning from past experiences and errors – relies on the adoption of operational guidelines on participation

processes (i.e. consultations and petitions) as well as the deployment of relevant projects, including at local level with the involvement of regional and municipal administrations.

This is a major innovation: for the first time, the action plan contains the commitments of administrations other than central ones. This makes the plan a country-wide initiative, ensuring that open government is recognized and perceived by citizens at local level too.

Regional and municipal administrations will be involved in major corruption prevention projects and digital rights protection actions, in addition to participation initiatives.

Digitalizing public administration means ensuring a more effective use of services through the enhancement of SPID, the public system of digital identity which allows citizens to use the same credentials to access services provided by all public administrations and, for the future, also those delivered by private companies.

Moreover, in parallel with the actions aimed at promoting the culture of open administration among public employees and citizens, a single access point to services delivered by public administration - “Italia.it” – will be implemented.

The actions of the plan are described in detail, in line with OGP standards and are grouped in three areas:

1. Transparency and open data
2. Participation and accountability
3. Digital citizenship and innovation

Each action contains information on the lead implementing administration and the other PAs involved, the goals, the specific commitments, the implementation timeframe and the OGP values promoted.

Methodology

One of the main innovations of this action plan is the method we used to develop it. We are committed to using the same method, while continuously improving it, throughout the implementation and monitoring process.

This document is the result of:

- » The engagement of civil society which was asked – at an early stage – to express its priorities and – later – consulted online on how to improve the actions;
- » The cooperation with the different administrations involved who set up an institutional working group which decided the actions to be included in the 2016-2018 strategy based on the priorities suggested by civil society.

To this end, the Department for Public Administration established:

- » A working group open to all central administrations including representatives of regional and local authorities;

- » A Forum of civil society organizations with over 50 entities involved whose representatives have already started working in thematic groups to draft the plan. The contribution of the Forum will be crucial during the implementation and monitoring phase.

The establishment of the Open Government Forum (which is an integral part of the participation strategy included in this plan and whose functioning is described in Annex A of this document) is intended to overcome the limitations of the previous Italian OGP plans.

In both cases (2012-2014 and 2014-2016), the Independent Reporting Mechanism recommended the establishment of a Forum with the participation of stakeholders, clear rules and schedules for consultations and the development of awareness-raising activities to promote Italy's work within the Partnership.

After the establishment of the Forum (the first meeting was held on 6 June 2016 in the presence of the Minister for Simplification and Public Administration, Marianna Madia), the action plan drafting process followed two phases:

- a) 6 June-15 July 2016: consultation with civil society organizations involved in the Open Government Forum on the priorities of the third action plan
- b) 15 July – 31 August 2016: on line consultation for the improvement of actions and commitments included in the first draft of the plan.

Implementation

All actions will start in September 2016 and will follow the schedule set for each commitment.

The website used for the consultation, www.open.gov.it, will play a central role throughout the plan's implementation period since it will host all documents regarding the activity of the Forum and will help monitor the effective fulfillment of commitments, ensuring the highest level of transparency on the process and results achieved. In order to guarantee greater transparency and accountability throughout the process, the costs incurred will be indicated upon completion of each action.

The publication of this plan is therefore the beginning of a process. Not only because the most critical phase will be implementation, as experience suggests. But also because, where the conditions exist, further commitments can be added to meet the requests of civil society and citizens and show a real commitment towards the implementation of open government.

Note:

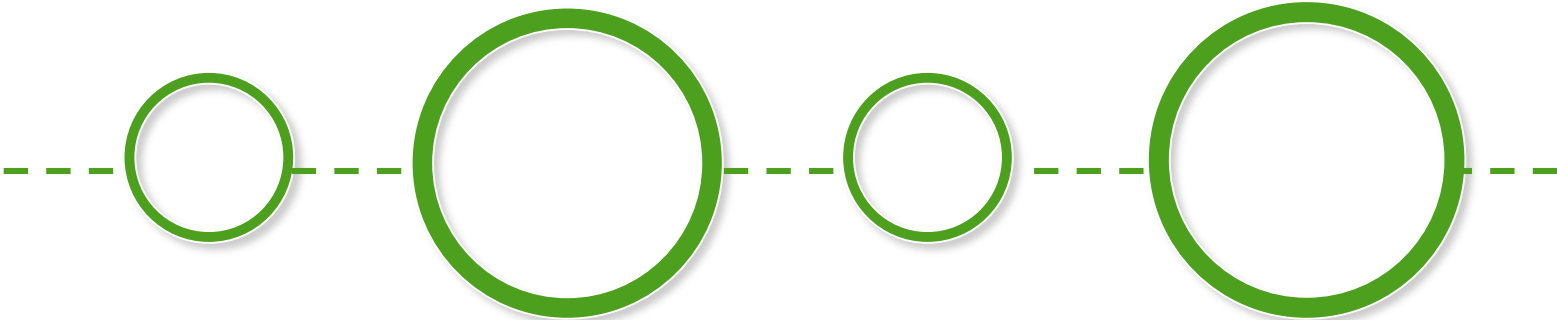
- Actions identified by an **L** label are promoted by local or regional administrations.
- Actions identified by the **SDG** acronym meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Action identified by the **COP21** acronym meet the environmental protection goals contained in the Paris Global Climate Agreement (COP21 of 2015)

The dates shown for each specific commitment refer to the deadline for their completion.

THE ACTIONS

PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PARTICIPATION



A6.

Participation strategy: guidelines on consultations carried out by the Senate

**Short description**

Adopting Guidelines for consultations organized by the Senate, which set principles and minimum requirements to implement the various consultation's phases and activities, and identifying the most appropriate supporting technologies.

**General objective**

Enhance the methodological solidity of consultation processes carried out by the Senate and provide an adequate technological support in compliance with the best national and international practices.



Lead implementing administration

Senate

(Laura Tafani
Carlo Marchetti)



Other PAs involved

Ongoing action



Other actors involved

Beginning of activity



Implementation period

2016 -2018

September 2016

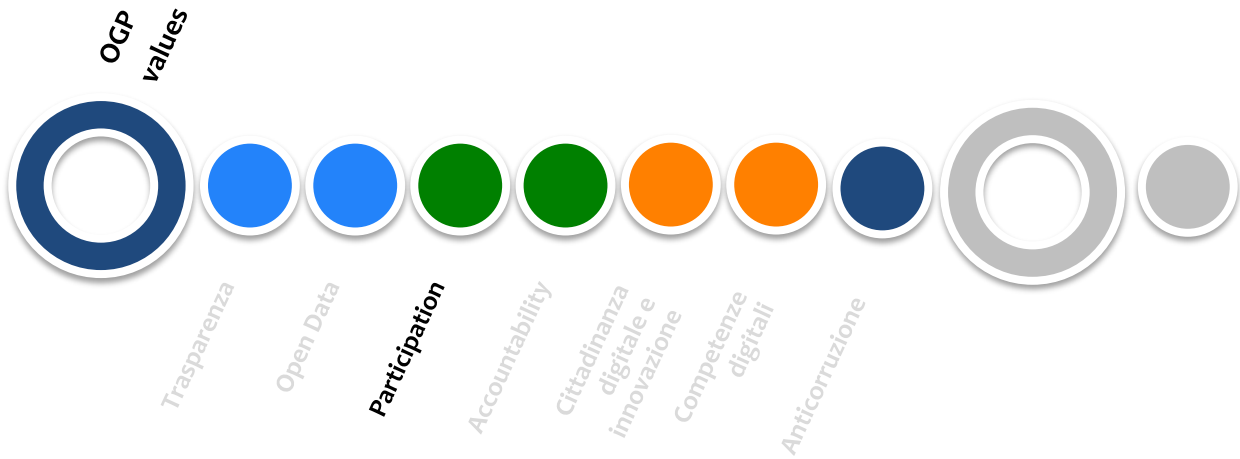
New action

Current situation




In the last years, a few consultations were promoted by Parliamentary Committees on different themes, in different places and using different technologies. The action builds on these experiences to pool the best practices developed and avoid criticalities and limitations observed during implementation.


Expected results


Set a standard methodology and effective tools to foster and make the participation of citizens, stakeholders and civil society organizations effective in fact-finding and decision-making processes of parliamentary bodies.



SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS AND TIMELINE

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. National public consultation on the Draft guidelines</p> | | <p>April 2017 </p> |
| <p>New commitment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Ongoing commitment <input type="checkbox"/></p> | |
| <p>2. Reviewing the main participation/consultation experiences carried out in other Parliaments.</p> | | <p>April 2017 </p> |
| <p>New commitment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Ongoing commitment <input type="checkbox"/></p> | |
| <p>3. Identifying appropriate technological solutions to handle participation/consultation initiatives.</p> | | <p>April 2018 </p> |
| <p>New commitment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Ongoing commitment <input type="checkbox"/></p> | |

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| 4. Testing phase of the Draft guidelines. | March 2018  |
| New commitment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ongoing commitment <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 5. Final adoption of the Guidelines. | June 2018  |
| New commitment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ongoing commitment <input type="checkbox"/> |

This document was drafted by **Italy's OGP Team** established within the
Department for Public Administration.

For further information you can contact Italy's OGP Team **via email** at: [ogp \[at\] governo.it](mailto:ogp@governo.it)