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Goals and commitments to strengthen open government in Italy

I am pleased to present the *Sixth National Action Plan for Open Government in Italy*, the 6NAP, which outlines significant strategic foundations aligned with the vision expressed by the OGP Community of Italy (OGP IT) at the end of 2023, following the completion of the previous cycle implemented with the 5NAP. This action plan reaffirms the importance, as recommended by the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the OECD, of implementing open government policies to enhance citizen participation and inclusion mechanisms for those most affected by the current economic difficulties (women, youth, and the disadvantaged in general), which are strongly influenced by global issues that are putting democracies under stress worldwide.

The new Plan, co-created through a participatory process coordinated and supported by the Public Administration Department, responds to the vision of strengthening the conditions for "Public administrations and bodies that, at all levels of government, implement open government principles by working equally with civil society to enhance citizen engagement and trust, thereby generating public value", in line with the OGP strategy and the latest European and OECD orientations.

The 6NAP is driven by four major overarching goals that drive its action: promoting a culture of integrity, facilitating the dissemination of openness policies, enhancing transparency and open data as resources for creating public value, and combating gender and intergenerational inequalities. The resulting commitments are eight and involve around fifty actors, including public administrations and civil society organisations, committed to their implementation until June 2026. Each goal aims to generate transformative impacts, by relevant expected outputs as main deliverables.

To promote a culture of integrity and transparency in public decision-making processes, two commitments will be implemented: the first aimed at strengthening the transparency of decision-making processes and the second at disseminating knowledge of phenomena that threaten the integrity of these processes. The main deliverable will be the definition of **Guidelines for the introduction of open agendas for decision-makers in public administrations** (by September 2025). To facilitate the dissemination and innovation of openness policies at all levels of government, three commitments will be implemented: the first aimed at strengthening the Participation Hub, the second at developing public management commitment to openness policies; and the third at promoting inclusivity and rights in access to technologies and use Artificial Intelligence. The most transformative expected outcomes will be the participatory definition of **National Guidelines for promoting public**

participation (by November 2024), followed by a Recommendation Document from the Italian Open Government Community on the use of Artificial Intelligence (by May 2026), produced with the international support of People Powered – Democratic Innovations Accelerator, sponsored by the European Commission.

With the goal of overseeing and enhancing transparency and open data as resources for creating public value and opening up the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) to citizens, two commitments will be implemented: the first aimed at promoting the role of new technologies and data as common goods to support open government practices, and the second aimed at defining a new transparency model focused on public value and civil society participation. Among the main expected outcomes are a **Proposal document for a new transparency model** (by June 2025) and a **Guide on the use of indicators, red flags, and open data for civic monitoring and corruption prevention, with particular attention to investment programmes (PNRR) and public procurement (by July 2025).**

Finally, a **Permanent communication and awareness campaign to empower women and youth** will be launched, involving the entire OGP IT, to raise awareness on gender and intergenerational inequality in Italy. The intention is raising awareness of rights and role they can play in the public arena, contributing to the setting of new standards in collective behaviours, policies, and information. Thus, a **Planning document** will be defined (by January 2025).

I am confident that all these initiatives will collectively strengthen the ability to consolidate our national openness policies, demonstrating the commitment of the OGP IT to create the conditions for progressively implementing a national strategy for Open Government.

Hon. Paolo Zangrillo

Minister for Public Administration

Introduction

Lessons learned from the 5NAP

The co-creation of the <u>5NAP</u> enhanced the collaboration among public administrations (PAs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) within the <u>Community OGP IT</u>.

The joint implementation of the Plan, with the participation of organisations involved in various commitments defined during the planning phase, initiated a continuous dialogue between PAs and CSOs in the spirit of transparent and equal collaboration as required by the principles of OGP.

Despite the existing difficulties in working during a dynamic and somewhat critical context (including a change of government), significant progresses were recorded. In particular, the improvements achieved in the governance of the Community and in accomplishing the planned results demonstrated that collaboration with civil society encourages administrations to take on more challenging commitments and increases the ability to achieve concrete results.

This achievement should be further enhanced by expanding the scope of cooperation to include universities and research and training institutions. The aim is to organise joint initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of open government policies.

The goal of the global partnership is to address, in particular, the deficit of citizens' trust that currently characterises advanced democracies and the signs of fragility in younger democracies, as highlighted by the pandemic.

Another potential improvement is the innovation of the approach adopted for selecting commitments. The focus on specific policy areas relevant to openness policies, adopted in 2022, contains the risk of reducing impacts and introducing sectoral biases. The cooperative action of different policies, addressing the prioritised issues simultaneously in a horizontal logic and with strong attention to the expected transformative impact, is, therefore, the innovative approach to be promoted in the future.

This necessitates the development of multidisciplinary working methods that can operate by supply chain rather than single policy areas, aiming to maximise synergies among different stakeholders and commitments. To achieve greater impact in terms of outcomes, the goal was to focus the 6NAP on a reduced number of transformative commitments, relying on multidisciplinary teams of PAs and CSOs

active in the involved policies to achieve the prioritised goals. This approach requires overcoming the common tendency of many public administrations to work autonomously within their policy domain. On the other hand, open government policies require an organisational culture that is open to innovation processes of policies and services and, in parallel, citizens' interest and greater inclination to participate.

This also facilitates a more effective connection with the national strategy contained in the PNRR, which prioritises the expected impacts and collaborative tools between PAs and CSOs for policy definition, not just the results of the planned interventions.

The opinion of the Open Government Forum: perspectives

Regarding the results achieved, the Open Government Forum (Forum per il governo aperto, henceforth OGF) noted significant progress at the end of the 5NAP.

In the area dedicated to promoting a culture of integrity, it is essential to keep the RPCT Community of Practice coordinated by the SNA active, created with the involvement of civil society and recognized as a key player in the national anti-corruption landscape.

In terms of participation, it is fundamental to continue promoting and developing the national <u>HUB</u>, considered an important initiative to rationalise and stimulate active citizen participation. This is necessary both for monitoring public policies and as a catalyst for diverse energies and skills compared to those institutional in policy definition and implementation processes.

Given the critical national context, the activities to promote civic space have been considered particularly useful to involve new organisations in the OGP IT Community and to draw attention to openness policies by actors dedicated to promoting components traditionally less involved in dialogue with PA (women, youth, and minorities). An indicator of the interest aroused is the entry into the OGF of actors such as the National Youth Council, which is involved by the PNRR Steering Committee in the consultative sessions on the Plan.

Moving to the theme of inclusive digitalization, the OGF considers valuable the working method adopted in the 5NAP, which has emphasised significant collaboration and synergy between the involved PAs and CSOs.

On the prospects front, the outgoing Forum highlighted the following priorities in its end-of-term report to promote the principles of open government further:

- Spreading open government practices at the local level, seeking the commitment of political actors (regional presidents and mayors).
- Ensuring transparency of relations with stakeholders to ensure the integrity of decisionmaking processes, especially during the PNRR implementation phase, while simultaneously developing integrity skills for public personnel (at all levels).
- Implementing a legislative reform of the entire transparency and publication obligations framework.
- Paying particular attention to Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data, and the opening of public information assets.

Open Government in support of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan agenda

The regulatory framework underlying the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (*Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza*, henceforth PNRR) calls on Member States to adhere to principles of consultation and citizen participation in the design and implementation of initiatives included in the Plan. The plan also includes actions to overcome gender, generational, and territorial disparities still present in the country.

Following the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its resulting impacts on the international geopolitical context, the need to recalibrate the Italian PNRR led to a comprehensive reassessment of the projects included in the Plan and the identification of necessary modifications and additions to achieve the milestones and targets by 2026. This process saw the involvement of representative organizations of social partners in specific thematic sessions convened by the PNRR Steering Committee to discuss the necessary modifications to the Plan.

The EU Council specified that the PNRR could have a "high impact" on strengthening growth potential, job creation, and Italy's economic, social, and institutional resilience. According to the Council, the new Plan will help implement the European Pillar of Social Rights—including through the promotion of policies for children and youth—, mitigate the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis, and improve economic, social, and territorial cohesion, as well as convergence within the European Union.

This positive expectation of the EU Council requires accompanying the crucial phase of actual realisation of the projects and measures of the recalibrated PNRR, which coincides with the implementation of the 6NAP, with shared initiatives of:

• Active participation of stakeholders interested in defining and realising the interventions;

- Transparent management of commitments made by administrations (accountability);
- Civic monitoring by CSOs;

also through enhancing and strengthening the consultation process provided by the existing legal framework for a more open and inclusive PNRR.

In the current historical context, characterised by global conflicts and crises, the call for strengthening democracy on a global scale frequently recurs in relation to the problem of the progressive reduction of citizens' trust in the actions of governments. The European Commission is increasingly expressing directives for Member States to change governance structures and administrative culture: the goal is to open up to citizen participation throughout the policy-making cycle, from agenda-setting to evaluation of interventions. The promoted tools are participatory democracy institutions (participatory processes that, through deliberative techniques, aim to go beyond mere consultation) and shared administration in the process of public policy formulation, in line with the recent Recommendation on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in public policy-making processes, issued in December 2023. From the perspective of openness policies, seeking ways to expand and strengthen the dialogue between institutions and social partners in implementing PNRR measures is therefore crucial.

In this perspective, the 6NAP seeks to answer the following question: what tools —political, legal-normative, practice-based — can ensure the broadest involvement of social partners and representative civil society organisations in the PNRR implementation process to ensure full and effective citizen participation beyond the important civic monitoring?

Particular attention should be given to the transversal goals of all measures in the Italian PNRR, which must effectively contribute to bridging the gender, generational, and territorial gaps still significantly present in the country, which are in line with the expected results and stated intentions.

In line with the global OGP strategy, the vision of the OGP IT Community is as follows:

Public administrations and entities at all levels of government implement the principles of open government, working equally alongside civil society to strengthen listening and trust among citizens and produce public value.

This vision is also based on the Italian Constitution, which in Article 118, paragraph 4 states that: 'State, regions, metropolitan cities, provinces and municipalities favour the autonomous initiative of citizens, both individual and associated, to carry out activities of general interest, on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity'.

The principle of horizontal subsidiarity has laid the foundation for synergistic action between public and private entities in the joint pursuit of general interest goals, fostering an alliance between institutions and citizens functional to the full implementation of the constitutional principle of substantial equality (Art. 3, paragraph 2). The principle of horizontal subsidiarity opens the allocation of public functions not based on an abstract institutional geometry but rather on a concrete goal: creating conditions for the full development of the human person and safeguarding their dignity.

The first area the 6NAP intends to strengthen is that relating to **RIGHTS**, which must be guaranteed to citizens who intend to collaborate in defining and implementing public policies. These rights must be analysed in light of the principles of open government (transparency, accountability, anticorruption, inclusive digital transformation) to identify the shadow areas that, despite constitutional and legal protections, prevent civil society from actively participating in openness policies.

Although this first dimension of analysis is certainly relevant, it does not provide sufficient guarantees to make open government policy actionable. A second fundamental area of intervention is the dissemination of the **COMPETENCIES** necessary to make the exercise of these rights effective. A third relevant dimension concerns the involvement of citizens in the definition of public policies through inclusivity in access to **TECHNOLOGIES** and their design in line with design for all principles. Under this aspect, the crucial role of artificial intelligence must be considered, as mentioned before. Rights to enable civic space, competencies for open administration, and technologies for inclusion are cross-cutting areas of action that the co-creation process of the 6NAP has focused on in relation to the following priorities contained in the progress strategy document, approved by the OGP IT Community as of December 2023:

- Making the open government method an integral part of the national PNRR strategy, in collaboration with the actors implementing it.
- Defining and disseminating competencies for open government and promoting leadership for its implementation in public management and organised civil society.
- Implementing open government practices in areas of greater impact for reducing inequalities, social equity, and integrity.
- Implementing open government at the local level, spreading lessons learned through national and international experiences.
- Supporting the dissemination of open government principles worldwide in collaboration and line with the agendas of international forums.

The general goals emerging from the co-creation process described below are 4 and are articulated in 8 different commitments intended to address the first 3 priorities of the national strategy. Other activities will be progressively implemented in parallel to fully implement the strategy.

Among these are the launch of an OG Local Plan to spread open government practices at the local level and initiatives connecting with the openness policies of Ministries and other national entities to give visibility and increase citizen and public personnel awareness of the importance of leveraging collective intelligence for effective implementation of the PNRR and public policies with greater community impact.

Action Plan development process

The Sixth National Action Plan (6NAP) for Open Government 2024 - 2026 is the result of a co-creation process supported by the Public Administration Department and carried out by the Open Government Forum (OGF) with the involvement of the Italian Community for Open Government (OGP IT). This process, spanning 6 months, began with a preparatory phase during the transition between the first and second term of the OGF in February 2024 and concluded in July 2024.

It involved collaboration among all levels of administration (central, regional, local), civil society, and various public and private stakeholders interested in open government policies within the OGP IT Community. It was based on a shared definition of goals and commitments and on the assumption of responsibilities by different public actors to support and implement the necessary actions to address the identified challenges.

Preparatory phase (February/April)

In terms of perspectives, to ensure continuity and strength in promoting open government policies both at the national and territorial levels, following the closure of the 5NAP, the outgoing OGF (in office for the 2022/2023 period) produced an end-of-term report highlighting the following priorities for the following NAP cycle:

- Centrality of the territories and the importance of involving political actors (regional presidents and mayors) to advance open government policies.
- Effective transparency of relationships with stakeholders while simultaneously developing skills for public personnel integrity.
- Legislative reform of the entire transparency framework and publication obligations.
- Artificial intelligence (Al), big data, and opening public information assets.

Subsequently, the Open Government Task Force (TFOG) of the Public Administration Department, coordinated by the National Contact Point (PoC) for Italy's participation in the global Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative, developed a policy document (Open Government Policy Note) to provide the OGF and OGP IT with insights on the current scenarios of open government policies at the national level, in light of regulatory and policy advancements as of March 2024 and in line with the national open government strategy document defined in progress in the 5NAP.

The Policy Note identified three macro areas as cross-cutting areas of focus:

Rights to enable civic space

- Competences for open administration
- Technologies for inclusion

The document outlines the most promising intervention perspectives for the 6NAP for each of these areas.

During this phase, in March, the procedures for renewing the members of the OGF were carried out, as defined by the <u>Regulation</u> updated by the outgoing Forum and subjected to <u>public consultation</u> on the ParteciPa platform.

To encourage the active involvement of CSOs and PAs in implementing open government principles, organisations were invited to present transformative commitments during the candidacy phase to advance the culture of openness within their institutions, the public system, and civil society.

During its inaugural meeting on March 26th, the OGF initiated an internal discussion on three macro areas: rights, competencies, and technologies. The discussion aimed to define priority areas of analysis and key questions to engage the Community in listening and discussion sessions as part of the cocreation process approved during the meeting.

Engagement activities (March/May)

The co-creation process began with a national promotion <u>webinar</u>, <u>held on March 28</u>, aimed at expanding the OGP IT Community in preparation for the co-creation process and aligning knowledge on the results achieved by open government policies implemented in 2022-2023.

The webinar was open to all members of the Italian Community for Open Government and anyone interested in open government policies. Over 150 participants attended at the national level. Following the webinar, additional organisations, particularly from civil society, joined OGP IT.

As of April 2024, at the start of the co-creation process, 30 public administrations (of various government levels) and 60 civil society organisations had joined the Community, a prerequisite for participating in the co-creation process.

Engagement activities continued in May during OGWeek 2024 to promote OGP IT activities and further develop the outcomes of the ongoing discussion within the co-creation process through engagement with external actors and innovative practices of interest for open government policies. <u>Four national online events</u> were designed and held from May 27 to 30, involving OGF members, experts from the

Open Government Task Force, representatives from PAs and CSOs active in implementing open government principles, and academia.

The leading role of the Forum for Open Government

The OGF consistently supported the process, which defined the proposals/questions for the discussion tables and synthesised the emerging elements in collaboration with the PoC and TFOG.

In April, representatives from the 22 PAs and CSOs on the Forum, divided into three thematic subgroups, dedicated a series of online meetings held on April 9, 11, and 12 to the three intervention areas of rights, competencies, and technologies identified by the Policy Note.

The outcomes of these meetings were further elaborated during the OGF plenary session on April 18, identifying intervention areas of interest to present to the Community for defining priorities and potential actions to be assessed for future feasibility.

OGF members subsequently actively participated in open meetings for all OGP IT members, coordinating the dialogue and facilitating, with the support of facilitators and TFOG experts, a productive discussion within the Community on the identified intervention areas.

Co-creation meetings for the 6NAP (April/June)

The methodology adopted for the co-creation meetings, structured in group work and collective reflection sessions, involved facilitators and used visual thinking tools, such as digital whiteboards, to collect and systematise contributions. A report was produced and progressively published on the open.gov.it website for each thematic area discussed in group sessions.

During the online meetings held between April and May, OGP IT Community participants, supported by facilitators and Task Force OG experts, engaged in discussions on key themes and questions proposed by the OGF related to the three macro areas of rights to enable civic space, competencies for open administration, and technologies for inclusion.

Participants discussed intervention areas proposed by the OGF in the first online meeting on April 23, structured in plenary and group work sessions. This meeting, attended by representatives from 28 civil society organisations and 19 public administrations, collected opinions on shared priorities within the Community and related action hypotheses for each of the 3 macro areas.

In subsequent meetings held on May 23 and 24, organised in thematic sessions supported by Task Force OG experts and facilitators, participants synthesised the discussions from the April meetings. They focused on 4 macro commitments and their main expected results. The discussion led to proposals of actions of interest for the present organisations, considering various transformative commitments already planned by OGF members. Alongside the proposed actions, organisations expressed their interest in taking responsibility for their implementation or collaborating on future commitments.

Representatives from 12 civil society organisations and 8 public administrations attended the May 23 meeting, dedicated to the macro area of competences. The May 24 meetings discussed the rights area with representatives from 8 civil society organisations and 7 public administrations and the technologies area with representatives from 11 civil society organisations and 9 public administrations.

This process progressively led to the definition of 4 general goals linked to national strategy priorities, with related main expected results, feasible activities, and actors interested in co-implementation (divided between responsible and collaborating organisations).

The commitment drafting phase for the 6NAP, involving working teams composed of representatives from the organisations (PAs and CSOs) that applied for the role of responsible, began on June 17 with a plenary briefing for all responsible organisations participating in the 6NAP co-implementation teams. The NAP structure, the form for drafting commitments, and the framework of actors involved in the implementation teams were presented during the online meeting.

Additionally, the synthesis of the May meetings' outcomes was shared, identifying the 4 general goals of the 6NAP:

- 1. Goal A: Promoting a culture of integrity and transparency in public decision-making processes
- 2. **Goal B:** Facilitating the dissemination and innovation of openness policies at all levels of government
- 3. **Goal C:** Overseeing and enhancing transparency and open data as resources to create public value and open up the PNRR to citizens
- 4. Goal D: Raising awareness of gender and intergenerational inequality in Italy

Drafting the 8 commitments, which compose the Plan, was carried out collaboratively within a shared online workspace. Between June 17 and July 5, representatives of the responsible organisations worked on planning and describing each commitment, with constant support from the PoC and Task Force OG experts.

This phase of work was conducted asynchronously but included online meetings for commitment team discussions to ensure alignment among all organisations involved in the planning.

Public consultation on the 6NAP draft

From July 8 to 20, 2024, the 6NAP for Open Government 2024-2026 draft was subjected to an online public consultation on ParteciPa to gather contributions and feedback from all interested in open government themes to improve the future implementation of the Plan.

At the end of the <u>consultation</u>, the final version of the Plan and a report on the consultation outcomes were published on the ParteciPa platform.

Goal A

Promoting the culture of integrity and transparency in public decisionmaking processes

Context

Public integrity and democracy are closely interrelated; the loss of integrity exposes modern democracies to the risk of establishing oligarchies or kleptocracies, where the interests of a few influence and bind public decision-makers, leading to the progressive decline of states.

The culture of public sector integrity, the fight against corruption, and the protection of democracies are themes that intersect various initiatives. Documents approved by the international community leave no doubt that corruption is both a local and global threat, exacerbated by the pandemic and wartime emergencies of recent years. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets the overarching goal of reducing corruption and power abuses in all forms, promoting the rule of law and creating effective, transparent, and accountable institutions.

With previous initiatives implemented during the last National Action Plan, several paths to strengthen the culture of public integrity have already been initiated, thanks especially to the work carried out by the Task Force coordinated by the National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC) and the Community of Practice of RPCT, managed by the National School of Administration (SNA). The interventions carried out so far have contributed to promoting a general change in the approach to preventing corruption, increasingly focusing on the skills of key players in a perspective of simplification and integration between the safeguards provided by the legal system and the solutions developed by civil society organisations.

Promoting a culture of public integrity is not merely about complying with legal obligations but also about implementing concrete actions to enable public decision-makers to operate solely in the interest of the community.

Commitment 1. Strengthening the transparency of decision-making processes in the relations between public decision-makers and stakeholders

Beginning and ending dates of the commitment

1 September 2024 - 30 June 2026

Organisations responsible for the implementation

PAs: PCM - Public Administration Department (DFP), National School of Administration (SNA)

CSOs: The Good Lobby, Transparency International Italia

In collaboration with: Open Government Forum

Organisations collaborating to the implementation

PAs: National Authority for Anti-Corruption (ANAC), National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work (INAIL), Ministry of Enterprise and Made in Italy (MIMIT), Puglia Region

CSOs: PASocial

Problem addressed

The right to the integrity of public decision-making processes must be considered a priority to prevent economic and social dynamics where particular interests are rewarded at the expense of the general interest. The real risk is creating an intolerable gap for modern democracies, effectively excluding a large population segment from guaranteeing their rights.

The exercise of this right is not yet fully guaranteed in our country. Citizens and civil society organisations do not have effective tools to reduce the information asymmetries surrounding public decision-making processes, making them vulnerable to biases and manipulations by particular interests.

For instance, the emergence of needs for the procurement of goods and services or external expertise, the adoption of sectoral policies that guide the market (either opening or closing it), and the development of regulatory devices in the implementation of sectoral regulations are processes that are still not transparent, especially in central administrations, Regions, and large cities.

In the administrations' perception, the planning and needs assessment phases as immune to manipulation and undue influence by particular interests. However, public decision-makers often underestimate the risks arising from situations of conflict of interest and revolving doors, exposing public decision-making processes to risks of relational interference, hijacking of public functions, and loss of integrity. The absence of specific standards for properly managing relationships between public decision-makers and stakeholders can, therefore, expose administrations to obvious reputational risks.

Finally, public policies are also defined at the local level (e.g., concerning social services, healthcare, education, territorial and infrastructural planning, environment). Although Open Agendas were designed to provide guidance to national-level decision-makers, it is crucial to transfer this culture to the subnational level as well.

Description of the commitment

Increasing the transparency, integrity, and accountability of public decision-making processes in Italy would bring considerable benefits in terms of improving:

- The perception of public institutions and the overall image of the "country system", with
 particular reference to international investors, often deterred from investing in Italy due to
 fears of "decision-making opacity";
- The quality of decision-making processes, ensuring a more comprehensive and objective information framework:
- The quality of choices made by public decision-makers, who could receive contributions, data, and information from all stakeholders potentially interested in or impacted by a particular policy;
- The level of democracy within the political-institutional system, overcoming current distortions and opacities that may favor specific stakeholders to the detriment of the community.

The main expected outcome of this commitment is the implementation of concrete cases of open agendas of top administration officials and support for disseminating this practice nationwide.

How will the commitment address the problem?

In collaboration with the Open Government Forum, the Public Administration Department, as the institutional facilitator of open government policies at the national level, has welcomed the call for the

introduction of open agendas at the request of the Minister of Public Administration, who is in favor of a path aimed at supporting this practice widely among PAs. This initiative represents an important pilot case implementing a key principle of open government, in line with the policy favoring transparency and supporting the culture of integrity.

Additionally, on a technical level, the availability of the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT) to share their experience and know-how in the matter has been acquired, considering the current process of simplifying open agendas initiated, also to increase the effectiveness of the tool in areas other than economic development, but in line with the principle of accountability.

Why is this commitment relevant to the OGP values?

Promoting the culture of integrity in our institutions and public administrations requires concrete actions aimed at reducing information asymmetries by adopting transparency and integrity standards that enable public decision-makers to be accountable for their actions.

More transparent and inclusive decision-making processes contribute to greater openness and public participation, including from often underrepresented interests. Specifically, the commitment aims to introduce and disseminate practices that concretely make the relationships between national public decision-makers and stakeholders transparent, in line with the principle of leading by example. This perspective includes the introduction of Open Agendas and a register (or "Registry") of stakeholders in public administrations, thanks to the leadership role assumed in this area by the Public Administration Department as an initiative of the Minister pro tempore of Public Administration in collaboration with the Open Government Forum.

Activities

Description of the activities and outputs	Beginning date	Ending date
Initiation of a path for the adoption of open agendas by public decision-makers in public administrations.	September 2024	June 2025
Technical document on modelling (December 2024)		

Pilot design (January 2025)		
Strengthening knowledge and skills in public integrity (in connection with Goal "B", commitment 4). Output:	May 2025	June 2026
 Program of meetings dedicated to the topic (June 2025) 		
 Participant feedback on the training received - Final report (June 2026) 		
Strengthening integrity standards in the relations between public decision-makers and interest groups.	March 2025	June 2025
Output: Document on integrity standards for public decision-makers (June 2025)		
Accompaniment path for the introduction of open agendas by public decision-makers in administrations. Output:	September 2025	June 2026
 Guidelines for the introduction of open agendas (September 2025) Evaluation report on the path (June 2026) 		

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Commitment 2. Dissemination of knowledge of phenomena threatening public decision-making integrity and strengthening of Public Administrations and Civil Society Organisations skills

Beginning and ending dates of the commitment

1 September 2024 – 31 May 2026

Organisations responsible for the implementation

PAs: National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC), National School of Administration (SNA)

CSOs: Libera

Organisations collaborating to the implementation

PAs: Bank of Italy - Financial Intelligence Unit for Italy (UIF), National Agency for the Administration and Destination of Confiscated Assets Seized from Organised Crime (ANBSC)

CSOs: Labsus - Laboratory for Subsidiarity, Transparency International

Problem addressed

The complex integration of measures that the legal system places to protect public integrity (anti-mafia, anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, anti-fraud, etc.) arises from the general difficulty in understanding the phenomena that threaten the effectiveness of political and administrative action and that distort the public system's objectives. These phenomena, such as organised crime infiltration, money laundering, fraud, and embezzlement, certainly raise social alarm. However, the dynamics and mechanisms of exploitation involving the public sector are difficult to understand and often escape perception. Other phenomena, such as conflicts of interest and revolving doors, remain in the background of political and administrative action and are addressed using ineffective approaches in terms of ensuring the independence and impartiality of public functions.

The complexity of these phenomena makes it increasingly necessary to build and strengthen, both in public administrations and among citizens, knowledge and skills helpful in addressing them. This can be done by creating a dialogue between the administrative oversight constituted by the internal control system and the external control ensured by civic monitoring activities. It is important to build a common language for both preventing and countering corrupt phenomena, money laundering, and fraud, also from the perspective of increasingly integrating the safeguards provided by the legal system with the solutions developed by civil society organisations.

Another fundamental issue, in this perspective, is the protection of whistleblowers. Despite the recent adoption of Directive 2019/1937, many critical issues remain open, particularly regarding the visibility of CSOs that provide support and assistance to whistleblowers and the usability of this service. Therefore, mapping and reviewing all entities dealing with whistleblower protection in Italy is necessary, as well as further promotion and dissemination of good practices already developed by the SNA's RPCT Community of Practice addressing this issue.

Description of the commitment

The main goal is to create, through equal collaboration between institutions and civil society organisations, a body of skills and guidelines to prevent corruption, fraud, and money laundering, promoting a culture of integrity among public personnel and civil society organisations. This requires training within the SNA's RPCT Community of Practice.

This will be achieved by identifying archetypes to develop innovative skills for public employee training, enabling them to understand phenomena and properly manage conflicts of interest and ethical dilemmas, as also requested by the OECD Recommendations on Public Integrity. Furthermore, it is crucial to help change the narrative around the whistleblower figure, strengthening their protection to defend public value.

Initiatives will be undertaken to increase understanding of the new regulations, promote training and skills development paths for RPCTs, and plan targeted communication strategies. The same applies to the transparency of assets seized from the mafia, which must be returned to the communities to recover the value taken away. In the current context, integrating anti-corruption and anti-money laundering is essential to prevent the risks of criminal infiltration, especially in PNRR-funded projects.

How will the commitment address the problem?

The development of skills within civil society and administrations is of primary importance to support integrity policies and the management of assets confiscated from the mafia for social purposes. Skills development helps actors navigate a complex landscape and initiate the necessary dialogue to build and preserve public value, which is the ultimate goal of administrative action.

Regarding the integration of anti-corruption and anti-money laundering measures, in light of the need for increasing coordination, a qualitative survey will continue to systematise information and data related to factors enabling public administrations to fulfil anti-money laundering duties, aiming to create

an active collaboration model that can be proposed through the Community of Practice to a broader number of public entities, transforming those enabling factors into genuine good practices to be exported and disseminated.

In the same vein, a model of integrity competencies will be defined through qualitative and quantitative surveys on the perception and tolerance of corrupt behaviors, as well as understanding the phenomena that threaten the transparency and integrity of decision-making processes. In an era where the narrative built on unverifiable data shapes and constructs the civic space, it is necessary to rethink public information's value in this context, both for public decisions and citizen involvement in political life.

The commitment includes activities coordinated with Commitment 4 of Goal B.

Why is this commitment relevant to the OGP values?

The commitment is relevant because it aims to enhance the role and experience of organised civil society, alongside public administrations, in preventing corrupt phenomena to promote integrity and accountability. It also seeks to spread targeted skills among public personnel. Given the current significant lack of sensitivity and awareness on crucial anti-corruption prevention topics, it is necessary to promote innovative training models for public employees (also through concrete cases and ethical dilemmas, as requested by the OECD Recommendations on Public Integrity), enabling a full understanding of the phenomena and correct risk management.

Similarly, it is relevant to OGP values to accompany the narrative change about whistleblowers, networking all entities involved in their protection in Italy, and enhancing transparency in reporting channels to create a favorable environment.

Activities

Description of the activities and outputs	Beginning date	Ending date
Integration between anti-corruption and anti-money laundering measures and strengthening anti-money laundering measures in administrations	September 2024	January 2026
Outputs: Update on the survey of enabling factors for anti-money laundering duties, in continuity with 5NAP (May 2025)		

T	
January 2025	May 2026
October 2024	September 2026
	2020
September 2024	March 2025
January 2025	May 2026
March 2025	April 2026
	October 2024 September 2024 January 2025

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Goal B

Facilitating the dissemination and innovation of openness policies at all levels of government

Context

Opening public decision-making processes to citizens' participation is central to the National Open Government Strategy, which highlights the need to strengthen the participation of more marginalised, underrepresented, and vulnerable individuals and groups, such as women, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, or those from other cultures.

Since 2023, Italy initiated efforts in this direction with the co-creation of the <u>Participation Hub</u>. This national reference platform acts as a link between practices and know-how present in the country, and with the development of training modules to promote the skills necessary for implementing open government principles, disseminated through the Competency <u>Syllabus</u> and courses at the <u>National School of Administration</u>.

In this context, the European Commission published in December 2023 an important <u>Recommendation</u> on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in <u>public policy-making processes</u>. It aims to strengthen democratic resilience in the Union by promoting the participation of citizens and civil society organisations in policy-making processes, and it urges Member States to offer greater opportunities for participation and effective collaboration with public authorities at local, regional, and national levels, in line with established norms and good practices.

Opportunities also come from the <u>Competence Center on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy</u> and the growing number of European calls specifically promoting deliberative democracy. Similar attention is required by the European level (<u>Al Act</u>) regarding the opportunities offered by technology, considering emerging innovations (green energy, biotechnology, etc.) and the role of Artificial Intelligence. Citizens must be involved in the policies regulating these sectors to avoid potential negative impacts from cultural barriers or biases in Al algorithms, promoting transparency and digital inclusion instead. The increasingly rapid integration of technology and Al into our lives and government structures is certainly one of the biggest challenges for a plan aimed at inclusivity and protecting citizens' rights. Technology represents an opportunity as it provides enabling tools for policy co-production processes, allowing public decision-makers to benefit from the active participation of stakeholders and citizens.

Commitment 3. Strenghtening the Participation Hub as a national platform supporting participatory practices

Beginning and ending dates of the commitment

23 July 2024 - 30 July 2026

Organisations responsible for the implementation

PAs: PCM - Public Administration Department (DFP), Emilia-Romagna Region (RER), Roma Capitale

CSOs: Italian Association for Public Participation (AIP2)

Organisations collaborating to the implementation

PAs: National Youth Council (CNG), Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE)

CSOs: Action Aid, BiPart Social Enterprise Srl, Labsus - Laboratory for subsidiarity, Mappina, The Good Lobby, Association of Public and Institutional Communication (Compubblica), Association of Facilitators Chapter Italia (IAF), WHOW! Energie Partecipative ETS

Problem addressed

Public participation in the Italian context, although very broad and diverse at the local scale and in some Regions, has not yet become a fully supported practice by institutional actors. Except for some sectoral regulations and public debate, which provide for specific regulation for early confrontation on major works, regulatory tools aimed at involving citizens in the definition, implementation, and evaluation of public policies remain mainly at the local level.

At the same time, the exercise of the right to participation by citizens and civil society organisations in the definition of regulations, plans, and programs is still largely procedural by institutions. The lack of a consistent national framework to promote and consolidate participatory democracy institutions, ensuring minimum quality standards, leaves room for various interpretations and procedures that are not always in line with evolving practices, creating uncertainty in the functioning and outcomes of these processes.

Additionally, unlike other countries like France, Italy lacks national deliberative discussions on major societal issues. The sporadic nature of initiatives is also related to the absence of a national regulatory framework to promote citizen involvement in policy formulation, as highlighted in the aforementioned European Commission Recommendation.

The PNRR, currently being implemented, explicitly calls for the involvement of social partners and organised civil society in its regulatory framework (2021/241, art 18, 4a), specifying that these processes and their outcomes must be documented and made public.

Stimulated by the <u>OGP Challenge</u> initiative, the Italian Community has decided to focus on promoting the quality of participation mechanisms, leveraging the Participation Hub and collaboration among promoters and actors that make up its community of practices, with a coordinated national approach.

Description of the commitment

The main goal of the commitment is the co-creation of national guidelines on participation, which will be defined in accordance with the principles of the Public Participation Charter. These principles have been shared through an extensive and participatory revision process carried out by public and private actors collaborating in the management of the Participation Hub, co-created as part of the 5NAP.

These guidelines will also include the consultation processes currently supported by the "Public Consultation Guidelines", resulting from the collaboration between DFP and DRI. They will consider guidance documents produced by other institutional actors to create a shared national reference framework and common language, identifying minimum quality standards to improve public participation.

The main expected outcome is the dissemination and application of the guidelines by administrations in the public policy-making processes, with institutional support from the Minister of Public Administration.

How will the commitment address the problem?

The commitment aims to address the problem by defining national guidelines that public administrations and civil society can refer to for implementing quality participation policies at all levels of government.

In this regard, during the OG Week 2024, the Minister for Public Administration publicly expressed interest in promoting the co-creation of the guidelines. To achieve a national reference framework defining the value, possible intervention areas, and different scales of public participation, understood as a form of equal collaboration between public administrations and civil society, there is a need for a political stakeholder who, within a soft-law framework, leverages institutional support to reinforce policies aimed at strengthening citizens' trust and generating public value.

The commitment can thus help strengthen the participation of marginalised and underrepresented groups, such as younger generations, in public decision–making processes, ensuring that their voices are heard and represented. The Participation Hub facilitates the sharing of practices and resources; furthermore, emerging technologies and artificial intelligence can facilitate inclusion by providing tools for co-producing policies, actively involving citizens in regulatory processes, and improving the efficiency and equity of public policies.

Why is this commitment relevant to the OGP values?

European directives and the maturity of local entities and civil society in practicing participatory tools provide an important stimulus to practice open government principles, particularly to strengthen the citizens' right to contribute to public decisions within a soft-law framework.

This commitment aims to improve access to policy design and implementation decision-making processes through a path based on defining shared principles. This involves public and civil society actors, both organised and unorganised, in the co-creation of guidelines on public participation aimed at improving the effectiveness of public participation and fostering greater social cohesion. Thus, participation for participation, to make open administration policies not an exception but a widespread practice.

Additionally, the commitment aligns with the OGP Challenge initiative, which foresees managing multistakeholder centers for participation and improving access to public decision-making processes to strengthen participatory policies. Therefore, it aims to strengthen the Participation Hub as a national venue for designing inclusive and participatory public practices.

Activities

Description of the activities and outputs	Beginning date	Ending date
Strengthening the role of the Participation Hub: • Intensifying communication on community of practice activities • Supporting the co-creation process of the guidelines Output: Communication plan for the Hub 2024-2026 (September 2024)	July 2024	July 2026
Realization of a launching event for the co-creation process of public participation guidelines Output: Event program (July 20)	July 2024	September 2024
Participation Festival in Bologna: Presentation of the 2024 Participation Charter and Results of the first step of the guideline definition process Output: Participation Festival program (July 31) Guidelines' structure (September 10)	July 2024	September 2024
Draft production in collaboration with the Participation Hub promoters and public consultation of the guidelines Output: Consultation report on the ParteciPA platform	July 2024	October 2024
Approval of the final text of the guidelines and sharing with the minister for public administration for institutional political endorsement Output: Publication and promotion of the guidelines on the official website	1st of November 2024	By the end of November 2024
 Supporting activities for the application of the guidelines, linked with Commitment B4: Active involvement of stakeholders supporting training paths on participatory democracy for integration of the guidelines in provided courses Promotion events for the guidelines during OG Week 2025 and 2026 Output: Action plan for promoting public participation guidelines (February 2025) 	January 2025	June 2026
Evaluation of the outcomes of the first phase of guideline application with a report by the Participation Hub promoters presented to the Minister for Public Administration and main stakeholders (Conference of Regions and ANCI)	January 2026	May 2026
Output: Report to the OGP Community and the Minister for Public Administration (May 2026)		
Territorial intervention modeling to support public participation policies: OPEN RE	July 2024	

Output:		September
•	Creation of a program of initiatives co-created with the participatory practices	2025
	community of RER (September 2024 - February 2025)	
•	Report on approaches, models, and qualitative effects of public participation	
	(September 2025)	

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Commitment 4. Definition and diffusion of skills and development of public management commitments to openness policies

Beginning and ending dates of the commitment

23 July 2024 - 30 June 2026

Organisations responsible for the implementation of the commitment

PAs: National School of Administration (SNA), PCM - Public Administration Department (DFP)

CSOs: Italian Association for Public Participation (AIP2)

Organisations collaborating to the implementation of the commitment

PAs: National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC), Emilia-Romagna Region (RER), Roma Capitale

CSOs: Association of Public and Institutional Communication (Compubblica), Labsus - Laboratory for Subsidiarity, PAsocial, WHOW! Energie Partecipative ETS

Problem addressed

The development of public employee skills, along with recruiting, simplification, and digitalization, represents one of the main intervention areas of the PNRR. In 2023, the <u>Directive</u> on Training and Competency Development was issued to provide methodological and operational guidelines for the planning, management, and evaluation of training activities by administrations.

An investigation conducted in 2023 on PNRR & Open Government revealed the need to disseminate open government skills in administrations involved in the Plan's management and implementation. Additionally, various open government training courses have been conducted in the last two years in collaboration with SNA and integrated into the <u>Syllabus platform</u> for free access by all public administrations.

However, these skills are still not widely spread. Consequently, the national strategy for open government pays particular attention to skills and leadership. Skills acquisition should become a constant goal of the human resources training plans of central and local administrations. They should be embedded in human capital management strategies increasingly oriented towards *competency-based* models and serve as a vehicle for public value for the reference community.

Special attention should be paid to the initial training of public leaders, not only for profiles connected to decision-making powers but also to produce the cultural change necessary for openness policies by introducing new role models and activating *leading by example* mechanisms. Moreover, activities such as civic monitoring and the co-creation of public policies and services through participatory and deliberative processes, often supported by inclusive technologies, require citizens to possess certain competencies.

Description of the commitment

Institutionalise the training offer for the skills necessary to implement open government policies through the main channels for providing training and updating for public personnel and leadership.

The expected result for entry-level training is the experimentation and formalization of a training module for open government as an integral part of the Public Managment Course-Competition program provided by SNA. Follow-up meetings will also be scheduled for those who have received the training to support the creation of the necessary commitment of public leadership towards open government policies.

At the on-the-job training level, the course offer, on open government competencies, already included in the Syllabus, will be integrated, with particular attention to promoting a culture of integrity in the public sector.

Paths for disseminating competencies among personnel and civil society representatives involved in participatory processes at the territorial level will also be tested.

How will the commitment address the problem?

First, by spreading competencies among new senior hires, to create conditions for further dissemination of open government values (transparency, accountability, participation, integrity, inclusive digitalization) through the principle of leading by example.

Second, thanks to continuous training through the regular offerings of SNA and the Syllabus, open government competencies will gradually become part of the public sector's administrative culture.

For the parallel dissemination of competencies in civil society, the spaces offered by the Community of Practices within the Participation Hub and the RPCT Community of Practice at SNA will be utilised, and possible ways of disseminating training content produced by CSOs present in the OGP Italy Community will be evaluated.

Why is this commitment relevant to the OGP values?

To disseminate open government practices more widely, it is crucial to define places and times for training the necessary skills: how does one learn the attitude towards participation, transparency, integrity, and accountability that guides public personnel in their decisions, activities, and information management? Is it through formal learning, starting at university and consolidating through on-the-job training? Or through informal learning, such as experiences in activism or political representation? And how possible is it to imagine training paths for new generations already in school?

This commitment addresses these questions with the concrete goals of defining tools for training and programming training actions carried out in dialogue with civil society, targeting strategic groups.

It is relevant to OGP values because it aims at entry-level training for central administration leadership and utilises the Syllabus, which is also accessible to territorial administrations.

Activities

Description of the activities and outputs	Beginning dates	Ending dates
Evaluation of catalog courses carried out in 2023 and 2024, in collaboration between SNA and DFP and with the involvement of CSOs, for the planning of SNA courses 2025	July 2024	October 2024
Output: Integration of open government courses into the SNA 2024/2025 catalog (October 2024)		
Production of new courses on open government for the Syllabus of skills catalog	September 2024	December 2025
Output: Insertion of 3 new courses in the Syllabus (December 2025)		
Definition and experimentation of the training module on open government in the program of the Ninth entrance exam for public management	July 2024	June 2026
Output: Program of the Ninth entrance exam (by October 2024)		
Evaluation of the results of the training provided and design of follow-up initiatives for managers who entered service following the Ninth entrance exam	July 2024	June 2026
Output:		
 Report on the evaluation of trainees and follow-up initiatives (February 2025) Standardization and implementation of the training program on open government for subsequent editions of the entrance exam (from July 2025) 		
Definition of skills for the implementation of participation policies through:	July 2024	June 2025
 Initiatives for comparison with stakeholders and civil society at the local level for the participatory management of common goods Updating of the profile of the expert in the design, management and evaluation of participatory processes for the regional level 		
Output:		
 Definition of a training program for the dissemination of participatory skills for shared administration at the local level (June 2025) Modeling of training paths for the development of skills of the various actors of public participation (June 2025) 		

Design and implementation of initiatives to promote the demand for training on open government for civil servants and public managers in service Output: Program of initiatives (April 2025)	March 2025	June 2026
Design and implementation of reuse initiatives during the OG Weeks, including courses and materials produced to inform interested citizens by CSOs or interested PAs Output: Program of initiatives 2025 and 2026 (April 2025 - April 2026)	March 2025	April 2026

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Commitment 5: Promotion of inclusiveness and rights in access to technologies and use of Artificial Intelligence

Beginning and ending dates

1 September 2024 - 31 May 2026

Organisations responsible for the implementation of the commitment

PAs: National Youth Council (CNG), Puglia Region

CSOs: Period Think Tank, Federmanager

Organisations collaborating to the implementation of the commitment

PAs: Digital Italy Agency (AgID), National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC), Ministry of Culture - Central Institute for the Digitisation of Cultural Heritage - DIGITAL LIBRARY

CSOs: Association of Public and Institutional Communication (Compubblica), PASocial, Mappina, Association of Facilitators Chapter Italia (IAF)

Problem addressed

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a societal change agent, producing significant impacts—though not always visible or understood—on our behaviors and forecasting even more substantial future effects that could be both beneficial and highly risky. "The way we interact with AI will determine the world we live in" is a key statement from the European Commission's communication to the European Parliament, "Artificial Intelligence for Europe", announcing the development of the AI Act, one of the world's first laws to regulate AI systems' development and use.

As a national strategic document, the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) also envisages the use of AI systems within various policy measures. In this context, promoting and enhancing specific exante impact assessments on AI applications is necessary, balancing technical profiles with the protection of fundamental rights. This will contribute to making PNRR measures concerning cybersecurity, the annual competition law, the national waste management program, and adopting the School 4.0 plan more effective and equitable.

Every AI system risks creating or amplifying discrimination due to biases inherent in datasets and, consequently, in the algorithms used. Therefore, it is essential to periodically analyze potential biases in AI systems to identify and mitigate related risks.

The regulatory policies that the Italian Government is defining on the subject, starting with the "Provisions and Delegation to the Government on Artificial Intelligence" bill, should be developed with the involvement of all interested stakeholders (field experts, research bodies), including public administrations, civil society organisations, and citizens. The goal is to enrich the evaluation process and strengthen the regulatory framework to ensure fairer and more reliable decisions by those using Al systems.

Description of the commitment

To implement this commitment effectively, collaboration with the <u>Democratic Innovations Accelerator</u> program offered by People Powered has been decided. This program provides mentoring and resources

to strengthen civic participation in public policy definition and governance in Europe. Promoted by the OGP IT Community Participation Hub, the participatory process on "Risks and Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence to Improve Equity and Inclusion" aims to initiate a national deliberative discussion based on open government principles.

The main expected outcomes include: strengthening skills for implementing and managing participatory processes; mapping practices, with particular attention to gender, intergenerational, and intersectional biases; the shared definition of ethical principles for AI use; and the formulation of recommendations on data and algorithm inclusivity in AI, to be delivered to relevant national bodies.

These recommendations will also be transmitted to other regions through the Puglia Region, co-coordinator of the thematic community "data and Al" within the <u>ITD Commission of the Conference of Regions</u>, and shared within the Regional Competence Center on Artificial Intelligence in PA, established by the Puglia Region in October 2023.

How will the commitment address the problem?

This commitment will open spaces for civil society involvement to raise awareness of AI-related risks and co-design AI systems used by public administrations. Collaboration with People Powered will enable the development of an action plan promoted by the Participation Hub that is potentially of interest to the OGP IT Community. This opportunity focuses attention on a highly relevant current issue, using the participatory process as a means to engage the entire Community. This approach promotes the Participation Hub's visibility and strengthens relationships within the Community, involving less active actors and including new ones.

The initiative will allow reflection on Al's ethical and social implications and produce co-created, valuable national-level outcomes. The program is crucial for Italy in addressing existing discriminations against women, youth, and other groups, as well as those potentially arising from the use of Al technologies and systems spreading in both the private and public sectors.

Involving the entire Community, composed of about 100 organisations—two-thirds representing civil society—the commitment can lay the groundwork for a conscious and fair use of AI by public administrations and greater civil society involvement in monitoring potential risks and discrimination.

Why is the commitment relevant to the OGP values?

The OGP invites the identification of ambitious reforms and actions in the area of digital governance, reflecting on the impact of technologies on human rights. Protecting everyone's rights requires that Al reflection involves a broad public that is often excluded from policy decisions.

In this sense, the commitment leverages the "Al Decalogue, Practical Guidelines for Al Use in Public Administrations," promoted by AGID, and the Three-Year Plan for Public Administration IT, which sets principles for public administration digital transition, such as inclusivity and accessibility of services, user-centered approaches, and software openness as the first option, to be ensured in all activities and the creation of public platforms and apps.

This approach includes universal design, integrated accessibility, and adopting policies, regulations, and training and communication processes that promote equity in technology access and use.

The commitment is relevant as it focuses on identifying AI opportunities and risks and aims to enhance the role and contribution of the OGP IT Community, composed of about 100 organisations, in the area of rights. It also seeks to establish a dialogue with government actors responsible for defining AI usage guidelines.

Description of the activities and output	Beginning date	Ending date
Launch a phase of collecting studies, information, and data to assess the spread of Al use in both private and public sectors in Italy	September 2024	January 2025
Output: Report to OGF on the findings (January 2025)		
Engage in mentoring for representatives of organisations responsible for the commitment	October 2024	April 2025
Output: Design of the participatory process "Risks and Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence to Improve Equity and Inclusion" (April 2025)		
Organise a meeting on the topic, open to the Community Output: Meeting agenda (February 2025)	January 2025	February 2025
Pilot initiatives to share tools developed by the Aequitas Project and other European initiatives with interested public administrations (within and outside OGP IT) to provide practical methods to address and mitigate biases and design new AI systems, applying fairness-by-design practices and methodologies	January 2025	December 2025
Proposal document to public administrations for pilot participation (December 2025)		

Public workshop to disseminate and spread the identified tools (December 2025)		
Implement and coordinate the participatory process with People Powered's support, involving the OGP IT Community and active networks within the Participation Hub	June 2025	January 2026
Output: Report on the process outcomes (January 2026)		
Participatory drafting of recommendations to the Government on data and algorithm inclusivity in AI and promoting them	January 2026	May 2026
Output:		
 "Recommendations of the Italian Open Government Community on the use of Artificial Intelligence" (May 2026) Transmission of Recommendations to relevant national bodies (May 2026) 		

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Period Think Tank: Giulia Sudano (giulia.sudano@gmail.com)

Goal C

Overseeing and enhancing transparency and open data as resources to create public value and open up the National Recovery and Resilience Plan to citizens

Context

During the NAP co-creation phase, the question arose as to what could be done to further facilitate consultation and data accessibility to support civic monitoring actions on public policies. Digital innovation helps promote data transparency for widespread knowledge and effective involvement of citizens and stakeholders in implementing and monitoring the PNRR.

The Goal aims to strengthen the role of digital technologies and transparency in the creation and protection of public value, making the open government method an integral part of the national PNRR strategy in collaboration with its implementing actors. Improving transparency and open data enhances access to public decision-making processes, reinforcing the right of citizens to contribute to decisions. It is also important to promote the provision of data by the public sector that benefits society, the environment, and the economy, such as air quality or climate data, which recent European regulations have designated High-Value Datasets.

Currently, there are various civic portals designed by civil society (e.g., OpenPNRR by Openpolis), as well as active initiatives and associations that have tried to define monitoring indicators to analyze how public investments create value and contribute to improving the lives of citizens and communities from different perspectives (Osservatorio civico PNRR, Monithon, Libenter, Libera), transforming data into useful information for advocacy towards decision-makers.

The Goal aims to expand alliances and strategic partnerships to strengthen the implementation of open government principles, promoting dialogue and exchange of practices on transparency, open data, anti-corruption, equity, civic space, and digital transformation.

Additionally, concerning transparency in general, it is necessary to rethink and improve the "Transparent Administration" websites of the PAs to make them suitable for the new needs of knowledge of the final results of administrative actions for the benefit of the community and territories, consistent with the

purposes of transparency as dictated by Art. 1 of Legislative Decree no. 33/2013, as well as the pursuit of public value.

Regarding revising the transparency regulatory framework, it is important that the OGF must express its viewpoint—resulting from the dialogue between PAs and CSOs—intervening in the national discussion on a new model to propose in view of a legislative reform process. This is an important opportunity to give visibility to the contribution of the OGP IT Community regarding the fundamental theme of transparency, a pillar of open government policies.

Commitment 6: Promoting the role of new technologies and data as a common good to foster open government practices

Beginning and ending dates

23 July 2024 - 30 June 2026

Organisations responsible for the implementation of the commitment

PAs: National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC), Digital Italy Agency (AgID), PCM - Department for Economic Policy Planning and Coordination (DIPE), PCM - Department for Digital Transformation (DTD) **CSOs**: Monithon, Ondata Association, ANORC

Organisations collaborating to the implementation of the commitment

PAs: Municipality of Nichelino, Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) - Mission Unit NG-EU, PCM - Department for Regional Affairs and Autonomies (DARA), Puglia Region

CSOs: Italia Civile ETS, LIBenter, PAsocial, Innovation General States

Problem addressed

Transparency and open data are essential for inclusivity, civic monitoring, and participation in public policies, and they contribute to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainability. In the previous NAP, it emerged that collaboration between administrations and civil society organisations could enhance the value of informational resources at the national and regional levels, providing useful tools for participation. This collaboration has improved the organisation of informational sources related to the PNRR, even before the Italia Domani portal.

Significant progress has been made at the national level in the past two years: PNRR implementation data is now available in the <u>Open Data catalog</u> as periodic extractions from the ReGiS system, which publishes financial, physical, and procedural data on funded projects.

The European and national regulatory framework has been consolidated with the "Guidelines for Open Data and the Reuse of Public Sector Information" and the Operational Guide on High-Value Data Series, providing guidance for implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/138.

In light of these important developments, it is necessary to strengthen the equal collaboration between institutions and civil society to transform data into an asset for creating and protecting public value. Recent findings indicate difficulties in using and systematising these resources for participation and civic monitoring purposes. Civil society calls for participatory decision-making processes and monitoring of investment policies, especially regarding the PNRR, overcoming issues related to the update, type, and quality of published information.

Description of the commitment

The main Goal of this commitment is to strengthen the equal collaboration between institutional actors and civil society to make data and information an asset for creating and preserving public value.

The goal is to follow through on programmatic declarations and regulatory provisions by enabling spaces for dialogue and collaboration between administrations and CSOs to promote accountability, verify the impact of published information and data, and strengthen the skills of civil society and PAs in using indicators, red flags, and data for civic monitoring.

Referring to ongoing monitoring experiences and the most advanced institutional practices in accountability, transparency, and data platforms, the following outputs will be produced:

- Guide for using data to improve accountability of Public Administrations in relation to investment programs like the PNRR;
- Guide on using indicators, red flags, and open data for civic monitoring and corruption prevention, with a focus on investment programs (PNRR) and public procurement.

How will the commitment address the problem?

European and national regulations on the PNRR require transparency and publicity of data to foster effective public participation. By raising awareness of which information is necessary for civic monitoring and how it should be published, this commitment aims to promote continuous and structured publication of high-quality, up-to-date, and easily accessible data on PNRR implementation by the involved administrations.

In an era where narratives built on hard-to-verify data shape and construct civic space, it is crucial to rethink the value of public information from this perspective, both for public decision-making and citizen engagement in political life.

The creation of two guides aims to facilitate the task for both administrations committed to providing data and CSOs engaged in civic monitoring, making PNRR implementation transparent and participatory. By doing so, the commitment aims to promote equal collaboration among all involved actors within the PNRR framework, enhancing access to information, increasing the participation of underrepresented groups, and facilitating monitoring and critical evaluation by citizens and the CSOs that represent them. The goal is to develop a clearer vision of which data should be published to enable civic monitoring and how these data should be organised to improve their usability. Specifically, the aim is to identify the information necessary to enable civic monitoring that is not yet available.

Why is the commitment relevant to the OGP values?

According to the principle of accountability and transparency, administrations that practice open government principles respond not only to a regulatory obligation but also to the 'ethical' duty of providing data and information on their spending.

This commitment aims to promote, through collaboration between PAs and CSOs, the improvement of the quality of data published by administrations so that they become resources for stimulating innovation and citizen participation in public decisions.

This is also achieved through the co-creation of guides and manuals codifying high-quality standards, formats, and metadata that ensure easy access and better data governance, thereby promoting digital citizenship as a right for citizens to participate in civic life through new technologies.

Furthermore, the promotion of systematic moments and spaces for dialogue between PAs and CSOs responds to the principles of participation and inclusivity, as effective and widespread civic monitoring can produce widespread knowledge of the interventions under the PNRR, which constitutes the national development agenda.

Description of the activities and outputs	Beginning date	Ending date
The activation of a joint table between administrations and CSOs to promote accountability on impacts and strengthen skills for civic monitoring among civil society	July 2024	June 2026
and PAs in using indicators, red flags, and data (ANAC) Continuation of the table meetings at least bimonthly throughout the entire commitment, promoting usability and more frequent updates of PNRR data		

	I	
Output: Guide on using indicators, red flags, and open data for civic monitoring and corruption prevention, with a focus on investment programs (PNRR) and public procurement (July 2025)		
Improving access to information and decisions on value-creating projects on the OpenCUP portal, e.g., through data interoperability (DIPE)	July 2024	June 2026
Output : Guide for using data to improve accountability of public administrations, along with possible improvements to portals to make data more usable (June 2026)		
Promoting and improving semantic interoperability to encourage the use of open data, through schema.gov.it (DTD)	January 2025	June 2025
Output: Guidelines to facilitate CSOs in using ontologies and schemas on schema.gov.it (June 2025)		
Promoting high-value datasets within the open government table and organising two thematic events as part of the action (AgID)	March 2025	March 2026
Output : Guide on the importance of high-value data from an open government perspective (March 2026)		
Organising an event to present and promote the 2025 results.	June 2025	June 2025
Output: Conference materials (June 2025)		
Organising an event to present and promote the 2026 results.	June 2026	June 2026
Output: Conference materials (June 2026)		
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Commitment 7: Promoting a new model of transparency focused on public value and civil society participation

Beginning and ending dates

1 September 2024 - 30 June 2026

Organisations responsible for the implementation of the commitment

PAs: Liguria Region

CSOs: Fondazione Etica

Organisations collaborating to the implementation of the commitment

PAs: National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC)

CSOs: React, Transparency International Italia

Problem addressed

The concept of transparency is not static but changes over time based on listening needs and new societal and citizen demands.

The growing awareness of social bodies and citizens of the importance of voicing their opinions on administrative and public policy choices that affect social, environmental, and economic well-being and quality of life brings with it a new need for knowledge and transparency focused on real and usable data that measure the actual public value produced.

The current configuration of transparency in our country, which mainly focuses on administrative acts but not on their results, does not adequately meet this need. The data and information subject to publication are often incomprehensible to non-experts, are not processed to facilitate consultation, do not concern the effects of administrative choices and policies made by administrations and public bodies, and are often not homogeneous and, therefore, not comparable.

Furthermore, the "Transparent Administration" section provided by Legislative Decree No. 33/2013 does not provide spaces for participation. It currently contains some of the least consulted information

on PA websites and does not provide elaborations that facilitate the real understanding of facts, representing a particularly burdensome administrative burden for entities.

For these reasons, it is necessary for the Forum for Open Government and the OGP Community to actively participate in rethinking and improving the current transparency model, proposing a new configuration based on public value knowledge and informed citizen participation, and promoting the experimentation of dashboards and "smart transparency" digital tools. This does not mean reducing transparency spaces but increasing their usability and utility for citizens, PAs, and central institutions.

Description of the commitment

The main goal is divided into two macro-activities, which are closely related to each other. The second represents the first concrete experimentation of some elements of the model provided by the first.

1) "New Transparency Model"

Preparation of a hypothesis for a comprehensive revision of the transparency model in force for public administrations, rationalising obligations, privileging the knowledge of data/indicators on the public value produced, providing web spaces for comparison and civic participation, rationalising and simplifying the information/data published, with interoperability of the information heritage available to national databases. The expected result is a technical proposal from the OGF that is decisive in the current debate and in the subsequent legislative reform process.

2) "Experimentation of dashboards for transparency"

Experimentation of dashboards and platforms for reuse and publication of data from national databases to improve their comprehensibility even in a benchmarking logic, knowledge of the progress of policy implementation, and simplification of publication burdens for entities. The expected result is the design of new digital tools, such as a dashboard, and the expansion of the number of administrations that decide to experiment with their use.

How will the commitment address the problem?

1) "New Transparency Model"

The proposal for a new transparency model will contribute to promoting the modeling and creation of types of websites focused on citizen participation, the knowledge of public value and the impacts of policies on the territory, and the quality of life of citizens, thus contributing to the implementation of the democratic principle and the strengthening of the principles of good governance and effectiveness in the use of public resources.

2) "Experimentation of dashboards for transparency"

The introduction of new methods for disseminating data represents a decisive step towards promoting real transparency of public policies and the use of resources. In this regard, the experimentation of dashboards and tools for the reuse of public data is a first step towards the

simplification, standardization and comparability of the information published by PAs on their websites. In addition, these tools guarantee better administrative sustainability of publication burdens with particular regard to smaller entities, even in a glocal perspective of the territories.

Why is the commitment relevant to the OGP values?

Participation, accountability and transparency are the principles that guide this commitment in full coherence with OGP values.

The introduction of the concept of Public Value provided for by the PIAO "Integrated Plan of Activities and Organisation" ex art. 6 of Legislative Decree 81/2021 (PNRR milestone) has consolidated a trend, already emerged for some time and consistent with the European approach, to measure and evaluate the work of public administrations based on the final results and the impacts of policies on citizens rather than based on the administrative acts produced.

This new paradigm also impacts citizens' need for knowledge, which is increasingly focused on the effects of the entities' administrative choices on the quality of their own lives and on social, environmental, and economic well-being.

Moreover, the knowledge of the effects of public policy choices fully contributes to implementing the democratic principle, which is included among the cornerstones of transparency provided by Legislative Decree no. 33/2013 (art. 1 para. 2).

The commitment will contribute to promoting the transparency and usability of essential data on public value, final results, and the impacts that public spending produces. This will guarantee conscious participation in activities, inclusiveness, and civic monitoring, also through dashboards that can be consulted and based on certified data consistent with OGP values. It will also allow a sort of comparative self-diagnosis to support PAs.

Description of the activities and outputs	Beginning date	Ending date
1. New transparency model	September 2024	December 2024
Start of a study on a new transparency model by the Open Government		
Forum	January 2025	
Preparation of a proposal by the OGF		
Output: Proposal document (March 2025)		March 2025

Submission for consultation to the OGP Community Output: Consultation report and proposal document (June 2025)	April 2025	June 2025
Presentation of the proposal to ANAC, the Public Administration Department, the Conference of Regions, UPI and ANCI Output: Presentation event program (October 2025)	July 2025	October 2025
Dissemination of the OGF/OGP proposal through a national conference with the presence of the main interlocutors in the matter Output: Conference (April 2026)	November 2025	April 2026
 2. Dashboard experimentation Analysis and verification of dashboards Output: Analysis report (December 2024) 	September 2024	December 2024
Dissemination of the experimentation Output: Program of initiatives to promote the use of the dashboard (February 2025)	January 2025 2026	December 2025
Final evaluation of the outcome of the experimentation Output: Evaluation report (June 2026)	January 2026	June 2026

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Goal D

Raising awareness of gender and intergenerational inequality in Italy

Context

Italy's performance indicators in the European context highlight persistent gender and generational discrimination in the country. The latest data on the gender pay gap, gender-based violence, young people's employment difficulties, and the limited participation of new generations in public decision—making processes paint an uncomfortable picture for Italian women and young people, underlining the urgency of targeted actions for female and youth empowerment.

In line with international commitments - the Italian G7 Presidency has identified, among the key action priorities of the intergovernmental forum, some key themes for the defense of rights, including equal opportunities, inclusion and disability, education - and the latest European regulations (EU Directive 2023/970 on the obligation of equal pay; proposal for a Directive on combating violence against women of 6 February 2024 CE Recommendation on participation), there are numerous political and legislative initiatives of the Government aimed at strengthening the rights of women and young people, also in implementation of the PNRR constraints. An example of this is the existing Golfo Mosca Law on the composition of the governing bodies of the Public Administration and listed companies.

From the gender certification system to support measures for youth and women's entrepreneurship, from strengthening the legal system for preventing and repressing gender-based violence to spreading education and awareness-raising initiatives for new generations on the themes of respect and equality, from the implementation of the gender budget to the introduction of the gender and generational impact assessment of government-initiated laws to the implementation of the gender impact assessment.

In this context, there is a need to support the implementation of European and national policies and regulations with targeted information, awareness-raising and direct involvement interventions, especially concerning new generations and women, to improve the overall impact that the new rules can have in the country. It is necessary to increase citizen awareness and understanding of the measures aimed at overcoming gender and generational inequalities; it is also essential to expand and enhance the tools of direct involvement of women and young people in the decision-making and implementation processes underway to more effectively reduce the gaps and promote equal opportunities.

Commitment 8. Permanent communication/awareness campaign organised by the Italian OGP Community

Beginning and ending dates

15 September 2024 - 30 June 2026

Organisations responsible for the implementation of the commitment

PAs: National Youth Council (CNG), Unioncamere-Si.Camera

CSOs: Association of Public and Institutional Communication (Compubblica), Federmanager,

Foundation for Active Citizenship (Fondaca), Moby Dick, Noi rete Donne

In collaboration with: Community OGP IT

Organisations collaborating to the implementation of the commitment

CSOs: Inclusione Donna

Problem addressed

Persistent gender and generational gaps hinder the country's socio-economic development. The number of female graduates exceeds that of males, but female participation in the workforce is the lowest in Europe (EIGE data 2023). This situation leads to a waste of trained but not employed human resources, inhibiting our country's sustainable economic and social growth. The involvement of young people and women in public decision-making processes is still not very significant at the national level. The political and legislative initiatives on transparency of remuneration and the gender pay gap, gender budgeting and gender and generational impact assessment, non-discriminatory use of Artificial Intelligence and the fight against youth disadvantage, while appreciable in their purpose and content, may prove to have little impact in the medium-long term if not supported by a targeted information and awareness campaign and by specific interventions for the direct involvement of women and young people in the design and implementation of innovative institutions and tools, to ensure the openness and inclusiveness of the decision-making processes that accompany the design and implementation of reforms.

The OGP IT Community, made up of over 100 organisations, including CSOs and PAs, represents an opportunity to activate a shared, widespread, and continuous campaign to raise awareness of the issue, not only for civil society in general but also directly for women and young people, so that they can play an active role in implementing policies promoted by public administrations in their favor.

Description of the commitment

The main goal will be to share information, data, and networks on the condition of women and young people in Italy, involving public decision-makers, private companies, and citizens, both young and old. Promoting information campaigns and initiatives on youth and women's issues, periodically established in collaboration with the OGP IT Community, based on defined indicators and linked to the purposes of implementing open government principles.

The commitment includes creating a permanent, reasoned, and organised repository on topics related to gender and intergenerational inequality in Italy, to be updated during the 6th National Action Plan. This repository includes legislative initiatives of civil society, public administrations, and other organisations based on keywords for open government, such as the defense of civic space, rights, and participation. It will be disseminated with the help of the 100 members of the Community.

The activities of the commitment aim to:

- **Empower women and young people:** promote awareness of their rights and their role in the public arena, contributing to the definition of new standards in collective behavior, policies and information.
- **Involvement of institutions and public administrations:** to stimulate active and informed participation.
- Effectiveness of civil society: to strengthen civil society's capacity to influence public policies.

In addition, the impact of artificial intelligence on women and young people will be considered, integrating this theme into the proposed strategies in connection with Commitment 5 of Goal B.

How will the commitment address the problem?

The proposed commitment focuses on two main lines of action:

- 1. Addressing gender and generational inequalities in Italy;
- 2. Promoting public awareness of these crucial issues.

The planned activities are mainly aimed at informing and raising awareness:

 On the opportunities for participation in the world of work (access, permanence, selfentrepreneurship, etc.); • on the role that public administrations can play in supporting youth and women's employment.

In addition, a permanent data-driven observatory on women's, youth and innovative entrepreneurship in Italy will be created. This observatory will allow for a deep understanding of the phenomenon, improve the effectiveness of communication actions to reach specific targets and contribute to the creation of new entrepreneurial realities.

By implementing these tools and strategies, the commitment can contribute to reducing the problem of gender and generational inequalities in a concrete and sustainable way. Information, awareness-raising and continuous monitoring of public policies will make it possible to reduce disparities and promote a more inclusive society where young people and women can actively and consciously participate in the world of work and public life.

Why is the commitment relevant to the OGP values?

The permanent communication and awareness campaign on the situation of youth and women's inequality in Italy and on the norms and policies aimed at reducing gender and generational gaps is consistent with the following OGP values:

- Access to information, transparency and accountability: The commitment will contribute to
 increasing the qualitative and quantitative knowledge of the phenomena related to
 inequalities, as well as of the initiatives and regulations for overcoming them, and to holding
 public decision-makers and key institutions accountable;
- Inclusion and civic participation: The dissemination of knowledge about the reforms in
 progress will also help to expand and strengthen awareness of the opportunities available to
 women and young people to develop their potential in society, politics and the world of
 work, facilitating access to empowerment tools for a wider range of potential beneficiaries and
 promoting virtuous interaction with the institutions involved.

Description of the activities and output	Beginning	Ending date
	date	

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Permanent awareness-raising and communication campaign: creation of information materials, media campaigns and calls to action to raise awareness of gender and generational inequalities. Outputs: Campaign planning document (January 2025) Information materials, media campaigns and related monitoring of results	September 2024	June 2026
(ongoing) Design and implementation of a dissemination and promotion event for applied experiences of VIG in Italy Output: Dissemination event (May 2025)	January 2025	May 2025
Collaborative development of an open data schema on women's and youth entrepreneurship in Italy to create a representative and equitable data model on the phenomenon of generational and gender inequalities Output: Open data schema on women's and youth entrepreneurship (December 2024)	September 2024	December 2024
The application of the developed data schema to a first-time interval of open data is needed in order to support the communication actions planned by the commitment. Output: Operability of the developed data schema (January 2025)	January 2025	June 2026
Updating mapping of the services already active in the Chamber System, at national and territorial levels (with the involvement of the Chambers of Commerce), aimed at creating, developing and consolidating businesses, with particular reference to those for young people, women and innovative businesses.	September 2024	June 2026
Outputs:		
 Mapping of services in the Chamber System (June 2026) 		

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Commitment list

Main goal	Commitment	Responsible organisations
Goal A. Promoting a culture of integrity and transparency in public decision-making processes	Strengthening the transparency of decision-making processes in the relations between public decision-makers and stakeholders	PAs: DFP, SNA CSOs: The Good Lobby, Transparency International Italia In collaboration with: Open Government Forum
	2. Dissemination of knowledge of phenomena threatening public decision-making integrity and strengthening of Public Administrations and Civil Society Organisations skills	PAs: ANAC, SNA CSOs: Libera
Goal B. Facilitating the dissemination and innovation of openness policies at all levels of government	3. Strenghtening the Participation Hub as a national platform supporting participatory practices	PAs: DFP, RER, Roma Capitale CSOs: AIP2
	4. Definition and diffusion of skills and development of public management commitments to openness policies	PAs: DFP, SNA CSOs: AIP2
	5. Promotion of inclusiveness and rights in access to technologies and use of Artificial Intelligence	PAs : CNG, Puglia Region CSOs : Period Think Tank, Federmanager

Goal C. Overseeing and enhancing transparency and open data as resources to create public value and open up the PNRR to citizens	6. Promoting the role of new technologies and data as a common good to foster open government practices	PAs: ANAC, AgID, DIPE, DTD CSOs: Monithon, Ondata Association, ANORC
	7. Promoting a new model of transparency focused on public value and civil society participation	PAs: Liguria Region CSOs: Fondazione Etica
Goal D. Raising awareness of gender and intergenerational inequality in Italy	8. Permanent communication/awareness campaign organised by the Italian OGP Community	PAs: CNG, Unioncamere-Si.Camera CSOs: Compubblica, Federmanager, Fondaca, Inclusione Donna, Moby Dick, Noi rete Donne In collaboration with: Community OGP IT