



Czech Republic

**Action Plan of the Czech Republic
Open Government Partnership
for 2020 to 2022**

Submitted by: Minister of Justice

Prague, 2020

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1 Introduction

The *Open Government Partnership* (OGP) is a voluntary initiative set up by the U.S. administration. The OGP initiative officially began its operation on 20 September 2011 at the UN General Assembly in New York, when eight founding governments (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the USA) signed the *Open Government Declaration*. Currently, the OGP has 98 members, both at national level (78 countries) and regional level (20 regional members). The OGP encourages its members to take steps and commitments to increase openness and availability of information, transparency, fight against corruption, increased civic engagement, and use of new technologies for the benefit of civil society. Thematically, the commitments in the individual action plans adopted by the members of the OGP cover more than 50 areas.

The Government of the Czech Republic decided to join the OGP initiative by its Resolution No. 691 of 14 September 2011. The Czech Republic, together with other members of the initiative, also accepted the *Joint Declaration on Open Government for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. As in previous periods, as part of the interconnection of its national action plans and the implementation of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Czech Republic monitors the fulfilment of goal “*16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*”, in particular the targets “*16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms*”, “*16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels*” and “*16.7 Ensure responsible, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels*”.

The Fifth Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2020 to 2022 (the “Fifth Action Plan”) fulfils all four values of the OGP – access to information, public participation, responsibility, technology and innovation. Although the Czech Republic perceives its commitments under the OGP primarily as supportive of its other activities and strategic goals, it also seeks a more proactive approach to promoting the values of open government in close connection with the government anti-corruption strategic documents.

Especially during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent recovery, the Czech Republic considers it very important that all funds are spent efficiently and economically and that the scope for possible corruption is significantly reduced in cooperation with civil society. To meet this objective, it continues to follow the ongoing commitment to raise awareness of whistleblowers, but also the new commitment to develop a methodology for the participation of civil society representatives in participatory processes and to consult the possibility of creating a comprehensive publicly accessible open-data database of providers and recipients of public funds from grant titles.

The commitment to develop the methodology is one of the first steps towards a wider use of participatory processes, which should subsequently lead to an increase in the effectiveness of the measures taken and at the same time to a reduction in the risk of uneconomical use of public funds. In addition to the already mentioned methods, efficient and economical spending of public funds can be ensured with the help of functioning strategic planning and management, which also includes a properly set up participatory component. Comprehensive support for strategic management and planning of participants at all levels of public administration, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Regional Development, is also essential.

At the same time, the Fifth Action Plan, with its commitments to publish court decisions and open data on education and the education system, continues its long-term effort to make as much data available to the general public as possible.

2 Czech Republic open government efforts to date

The first **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership** (the “First Action Plan”) was approved by the government by Resolution No. 243 of 4 April 2012 and was the first of the documents defining the three main commitments of the government: II/1 adoption of a new law on the civil service ensuring depoliticisation, professionalization and stabilization of the state administration and its implementation in practice; II/2 streamlining the system for free access to information; II/3 access to data and information. These commitments were a response to the then priorities of the **Government Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2011 and 2012** and to requirements of non-governmental organizations.

The second **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2014 to 2016** (the “Second Action Plan”) was then approved by the government by Resolution No. 929 of 12 November 2014. In view of the preservation of the original commitments arising from the consultations during the creation of the First Action Plan, no further consultation process was carried out with the general public during its preparation. The Second Action Plan was developed, among other things, in accordance with the recommendations of the *Independent Reporting Mechanism* (“OGP”). The updated commitments also responded to the targets set out in the **Program Statement of the Government of Bohuslav Sobotka**, which were reflected in the **Government Anti-Corruption Conception for 2015 to 2017** and the **Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2015**. The goal of the Second Action Plan was primarily the fulfilment of the originally assumed commitments in period from 2014 to 2016.

In accordance with the current direction, the targets for creating and fulfilling the obligations of the **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2016 to 2018** (the "Third Action Plan") were enshrined in the **Anti-Corruption Action Plans for 2016, 2017 and 2018**. In February 2016, the **Development Report 2014-2015** developed by the IRM was published that assessed the ongoing implementation of the Second Action Plan and provided recommendations for the Czech Republic, which were largely taken into account in the preparation and adoption of the Third Action Plan, which was approved on 22 June 2016 by Government Resolution No. 566. The third Action Plan contained both commitments thematically related to the previous OGP action plans (4.1.1 Implementation of the Civil Service Act, 4.2.1 Opening of priority public administration data sets and their supplementation on the basis of public consultations, 4.2.2 Support for the development of the Czech open-data public administration ecosystem), as well as the commitments newly arising from public consultations (4.2.3 Creation of the National Strategy for Open Access to Scientific Information for 2017 to 2020, 4.3.1 Promoting volunteering, 4.3.2 Strengthening security at local level).

In the same spirit of building on the commitments of previous the OGP action plans and gradually adding commitments from new areas, the fourth **Action Plan of the Czech Republic Open Government Partnership for 2018 to 2020** (the “Fourth Action Plan”) was prepared. The government approved the Fourth Action Plan by its Resolution No. 499 of 31 July 2018. The commitments of the Fourth Action Plan have been grouped into three thematic areas: Quality management in the civil service (4.1.1 Implementation of quality management principles in service offices [within the scope of improvement criteria or within the scope of complex quality management methods]), Open justice and the fight against corruption (4.2.1 Improvement of the annual statistical report of the Czech judiciary system, 4.2.2 Publication of decisions of lower courts, 4.2.3 Raising awareness of the issue of whistleblowers]) and open education (4.3.1 Open data on education and the education system, 4.3.2 Opening data – information on schools and school facilities from the information system InspIS, 4.3.3

Opening data – aggregated findings from the documents of the activities of the Czech School Inspectorate, 4.3.4 Ensuring publication of digital content of various kinds, supported from public funds, under an open Creative Commons license [or another], thus simplifying access to it and allowing for its adaptation and sharing to all stakeholders in education). In accordance with the long-term link to government anti-corruption documents, the fulfilment of the commitments was monitored within the framework of the **Government Anti-Corruption Conception for 2018 to 2022** and in the **Anti-Corruption Action Plans for 2019 and 2020**. In this case, the **IRM Interim Evaluation Report 2016–2018** was issued only after the creation of the Fourth Action Plan and its conclusions, including recommendations for the revision of the so-called multi-stakeholder forum and for evaluating the implementation of the individual commitments.

In 2019, by Resolution No. 634 of 2 September 2019, the government decided to **adjust the process of ongoing evaluation of the implementation of the Fourth Action Plan** newly on a **quarterly basis** and also decided **not to prepare a separate interim self-evaluation report** in the half of the commitment period. This was in response to a change in the rules by the OGP Steering Committee and also in response to the IRM recommendations on the previous action plans. Subsequently, by Resolution No. 919 of 16 December 2019, the government decided to **provide membership funds to the international OGP initiative** and thus stressed the importance that the Czech Republic places on the efforts towards open government. Last but not least, in October 2019, a representative for the Czech Republic attended the first meeting of the newly established OECD Working Party on Open Government, which primarily deals with the implementation of the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government – C(2017)140 and which works closely with the OGP.

Since the **IRM Interim Evaluation Report 2018–2020**, which covered the process of developing the Fourth Action Plan and assessed the nature and focus of its commitments, was again published with considerable delay as late as during the public consultation in May 2020, the IRM recommendations for the creation of the Fifth The action plan is reflected only to a limited extent. The recommendations for the development of a long-term strategy for open government, which are reflected in Commitment 4.4, the continuation of efforts to open up the judiciary system, as reflected in Commitment 4.1, and the recommendations for the adoption of a whistleblower protection law under Commitment No 4.2 were partly reflected.

3 Action plan development process

The so-called multi-stakeholder forum, which actively participated in all steps of the process of co-creation of the Fifth Action Plan and which brings together representatives of both the government and non-governmental sector, is formed by the [Government Anti-Corruption Council Chair's Working Commission for Open Government and State Administration Transparency](#) (the “Working Commission”).

At its meeting on 16 January 2020, the Working Commission discussed and approved the [schedule for the development of the Fifth Action Plan](#). The schedule was published on the website korupce.cz on 22 January 2020. Subsequently, on 27 January 2020, the Ministry of Justice announced a public consultation by means of a call published both on the website korupce.cz and on the website of the Ministry of Justice as well as on the social network profiles of the Ministry of Justice. Information on the start of the consultations was also sent out by e-mail and shared by members of the Working Commission. A more detailed [supporting document](#) was also published as part of the announcement of the consultation process. The deadline for sending written commitments was set until 24 February 2020, while personally proposed commitments could be presented at a public workshop held on 2 March 2020 at the Ministry of Justice. Further commitments, or their specification, were subsequently presented at the meeting of the Working Commission on 10 March 2020. A total of 14 more or less concretely formulated commitment proposals were received during the public consultations.

At its meeting, the Working Commission also discussed the received proposals with the participation of certain proposers and, based on the discussion, recommended or did not recommend their further discussion with their potential implementing agencies. The conclusions were adopted partly in person at the meeting and partly per rollam due to procedural reasons. In accordance with the OGP rules for the provision of feedback, the reasons for the recommendations of the Working Commission with regard to the received proposals are included in the relevant minutes of the Working Commission meetings. The minutes of the meetings of the Working Commission are continuously published on the website korupce.cz, which is accessible not only to the proposers of the relevant proposals but also to the general public.

In view of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the related restrictive measures and the follow-up communication with the OGP Secretariat, which communicated the OGP Steering Commission’s decision to extend the deadline for submitting new action plans, the Working Commission subsequently proposed an update of the schedule for the development of the Fifth Action Plan. The Working Commission approved the [updated schedule](#) per rollam on 18 May 2020.

Following the consultations with potential implementing agencies of individual commitments, another meeting of the Working Commission took place on 8 September 2020, where the Working Commission was acquainted with the results of the consultations with the implementing agencies and, based on them, it recommended or did not recommend their inclusion in the Fifth Action Plan. At the meeting, an additional 15th commitment proposal was presented, which arose from a separate meeting of representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. Based on the discussion, the conclusions of the Working Commission were again adopted partly during the meeting and partly during the subsequent per rollam vote, as contained in the minutes of the meeting. Compared to the previous meetings, some members and guests also took part in the meeting

remotely via videoconference. The commitments recommended by the Working Commission, which were also agreed with the respective implementing agencies, are contained in Part 4.

On 16 September 2020, the draft of the Fifth Action Plan was sent for the interdepartmental comment procedure and to the members of the Working Commission for their comments. At the same time, public consultations were again announced in the length of 10 working days, with a request for comments from the general public. The comments received were settled without contradiction. The Fifth Action Plan was subsequently discussed by the Working Commission as part of its role as the multi-stakeholder forum.

4 Commitments for 2020 to 2022

4.1 Publishing the decisions of lower courts	
1 January 2021 – 31 December 2022	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Justice
Commitment description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	This is an ongoing commitment, which was included in the Fourth Action Plan as point 4.2.2, which responds to the fact that the availability of lower court decisions is not at a high level in the Czech Republic. Neither the public nor the courts have access to the database of court decisions. By publishing all court decisions in the necessary anonymized form, their uniformity will be strengthened and the transparency of court decisions increased. Only the three highest courts currently publish their decisions. Lower courts will start publishing their final decisions in a new database. In addition to the efficiency of the new database, emphasis will be placed on maintaining the security of the processed information.
What is the commitment?	Further support for the publication (access) of the wording of final substantive decisions of high, regional, and district courts in electronic form (online). Increasing the number of categories of published decisions. Evaluation of the set process.
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	The publication of lower court decisions will strengthen and promote access to justice and increase the transparency of judicial decision-making. Although there is no system of precedents in the Czech Republic, the publication of court decisions will strengthen the principle of predictability of court decisions and legitimate expectations.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	<p>The publication of lower court decisions has a clear link to the value of access to information, as information on the content of court decisions is published and its availability is improved since court decisions are published online without further obstacles.</p> <p>The commitment also has an indirect relationship to the value of accountability, as the public has the opportunity to compare similar decisions in similar cases before different courts and with different judges.</p> <p>The commitment is also linked to the value of technology and innovation, as the publication of court decisions required the development of a special application for anonymization of data, which will need to be further innovated and developed based on an evaluation of its functioning.</p>

Additional information		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment budget: The commitment requires unspecified budgetary costs for the staff who perform the publication of decisions and for the development of an information system for anonymization and publication of decisions online. The development and maintenance of the system for five years is estimated at approximately 2–3 million CZK. - Link to other government programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Digitální Česko – Implementation plans o The Ministry Strategy for the Development of e-Justice for 2016 to 2020 (the goal will also be included in the follow-up strategies for the following years) 	
Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start date:	End date:
Evaluation of the functioning of publication of decisions (in agenda C)		1 January 2021	1 December 2021
Selection of other categories of decisions		1 December 2021	31 March 2022
Publication of other categories of decisions		1 January 2021	31 December 2022
Contact information			
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Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Judicial system	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups		

4.2 Raising awareness of the issue of whistle-blowers on illegal activity

1 November 2020 – 31 August 2022

Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Justice (OSZBK)
Commitment description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Society has a distorted (negative) perception of whistleblowers, which does not reflect their real contribution to detecting illegal acts and preventing other illegal situations. Whistleblowers are often exposed to retaliation and condemnation by society. This situation results in a reduced incentive for potential whistleblowers to report violations of law in the public interest.
What is the commitment?	The commitment consists of legislative, educational and media activities aimed at improving the social perception of whistleblowers.
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	<p>The adoption of the Act on the Protection of Whistleblowers will implement Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law. The bill also proposes establishment of the Agency for the Protection of Whistleblowers, which will, among other things, be responsible for collecting and publishing data on whistleblowing, provide expert advice in this area and raise general awareness of the issue.</p> <p>The adoption of the bill will be accompanied by a media campaign with the aim to correct the notion of whistleblowing and specify which scope of offences the Whistleblowers Protection Act will apply to.</p> <p>The project entitled "<i>Intensifying the fight against corruption by raising public sector awareness with focus on judges, law enforcement agencies and public administration</i>", which is part of the Good Governance programme, will address the issue of whistleblowers' protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) media campaign including preparation of a brochure, b) international conference for experts, c) comparative study to share good practice abroad, d) statistical monitoring of reports of cases raised by whistleblowers, and e) training of experts (public prosecutors, judges).
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Transparency: Increasing the motivation of potential whistleblowers (or reducing their hesitation) as a result of increasing awareness of whistleblowing issues in Czech society should lead to increased fight against illegal activities (including corruption), about which society will be informed

	<p>through the media and the website korupce.cz.</p> <p>Civic participation: The increase in the initiative of whistleblowers is aimed at increasing the level of civic participation in public affairs as a result of the adoption of the Whistleblowers Protection Act and as a result of raising awareness of issues in society. Whistleblowers will be more motivated to detect wrongdoings of their employers and will be entitled to publish information about the breach if the conditions set by law are met.</p> <p>Public accountability: Raising awareness of whistleblowing aims, among other things, at combating infringements by civil servants and introduces the "system of control" by public employees. Corruption practices with a negative impact on society as a whole should thus be more easily detected and prosecuted.</p>	
Additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The objectives of whistleblowers' protection are part of the Government Anti-Corruption Conception for 2018 to 2022. – The commitment contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 through its Target 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all forms. In terms of overlap with other sustainable development goals, whistleblower protection is one of the key areas, similar to environmental protection. Increasing the detection of infringements in this area is thus one of the objectives of the whistleblowers protection agenda. – The creation of comprehensive and effective legal regulations of whistleblowing also corresponds to the recommendations of the ODIHR or of the OECD Working Group on Bribery. 	
Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date:	End date:
Adoption of the law on the protection of whistleblowers		17. 12. 2021
Media campaign to support the adoption of the law on the protection of whistleblowers	1. 11. 2020	31. 3. 2022
Implementation of the project "Intensifying the fight against corruption by raising public sector awareness with focus on		30. 4. 2023

judges, law enforcement agencies and public administration"		
Contact information		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	JUDr. Jiří Kapras	
Title, Department	Director, Conflict of Interests and Anti-Corruption Department	
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Other actors involved	State actors involved	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Working Commission for Whistleblowing

4.3 Open data on education and the education system

Start and end date of the commitment: 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2023

Lead implementing agency	The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
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Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<p>This is an ongoing commitment, which was included in the Fourth Action Plan as point 4.3.1, when the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) started the implementation of the project "MEYS Departmental Information System Project (MEYS DIS)", Reg. No. CZ.06.3.05/0.0/0.0/16_034/0005821. Its aim is to provide a uniform, efficient and effective basis for data managed and pooled by the state administration in the field of education and to enable its sharing by all stakeholders. The main users of the DIS will be not only the MEYS and its subordinate organizations, but also the public administration in the field of education, schools and school facilities. Selected data will also be publicly available in the form of open data. The project is co-financed from the Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP) under target 3.2 Increasing the efficiency and transparency of public administration through development of use and quality of ICT systems and is the main tool for implementing its project area 3.5 – eEducation – Information systems in education.</p>
What is the commitment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Creation of a modern, robust, modular information system to support the fulfilment of key agendas of the MEYS and sharing of authoritative data within the MEYS, an interconnected data fund in public administration, and towards the public, – creation of a uniform, efficient and effective basis for data managed and pooled by the state administration in the field of education and to enable its sharing by all stakeholders, – availability of data enabling the general public to monitor the quality of education in the Czech Republic, – reduction of administrative burden, – saving funds and their more efficient use as a result of sharing data, services and functionalities within the CIS/DIS.
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	The project will replace the eight existing systems. Information from the system will be automatically shared, in particular between the newly created Central Information

	<p>System (CIS) of MEYS and selected systems of organizations subordinate to the MEYS. Thus, data from the school register, register of universities and accredited study programmes, register of associate professors and professors, associated registries of university students, recognition of qualifications, recognition of professional qualifications and data collection of statistical and administrative nature will be kept in one place. These data will also be linked, for example, to selected data from the systems of the Czech School Inspectorate, the Educational Results Centre (CERMAT) and the National Pedagogical Institute. In addition to the effectiveness of the new information system, emphasis will be placed on maintaining the security of the processed information.</p>	
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	<p>The commitment ensures the availability of public information associated with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and its selected subordinate organizations, thus significantly contributing to the use of this data by professionals and the general public and, as a result, improves the quality of information, promotes civic participation and, last but not least, transparency of the public (state) administration.</p>	
Additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The commitment is fulfilled symbiotically through the implementation of the project Information System of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, which is co-financed within the IROP (project registration number CZ.06.3.05/0.0/0.0/16_034/0005821). 	
Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date:	End date:
Implementation of a public contract for the supplier of the MEYS DIS		31. 8. 2020
Implementation of the MEYS DIS	1. 9. 2020	31. 12. 2022
Pilot operation of the MEYS DIS	1. 1. 2023	31. 8. 2023
Full operation of the MEYS DIS (including automated publication of public data in an open format and its transfer to the National Catalogue of Open Data)	1. 6. 2023	31. 8. 2023
Contact information		

Name of responsible person from implementing agency		Ing. Václav Jelen
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Other actors involved	State actors involved	Czech School Inspectorate Educational Results Centre (CERMAT) National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic representatives of regions, municipalities and other entities that are founders of schools and school facilities
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	

4.4 Development of methodology for the participation of civil society representatives in participatory processes

1 November 2020 – 31 August 2022

Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Justice, Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
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Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<p>During the development of the Strategy for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations for 2021–2030, inconsistencies were identified in the way ministries and other central administration bodies, as part of the process of participation of civil society, such as non-governmental non-profit organizations (“NGPOs”), ensure the participation of representatives of civil society in participatory processes and the appointment of persons to individual working groups, advisory bodies or expert panels, whether they are permanent or ad hoc participatory processes.</p> <p>The absence of a uniform methodology in this case does not contribute to sufficient and effective communication between the government sector and civil society and also leads to non-transparency and thus potentially to a reduction in the credibility of the results achieved and participatory processes themselves.</p> <p>At present, the risk of certain "monopolization" of participation in participatory processes remains unaddressed, when ministries or other central administration bodies are allowed to repeatedly select only a narrow group of entities with which they have previously cooperated and with which they have good experience. This practice may pose the risk of not utilizing the full potential of participatory processes or of creating unjustified barriers to access for those entities that do not normally engage in participatory processes.</p> <p>Last but not least, the absence of a clear methodology may lead to lesser use of participatory processes in places where a certain level of public consultation is mandatory or where the voluntary use of participatory processes would be beneficial.</p> <p>Among other things, the methodology aims to introduce new methods of public involvement in public processes, which could motivate their use. It offers, for instance, the use of videoconferencing with representatives of the non-governmental sector or the use of so-called target groups for consultations on upcoming projects.</p>
What is the commitment?	Contribute to the creation of a functioning methodological environment for participatory processes. The specific goal is to use the principles of co-creation and participation after its

	<p>incorporation into the strategic framework of the government towards NGPO in order to create a methodology for ministries and other central administration bodies for the participation of representatives of civil society¹ in participatory processes and subsequently to introduce this methodology into practice within individual ministries and central administration bodies. As part of the implementation in practice, the first step will be at least the introduction of the methodology in the form of a pilot project.</p>
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	<p>The commitment will lead to more efficient use of participatory processes in the creation of public policies, strategic materials, legislative and other non-legislative materials by individual ministries and other central administration bodies. In individual cases of the use of participatory processes, it will no longer be necessary to make efforts to create the necessary processes from the scratch, but it will be possible to use the procedures already prepared, experience gained and model created.</p> <p>At the same time, by making the use of participatory processes more efficient and reducing their complexity, this should lead to their wider use. The wider use of participatory processes should subsequently increase the effectiveness of the measures taken on the basis of these processes and at the same time reduce the risk of wasteful use of funds if the measures taken are set inappropriately or without sufficient knowledge of possible intended or unintended impacts not only on civil society.</p> <p>The use of participatory processes already within the framework of creating the methodology will allow to set this methodology sufficiently inclusively, so as to allow the widest possible involvement of civil society, sufficiently generally, so as to be usable in the widest possible number of situations, but at the same time sufficiently practically and understandably, so as to be usable to users only with minor adjustments based on the specific context. The methodology will not neglect the issue of equal representation of women and men.</p> <p>The foreign experience of the OGP member states will be widely used to set up this initial process (preparation of the methodology).</p>

¹ There is a wide range of definitions of this term, however, for our purposes, one of the broadest and most general definitions will suffice, which a priori does not exclude any relevant groups: "[...] civil society is a term used to describe the space between the area of private interests and the state. It is an area of voluntary association outside the sphere of the market, the state and private life, in which we consider the common interconnectedness of the world." RAKUŠANOVÁ, Petra. *Povaha občanské společnosti v České republice v kontextu střední Evropy*. Prague: Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, 2007. Sociological dissertations. ISBN 978-80-7330-122-4. p. 30.

	<p>The methodology will also respond to the new situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will contain rules for effective communication between the government sector and civil society during crisis and emergency situations, which will ensure the proportionality between the universal right to health and other fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.</p>
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	<p>The commitment is inherently related to the value of civic participation since it clarifies the possible ways in which civil society representatives should be ensured part in participatory processes.</p> <p>As part of the effective involvement of individual persons in participatory processes under the value of transparency, the amount and quality of information available to civil society will also increase.</p> <p>The commitment relates to the value of accountability rather indirectly since civil society representatives, who will be involved in participatory processes on the basis of the methodology developed, will be better able to assess how the government sector has used the knowledge and suggestions obtained and how they were implemented into practice compared to the initial assumptions.</p>
Additional information	<p>International commitments and recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The commitment contributes to the implementation of the OECD Council Recommendation on Open Government of 14 December 2017, by which the Czech Republic is bound. – The commitment contributes to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels ○ 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships <p>Link to other conceptual, strategic and methodological documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strategy towards non-governmental non-profit organizations for 2021–2030 (in preparation); – Government Anti-Corruption Conception for 2018 to 2022 – priority area Transparency and open access to information; – Methodology for public involvement in the preparation of government documents (Ministry of the Interior, 2009); – Guidelines for involvement in the preparation of government documents (Ministry of the Interior, 2010); – Methodology for preparation of public strategies (Ministry for Regional Development, 2019).

Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date:	End date:
Enshrining the methodology within the Strategy towards non-governmental non-profit organizations for 2021–2030 (implementing agency: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic)	1. 11. 2020	30. 4. 2021
Creating the methodology in accordance with the principles of participation and co-creation (implementing agency: Ministry of Justice)	30. 4. 2021	31. 12. 2021
Putting the methodology into practice within the participatory processes of ministries and other central administration bodies – at least in one major ministry in the form of a pilot project (implementing agency: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic)	1. 1. 2022	31. 8. 2022
Contact information		
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Other actors	State actors involved	ministries and other central administration bodies, self-governing territorial units

involved	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Working group for the creation of the Strategy towards non-governmental non-profit organizations for 2021–2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Working sub-group for participation and partnership
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4.5 Consultations on the possibility of creating a comprehensive publicly accessible open-data aggregated database of providers and recipients of public funds from grant titles	
1 November 2020 – 31 August 2022	
Lead implementing agency	Ministry of Justice (OSZBK)
Commitment description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	In the Czech Republic, there is still no comprehensive database of providers and recipients of public funds from grant titles that would include information from all levels of state administration and self-government.
What is the commitment?	The aim is to consult all stakeholders, i.e., providers of grants at all levels of state administration and self-government, operators of current relevant information systems (CEDR, MS2014 + etc.) and civil society representatives, on the possibility of creating a comprehensive publicly accessible open-data aggregated database of providers and recipients of public funds from grant titles either in the form of one information system / one platform or by means of compatible and interconnected individual data sets. Based on the previous consultations, a summary of the course will be established, including follow-up steps and their feasibility and acceptability by individual parties.
How will the commitment contribute to solving the public problem?	The commitment should contribute to the identification of possible solutions to the problem and enable the subsequent search for agreement on one of them.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	<p>Transparency: The commitment is the first step in finding a way to provide civil society with more relevant data in both adequate and workable format.</p> <p>Civic participation: Representatives of civil society should be actively involved in the discussions and have the opportunity to comment on which solutions they consider suitable.</p> <p>Public accountability: Fulfilling the commitment will be the first step in publishing data that will allow civil society to control to whom and to what extent public funds are provided in the form of grants.</p> <p>Technology and innovation: The commitment should contribute to the disclosure of available</p>

	information about public grants through a further processable open data format.	
Additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The commitment contributes to the fulfilment of the goals set by the Government Anti-Corruption Conception for 2018 to 2022. 	
Milestone activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date:	End date:
Carrying out consultations	1. 11. 2020	31. 8. 2021
Creating a document summarizing the result of the consultations and other possible steps	1. 9. 2021	31. 8. 2022
Contact information		
Name of responsible person from implementing agency	Ing. František Kučera	
Title, Department	Conflict of Interests and Anti-Corruption Department	
E-mail and phone	FKucera@msp.justice.cz , +420 221 997 624	
Other actors involved	State actors involved	providers of grants, including self-governing territorial units, administrators of relevant information systems and databases
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Working Commission for Open Government and Transparency of State Administration, Working Commission for Economic Management of State Property

5 List of abbreviations

CERMAT	Centrum pro reformu maturitní zkoušky (Centre for Graduation Exam Reform)
CIS	Central Information System
Covid-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CR	Czech Republic
CSOs	Civil society organizations
DIS	Departmental Information System
EU	European Union
ICT	Information and communication technologies
IRM	Independent review mechanism
IROP	Integrated Regional Operational Programme
MEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
NGPO	Non-governmental non-profit organizations
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGP	Open Government Partnership
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America