OECD work on Open Government and Civic Space

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"A culture of governance that promotes the principles of transparency, integrity, accountability and stakeholder participation in support of democracy and inclusive growth."

Source: OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRANSPARENCY</th>
<th>INTEGRITY</th>
<th>ACCOUNTABILITY</th>
<th>PARTICIPATION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Public information and data is publicly available and re-usable.</td>
<td>• Public interest is prioritized over private interests.</td>
<td>• Government actions are explained and citizens’ demands are answered.</td>
<td>• Perspectives and inputs from citizens and stakeholders are incorporated into decision-making.</td>
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<td>• The public understands the workings of their government.</td>
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<td>• The public can hold the government to account for its policy and service delivery performance.</td>
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WHAT IS OPEN GOVERNMENT FOR THE OECD (2)?

- A paradigm change for the public administration
- A new culture of governance: putting citizens at the center
- A way to govern, design & delivery policies and services in all areas
- Inspired by technology and innovation. Digital government as a means to an end.
OECD RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

• Adopted in 2017 by the OECD Council, following a public consultation

• First and only international legal instrument on Open Government

• 10 Provisions that provide a framework for both the governance and implementation of countries’ open government agendas

• Adherents: OECD member countries + Argentina, Brazil, Morocco, Romania, Tunisia
OECD AREAS OF WORK ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

- OPEN GOVERNMENT & OPEN STATE
- INNOVATIVE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
- CIVIC SPACE
- TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY
- PUBLIC COMMUNICATION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

KEY AREAS OF WORK
**Standards:** The Recommendation of the Council on Open Government (2017); Guiding Principles for Open and Inclusive Policy Making Good Practice Principles for Deliberative Processes for Public Decision Making

**Thematic Global Reports:** Provide an overview of good practices across open government thematic areas.

**Policy Reviews:** Adapted to country-specific needs and priorities and include an analysis of how open government reforms and principles can be integrated into policy-making to contribute to better public governance.

**Capacity-building:** Dissemination activities and technical assistance to support reform implementation.

**Policy Dialogue:** Provides opportunities to engage with a wide range of stakeholders in order to promote discussions on open government reforms and initiatives as well as discuss the challenges that governments face in regions across the world. This is done under the purview of the Working Party on Open Government, Informal thematic experts groups, and Regional Networks on Open and Innovative Government.

**Partnership with the strategic partners:** Strategic partnerships with the Open Government Partnership (OGP), CIVICUS, Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and other International Organizations (e.g. UNESCO) are established to identify opportunities for governments to expand their commitment to the open government principles and strengthen the impact of their initiatives.
## NEW FRONTIERS OF OPEN GOVERNMENT

### INDICATORS

- Create the first-ever set of indicators to measure the impact of open government reforms
- Open Government Dashboards (2011), OECD Openness Index (2022) & Results Indicators (2023)

### OPEN STATE

- Move open government reforms beyond the executive branch of the state and involve the Judiciary, the Parliament as well as subnational governments

### OPEN GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

- Provide a holistic and integrated policy framework for open government reforms
- Complement and strengthen existing OGP Action Plans
Methodology for Finland Civic Space Scan

1. Government background document
2. Literature review & rankings
3. Public consultation with CSOs
4. Fact-finding interviews
5. Deliberative component (Citizens' Panel)
Dimensions of civic space

Civic Space
Policies, laws, institutions and practices

Civic freedoms
- Access to information
- Freedom of association, assembly and expression
- Activist, whistleblower protection

Citizen/CSO participation
- Institutionalized mechanisms
- Citizen-led initiatives
- Funding
- Innovations
- Inclusion of marginalised groups

CSO-enabling environment
- Funding and access to income
- Tax incentives
- Capacity development
- Low administrative burden

Media & digital rights & freedoms
- Independent media
- Free and open internet
- Privacy (online/offline)
- Data protection
- Emerging technology respecting civil liberties
Key Milestones

June-July 2020: Government background report

16 September 2020: Information-sharing event for Government interviewees

September-October 2020: Interviews with Government and civil society

End of November 2020: Preliminary findings to Åbo Akademi University

February 2021:
- First draft to Government for fact-checking on 1 February
- Citizens’ Panel end of month

March - June 2021:
- Revisions of the report
- Approval by OECD Working Party on Open Government
- Official launch of the report in June
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<th><strong>Government</strong></th>
<th>35 bodies/institutions consulted with 35 government interviewees</th>
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<td><strong>Advisory Boards</strong></td>
<td>The Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations (ETNO), The Advisory Board for Civil Society Policy (KANE), The Digitalisation for Everyday life Board.</td>
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| **Overview of Interviewees** | 13 interviews and 15 substantive written inputs from civil society |

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<td><strong>CSOs</strong></td>
<td>The Finnish Red Cross, FINGO, Disability Partnership Finland, EFFI, Finwatch, the Sámi Council, The Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE), the Central Union for Child Welfare, 4th sector activists, occupational health experts.</td>
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<td><strong>Think Tanks</strong></td>
<td>Demos Helsinki</td>
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<td><strong>Human Rights Organisations</strong></td>
<td>Amnesty International, Finnish League for Human Rights, Finnish Human Rights Centre</td>
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<td><strong>Journalism</strong></td>
<td>The Union of Journalists in Finland, The Council for Mass Media</td>
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<td><strong>Academia &amp; Research</strong></td>
<td>University of Jyväskylä, University of Helsinki, Åbo Akademi University, the Library of Congress</td>
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Finland’s International Standing

- Finland ranks 3rd out of 198 in the 2019 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index
- Finland ranks 3rd of 128 in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2020
- Finland ranks 2nd in the RSF World Press Freedom Index 2020
- Finland scores 100/100 in the 2020 Freedom in the World Index
- Finland ranks 11 out of 141 and 1st for public institutions in the WEF Global Competitiveness Index 2019
- Finland ranks in 5th place as a full democracy in the EIU Democracy Index 2019
- Finland ranks in 3rd place in the 2020 Social Progress Index
THANK YOU!

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