

Appendices

The preparation process of IV Action Plan on Open Government

The principles of preparation of the IV Action Plan on Open Government have followed those of the previous action plans (2013, 2015, and 2017). The Action Plan was created as a result of far-reaching cooperation and many consultations. Various parties from NGOs to agencies and municipalities have been involved. The preparatory process has also taken advantage of international expertise. The practical work in the process has included some new approaches.

The principles of the process were:

- The preparatory process includes both face-to-face meetings, workshops and electronic participation opportunities.
- The various opportunities for participation exist throughout the process.
- The electronic participation opportunities take advantage of open, shared systems that are universally accessible (otakantaa.fi and lausuntopalvelu.fi).
- Face-to-face meetings are organised for various groups involving citizens, public officials and local government officials. Meetings take place both in the events organised by the open government initiative and by other parties.
- The goal is to reach participants outside the capital region.

New aspects included in the preparatory process were:

- A [memorandum](#) (only in Finnish) was prepared to contribute to the process. The memo records the changes in the operating environment and the background of starting the preparation of the IV Action Plan.
- Matters and views that came up during the preparatory process were recorded in a memo entitled "[Mitä kuulumme](#)" ([What we heard](#)) ([Only in Finnish](#)). This way, it was possible to record ideas (why being open is important, for example) that were not actual propositions for the Action Plan.
- Various parties (representatives of organisations and public officials) were interviewed as a part of the preparatory work in which the goal was to reach individuals and organisations not present at the various events.
- During the preparatory process, three events were organised in cities around Finland (in Forssa, Kotka and Jyväskylä), in which the management and representatives of these cities and local CSO activists were met.
- The English version of the Action Plan draft, which is in the service for statements, will be sent to persons responsible for the Open Government Partnership programme in the Nordic countries and Estonia. (Nordic Peer Review)



A word cloud prepared based on the ideas collected during the open government preparatory process.

The preparatory process was launched at the Avoimuuden tori (Openness Market) event where you could express your ideas and thoughts for the fourth Action Plan in various ways.

Openness Market

Avoim
Hallinto

Meet you at the Market Place?

Join us at the Openness market 13.3.2019. The market is open from 8.30 to 16.30.

Openness benefits us all – How can we advance it together? Join us, tell, innovate, further develop, support and inspire. Let's make together the guidelines for the coming four years of developing openness.

What will I find at the Market?

Game Corner

You can develop the areas of openness by playing the Game of Openness, the Game of Participation or the Digi compass game. Games start at 10, 13 and 15 hrs and one game session takes about an hour.

Four Corners

You can choose from the openness, publicity, easy to understand and participation workshops the one you want and use OECD's innovation tools to form development suggestions.

Comic Corner

You can tell what you think is the most important story of open government and the most important goals for it. You can draw your own comic strip or use one of the blank comic strips.

Interview corner

You can tell face-to-face to one of the members of the Open Government Team or leave a video message what you think should be the targets of the next open government action plan and why.

Smoothie Bar

After the successful work you can reward yourself with a spring smoothie.

How can I find the Market?

Come 13.3.2019 between 8.30 to 16.30 hrs and visit the Ministry of Finance Conference Centre at Mariankatu 9, Helsinki.

Please register as soon as possible, latest 10.3 at www.avoinhallinto.fi

This event starts the process of drafting Open Government action plan and is part of the International Open Government Week.



85 people participated at the Openness Market. The event was open for everyone who wanted to join.

In the spring of 2019, a survey was submitted to the central government agencies and offices focusing on the implementation of Action Plan III. The same survey also requested ideas for the goals of Action Plan IV. 88 organisations responded. The public discussion on the website otakantaa.fi on the goals of the Action Plan IV was launched on 15 April and remained open until 15 June 2019. A total of 30 comments were received. City day events were organised in Forssa, Kotka and Jyväskylä in May and June. These events offered a forum for dialogue between city representatives and NGO activists on the future activities on the open government and the best ways they could help support local government and organisations and what kinds of goals should be set for the years to come.

A total of 15 partners were interviewed during May and June. A list of the interviewees is appended to the [Mitä kuulumme \(What we heard\) memo](#).

In its meeting on 10 June, the Advisory Board on Civil Society Policy (KANE) discussed the Action Plan IV in a small workshop.

The Action Plan was submitted to the statement service website for the period of time from 1 to 31 August 2019. A summary of the statements and statement-specific comments will be appended to the Action Plan. A total of 65 statements were received.

During the round of statements, the commitments and the measures found under them received broad-scale support. More comments and text edits were added after the round of statements and measures were also added. There is a version of the plan in which the edits are tracked in the text; all the additions, edits and corrections are visible in the document [\(link\) \(Only in Finnish\)](#). The comments received in the round of statements have been included in the plan, even though the goal has been to keep the plan concise. Some of the suggestions will be looked into before the intermediary evaluation in order to possibly add them to the Action Plan in the latter half of its term.

Previous Open Government Action Plans

National Action Plan I, 2013-2015

All of the [three previous Finnish Action Plans](#) were completed in an open preparatory process. The themes of the first Open Government Action Plan included plain language, open data, open activities and government as an enabler. The Action Plan included such goals as increasing the openness of the preparatory processes, opening data resources and converting them into a machine-readable format. Practical measures included organisation of training for public officials and local government officials on easy-to-read texts and plain language and a campaign that promoted accessibility. The use of existing phrase models in writing was brought to awareness in a seminar on the topic and working on the theme in a pilot project. The Paja seminar series furthermore featured events on decision-making based on economic models, the methods of open decision-making processes for NGOs and student organisations, impact assessment of traffic and ecological policies and the models connected to planning as well as the “Parempi Hietsu” (Better Hietsu) event for young people.

National Action Plan II, 2015-2017

A survey was carried out concerning the implementation of the second Open Government Action Plan (2015-2017). The results of the survey indicated that the principles of open government had been introduced in the various agencies in a number of different ways and at a large scale. Attempts were also made to make government activities more understandable, but there was little information on the results. Most agencies had emphasised plain language (over 80%), and these activities had been performed in many ways. Special attention was paid to the clarity of websites and online texts. There were also training sessions and customer testing and feedback were used for development purposes. The number of actual plain texts remained low, however. More than half of the agencies invested in visualisations. It was delightful to see how many agencies that responded had organised interactive online broadcasts and listening to feedback in the preparatory phase was extensive.

During the second national Action Plan, a campaign on administrative language was carried out and the Prime Minister's Office published a manual on plain language for public officials. The promotion of access to data resources took place with the creation of [avoindata.fi](#) service that contains the instructions on providing access to data and information on the data resources that have been opened. A working group that reviewed the options of removing the administrative obstacles of voluntary work prepared a proposition on removing the obstacles in various administrative branches. The Ministry of Justice set up a [website with guidelines and ideas](#) for organisations with voluntary activities and people interested in volunteering. The Broadband for All project continued in the scarcely populated areas and a total of approximately 3,200 km of broadband was built in 2015. This meant approximately 15,000 new high-speed connections. The use of electronic [demokratia.fi](#) services was promoted in administration and the civil society. Training sessions on open preparatory work and the use of services were organised for ministries and municipalities. The Democracy Awards were given out in the autumn of 2015, and the new Gateway to Information on Government Projects web application by the Government Project Register was initiated. A key goal of the Gateway to Information on Government Projects is to promote the openness of public project information for citizens. The instructions for hearing regarding the legislative process were updated and the Advisory Committee on the Ethics of State Civil Servants issued a recommendation for the central government for the use of social media on 15/06/2016.

The work on an analysis on the establishment of a lobby register was initiated with TEAS funding in early 2018. The open government co-operated with selected top projects of the government in particular to promote the participation of children, young people and the elderly. An Elderly Citizens Council day addressing questions on the housing and home care of the elderly was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. An online brainstorming session for the elderly on digital services and participation opportunities was organised, with a total of 1,340 participants and the results were processed in the opinion leader workshop for the elderly.

In conjunction to the OECD Public Governance Ministerial Meeting organised in Helsinki in 2015, a Youth Dialogue event took place. National processes in the various OECD member countries preceded the Youth Dialogue event. In Finland, the national process took place in the form of various events (in Pori, Kuopio, Helsinki), through educational collaboration and the electronic participation channel [nuortenideat.fi](#). The first annual Day of Children's Rights event focusing on the hot topics of children's rights was organised in cooperation with the Ombudsman for the Children's Office, the Mannerheim League for Child Welfare, and the Ministry of Education and Culture, in November 2015.

In May 2016, a Youth summit was organised as a part of the Future of Municipalities project and Union of Local Youth Councils in Finland, NUVA. Over 160 young people from around the country participated in the summit. A report on listening to children and young people in the preparatory process of the Act on Early Childhood Education and Care reform was made in cooperation with the Finnish Youth Research Network. Together with the Demos Helsinki think-tank, a day for lobbying for young and elderly people was organised in Hollola.

National Action Plan III, 2017-2019

The foci of the third national action plan included understandability, public access and open counties. In order to promote the work of the open government, a concise support package for public officials and local government officials was prepared. A board game on open government was developed to support the development goals, and it was available free-of-charge on the open government website alongside a support package. A one-hour training course on plain language in administration (Kotus and HAUS) was completed on the new [eOppiva learning environment](#). Anyone in the public sector can take advantage of the course regardless of time and place.

The Elderly Citizens Council day took place on 7 November 2018. The topics at the Elderly Citizens Council day included the regional government reform and the social services reform and preparing for old age. The days on topical issues regarding the rights of children were organised on 14 November 2017 and 16 November 2018. The Ministry of Justice carried out and coordinated a pilot project to evaluate the realisation of children's and young people's right to participate in Finland using an evaluation tool developed by the Council of Europe. The Ministry of Justice has also been actively involved in the marketing of the [lausuntopalvelu.fi](#) online tool and trained central government and municipal officials and employees on its use. Nearly 2,500 organisations and over 7,000 people are registered in the service at present.

In June, 2018, the website [www.saavutettavasti.fi](#) was launched. The website is intended for communications experts in the public sector and others who write or design content for online services. The administrator of the website is Celia, an expert on accessible publishing, that operates under the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The Ministry of Justice has completed a report on the sufficiency of the public access principle at present, and if its interpretation can be extended to apply to services that companies produce. The Ministry of Justice organises two training courses annually on the Act on Openness of Government Activities in cooperation with HAUS, Finnish Institute of Public Management Ltd. In addition to these, training on the Act on Openness of Government Activities was organised in the winter 2017-2018 in a cooperative effort of the Government and the University of Helsinki. The lectures were also available online.

Government procurement data became public in September 2017. The [Tutkihankintoja.fi](#) (Explore State Spending) service is an easy-to-use, visual website for citizens, media and companies. The data available on the website is regularly published as open data, also known as raw data, on the [avoindata.fi](#) website.

A new website on the regional government reform and the county operations was launched at [omamaakunta.fi](#). With the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, the AKE pilots (project on bringing the local people into focus in the regional government and social services reforms) and open government in cooperation, training sessions on open government were organised. The training sessions brought people from different sectors, including local government officials, elected officials and representatives of organisations, together around the same table.

In 2018, open government weeks and the open government date event were organised, and in 2019, there was an open government market. The Open Government programme has participated in a very large range of events (including the *Hyvä ikä*, an elderly care and ageing fair). A [map](#) was posted on the website featuring the events organised by the Open Government programme. A monthly newsletter has been one of the elements in the communications of the Open Government programme.