



Open Government STRATEGY 2030 Finland

OPEN GOVERNMENT VISION

Open government is a **key resource** in Finnish society.

Open government builds **trust, security and confidence in the future** among citizens.

Open government reinforces dialogue in society.

- ▶ A high level of trust between various actors is a cornerstone on which the functioning of Finnish society as a whole is built. Cooperation between various social actors increases mutual understanding on issues that need to be solved and thereby improves the quality of preparation work and contributes to the implementation of decisions that have been made. Public debate and participation create a shared commitment to decisions on the future and to achieving outcomes. The government is open to initiatives from the civil society as well as to new forms of cooperation.

Open government promotes everyone's right to understand and to be understood.

- ▶ Engagement is the key to trust in an open society, which also tolerates disagreements. Suspicion and even distrust are a part of democracy. The government also talks openly about uncertainties and mistakes. It acts and communicates ethically by using clear and understandable language. Citizens, businesses and organisations must have an equal opportunity to gain an overall picture of the situation and of the authorities' actions.

Leadership and competence ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

- ▶ Everyone should be able to trust in their opportunities to participate and make a difference. Particular attention will be paid to enabling the participation of relatively disadvantaged persons. Open government is promoted through bold leadership, support and commitment from leaders.

Finland actively promotes open government on the international level.

- ▶ Finland is strongly and actively involved in the development of open government on the international level. Finland will continue its ambitious work to ensure open government is a part of all government activities not only on national level but also internationally.

KEY PRIORITIES OF THE STRATEGY



Open government reinforces dialogue in society.

Objectives

- ▶ To strengthen the role of dialogues in government mode of action and to reinforce interactive skills in the public sector.
- ▶ To improve knowledge in the public sector about how digital interaction channels work, and to encourage their broader and more active use in dialogue.
- ▶ To develop forums for increasing dialogue and mutual understanding between government and civil society organisations and to ensure government is well aware of how civil society operates in its different and changing roles.



Open government promotes everyone's right to understand and be understood.

Objectives

- ▶ To systematically and proactively increase plain language skills and usage within public sector organisations (plain language is an even easier language than clear administrative language).
- ▶ To support government openness by communicating in a way that takes account of people's expectations and how they use different media, and to strengthen public sector understanding of new social phenomena and changes in communication culture.
- ▶ To strengthen compliance with the Openness Act's provisions on access to information while also observing the data protection regulations. Also supporting government openness by opening up public interfaces if there are no specific reasons to keep them restricted. Individuals shall have the right of access to information on themselves that is contained in information systems.



Leadership and competence ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Objectives

- ▶ To emphasise support for the participation opportunities of particularly vulnerable persons in participation management. To develop cooperation with civil society organisations in order to hear from people whose voice might not otherwise be heard.
- ▶ Openness management requires a bold and open organisational culture. It is the task of the leadership to ensure that open government principles are implemented in an organisation. It is also important for the leaders to support the personnel in the context of tensions sometimes caused by the conflict between citizens' increasing demands and limited government resources.



Finland actively promotes open government on the international level.

Objectives

- ▶ Finland supports the development of open government on the international level and actively provides information on its own work in the area of open government.

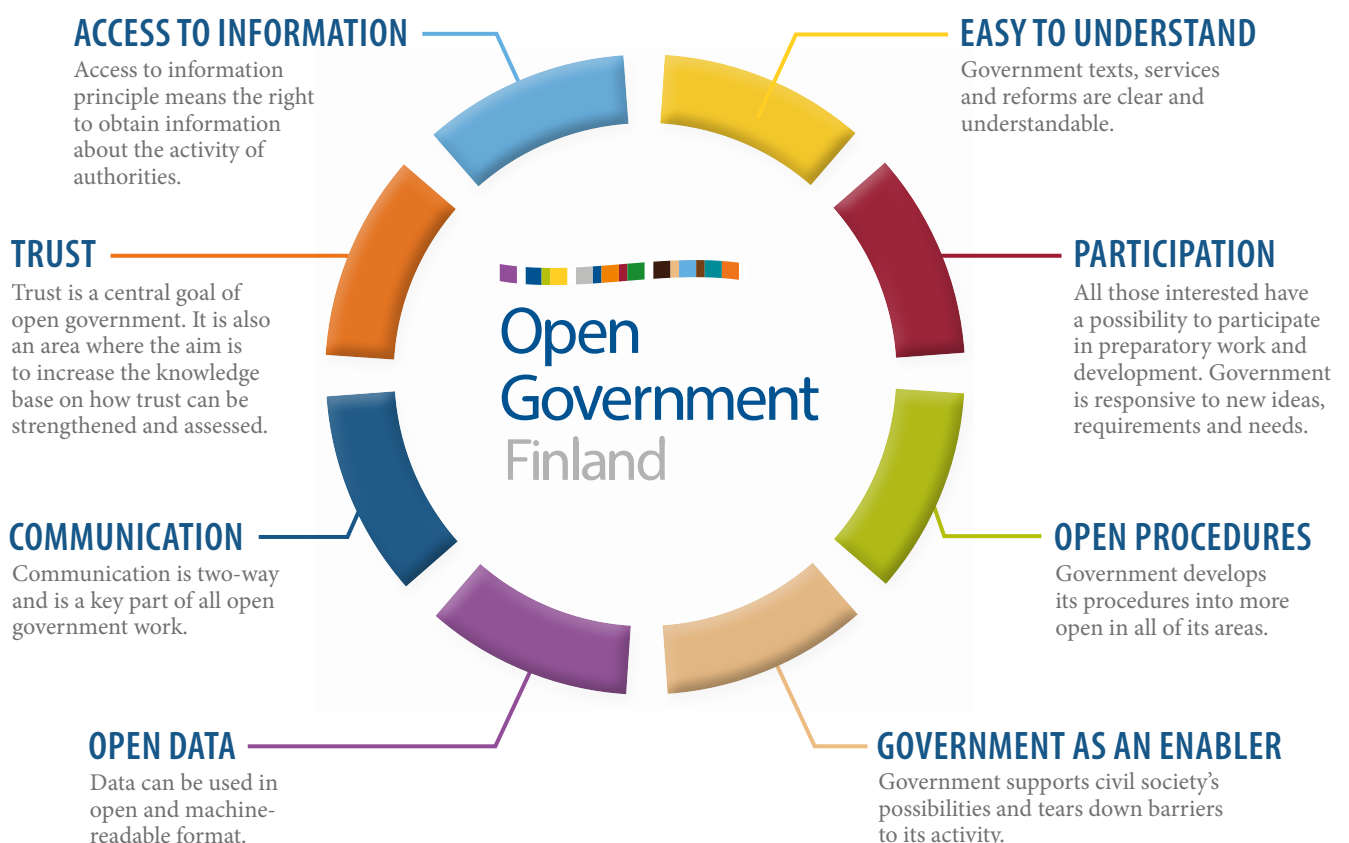
DEFINITION OF OPEN GOVERNMENT

- ▶ Open government refers to transparency, integrity and accountability of government activities, and access to information and services. It also means that citizens are allowed to participate in the preparation of decision-making and to be involved in the planning and implementation of services. Open government means responsiveness of government to new ideas, requirements and needs. The open government approach is a means for improving the quality of democracy so as to better respond to people's needs.

Why is the strategy important?

- ▶ The strategy includes a long-term vision and key priorities for open government. The vision and priorities provide guidelines for the preparation and implementation of open government action plans. The strategy also includes a definition of open government. These strengthen consistency and effectiveness in the promotion of open government in public administration. The strategy supports cooperation between open government sectors and levels and implements the OECD Recommendation on Open Government. Although the strategy provides guidelines for drafting action plans, it does not preclude an open process in the drafting of these programmes.

OPEN GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS (permanent framework)



MEASURING PROGRESS WITH THE STRATEGY'S PRIORITIES



Open government reinforces dialogue in society.

- ▶ An increase in the amount of dialogue (as a means of inclusion, a tool, a practice) and an increase in the number of users of dialogue methods in government. Wider use of dialogue results to support reform work.



Open government promotes everyone's right to understand and be understood.

- ▶ Systematic increase in availability of easy-to-read information and services, especially in areas where the need is greatest.



Leadership and competence ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

- ▶ Support for implementing openness and inclusion is specifically visible in goals set for management (e.g. in management contracts).



Finland actively promotes open government on the international level.

- ▶ Annual growth in Finland's international profile as a model for open government, and a broadening of the profile. (publications, seminars, international communications, social media, international networks, international comparisons and 'innovation banks').

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

- ▶ The Open Government Action Plan will undergo an interim assessment in the first half of 2021. At the same time the Plan will be updated in line with the Open Government Strategy. The Strategy's implementation will be assessed in connection with the next Open Governance Action Plan. Based on the assessment, further measures will be added as necessary and an assessment will be made of whether the Strategy should be reoriented on account of changes in the operating environment, for example. A similar assessment will be made in connection with preparation of the 2027 plan. The strategy period will end in 2030 at the latest. The assessment of the strategy's progress and need for reorientation will make use of the annual independent research mechanisms of the Open Government Partnership.

