



Open Government

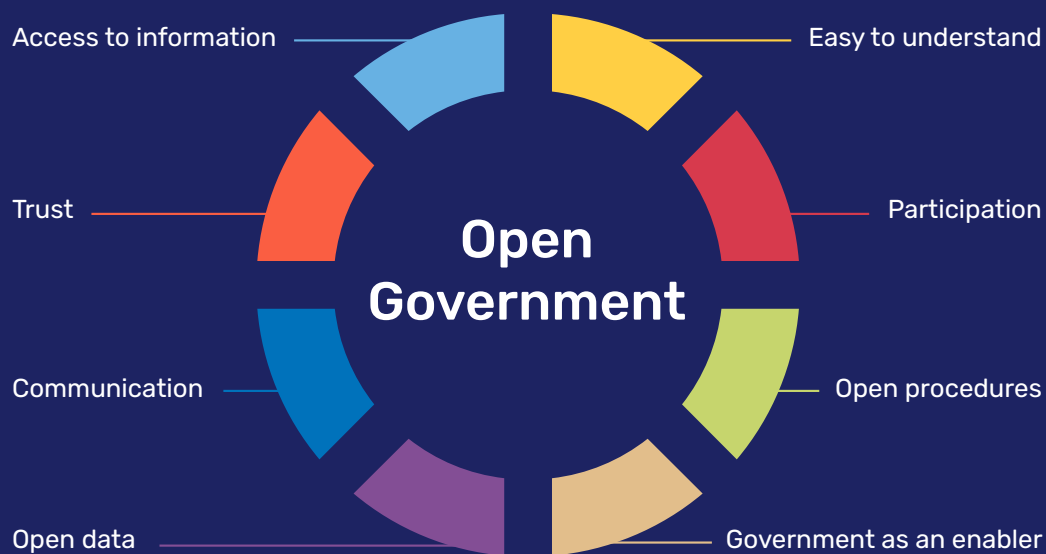
Action Plan 2023-2027 Finland

Open Government is a key resource
in Finnish society.



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

Finns have strong trust in government. However, according to the [OECD \(Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development\)](#), trust in one's own abilities to participate and whether it has influence is clearly lower among Finns than in the reference countries.

Trust, participation and understandability were almost unanimously considered the key objectives of the preparation process of the Open Government National Action Plan also for the programme period 2023-2027.

The crisis resilience of Finnish society, the defense of democracy, ensuring equality and the implementation of the necessary societal changes require that everyone feels that they can participate in and influence the development of the community. Successive global crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have further emphasized this need. Uncertainty has become a characteristic of our lives and it affects us all in one way or another. Changes in the age structure of our society, changes in healthcare and social welfare services and increasing mental health problems among young people have highlighted public services and their supply and quality.

The focus of open government work has previously been on openness in the policy preparation of policy measures and the related dialogue. In addition to this, it will be necessary to make encounters with people in public services a development target in the future. This will strengthen democracy, equality, non-discrimination and inclusion in society and prevent discrimination, hate speech and racism.

It has long been recognized in open government work that developing and improving is not enough. There are parties in and outside our society who deliberately seek to erode trust, for example by questioning the amount of space media should have to operate independently. Therefore, measures are needed to respond to this. Spreading dis- and misinformation is a key issue that must be combated through more extensive cooperation between different actors in society.

Open government actors also need support nationally and internationally, which is why closer cooperation and more effective utilization and sharing of good practices will be an important part of the development of open government in the coming years.

Due to its concise nature, the draft action plan uses the term "citizens", but in conceptual terms the term includes all people, communities, organizations, companies and other actors in society.

Open Government commitments 2023-2027

There are three open Government commitments for 2023-2027. The measures to promote and implement the commitment are listed under each commitment. The work of open government concerns the entire public sector. During this four-year period, the aim is also to further intensify cooperation and strengthen the link to democracy and civil society policy, fundamental rights and human rights policy and sustainable development policy.

Commitment 1. National dialogues and encounters with public services

1.1 We will strengthen inclusion, mutual understanding and the knowledge base in preparing of policy measures through dialogues.

- We will establish and expand National dialogues together with civil society actors. The aim is to increase the number of participants and organisers in these dialogues.
- We will improve the effectiveness of National dialogues by producing shorter summaries and highlighting the results of the dialogues for the use of the ministries' leadership. We will also make the impact of information created via dialogues visible to the participants.
- We will develop the utilisation of the results of national dialogues in cooperation with the organisers of dialogues. We will also strengthen the utilisation of information obtained through dialogues at other administrative levels (wellbeing services counties and municipalities).
- We will utilise national dialogues and their results as part of the Government's futures work, for example in the preparation of foresight reports.
- We will strengthen dialogue competence and the use of dialogues: we will integrate dialogue work into the open democracy network (see commitment 3).

1.2 We will support democracy by improving encounters with public services.

- We will strengthen democracy and inclusion by emphasizing the importance of encounters in public services. Democracy is not only a political system but also a way of life that can be strengthened in all everyday activities.
- We will actively support the implementation of the handbook for developing public services based on the Democracy defense dialogues. We will support democracy expertise in public services by providing training in eOppiva - digital learning platform. The majority of people living in Finland have contact with the public sector by using its services. Public services must provide people with an experience of a society where everyone's interests are important, and issues are solved together whilst respecting and listening to all parties involved. The community competence of those working in services will be strengthened by sharing good practices.
- We will promote the competence in and use of both easy language and an appropriate, clear and understandable language in public services to support equality and democracy. The authorities and citizens also meet via written language when people read the authorities' texts or deal with their affairs with the authorities, for example in various digital services.
- We will participate in the implementation of the easy language action plan.

Commitment 2. Reliable information and cooperation strengthen competence and participation

2.1 We prevent mis- and disinformation through expertise and reliable information.

- Together with OECD countries, we work to improve data sharing and develop the data and analysis base so that mis- and disinformation can be prevented and combated as effectively as possible through cooperation between different actors in society. Reliable information is vital for trust and democracy.
- Practices for opening up data must be developed at all times, and we must prepare for emergencies in normal conditions. We will organize intersectoral discussions on the importance of opening up data in exceptional situations. We will collect best practices on how to combine the exceptional security situation and the appropriate opening of data.
- We will promote the opening up of public sector purchase invoice data in municipalities and wellbeing services counties.
- We will organize workshops open to the entire public administration and ensure through communication that all public administration actors are able to act in accordance with the Ministry of Finance's ethical guidelines on artificial intelligence.

2.2 We will establish the operating model of the Open Government Civil Society Academy nationally and at the regional level in order to deepen cooperation

- We will work with stakeholders to establish the annual Civil Society Academy for open government. We will increase active joint communication so public officials and officeholders will participate in the Civil Society Academy events even more.
- We will establish and expand regional civil society academies to build cooperation in cities, municipalities and/or regions: we will provide a ready-made model and give motivation into its use. The aim is to create regional academies in different parts of Finland.
- We will organize the Open Government Civil Society Academy also on international and EU themes.
- With the help of the Academies, we will strengthen the expertise of civil servants in civil society. We will provide training on this subject in eOppiva Training platform.

Commitment 3. Support for open government actors in Finland and internationally

3.1 We will enhance the sharing of good practices in open government.

- We will improve the efficiency of data collection on good practices in open government. We will create a more systematic form and way to share information by developing and utilising the activities of the Open Government Network.
- Developing the sharing of good practices in Finland will make it possible to disseminate better information and knowledge also internationally. We will create a section on the English-language pages of the open government (opengov.fi) website, the contents of which will serve as a source for sharing Finland's best practices.
- We implement the [OECD Youth Recommendation \(Creating better opportunities for young people\)](#) on trust and participation. We will make use of the forthcoming OECD work to share good practices and methods, especially on strengthening the participation of children and young people.
- In the sharing of good practices, we will also place particular emphasis on practices that help participation at an early stage in the preparation of policy measures and on practices in which participation is promoted in cooperation between administrative levels (e.g. wellbeing services counties and municipalities together).

3.2 We will launch an open democracy network

- We will launch a new Open democracy network that is open to all interested.
- We will link the activities of the State Administration Open Government Network to the Open democracy network.
- We will theme the activities of the networks more clearly. The working title of the 2024 theme is "artificial intelligence and openness". Other themes identified as important include equality, civil society, information security, data protection, accessibility, communications and building trust.
- We will work together to create new forms of operation for the network. In this way, we will strengthen the sharing of good practices and the role of the network also in promoting dialogues.



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Finland

