



The
Federal Government

Germany's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

First National Action Plan 2017-2019

Cornerstones of open government

Open
Government
Partnership



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Introduction

**“Open and transparent government is a cornerstone of good governance in the 21st century.” –
Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel to the OGP Co-Chairs, 30 November 2016.¹**

The **Open Government Partnership (OGP)** is an initiative launched in 2011 whose 75 participating countries are committed to promoting open government. OGP boosts reform in this area by facilitating international sharing of experience, independent evaluation and an organizational framework for developing National Action Plans. NAPs capture commitments and milestones to open government. OGP participants are guided by the general principles enshrined in the *Open Government Declaration*² such as promoting transparency and citizen participation, fighting corruption, and harnessing the power of new technologies. Ultimately, the intended reforms are to improve the citizens' lives.

How does the OGP process work? Participating countries co-create NAPs with civil society in a two-year cycle. The NAPs are regularly evaluated by the drafting government and an independent body in the framework of OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM). NAPs outline specific and measurable commitments of ongoing or planned open government initiatives.

The Federal Government's National Action Plan to implement the G8 Open Data Charter already stated in September 2014:

“In view of traditional administrative structures, attitudes and processes will have to change further to satisfy the principles of an open, transparent state.”³

Public administration's core task is to implement applicable law and fulfil a policy mandate. Open approaches can help public administrations provide better services for citizens and encourage citizens to engage in policy-making. Openness can strengthen trust in institutions and processes, facilitate participation and show opportunities for improvement.

Germany's participation in OGP was officially initiated when the Federal Minister of the Interior handed over the Letter of Intent signed by the Federal Chancellor to OGP on 7 December 2016.⁴ Participation in OGP is an important signal for change in public administration towards digital transformation, openness, cooperation and progress in the spirit of open government.

By facilitating international sharing of experience and dialogue with civil society, the OGP process generates many new ideas for handling social challenges. Reform projects are bolstered by the political will expressed in the NAP. Participation in OGP also triggers important discussions about how open government can benefit democratically legitimate government services. Moreover, at the end of the 18th legislative term, this first NAP is both a reflection of achievements in the field of open government and an important basis for promoting open government by driving the creation of

¹ Source: Letter of Intent at www.opengovpartnership.org/country/germany

² See <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/open-government-declaration>

³ Source: <http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/Broschueren/2014/national-action-plan-open-data.html>

⁴ See press release <http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/EN/2016/participation-in-the-open-government-partnership.html>

favourable framework conditions and the implementation of suitable reform projects in various policy areas.

Definition:

“Open government” means government action based on transparency (e.g. in procedures and decisions, and access to information), participation (e.g. citizens dialogues, consultations) and cooperation (e.g. between the government and non-governmental organizations, and across various ministries and administrative levels). OGP also emphasizes the fight against corruption and the harnessing of new technologies to improve governance.

The OECD defines open government as “a culture of governance based on innovative and sustainable public policies and practices inspired by the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation that fosters democracy and inclusive growth”.⁵

The European Commission explains the benefits of open government as follows: “Increasing information and knowledge exchange, enhanced connectivity, openness and transparency provide new opportunities for public administrations to become more efficient and effective, provide user-friendly services, while reducing costs and administrative burden. The open government approach can facilitate this transformation. ... It is also about making government processes and decisions open, in order to foster citizen participation and engagement.”⁶

⁵ OECD: Open Government. The global context and the way forward (2016)

⁶ Source: ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/open-government

Open government: national context

By participating in OGP, the Federal Government is building on measures adopted and goals achieved so far in the field of open government and joins the international sharing of experience.

Freedom of information, transparency and open data

The Federal Republic of Germany already has general and specialized laws governing various aspects of freedom of information, transparency and open data.

In January 2006, the Federal Act Governing Access to Information held by the Federal Government (*Gesetz zur Regelung des Zugangs zu Informationen des Bundes*, IFG) entered into force. It gives citizens the right to request information held by federal authorities. In December 2006, the Act on the Re-Use of Public Sector Information (*Gesetz über die Weiterverwendung von Informationen öffentlicher Stellen*, IWG) entered into force, implementing the EU Directive on the re-use of public sector information (PSI Directive) in national law. Since 2012, the Spatial Data Access Act (*Geodatenzugangsgesetz*, GeoZG) has been providing for free use of spatial data collected by federal authorities as open data.

Open information in the field of environmental policy is governed by the Environmental Information Act (*Umweltinformationsgesetz*, UIG) revised in October 2014. The act introduces both a proactive information obligation and an individual right to obtain environmental information. Transparency and civic engagement are core elements of effective environmental policy. We have gained considerable experience in this area and see successful practical examples. Citizen participation and access to information are firmly anchored in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992), in the 1998 Aarhus Convention⁷ and in relevant EU and national provisions.

The first amendment of the E-Government Act (*E-Government-Gesetz*, EGovG), or Open Data Act, adopted by the German Bundestag on 18 May 2017, implements the goal of making government data open by default defined in the Federal Government's National Action Plan to implement the G8 Open Data Charter. The act also provides for making data open by design, i.e. taking into account publication of government data already when setting up new processes and IT systems, and for establishing an advisory service for federal authorities.

Since January 2015, the national data portal GovData.de has been in operation and used by federal, state and local authorities to publish data.

In July 2014, the Federal Government decided to initiate Germany's candidacy for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a global initiative founded in 2003 for more financial transparency and accountability in the extractive sector. In February 2016, Germany started implementing the EITI transparency requirements and to this end established a multi-stakeholder group composed of public administration, industry and civil society.

⁷ Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Source: www.unece.org/env/pp/treatytext.html

Since March 2013, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has been publishing data and documents on bilateral development cooperation. The data are in line with the standard of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). Since the International Climate Initiative (IKI) launched in 2008, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) has been providing information about all IKI projects online on an interactive and user-friendly world map. Since June 2016, IKI data have been published in line with the IATI standard.

Since July 2016, research and development projects for digital applications using open data to boost Mobility 4.0, or smart mobility, have been funded through mFUND created by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI).

Participation and engagement

Participation of civil society and other stakeholders is common practice in German policy-making and public administration. For example, this is reflected in cooperation with foundations, initiatives, associations and research institutions and in the participation of associations, consultations, hearings and partnerships in all policy areas. The Federal Government underlines: *“Both involving civil society in a structured way and providing government data (open data) may result in more transparent and cooperative governance (open government) that values participation and is open to joint solutions and a culture of innovation.”*⁸

For example, with the dialogue “Human and Successful. A Dialogue on Germany’s Future”⁹ the Federal Chancellor initiated a large-scale series of citizens’ dialogues which were continued for various topics under the title “Living Well in Germany”. The Federal Government’s report published in October 2016 describes the quality of life in Germany using 12 dimensions and 46 indicators.¹⁰ The dimensions and indicators were selected on the basis of the outcomes of the biannual citizens’ consultation.¹¹

Open dialogue with stakeholders and engaged citizens is an integral part of governance in Germany and an important element of a vital democracy, be it on environmental issues (e.g. climate dialogue of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety), on social engagement (e.g. workshop series on social cohesion and integration of the Federal Ministry of the Interior), on rural development (e.g. the dialogue “Living well in the countryside” of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture), interreligious understanding (e.g. German Islam Conference), the changing realities of work (e.g. dialogue on Work 4.0 of the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs) or on “Generating knowledge – thinking and working in the world of tomorrow” (in the framework of the citizens’ dialogue “Understanding the Future” of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research).

⁸ Comment of the Federal Government on the expert commission’s report on the Second Engagement Report “Demographic Change and Civic Engagement: Civic Engagement and its Contribution to Local Development”. Source: www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/engagement-ist-unverzichtbar-fuer-gesellschaftlichen-zusammenhalt/115540 (in German)

⁹ Source: https://dialog-ueber-deutschland.bundeskanzlerin.de/EN/10-Dialog/_node.html

¹⁰ Source: <http://www.gut-leben-in-deutschland.de/static/LB/en>

¹¹ Source: https://buergerdialog.gut-leben-in-deutschland.de/EN/Home/home_node.html

Moreover, following public consultations, on 28 April 2017 the Federal Government presented its revised 2016 Sustainability Strategy.¹² The strategy defines Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which can also be looked up on the national open data portal Govdata.de. In addition, the strategy describes further national and international goals and activities of the Federal Government, e.g. participation in OGP, anti-corruption and integrity.¹³

Open government at state and local level

The federal states have also been active in the field of open government for many years, e.g. by running their own open data portals, open government projects and multitenant citizen participation platforms that can also be used by municipalities. In Bundesrat decision 462/15¹⁴ of 6 November 2015, the federal states called on the Federal Government to join OGP. Moreover, at their conference on 14 October 2016, the heads of the federal and state governments decided the following:

“Within their respective jurisdictions, the federal states will – where this has not yet been done – also adopt open data laws along the lines of federal law with the aim of creating comparable standards for access to public data resources at national level.”¹⁵

In Germany, citizen participation has a long tradition in particular at local level. For example, many cities and municipalities carry out participatory budgeting. Participation processes are mandatory for most infrastructure projects. Moreover, a growing number of cities and municipalities have been gathering experience with open data and open government for some time.

From 2014 to 2016, the Federal Government together with three local authorities’ national associations – the Association of German Cities, the Association of German Counties and the Association of German Cities and Municipalities – carried out a pilot project for e-government in model local authorities (*Modellkommune E-Government*). The pilot project aimed at showcasing the potential of the 2013 E-Government Act (EGovG) at local level.¹⁶ This was followed by another competition in May 2017 where nine model local authorities were selected to participate in an open government project (*Modellkommune Open Government*). Their initiatives are intended to show how open government can be established in local administrations, how citizens use the services and how these measures can be both innovative for the community and cost-effective for local authorities.¹⁷

The IT Planning Council, coordinating federal and state cooperation on information technology issues, not only addresses the issues of standardizing metadata for open data and developing a reference architecture for e-participation software,¹⁸ but also decided at its 22nd meeting on

¹² “In this respect, the multi-stakeholder approach of the 2030 Agenda already determined the process of drawing up this Strategy.” (page 26); also see:

https://www.bundesregierung.de/Webs/Breg/EN/Issues/Sustainability/_node.html

¹³ “Germany’s planned participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) offers new potential for integrity, transparency and the rule of law in Germany, including in connection with innovative technological approaches. This includes the increased disclosure of administrative data (open data).” *ibid.*, pages 203 and 210.

¹⁴ Source: www.bundesrat.de/SharedDocs/drucksachen/2015/0401-0500/462-15%28B%29.pdf (in German)

¹⁵ Source: www.bundesregierung.de/Content/DE/Pressemitteilungen/BPA/2016/10/2016-10-14-beschluss-bund-laender.html (in German)

¹⁶ Source: www.verwaltung-innovativ.de/DE/E_Government/Modellkommune_E_Gov/modellkommune_e_gov_node.html (in German)

¹⁷ www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/2017/05/sieger-ogp-wettbewerb.html (in German)

¹⁸ Source: www.it-planungsrat.de/DE/Projekte/Steuerungsprojekte/OpenGovernment/opengovernment_node.html (in German)

22 March 2017 to discuss the role of state and local authorities in the OGP participation process and to develop a suitable approach.¹⁹ The second National Action Plan will already take into account Germany's federal structure and involve state and local administrations in the OGP process.

¹⁹ "The IT Planning Council has decided to address the federal aspect of participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP). The IT Planning Council will develop a formal process for involving federal and local authorities in drafting National Action Plans in the framework of Germany's OGP participation." Source: www.it-planungsrat.de/SharedDocs/Entscheidungen/DE/2017/Entscheidung_2017_02.html (in German)

Creating the first OGP action plan

A key element of OGP participation is that governments create National Action Plans in consultation with civil society. This distinguishes OGP from similar initiatives and particularly encourages expert discussions and civic engagement.

After Germany announced its participation at the OGP Global Summit on 7 December 2016, talks started with civil-society organizations advocating open government. The aim is to gradually expand this dialogue, keeping in mind future formalization of the procedure right from the beginning. In 2015, a regular exchange in the form of a Public-Community Partnership (PCP) was established on the basis of the National Action Plan to implement the G8 Open Data Charter. We were able to build on this exchange for the OGP National Action Plan.

On 17 February 2017, we invited 103 experts from civil society and research to an initial workshop at the Federal Ministry of the Interior. In a free exchange of views, participants of the event ranked topics and developed ideas for the first National Action Plan of the Federal Government. Participants were encouraged to continue cooperating online over the following weeks and to invite further interested experts and civil-society organizations to elaborate ideas that were then presented to the Federal Government as proposals for the National Action Plan.

The Federal Government discussed these ideas and ultimately included some of them in the action plan. The authors of the 265 ideas were given feedback on their suggestions, specifying which ideas are already common practice in government and public administration and which ideas can be included in the first NAP and the further OGP process. At another event on 1 June 2017, the Federal Government reported on the progress. Participants were also able to discuss how the dialogue can be continued after the first action plan has been adopted.

Overall, we were able to discuss a broad range of ideas during the drafting process of this first action plan. In this first step, more than 100 representatives of foundations, associations, initiatives and universities contributed to the debate which will not end with the final version of the first action plan.

Outlook

Participation in the Open Government Partnership is a mutual process of learning. Public administrations and engaged civil-society representatives learn more about each other's work, triggering a discussion on which aspects of open government make sense and can be implemented in Germany.

The OGP process provides guidelines but leaves participating countries ample discretion in shaping it. Germany must in particular develop a strategy for involving state and local authorities in this process. In the future, participation and coordination of the various stakeholders should also follow formal procedures that are transparent, inclusive and constructive. In this respect, this first National Action Plan is intended to lay the foundation.

The action plan now includes 15 commitments made by several ministries. Implementation is subject to the priorities that will be set by the Federal Government in the 19th legislative term and to the individual budgetary authorization.

Commitments

Commitment 1: Creating framework conditions for OGP participation

Description: Creating the basis to promote open government and formalize OGP participation in Germany.

Aim: Optimizing the process of drafting and evaluating Germany's National Action Plans inside and outside the government. Meeting the OGP requirements, in particular regarding transparent procedures, awareness-raising and online and offline participation.

Status quo: This first action plan is the basis for efforts in the framework of OGP participation and brings attention to open government across policy areas. While OGP countries are largely free to shape the participation process, this requires a structured approach taking into account the national context. There is a need for definitions and information on what OGP participation means for public administrations and stakeholders.

Ambition: An inclusive, transparent and orderly OGP participation process promotes open government discussions in Germany and the sustainability of the measures. By implementing this commitment, participation processes will become structured and accessible to relevant stakeholders, taking into account federal structures.

New or ongoing: new

Implemented by: Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI)

Organizations involved in implementation: Federal ministries²⁰, state authorities, local authorities

Organizational unit and contact: Division O1, O1@bmi.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Participation, accountability, transparency, innovation

Relevance: This commitment creates key prerequisites for further OGP participation. All dimensions of open government are affected.

Period: July 2017 – June 2019

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Commissioning a study to analyse the potential of open government in the Federal Government across policy areas	Assignment: November 2017 Presentation: April 2018
2.	Developing a strategy for drafting and evaluating future OGP action plans, including <ul style="list-style-type: none">• schedule and coordination structures• assessment of needs and efforts• consulting stakeholders• taking into account state and local authorities (decision of the IT Planning Council at its 22nd meeting²¹)• Public relations	May 2018
3.	Setting up an official German OGP website, including a newsletter, online participation and information	June 2018

²⁰ This also includes the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) and the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (BPA).

²¹ "The IT Planning Council has decided to address the federal aspect of participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP). The IT Planning Council will develop a formal process for involving federal and local authorities in drafting National Action Plans in the framework of Germany's OGP participation."

4.	Implementing the strategy (2.) at the beginning of the drafting period of the second action plan	August 2018
5.	Developing guidelines on how open government works at local level on the basis of the <i>Modellkommune Open Government</i> project	February 2019
6.	Carrying out information events (for government officials and stakeholders)	twice a year
7.	Participating in events (e.g. OGP Global Summit) and relevant bodies (e.g. OGP Anti-Corruption Working Group) to introduce the German action plan and engage in expert dialogue at national and international level	ongoing

Commitment 2: Implementing open data in administrative practice

Description: With its open data legislation, the Federal Government has implemented a key element of the G8 action plan. The E-Government Act creates the basis for actively providing open data of federal authorities. However, the act's success will strongly depend on effective implementation. To this end, knowledge about open data in the federal administration will be enhanced to ensure that data are provided in a consistent manner. Provision of open data will be tailored to the users' needs.

Aim: Strengthening the shared basis of knowledge and identifying consistent criteria for implementing open data in the federal administration to arrive at a common understanding for putting the idea of open data into practice.

Status quo: By signing the G8 Open Data Charter and adopting a National Action Plan, Germany prepared the ground for open data in the federal administration. Participation in OGP underlines the Federal Government's resolve to continue on its way towards more transparency, openness and participation also in the future. The open data legislation has created a uniform basis for providing open data of the federal administration.

Ambition: The Federal Government wants to become a pioneer in the field of open data. Publishing data as open data will become common administrative practice. This will generate an ecosystem of public administration data which will serve as a basis for transparency and innovation and satisfy the users' needs.

New or ongoing: new

Implemented by: Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI)

Organizations involved in implementation: Federal ministries

Organizational unit and contact: Division O1, O1@bmi.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Transparency, innovation

Relevance: Open data creates transparency and therefore is a basis for open government.

Period: July 2017 – June 2019

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Evaluation and implementation plan of pending commitments of the G8 Open Data Action Plan	December 2017
2.	Strategy for consistent data provision for the federal administration	December 2017
3.	Creating an advisory service for the federal administration	June 2018
4.	Developing tools to assist federal authorities in identifying and publishing suitable data	June 2018
5.	Developing open data guidelines (e.g. on data protection, publication process)	ongoing

Commitment 3: Promoting the open data environment

Description: Identifying and reducing shortcomings and unresolved questions to establish a reliable open data ecosystem. Communicating with stakeholders to promote the use and quality of open data.

Aim: To promote the provision of open data, intensifying dialogue with the research community, civil society, businesses and international partners by discussing the need for open data, improving the quality of publication and sharing experiences.

Status quo: The open data legislation will significantly increase the amount of data provided by public administration. However, good, useful open data services rely not only on quantity but also on quality. By participating in OGP, Germany has committed itself to the principles of open and transparent government. In addition to accumulating knowledge in public administration, dialogue with civil society and international exchange therefore play an important role. To ensure a balanced approach which is in line with other countries' practices of providing data, we need to identify and effectively overcome existing shortcomings and clarify unresolved questions.

Ambition: The Federal Government wants to become a pioneer in the field of open data. Existing potential for improvement must be identified and shortcomings must be reduced. Action should be tailored to the users' needs.

New or ongoing: new

Implemented by: Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI)

Organizations involved in implementation: -

Organizational unit and contact: Division O1, O1@bmi.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Transparency, innovation

Relevance: Open data create transparency and are therefore a basis for open government.

Period: July 2017 – June 2019

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Evaluating the recommendations for action made in the study "Open Government Data Deutschland" (Klessmann et al., July 2012)	December 2017
2.	Establishing an informal dialogue to discuss legal, technical and organizational challenges when publishing government data	December 2017
3.	Analysing possibilities to improve open data rankings, e.g. OD Barometer (World Wide Web Foundation), Open Data Index (OKF), OURData Index (OECD) and ODIN (Open Data Watch)	December 2018
4.	Carrying out or participating in workshops with civil society, associations, journalists, startups and researchers to promote re-use, assess needs and improve data quality	twice a year, starting in 2018
5.	Analysing the International Open Data Charter from a German perspective	April 2019
6.	International experience-sharing, e.g. by contributing to the OGP Open Data Working Group and continuing DACHLi (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein) talks	ongoing

Commitment 4: Better access to and easy use of spatial data

Description: Spatial data are data which link information to a location or space. They permeate all areas of life and are an essential resource of a digital society. To tap the full potential of spatial data, the Federal Government seeks to ensure the basic supply and make available a broad range of such data for spatial decision-making. Another aim is to make spatial data easier to use. Innovation is to be promoted by encouraging, testing and supporting the implementation of new services.

Aim: In addition to organizing more expert conferences and discussions on the benefits of spatial data as well as the access to and use of such data, in the next two years the focus will be on interoperable, standardized, free and open provision of spatial data in accordance with the Spatial Data Access Act. Participation of civil society in collecting data will also be taken into account.

Status quo: In the National Spatial Data Strategy, federal, state and local governments in consultation with businesses, the research community and stakeholders agreed on goals to make spatial data accessible in an effective and economic manner and use them to gain added value. In its 4th Geo-Progress Report, the Federal Government has committed to pursuing further measures which also support the OGP process.

Ambition: The measures aim at improving the use of spatial data, in particular those provided by public authorities. Until 2019, the focus will be on ensuring interoperable and open provision.

New or ongoing: ongoing

Implemented by: Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) and other federal ministries in the IMAGI (Interministerial Committee for Spatial Data), depending on responsibility for individual measures (in particular Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI); Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB); Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi); Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL))

Organizations involved in implementation: Steering committee GDI-DE (Spatial Data Infrastructure Germany)

Organizational unit and contact: Division O7, O7@bmi.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Transparency, technology/innovation, participation

Relevance: Spatial data are an important basis for location services, the use of relevant spatial data and the interaction of users (citizens, businesses, researchers) with government services and thus a basis for an innovative information ecosystem as defined by OGP.

Period: July 2017 – June 2019

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Promoting implementation of INSPIRE in Germany by connecting the GDI network to federal and state bodies through contact points of the conferences of specialized ministers and mentors from GDI-DE	continuous
2.	Carrying out expert conferences and discussions e.g. "Knowing where" event of the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, National Forum for Remote Sensing and Copernicus (March 2019)	regularly, several times a year
3.	Providing Copernicus data/services via the IT platform CODE-DE	continuous
4.	Transition of the IT platform CODE-DE from pilot to effective operation	March 2019
5.	Developing a recommendation on how to handle crowdsourcing data for use within the federal administration	June 2019

Commitment 5: Financial transparency – implementing the EITI standard

Description: To meet the standard of the international Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Germany, we are working with a multi-stakeholder group (MSG) composed of the ministries concerned, the federal states, municipalities, civil society and businesses. The progress of national efforts (D-EITI) will be tracked in particular in an annual report which compares payments by extractive enterprises with the corresponding revenues of government agencies. Moreover, the D-EITI report will include comprehensive and understandable explanations on Germany's extractive industries (e.g. legal framework, extracted resources, system of taxes and duties, and data on production and export) and address several special issues (e.g. intervention regulation under nature conservation law, renewable energy resources, etc.). In addition, information about mining rights will also be made public.

Aim: Increasing transparency and accountability in extractive industries and strengthening dialogue with extractive industries stakeholders. Increasing accessibility and usability of government and business data and information on German extractive industries by publishing it on a public online portal and as open data.

Status quo: Since February 2016, Germany has been a member of EITI and is currently preparing for the first reporting period (first D-EITI report to be submitted in August 2017). The multi-stakeholder process to implement the EITI standard was initiated in March 2015. For the purpose of implementation, representatives from the private sector and civil society identified common goals at MSG level. For example, in addition to fulfilling the mandatory requirements of the EITI standard, they seek to jointly promote more transparency.

Ambition: With D-EITI, the Federal Government sends an important signal for strengthening the initiative worldwide. The multi-stakeholder process which shapes implementation of the initiative in Germany is also an innovative network strengthening cooperation between government, businesses and civil society as well as dialogue and transparency in Germany's extractive industries.

New or ongoing: ongoing

Implemented by: Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)

Organizations involved in implementation: D-EITI secretariat; Federal Ministry of Finance; Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety; state ministries of finance and economic affairs; state mining authorities; local associations; stakeholders of the extractive industry in Germany, including from the private sector (e.g. Federation of German Industries (BDI), Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) and civil society (e.g. Transparency International, Open Knowledge Foundation), who are represented in the MSG.

Organizational unit and contact: Division IVB2, buero-ivb2@bmwi.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Participation, transparency, accountability

Relevance: With EITI, Germany is implementing the most important international standard for transparency and accountability in the extractive sector and is helping to further develop the standard and expand the initiative. Participation of government, industry and civil society in the MSG is an innovative model for participatory and responsive industrial policy. By presenting government data and contextual information on a web portal, activities of the government and public administration in the extractive industries become more transparent and understandable for citizens. The D-EITI open data approach will also improve the re-use and distribution of data and facilitate new innovative forms of cooperation.

Period: July 2017 – August 2019

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Publishing government data on the German extractive industries in the first EITI report	August 2017
2.	Creating the legal basis for public access to certain information about mining rights by amending Section 76 of the Federal Mining Act (<i>Bundesberggesetz, BBergG</i>)	Autumn 2017
3.	Providing government and business information and data on the German extractive industries on a public online portal and as open data	September 2017 (subsequently updated)
4.	Discussing with stakeholders of the German extractive industries at MSG meetings on further promoting transparency in the sector and continuing EITI reporting	at least three times per year
5.	Publishing updated and possibly more government data on the German extractive industries in the second EITI report	August 2018 - March 2019 (planned)

Commitment 6: Transparency in development policy

Description: To meet international transparency requirements in Germany's development cooperation, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) will carry out consultations and improve data quality.

Aim: In addition to meeting international transparency requirements in Germany's development cooperation, the quality and quantity of data is to be improved. Moreover, civil society and the government are to engage in forms of transparency dialogue (events, workshops), and a more user-friendly data format for BMZ IATI information is to be developed.

Status quo: Transparency and accountability are key concerns of Germany's development policy. At the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in 2011, participants agreed on introducing a uniform transparency standard for development services. This Common Open Standard for Aid Transparency is based on the requirements of the statistical reporting system of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the standard of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), of which Germany was a founding member. With the Common Open Standard for Transparency, donor and partner countries as well as civil society and public sector organizations jointly seek to provide comprehensive and understandable information about how the money of international development cooperation is spent. In December 2012, the BMZ published a national plan to implement the transparency standards. Since March 2013, it has been publishing comprehensive information about projects and programmes of bilateral development cooperation in line with the IATI standard. To improve the quality and quantity of the data, the BMZ works closely with its executive organizations. To advance implementation of the international transparency requirements in Germany's development cooperation, the BMZ has entered into a more intensive dialogue with the federal ministries and civil society. Since 2008, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) has been publishing information about all projects of the International Climate Initiative (IKI); since June 2016 IKI data have been published in line with the IATI standard.

New or ongoing: ongoing

Implemented by: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Organizations involved in implementation: Federal executive agencies (GIZ, KfW), BMUB, Federal Foreign Office

Organizational unit and contact: Division 414, Karin.Jansen@bmz.bund.de

Ambition: The BMZ continuously seeks to improve the quality and quantity of its data, thus promoting transparency in development cooperation, laying the foundation for effective development cooperation also in view of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Open government values addressed: Participation, transparency, accountability, technology/innovation

Relevance: Transparency in development cooperation is a key measure that meets the requirements of good governance and accountability. In addition, implementing the IATI standard fulfils secondary requirements by involving businesses and civil society and creating technical prerequisites and interoperability standards for re-using the data (also as open data).

Period: June 2017 – May 2019

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Carrying out at least two events/workshops	June 2018
2.	Optimizing data quality and quantity of the IATI record published by the BMZ	December 2017
3.	Publishing an updated and detailed BMZ IATI record monthly	December 2017, then continuously
4.	Setting up an expert group (of the federal administration) to discuss issues of open development policy, also with civil society	June 2018

Commitment 7: Open data for intelligent mobility

Description: Making available the data of the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI), linking them with third-party data and funding data-related application development will create an ecosystem for intelligent mobility.

Aim: The BMVI wants to create and specifically promote a culture of transparency and responsiveness as well as creative solutions for issues of transport policy. The ministry seeks to achieve this through the mFUND funding programme for mobility and transport infrastructure and by connecting relevant stakeholders. To this end, it is necessary and planned to involve the ministry's executive agencies in a coordinated manner. Technical and organizational framework conditions are to be created.

Status quo: Public administration data (in particular mobility data) are not yet sufficiently made public and accessible to businesses, civil society, researchers or even to public administration; potential for innovation lies unused. The mFUND research initiative is intended to remedy this situation by generating more open mobility data and use cases for these data.

Ambition: An ecosystem of mobility data and innovations for intermodal transport and mobility of the future will be established. The desired outcomes rely on active involvement of users in the BMVI's open data project. This is based on three principles: information about users; open data services tailored to the users' needs; and promoting co-creation with users.

New or ongoing: ongoing

Implemented by: Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure

Organizations involved in implementation: BMVI executive agencies; industry (SME and startups), research community, civil society

Organizational unit and contact: Division DG25, ref-dg25@bmvi.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Participation, transparency, technology/innovation

Relevance: The commitment creates transparency for the open (government) data (in particular mobility data) of the ministry and its 15 executive agencies, promotes the goals of the Open Government Partnership and supports technological innovation.

Period: July 2017 – June 2019

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Applying the mFUND programme	continuous
2.	Connecting the various stakeholders through events and innovation competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - networking meetings - BMVI Data Run (hackathon) - Startup pitch - dialogue with civil society (e.g. 2017 Data Summit) - Contest <i>Deutscher Mobilitätspreis</i> (German Mobility Award) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> once or twice a year once a year once a year once a year once a year
3.	Adding the technical component "user dialogue" to the open data portal mCLOUD	June 2018
4.	Adding more data to the open data portal mCLOUD	continuous
5.	Connecting mCLOUD to the federal GovData portal	October 2017
6.	Integrating open data approaches in the ministry's laws (e.g. for the spatial data offered by the German Meteorological Service (DWD); amending the DWD Act)	continuous
7.	Involving the public in developing noise maps for the rail infrastructure	January 2018 – March 2018

Commitment 8: Strengthening citizen participation in environmental policy and urban development

Description: Strengthening citizen participation in decision-making in the field of environmental and urban development policy. Promoting citizen participation at federal level, among other things by expanding informal participation processes, e.g. update of the Climate Action Plan 2050, resource efficiency programme ProgRes III, implementing the Integrated Environmental Programme 2030 (IUP), participating in the 2017 UN Climate Conference (inviting young people, including school children); by organizing new dialogues to advise policy-makers on relevant decisions in the 19th legislative term; by participating in networks and bodies; by carrying out events.

Aim: Further strengthening and expanding public participation in environmental policy decision-making and in the field of urban development.

Status quo: In the 18th legislative term, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) strengthened citizen participation at federal level, e.g. by establishing a citizen participation division, carrying out informal citizen participation procedures for key federal decision-making processes (Climate Action Plan 2050, German resource efficiency programme II, Integrated Environmental Programme 2030 (IUP), first international citizen participation in the 2015 UN Climate Conference in Paris, selection of a final disposal site for highly radioactive waste), carrying out research projects and public events on citizen participation (tips for successful public participation in large-scale projects (*3x3 einer guten Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung bei Großprojekten*)).

Ambition: Within its remit, the BMUB uses state-of-the-art and sophisticated citizen participation processes, systematically improves them and publishes the results. This also helps other stakeholders (in particular federal ministries, state authorities and municipalities).

Approaches in the next two to four years will include:

public participation and testing citizen participation in decision-making processes in the field of environmental policy; developing new forms of online participation and better interlocking formal and informal participation.

New or ongoing: new

Implemented by: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

Organizations involved in implementation: Citizens and, depending on the topic, associations, private sector, multilateral organizations (e.g. UN, OECD)

Organizational unit and contact: Division G II 2, Michael.Muennich@bmub.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Participation, transparency

Relevance: Creating more possibilities for people to participate in policy-making is an explicit aim of the Federal Government. In addition to applying participation processes in practice, tools of citizen participation must be systematically monitored and developed. Using and improving this tool box has a direct impact on OGP goals.

Period: July 2017 – June 2019

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Starting or carrying out citizen participation processes for at least four relevant decision-making procedures in the field of environmental policy and urban development (e.g. youth participation in the 2017 UN Climate Conference, update of the	June 2019

	Climate Action Plan 2050, ProgRes III, implementing the National Programme for Sustainable Consumption)	
2.	Carrying out at least three cross-cutting public events on citizen participation such as <i>Beteiligung auf Bundesebene –Erfolge und Perspektiven</i> (Participation at federal level – progress and opportunities)	June 2019
3.	Exploring and developing tools for better citizen participation (e.g. new forms of online participation; guidelines)	December 2018
4.	Participating in at least four national or international bodies or networks on citizen participation (e.g. in the alliance for more democracy, in the Conference of Environmental Ministers, and in the OECD)	continuous
5.	Competition with citizens in the jury for exemplary participation processes in spatial matters, in policy-making and in the legislative procedure	December 2018

Commitment 9: ElterngeldDigital/electronic procedures for family benefits

Description: Effectively ensuring modern and transparent access to information and application processes for parental allowance and other family benefits. In the future, parents can use an online platform to find information, in particular on the parental allowance, more easily and to be guided through the application process by an application wizard. We are also examining for which other family benefits an electronic application would be suitable.

Aim: Giving citizens transparent and easily understandable access to information about family benefits. By using new technologies (online application wizard) as well as legally secure language that is easy to understand, we want to make applying for benefits easier and more transparent for citizens. The goal is to create a seamless electronic application process.

Status quo: At the moment, electronic application for parental allowance is possible only in certain federal states. In the future, a standardized application wizard is intended to help parents in easily understood language complete the application and plan the parental allowance. The service will be gradually released in the pilot federal states in summer/autumn 2017. Project advisory board *ElterngeldDigital/Digitalisierung familienbezogener Leistungen* (digital parental allowance/electronic procedures for family benefits), a working group formerly called *Elterngeldantrag Online/Digitalisierung familienbezogener Leistungen* (online application for parental allowance/electronic procedures for family benefits) (established in September 2016).

Ambition: Parents will have a transparent and understandable service for a key life event.

New or ongoing: ongoing

Implemented by: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)

Organizations involved in implementation: State family ministries, municipalities, Init AG (private sector), project advisory board *ElterngeldDigital/Digitalisierung familienbezogener Leistungen* (working group), local authorities' national associations, research partners

Organizational unit and contact: Division DG2, dg2@bmfsfj.bund.de, Friederike Schubart, Friederike.Schubart@bmfsfj.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Transparency, accountability, technology/innovation

Relevance: The action promotes transparency of the parental allowance and other family benefits and makes access to information easier. It also reduces processing times at the parental allowance offices.

Period: May 2016 – December 2019

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Study on electronic procedures for family benefits (<i>Digitalisierung familienbezogener Leistungen</i>), available	July 2017
2.	Preparations for creating more electronic procedures for family benefits	February 2018
3.	Start of ElterngeldDigital roll-out in pilot federal states	Autumn 2017
4.	Rolling out ElterngeldDigital in more federal states	from 2018 onward
5.	New information portal for families	Autumn 2018

Commitment 10: Knowledge network for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people

Description: The online information portal will provide interested citizens, experts as well as persons concerned and their families with information about gender diversity and same-sex ways of life. The portal will also be accompanied by public relations activities. By providing efficient access, the overall project will have a strong social impact and contribute to further awareness-raising in society in order to promote acceptance of LGBTI people (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people).

Aim: The Federal Government's aim is to provide persons concerned, their families and the public with information (here the LGBTI knowledge network) about existing legal provisions and about where to find advice and further support.

It also seeks to increase acceptance, use the possibilities of new technologies, raise awareness, improve the quality of data on research and social questions concerning gender identity and same-sex ways of life, encourage participation and involve NGOs.

Status quo: LGBTI people still face discrimination in our society. Federal states and individual municipalities promote advisory and support services for LGBTI people. Especially in rural and sparsely populated areas, services are not always available.

Ambition: Improving data for the general public and experts, in particular on gender identity.

Fulfilling the requirement of the United Nations CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Committee to pay greater attention to the situation of transgender and intersex people as well as the obligation under the Coalition Agreement to focus on the special situation of transgender and intersex people and to raise public awareness of the issue.

New or ongoing: new

Implemented by: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)

Organizations involved in implementation: External partners for planning the content (previous consultation of civil society, implementation by external agency)

Organizational unit and contact: Division 215, Ina-Marie Blomeyer, referat215@bmfsfj.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Participation, transparency, technology/innovation

Relevance: Promoting acceptance, providing access to information for LGBTI people, their families and the general public, recommending available expert advisory structures (i.e. providing information on where to find which advisory services), using an online information portal (knowledge network)

Period: July 2017 – December 2020

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Deploying the information portal with initial topics TI (= trans*, inter)	December 2017
2.	Adding information on LSB (= lesbian, gay, bi) topics	December 2018
3.	Uploading all basic and background information on the portal, continuously updating the content, recommending local advisory services through an advisory database	June 2019

Commitment 11: Local Alliances for Family initiative

Description: Local alliances bring together policy-makers, businesses and civil society to discuss how work and family commitments can be combined and develop measures to support families.

Aim: Expanding family-friendly measures at local level, also by using more digital information formats.

Status quo: About 620 local alliances for family offer specific measures for businesses and families to reconcile family and work commitments at local level. Since the federal Local Alliances for Family initiative launched in 2004, these local alliances between municipalities, businesses, employment agencies, care facilities, free initiatives and engaged citizens have been created and have noticeably improved the compatibility of family and work, e.g. through online family guidebooks, holiday care for children and advisory services for businesses.

Ambition: Further strengthening public awareness of the issue of combining family and work commitments, providing more professional communication channels for stakeholders and addressees (online community) and expanding cooperation.

New or ongoing: ongoing

Implemented by: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)

Organizations involved in implementation: Municipalities, rural districts, schools, associations, businesses, charities, support and advisory services, independent child and youth welfare agencies, employers' associations, employment agencies/centres and chambers; "Success Factor Family" network

Organizational unit and contact: Division 205, 205@bmfsfj.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Participation

Relevance: Locally bringing together all relevant stakeholders across sectors to pool resources and to help families reconcile family and work through public information processes.

Period: until March 2018

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
	Further connecting local alliances with local businesses in cooperation with the Success Factor Family network through a series of forums on reconciling family and work. Six events planned across Germany. One event took place in May 2017, three events are planned for autumn 2017, two are still pending.	until March 2018

Commitment 12: Monitoring the share of women and men in leadership positions, private sector bodies and the public service

Description: Regular monitoring reports on the development of the share of women and men in leadership positions and in private sector bodies and the public service in the framework of implementing the Act on Equal Participation of Women and Men in Leadership Positions in the Private and the Public Sector (*Gesetz für die gleichberechtigte Teilhabe von Frauen und Männern an Führungspositionen in der Privatwirtschaft und im öffentlichen Dienst, FÜPoG*).

Aim: Increasing public awareness of participation of women and men in leadership positions by examining the effectiveness of the act and informing the public about the objectives of businesses and the federal administration.

Status quo: The first annual information of the Federal Government about the development of the share of women and men in leadership positions and in bodies of the private and public sector was published on 9 March 2017 (Bundesrat document 193/17).

Ambition: Changing corporate culture over the long term to get more women into leadership positions by giving the topic more prominence in public discourse in order to encourage companies to do more to ensure equal participation of women and men.

New or ongoing: ongoing

Implemented by: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV)

Organizations involved in implementation: Federal Statistical Office, Bundesanzeiger publishing house

Organizational unit and contact: Project Group for monitoring and implementing the FÜPo Act, PG-FuePo@bmfsfj.bund.de; Anna Riecken, Anna.Riecken@bmfsfj.bund.de; Division III A 2, Ulrich Seibert, seibert-ul@bmjv.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Transparency, accountability

Relevance: The public will gain access to understandable information on equal participation of women and men in leadership positions. This will create the necessary verifiability and transparency of progress in implementing the law and of its effectiveness. In addition, transparency will be promoted through an interactive data tool. The monitoring results are presented at www.bmfsfj.de/quote.

Period: July 2017 – June 2019 (continuous, since May 2015)

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Information of the Federal Government about the development of the share of women and men in leadership positions, private and public sector bodies; Report to the Federal Statistical Office about the composition of the bodies in accordance with the Act on the Participation of the Federation in Appointments to Bodies (<i>Gesetz über die Mitwirkung des Bundes an der Besetzung von Gremien, BGremBG</i>)	annually
2.	Report to the German Bundestag about the share of women and men in leadership positions, private and public sector bodies	2017
3.	Generating an index of the share of women in supreme federal authorities (gender equality index)	annually
4.	Statistics about the share of women in the entire federal administration (gender equality statistics)	every two years

5.	Presenting an overview and evaluation of the composition of bodies to the German Bundestag	every four years
6.	Report on the Federal Act on Gender Equality (<i>Bundesgleichstellungsgesetz</i>) to the German Bundestag	every four years
7.	Evaluation of the act	May 2018

Commitment 13: Promoting open access to academic literature

Description: In Germany, science and research frequently receive public funding. Citizens wish to share in the results of such research. This can be achieved by making academic literature available free of charge on the Internet, for example. Researchers make their papers available on websites or in databases under the keyword “open access” without any legal or financial obstacles to the public. In addition to this simple access to academic literature, open access allows for new ways of disseminating scientific knowledge. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has launched a competition to fund innovative projects for further promoting the open access principle at universities and research institutes. The projects are intended to overcome existing reservations and obstacles for researchers to publish their literature on the Internet free of charge.

Aim: Making open access to academic literature a standard for academic publishing so that the public can better share in the results of government-funded research. Currently, only some researchers decide to make their literature freely available on the Internet. To raise awareness of open access, we need specific projects which show how this principle can work in practice. The aim is to reduce existing reservations against new forms of publication and to improve the practical use of open access publications. In the medium term, we intend to make open access a standard method of academic publication in Germany.

Status quo: The research community generally supports and promotes open access. In their Berlin Declaration, the large research organizations, the German Rectors’ Conference, the German Council of Science and Humanities and many European and international research institutions declared open access publications vital to fulfilling their task of ensuring comprehensive and free access to knowledge. A study showed that about 90% of German researchers think that providing open access to their literature will benefit their field of work. Despite this largely positive attitude towards open access, researchers often refrain from publishing their own articles as open access. Therefore, we want to support in particular those projects which complement existing possibilities to publish freely available academic literature in Germany, create new possibilities and improve the conditions for open access publications.

Ambition: Establishing open access as a standard of academic publication in the German research community. Publications from government-funded research should be freely available to the public, if possible.

New or ongoing: new

Implemented by: Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Organizations involved in implementation: -

Organizational unit and contact: Division D1, Philipp Zimbehl, Philipp.Zimbehl@bmbf.bund.de, posteingangd1@bmbf.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Participation, innovation, transparency

Relevance: Open access makes government-funded research more easily accessible for the general public. This way, also people who cannot directly participate in academia can follow developments in government-funded research.

Period: June 2017 – July 2020

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Collecting and reviewing the project proposals submitted for the competition to implement open access	October 2017
2.	Start of project funding	Early 2018

Commitment 14: Science Year 2018 – Working life of the future

Description: Science Years are intended to strengthen the public's interest in science and research and to involve society in academic developments. The aim is to highlight the role of science and research in shaping our future. The Science Year 2018 will focus on the future of work. During that year, many activities will be organized for the interested public: large national hands-on campaigns, exhibitions, competitions, discussions and innovative online formats. This will give citizens and civil-society organizations manifold opportunities to learn, participate and discuss with researchers, policy-makers and representatives from business and industry.

Aim: The Science Year 2018 will highlight how science and research contribute to shaping the way we work by illustrating and encouraging discussion about the variety of opportunities and challenges in the future of work. The activities are intended to increase citizens' appreciation of the role of research and of scientific jobs and encourage them to share their work experiences.

Status quo: Science Years have been carried out and refined since 2000. Activities have become more diverse, including presentations, more participatory activities, discussions, interactive exhibitions, competitions, hands-on campaigns and citizen science projects. The current Science Year 2016*17 – Seas and Oceans will run until autumn 2017.

Ambition: The Science Years strengthen dialogue between the research community and society also beyond the individual topic. In particular the funding projects contribute to developing and implementing new forms of dialogue and events.

New or ongoing: ongoing

Implemented by: Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Science in Dialogue (WiD) – an initiative of research organizations in Germany

Organizations involved in implementation: Partners from research, society, politics and industry; federal ministries

Organizational unit and contact: Division 113, Christian Herbst, christian.herbst@bmbf.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Participation, transparency

Relevance: The Science Years are an opportunity for participation and make science and research accessible for individual citizens and organized civil society.

Period: July 2017 – December 2018

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Publishing the call for proposals for funded projects in the Science Year	July 2017
2.	Public opening of the Science Year	January 2018
3.	Tour of the exhibition ship "MS Wissenschaft" (on behalf of the BMBF)	April to September 2018

Commitment 15: Federal competition “Living Together Hand in Hand”

Description: We are carrying out the federal competition “Living Together Hand in Hand – Shaping Local Communities” (*Zusammen leben Hand in Hand – Kommunen gestalten*) aimed at identifying, initiating, rewarding and making known local activities to integrate immigrants and to foster engagement with the local community. The competition started with a kick-off event and will conclude with a local government conference.

Aim: The federal competition aims at supporting municipalities as a local management level for social cohesion and integration. The Federal Ministry of the Interior will offer a total of up to one million euros to the winning entries.

Status quo: Local authorities are the first point of contact for all practical questions of integration of immigrants as well as for people who want to become involved. They therefore play a vital role for social cohesion at local level.

Ambition: By offering a prize and awarding it in public, the competition is intended to give an incentive to participating municipalities to develop or enhance their activities for greater interaction between immigrants and locals. Other municipalities will benefit from the winning ideas by using them as a model for their own efforts.

New or ongoing: new

Implemented by: Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), competition office at the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu)

Organizations involved in implementation: The national associations of local authorities, the Association of German Foundations, the KGSt (Municipal Association for Administration Management) and the German Institute of Urban Affairs are intended to serve as cooperation partners and multipliers.

Organizational unit and contact: Division GZ1, GZ1@bmi.bund.de

Open government values addressed: Participation, transparency, innovation

Relevance: By raising awareness of new and enhanced activities, the federal competition promotes information- and experience-sharing among municipalities and, by providing the possibility to cooperate with other stakeholders, increases the level of networking between municipalities and these stakeholders.

Period: May – June 2018

Measurable milestones:

No.	Description	Implementation (by)
1.	Calling for submissions to the competition	June 2017 – December 2017
2.	Collecting and reviewing the ideas submitted by participants	January – mid-2018
3.	Local government conference and awarding prizes for the best ideas	planned for June 2018