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# OECD work on Open Government and Civic Space



David Goessmann, Policy Analyst, GOV/OIG  
Claire McEvoy, Policy Analyst, GOV/OIG

# WHAT IS OPEN GOVERNMENT FOR THE OECD (1)?



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

Source: OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government

TRANSPARENCY	INTEGRITY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PARTICIPATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public information and data is publicly available and re-usable.</li><li>• The public understands the workings of their government.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public interest is prioritized over private interests.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government actions are explained and citizens' demands are answered.</li><li>• The public can hold the government to account for its policy and service delivery performance.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perspectives and inputs from citizens and stakeholders are incorporated into decision-making.</li></ul>

# WHAT IS OPEN GOVERNMENT FOR THE OECD (2)?



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

# OECD RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

The OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government

**The pathway for the first international legal instrument on Open Government**

Open government strategies and initiatives are needed more than ever to regain citizens' trust in governments. Countries are increasingly acknowledging the role of Open Government as a catalyst for good governance, democracy and inclusive growth. Open government principles – i.e. transparency, integrity, accountability and stakeholders' participation – are progressively changing the relationship between public officials and citizens in many countries. A scan of existing initiatives, however, reveals that there is a diversity of definitions, objectives, and implementation methodologies that characterize open government strategies. The OECD has therefore developed a *Recommendation of the Council on Open Government* that defines a set of criteria that will help adhering countries to design and implement successful open government agendas.



**First international legal instrument on Open Government**

- Informal Experts Group on Open Government
- 2016 Global Forum on Open Government – attended by 30 Ministers and 50 HoD
- Regional Networks on Open and Innovative Government in LAC, MENA, SEA

**Online Public Consultation on the Draft Recommendation**

- > 100 participants from 44 different countries
- Input received from NGOs, citizens, government officials, private sector, academia, media
- Remarkable outreach on social media

**A firm evidence base for the Recommendation**

- 2015 Survey on Open Government – 54 countries (all OECD members)
- 2016 OECD Global Report on Open Government
- 2017 Survey on Ombudsman Institutions

**OECD at the forefront of Open Government for 15 years**

- Open Government Reviews
- Capacity building seminars
- Open State
- Public Governance Reviews
- 2001 Citizens as Partners

**Rationale for developing the Recommendation and its scope**

1. Ensure that open government principles are rooted in the public management culture;
2. Identify an enabling environment that is conducive to an efficient, effective and integrated governance of open government;
3. Promote the alignment of open government strategies and initiatives with, and their contribution to, all relevant national and sectoral socio-economic policy objectives, at all levels of the administration;
4. Foster monitoring and evaluation practices and data collection.

**Process for developing the Draft Recommendation**

**November 2016 (54th PGC):**

- Establishment of the Informal experts group on Open Government comprising 16 OECD Members and Partners

**December 2016:**

- Launch of the OECD Report on Open Government: *the Global Context and the Way Forward*

**March 2017:**

- First meeting of the Informal Experts Group to inform the development of the Recommendation

**July – September 2017:**

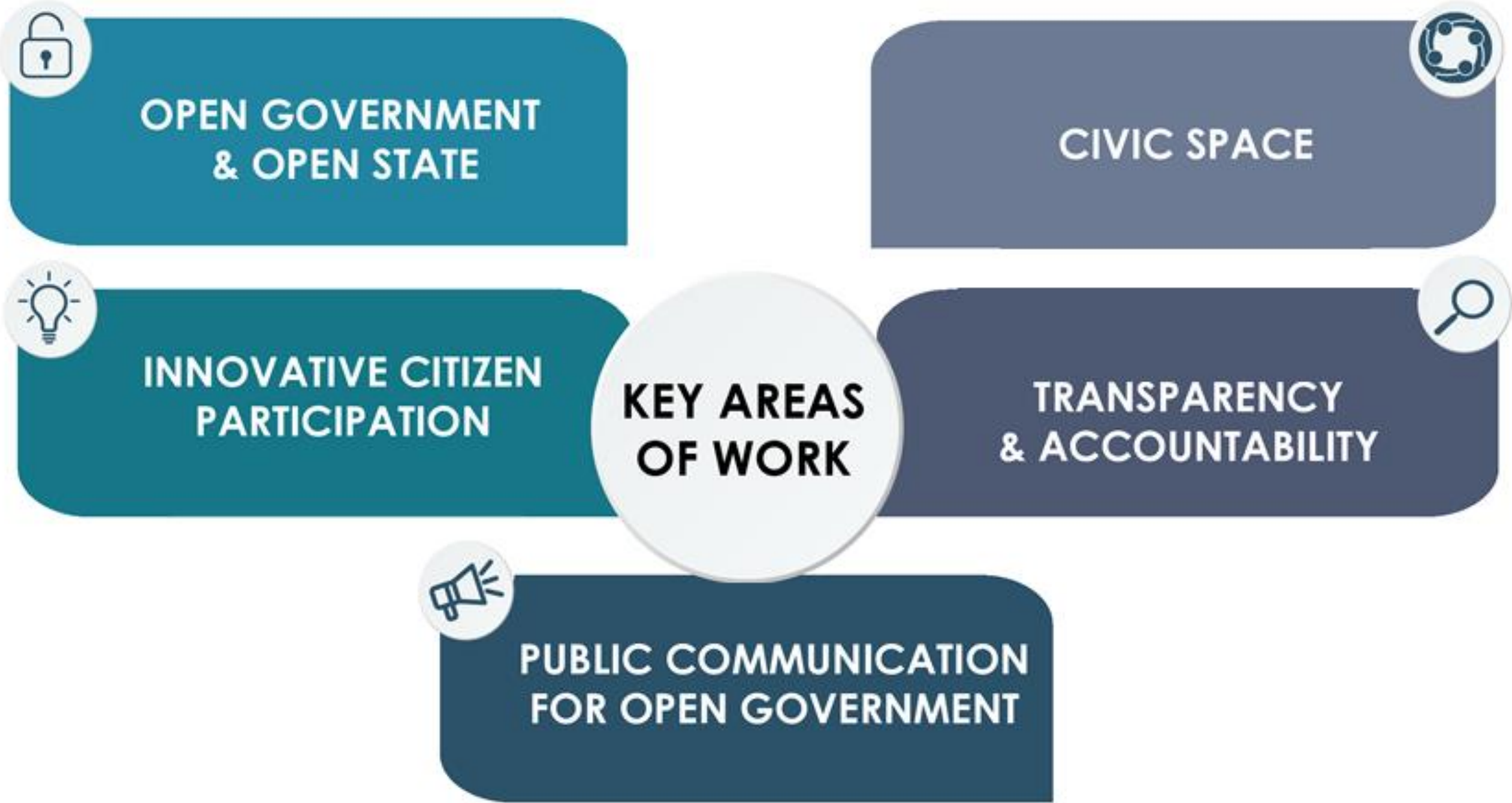
- Online public consultation

**December 2017:**

- Council adoption

- Adopted in 2017 by the OECD Council, following a public consultation
- First and only international legal instrument on Open Government
- 10 Provisions that provide a framework for both the governance and implementation of countries' open government agendas
- Adherents: OECD member countries + Argentina, Brazil, Morocco, Romania, Tunisia

# OECD AREAS OF WORK ON OPEN GOVERNMENT



# HOW DOES THE OECD SUPPORT OPEN GOVERNMENT REFORMS?

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

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

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

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

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

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

# NEW FRONTIERS OF OPEN GOVERNMENT

## INDICATORS

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

## OPEN STATE

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

## OPEN GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

- Provide a holistic and integrated policy framework for open government reforms
- Complement and strengthen existing OGP Action Plans

# Methodology for Finland Civic Space Scan





# Dimensions of civic space



# Key Milestones



**June-July 2020:**  
Government  
background  
report

**16 September  
2020:**  
Information-  
sharing event  
for Government  
interviewees

**September-  
October 2020:**  
Interviews with  
Government and  
civil society

**End of  
November  
2020:**  
Preliminary  
findings to Åbo  
Akademi  
University

**February 2021:**

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

**March - June 2021:**

- Revisions of the report
- Approval by OECD Working Party on Open Government
- Official launch of the report in June



## Government

**35 bodies/institutions consulted  
with 35 government interviewees**

<b>Ministries</b>	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Transport and Communication, Ministry of the Interior
<b>Advisory Boards</b>	The Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations (ETNO), The Advisory Board for Civil Society Policy (KANE), The Digitalisation for Everyday life Board.
<b>Oversight Institutions</b>	The Data Protection Ombudsman, The Ombudsman for Equality, Chancellor of Justice.
<b>Other public bodies</b>	National Police Board, Registry for Associations, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, National Audit Office, Finnish National Agency for Education, Yle National Public Service Broadcasting, The Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations (STEA), The State Youth Council, Legal Aid, Finnish Immigration Service Migri, The Sámi Parliament, the City of Tampere.

# Overview of Interviewees

## Civil society

**13 interviews and 15 substantive written inputs from civil society**

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

# Finland's International Standing

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





THANK YOU!

[David.Goessmann@oecd.org](mailto:David.Goessmann@oecd.org)/[Claire.MCEVOY@oecd.org](mailto:Claire.MCEVOY@oecd.org)