



[OGP Second Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia \(2014-2016\)](#)

The Government of Armenia approved the second Action Plan in the framework of the Open Government Partnership during the Cabinet setting held on 31 of July, 2014. The Plan was developed on the basis of the fundamental principles of the OGP initiative, as well as lessons learned from the OGP-Armenia first Action plan. The Plan was drawn up based on the recommendations of both the Government and the civil society, including areas such as mining, health, education, local self-government, freedom of information, etc. The second Action Plan includes 11 commitments. It is worth to mention that 7 from 11 commitments are civil society's suggestions and only 4 commitments came from the Government. [Read More >>>](#)



[OGP Second Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia](#)



[Open Government Partnership](#)

OGP was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. Since then, OGP has grown from 8 countries to the 65 participating countries. In all of these countries, government and civil society are working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms.

LATEST NEWS

Civil Society starts new phase of cooperation



On 21 November 2014, a working discussion on “Open Governance Partnership - Armenia: civil society cooperation” took place in Yerevan, aimed at concerting civil society efforts in the area of Open Government Partnership.

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FOI Legislation Reforms in Armenia

On 11 December 2014 the FOICA, jointly with the Ministry of Justice and with the assistance of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, organized public discussion on draft FOI sub-legal act, which pertains to the procedure of providing information, as well as maintenance and classification of information. [Read More >>>](#)

The Second OGP Action Plan of Armenia

Starting with September 2014 the implementation stage of OGP Action Plan has commenced.

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Civil Society starts new phase of cooperation



On 21 November 2014, a working discussion on “Open Governance Partnership - Armenia: civil society cooperation” took place in Yerevan, aimed at concerting civil society efforts in the area of Open Government Partnership. The event was organized by the Freedom of Information Center of Armenia by the support of British Embassy in Armenia.

Around 30 NGO representatives came together to discuss the scopes of cooperation within the framework of OGP processes in Armenia, as well as possibilities for conducting joint monitoring of various stages of the implementation of OGP Second Action Plan. With view to achieving this, the FOICA, suggested to create a permanent OGP civil society network, whose members will regularly exchange information, update each other about the implementation of various initiatives, in order to remain involved, avoid duplications and eventually, act stronger. As a result, the representatives of the participating NGOs expressed readiness to unite in working groups focusing on their respective directions and to jointly monitor and assess the process of OGP Action Plan’s implementation. You can join to the Network writing a message to ogparmenia@gmail.com.

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“We believe that in order to achieve success and best results within OGP framework, the civil society will need to act in a coherent and well-coordinated manner and this is what our today’s meeting is aimed at”, - Shushan Doydoyan,



“The Action Plan is the RA Government’s commitment and the responsibility to implement it effectively lies solely with the Government. The NGOs can support and provide their assessment on this process”, Levon Barseghyan.



Public Discussion on Draft FOI Sub-legal Acts



On 11 December 2014 the FOICA, jointly with the Ministry of Justice and with the assistance of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, organized public discussion on draft FOI sub-legal act, which pertains to the procedure of providing information, as well as maintenance and classification of information. As a result of the adoption of the Government's draft Decree "On

registration, classification and maintenance of information developed by or delivered to the Republic's executive bodies, as well as on defining procedure for providing information or its copy", the procedure for registering, classifying and maintaining information developed by or delivered to the Republic's executive bodies and relevant units responsible for ensuing free access to information will be defined. The draft's adoption will ensure more effective implementation of everyone's right to apply to information holders as per a procedure set forth by law, with view to receiving information searched by them.

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Persons responsible for providing information are appointed

Since the adoption of the Freedom of Information law in 2003, for about 11 years, the requirements of point 5 of the FOI law's Article 12 stipulating that information holders shall appoint an official responsible for ensuring freedom of information, as per procedure set forth by law, was not solved at public bodies. At the initiative of Armenia's Ministry of Justice the list of officials responsible for ensuring access to information at the Armenian Ministries and adjacent bodies has been finally approved.



[The list of the FOI responsible officials](#) (the documents is available in Armenian)

FOICA joined to the OGP Civil Society Statement

Freedom of Information Center of Armenia has also signed the Statement which calls the Civil Society and Government representatives to work more transparent, open and accountable. It is a statement drafted by TI and which many others have signed on to - which calls for member states to take forward the proposal or a governance goal (goal 16) as part of the new post-2015 commitments that countries are discussing.

We are trying to get this statement endorsed by a variety of stakeholders - governments, companies and member states - to then present to the UN SG and other UN members states in November.

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OGP Action Plan 2014-2016 Commitments

I. ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Digitization and publication of data in the “Republican Geological Fund” SNCO

Lead agency: Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the RA

Other involved actors: Government, USAID (upon consent)

Activity	Timeline
1. To digitize at least 15-20% of the fund, create internet page and post already the digitized information on that page.	December 2014 June 2015
2. Studies with the relevant 2-4 employees of the fund (in parallel with the digitization).	December 2014 June 2015
3. To digitize 100% of the fund.	December 2014 December 2016
4. Public awareness campaign on the project will be organized, including printing and distributing brochures, presentation of the webpage with relevant stakeholders and other events.	June 2015
5. Digitization of newly received geological and other information.	December 2014 Continuous

The implementation stage of OGP Action Plan has commenced

On 06 November 2014 the “Journalists for the Future” NGO sent information requests to several public bodies to find out issues related with the implementation of commitments assumed by these bodies within the framework of the OGP Action Plan. The beginning of implementation of these commitments was scheduled for September and October. The public structures which responded to the requests noted that according to the schedule the process related with the commitments under their responsibility has started and provided certain details.

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The Implementation stage of the OGP Second Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia has started from July 31, 2014. During 2014-2016 years the Government of the RA undertakes to implement the activities aimed to insure transparent, accountable and open government. The Action Plan includes 11 commitments, which are grouped in 4 chapters.

I. ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

II. PROMOTION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

III. STRENGTHENING PUBLIC INTEGRITY

IV. PROMOTING ACCESS TO INFORMATION



2. Ensuring transparency in mining

Lead agency: Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the RA

Other involved actors: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA, Ministry of Justice of the RA, Ministry of Economy of the RA, Ministry of Finance of the RA

Activity	Timeline
Launch of the process of joining Exporting Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), particularly, holding discussions, negotiations and other necessary preparatory works.	October 2014 December 2016

3. Ensuring public awareness about health care financing

Lead agency: Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia

Activity	Timeline
Creation of financial portal of health care system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 25 reports for public Professional areas over 1500 users For the public all the internet users. 	September 2014 September 2015

4. Ensuring transparency of asset and income declarations of the RA high-ranking officials

Lead agency: Ethics Commission of High-Ranking Officials (upon consent)

Other involved actors: Ministry of Justice of the RA, Ministry of Finance of the RA, “Freedom of Information Center” NGO (upon consent), “Transparency International” anti-corruption center (upon consent)

Activity	Timeline
1. Development and discussion by the civil society representatives of RA Government of the draft decision on «On making amendments to the RA Government Decision N 1835-N of December 25, 2011”	September 2014 February 2015
2. Conformity of the Plan with stakeholder agencies and the adoption of the RA Government decision.	March 2015 June 2015

WB specialist’s meeting with CSOs within the framework of EITI

On October 16 Transparency International Anticorruption Center hosted a meeting of Gary McMahon, Senior Mining Specialist of the World Bank with a group of interested representatives of civil society to present EITI and the role of public organizations in promoting it.

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The inclusion of Armenia’s membership to Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) as an OGP commitment was the recommendation of Varuzhan Hochtanyan, Executive Director of Transparency International, however after the Action Plan was edited, preparatory work for EITU membership was included as a commitment, instead of the membership.



5. Online broadcasting of the State Procurement Appeals Board sessions

Lead agency: Ministry of Finance of the RA

Activity	Timeline
1. Negotiate with private companies, clarify the scope of relevant works	September 2014 December 2014
2. Develop technical task and launch procurement process	January 2015 March 2015
3. Procurement Appeals Board sessions' are broadcasted online via www.gnumner.am webpage.	June 2015 To be continued

II. PROMOTION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

6. Community microsurvey introduction in 10 communities

Lead agency: RA Marzpetarans (Regional administrations) , RA communities (upon consent)

Other involved actors: Ministry of Territorial Administration of the RA, UNDP (upon consent)

Activity	Timeline
1. "Community micro survey" program has been introduced in 10 communities.	February 2015 June 2016
2. In all 10 communities SMS surveys have been conducted and the results have been published.	July 2016 December 2016

Public Discussion on Draft Decree

With view to implementing the 4th commitment under OGP Action Plan, adopted as per the Government's Decree No. 32, from 32 July 2014, the Ethics Committee of High Level Officials has presented to the Government's discussion a Draft Decree "On Introducing Amendments and Supplements to the Government's decisions No. 1835, dated 15 December 2011; and No. 1819, dated 15 December 2011. You can send your comments and recommendations to the OGP coordination group at: nare.danielyan@gov.am.

[Draft Decree \(available in Armenian\) >>>](#)



7. Ensuring open, transparent, participatory and accountable process of state policies and legislative reforms

Lead agency: Staff of the RA Government

Other involved actors: Ministry of Justice of the RA, «ARAZA» charitable NGO (upon consent)

Activity	Timeline
1. Implement studies of working procedures and international practice,	September 2014 December 2014
2. Develop the proposals of changes to legal acts/ agenda	January 2015 March 2015
3. Organize public discussions, collect new proposals, amend the package of proposals and submit to the approval of the Government,	April 2015 June 2015
4. Adoption of legal acts/ agenda changes.	July 2015 December 2016

8. Public awareness on the lawmaking activity of state governance bodies

Lead agency: RA Government Staff

Other involved actors: Ministry of Justice of the RA

Activity	Timeline
1. Organizing discussions on technical solutions, setting tasks	September 2014
2. Creation of legal basis for the published draft normative legal acts	
3. Ensuring training for the responsible specialists of agencies	
4. Publication of draft legal normative acts being developed by the agencies on the created forum	December 2016

Goris Civil Society was introduced OGP Initiative and Opportunities of its Monitoring



On October 24, 2014 a workshop entitled “Open Government Partnership Initiative” was conducted in Goris press club. The event was organized by efforts of “Journalists for the Future” NGO (JFF), with the financial support of the USA Embassy in Armenia. The event was aimed at increasing the level of awareness of local CSOs on the “Open Government Partnership” (initiative and providing their active engagement in the OGP/Armenia process.

JFF has launched a range of workshops entitled “Open Government Partnership Initiative” in the regions of Armenia since September, 2014. It is planned to organize 7 more similar workshops in different cities of Armenia to provide the CSOs’ representatives with necessary knowledge and literature on the OGP international initiative.



III. STRENGTHENING PUBLIC INTEGRITY

9. Ensuring transparency of the election of Governing Boards of the RA general secondary education institutions and of the annual budget planning and expenses of RA general secondary education institutions

Lead agency: Ministry of Education and Science of the RA

Other involved actors: “World Vision Armenia” charitable organization (upon consent)

Activity	Timeline
1. Creation of a working group with the participation of the representatives of the RA Ministry of Education and Science, as well as of the civil society.	September 2014 October 2014
2. Amendments to the election procedures of the Governing Boards of the RA general secondary education institutions and development and approval of the “Procedure of the annual budget planning and report on the budget expenses of the RA general education institutions”.	December 2014 March 2015

IV. PROMOTING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

10. Knowledge and capacity building of public servants in the freedom of information and anticorruption field

Lead agency: Civil Service Council of the RA (upon consent)

Other involved actors: Ministry of Territorial Administration of the RA, “Freedom of Information Center” NGO (upon consent), “Young Lawyers Association of Armenia” NGO (upon consent)

Activity	Timeline
1. 10 trainings will be organized	February 2015
2. 200 public servants will be trained	December 2015
3. 400 questionnaires will be completed (200- at the beginning of the training, 200- at the end of)	
4. Two analyses will be conducted based on the questionnaires	

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TRANSPARENCY



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



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11. Ensuring transparency of local self- government bodies of large communities

Lead agency: RA Marzpetarans (Regional administrations),

Other involved agency: Ministry of Territorial Administration of the RA, “Asparez” (Arena) Journalists’ Club NGO (upon consent)

Activity	Timeline
1. Fundraising for the technical equipment of online broadcasting the sessions of the Council of Elders, public discussions and LSG conferences, for reequipping the existing or creating new websites for communities with population of 20, 000 and more. Ensuring purchase process of services for creating technical equipments and websites	October 2014 July 2015
2. Creation of internet information sites for communities with population of 20,000 and more with the possibility of public comments.	August 2015 March 2016
3. Organization of trainings for the respective specialists of the communities	September 2015 February 2016
4. Launching website, online broadcasting the sessions of the Council of Elders of targeted communities and LSG conferences	April 2016 To be continued

Usefull Links

[Open Government Partnership International Initiative >>>](#)

[The official page of Armenia >>>](#)

[OGP Armenia website >>>](#)

[Open Gov Now >>>](#)

You can join the OGP Armenia Civil Society Network with ogparmenia@gmail.com or in [Facebook](#)



The Journalists’ Club Asparez has published the Collection on OGP process in Armenia. The book is bilingual-Armenian and English. The book was published in the frames of "Public awareness and participation in the Armenian project of Open Government Partnership" implemented by the Journalists' Club "Asparez". The Collection includes all documents and the First and Second OGP Action Plans.

[You can download the Collection Here](#)

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