

OECD WORK ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

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What is open government?



“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

- Access to information and data is provided both proactively and reactively and decision-making processes throughout the policy cycle are disclosed.

INTEGRITY

- Public interest is prioritized over private interests.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- The government reports on and is responsible for its actions, activities and performance, while stakeholders can respond to, and act upon, this information through various channels.

PARTICIPATION

- Perspectives and inputs from citizens and stakeholders are incorporated into decision-making.

The 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.

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

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 IAC, 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

- Ensure that open government principles are rooted in the public management culture;
- Identify an enabling environment that is conducive to an efficient, effective and integrated governance of open government;
- Promote the alignment of open government strategies and initiatives with, and their contributions to, all relevant national and sectoral socio-economic policy objectives, at all levels of the administration;
- 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

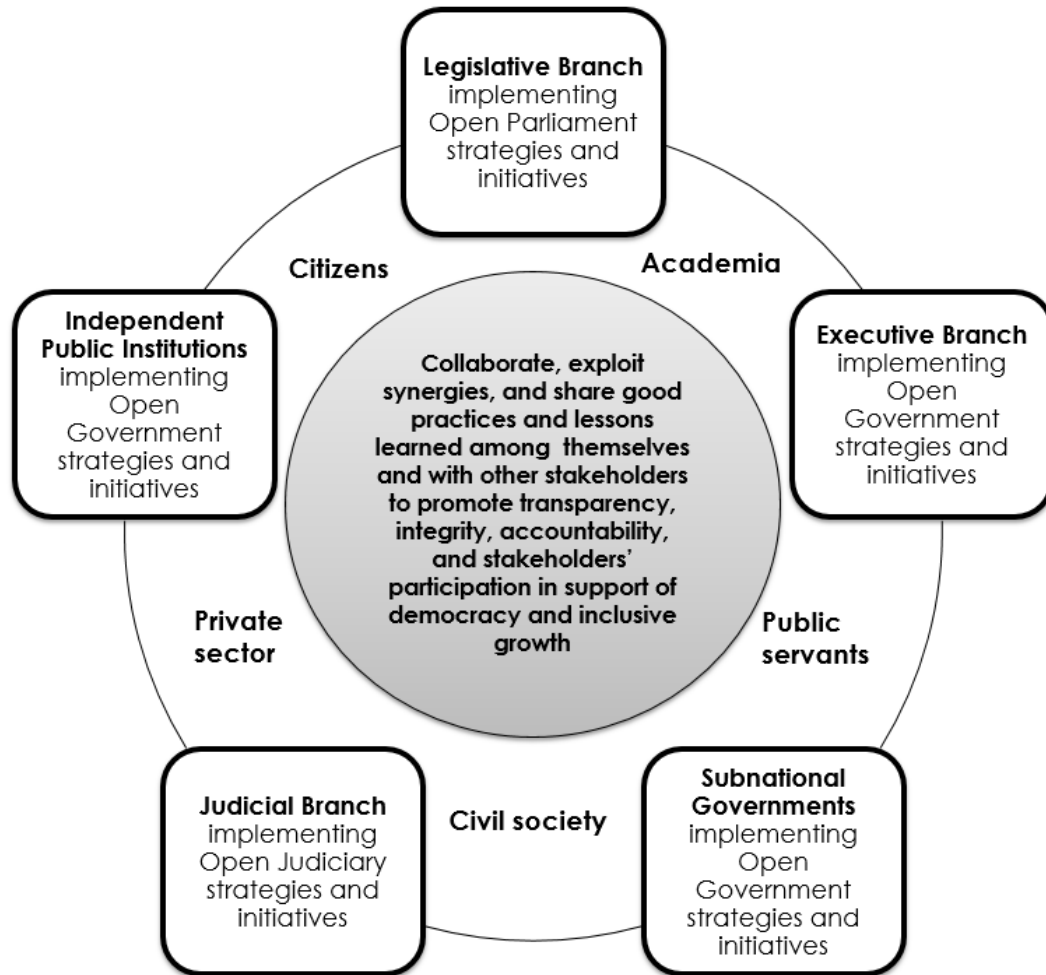
March 2017:
- First meeting of the Informal Experts Group to inform the development of the Recommendation

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

From Open Government to Open State



Provision 10 of the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government) invites countries to explore the potential of moving from the concept of open government towards that of open state.

An Open State is :

- when all levels of government and branches of power implement the principles of open government;
- when all State actors - recognising their respective roles, prerogatives, and overall independence according to their existing legal and institutional frameworks- collaborate, exploit synergies, and share good practices and lessons learned among themselves to support the openness agenda across the State.

What are the new frontiers of open government?



1. OG Indicators

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

2. OG Strategies

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

3. Civic Space

- Growing recognition of civic space as an enabler of effective open government initiatives (e.g. OECD, OGP)
- Shrinking civic space at the global level, negative impact of COVID-19 just as citizens are taking to the streets globally to voice their concerns e.g. protests against quarantine/pass sanitaire

4. Innovative Citizen Participation

- Increasing uptake of innovative citizen participation methods, such as representative deliberative processes, to tackle complex policy problems
- Exploring ways to improve representation and participation – institutionalized deliberation and bringing public judgement to democracy

1. Open Government Indicators

OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government (2017)

Defines 10 criteria for the design and implementation of open government agendas. Establishes a mandate for the development of indicators.

Survey on the Governance of Open Government (2020)

Monitors the implementation of the OG Recommendation and gathers data on the inputs, processes and outputs of the Framework

Framework for Assessing the Openness of Governments (2020)

Restructures the 10 Provisions of the OG Recommendation as a theory of change (inputs, processes, outputs, outcomes and impacts) to clarify links and enable the development of indicators

Governance of Open Government Dashboard (2021)

Shows country-specific data on the governance of open government

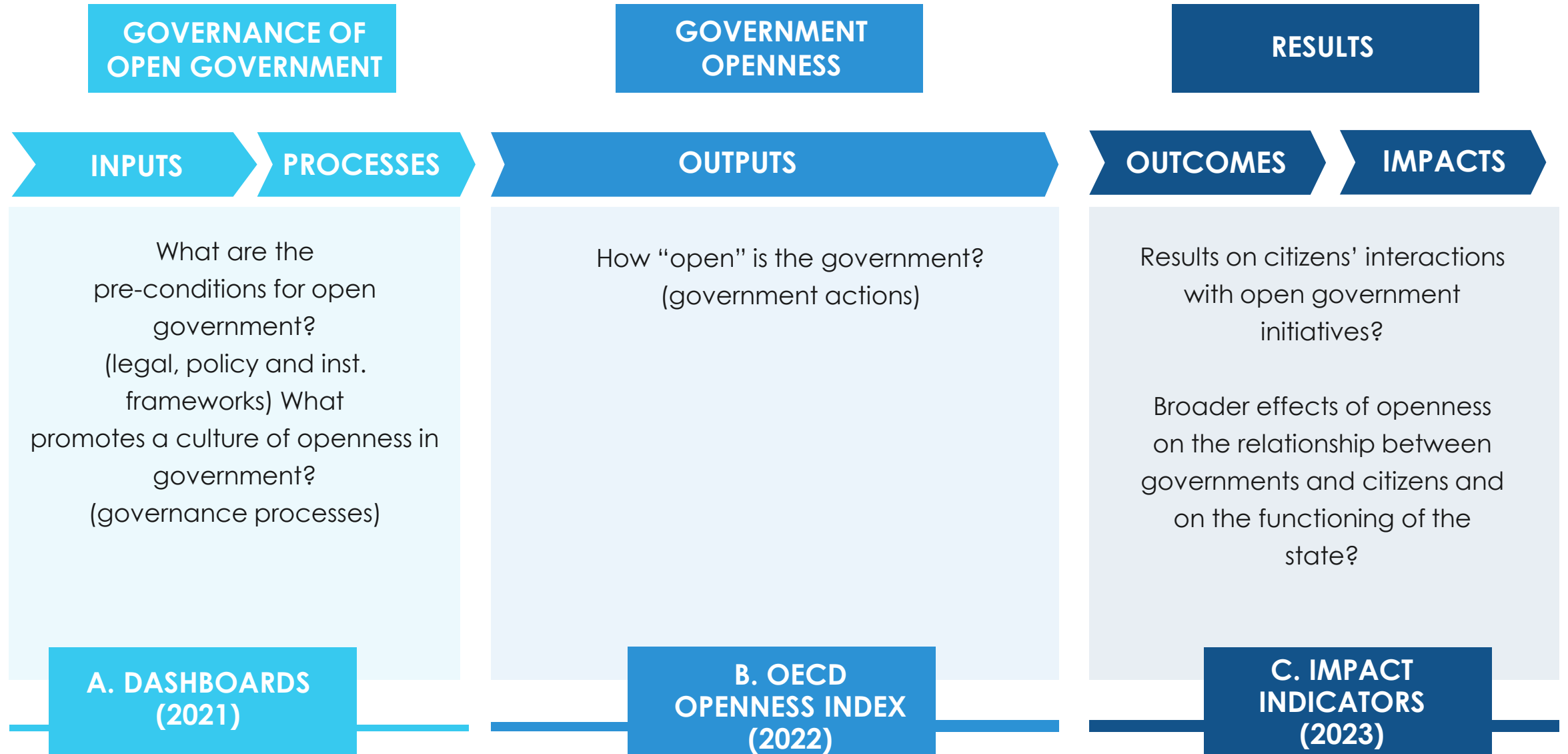
Openness Index (2022)

Assesses countries' openness

Results Indicators (2023/24)

Show results of open government efforts

1. Open government indicators



2. Open Government Strategy



TAKING THE NEXT STEP

Align existing OG strategies and initiatives and give a common vision to the open government agenda.

DEFINITION

“A document that defines the open government agenda of the central government and/or of any of its sub-national levels, as well as that of a single public institution or thematic area, and that includes key open government initiatives, together with short, medium and long-term goals and indicators”.

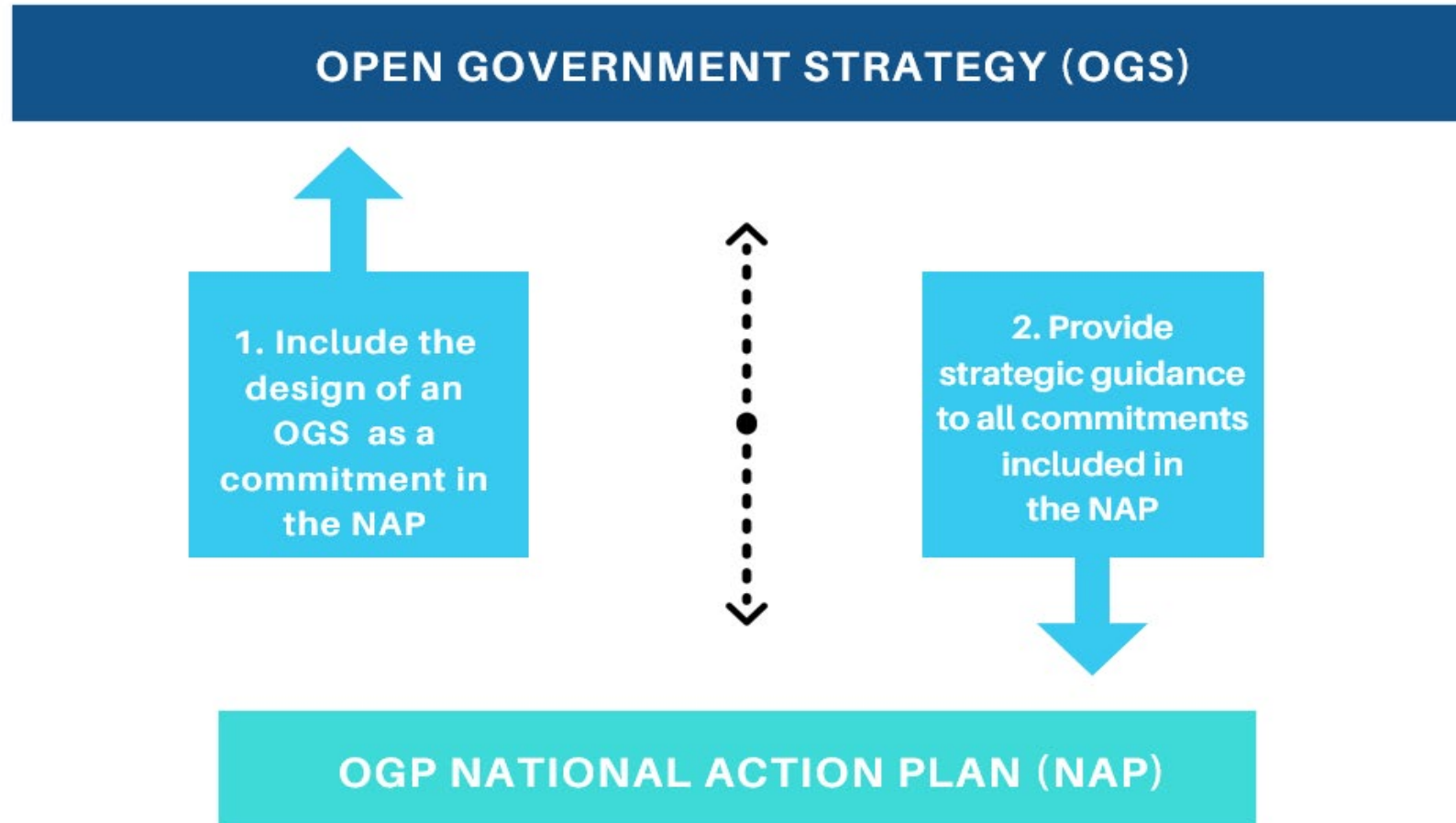
LIMITED EXISTING EXPERIENCES

- Finland
- Costa Rica
- North-Rhine Westphalia / Germany
- Alberta / Canada

INTENTIONS / FIRST STEPS

- Canada
- Colombia
- Argentina
- Tunisia
- Morocco
- Norway
- Lithuania

2. Complementarity of Strategy and OGP Action Plan



2. What are the benefits of an Open Government Strategy?

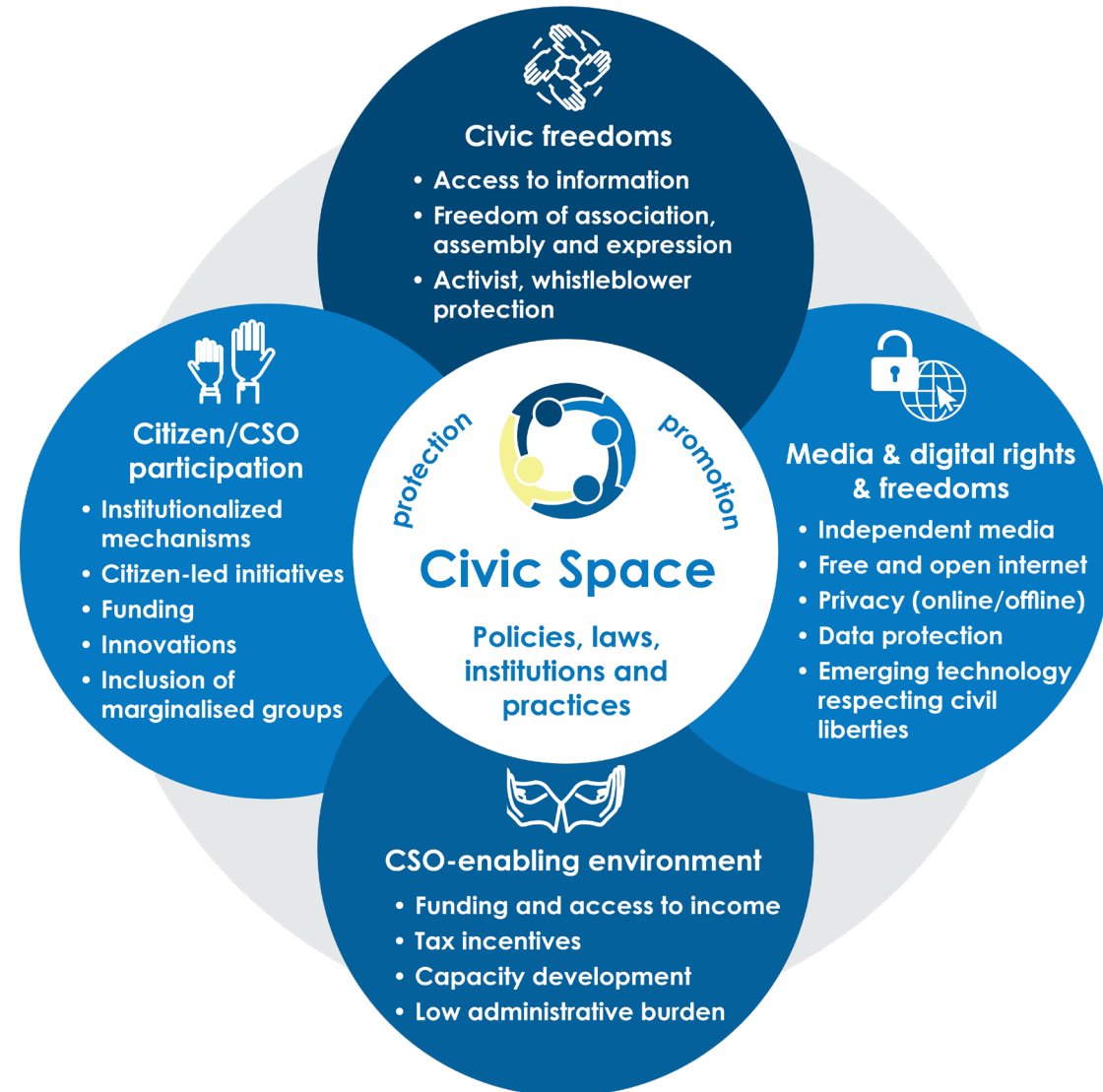


- Put open government on a new level and give visibility / foster **commitment**
- Give a **purpose** to open government initiatives and create a clear and compelling **vision** for the open government agenda
- Foster the development of a **culture** of open government throughout the whole public sector
- Collect **data** and measure the **impact** of open government initiatives
- Foster intra-institutional **knowledge sharing** and collaboration
- Ensure **sustainability** in the medium and long term

3. Civic space as an enabler of open government



- **Country studies** (Finland, Tunisia, Portugal, Romania, Brazil, Morocco)
- **Global comparative report** (2022)
- **Advisory Group** of leading funders and thought leaders on the protection of civic space
- **Partnerships with CSOs** e.g. Reporters Without Borders, Library of Congress, Thomson Reuters Foundation, Mo Ibrahim Foundation, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
- **Convenor of dialogues among public officials and civil society**



3. Civic space: 2020 survey on open government



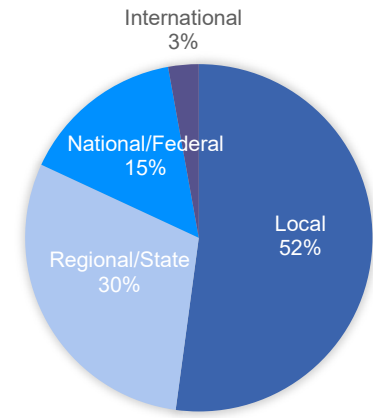
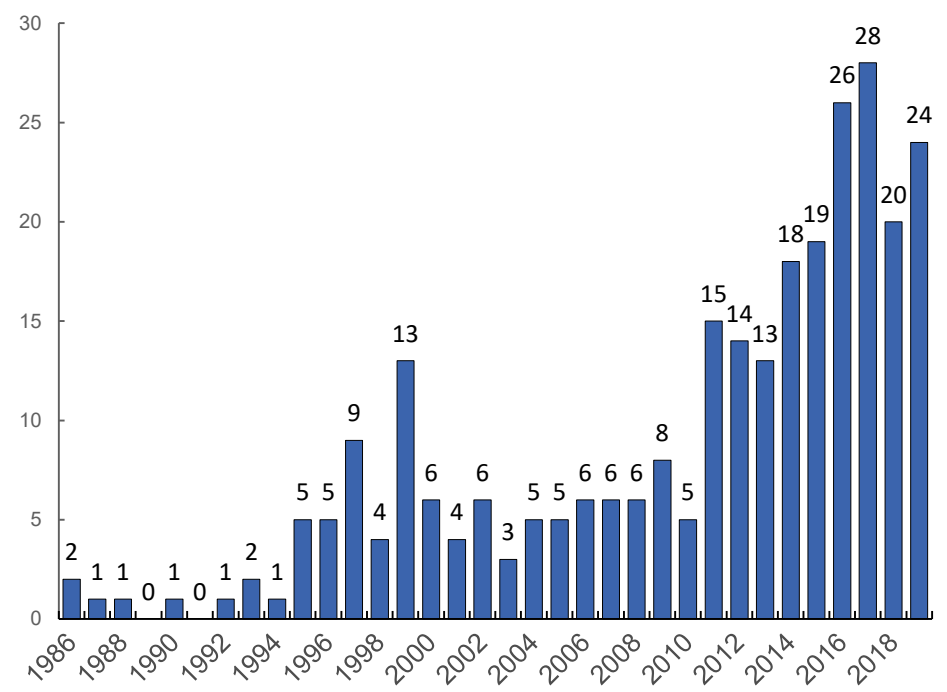
- **Italy has a strong legal framework** recognising civic freedoms and rights although some provisions could be updated in line with international norms e.g. only legal residents are entitled to protection against discrimination, assembly and association
- **Frameworks regulating CSOs are in line with international guidance** e.g. CSOs are not required to register to operate and can receive funding from abroad (both private and state funding).
- Italy has a **legislative framework to protect whistle-blowers** (*Legge anticorruzione n.190/2012*)
- **A code to improve or promote the enabling environment for CSOs** is in its first implementation phase (*Codice Terzo settore*) and an annual budget exists for CSOs (*Fondo per il finanziamento di progetti e di attività di interesse generale nel Terzo settore*).
- **Mechanisms for direct interaction between citizens and the public administration** have been strengthened in particular due to the **2019 ParteciPa online platform**: available to all public sector administration to improve their dialogue with citizens.

4. Innovative Citizen Participation

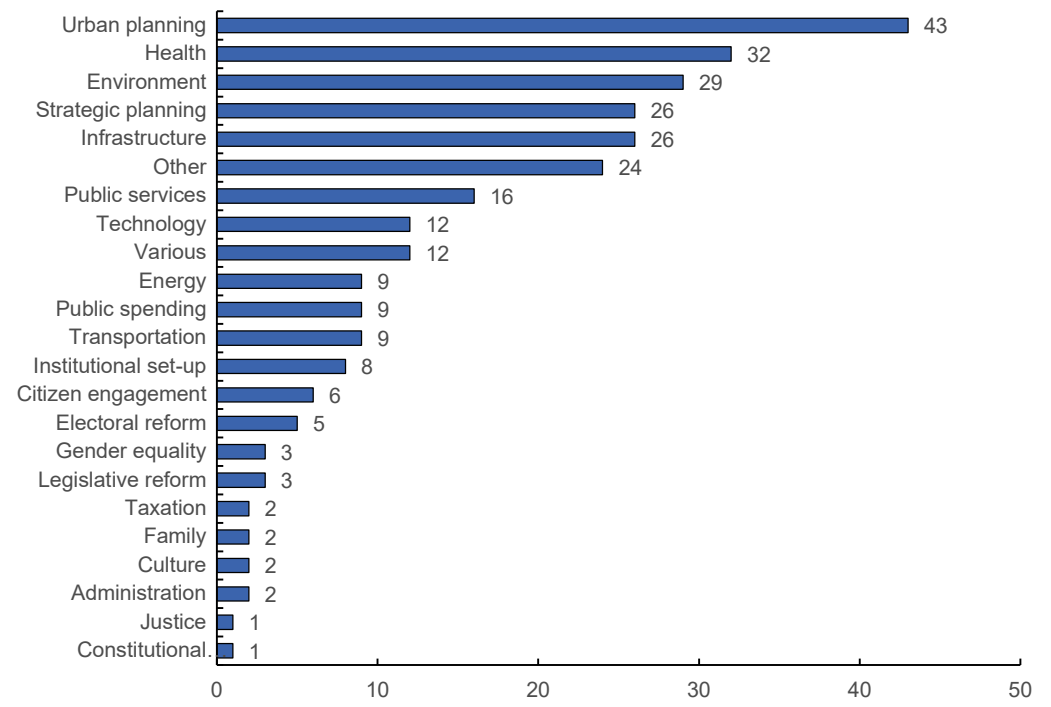


The “deliberative wave” has been building since the 1980s, gaining momentum since 2010, at all levels of government, and on a wide range of policy issues

Number of representative deliberative processes per year, 1986 – October 2019

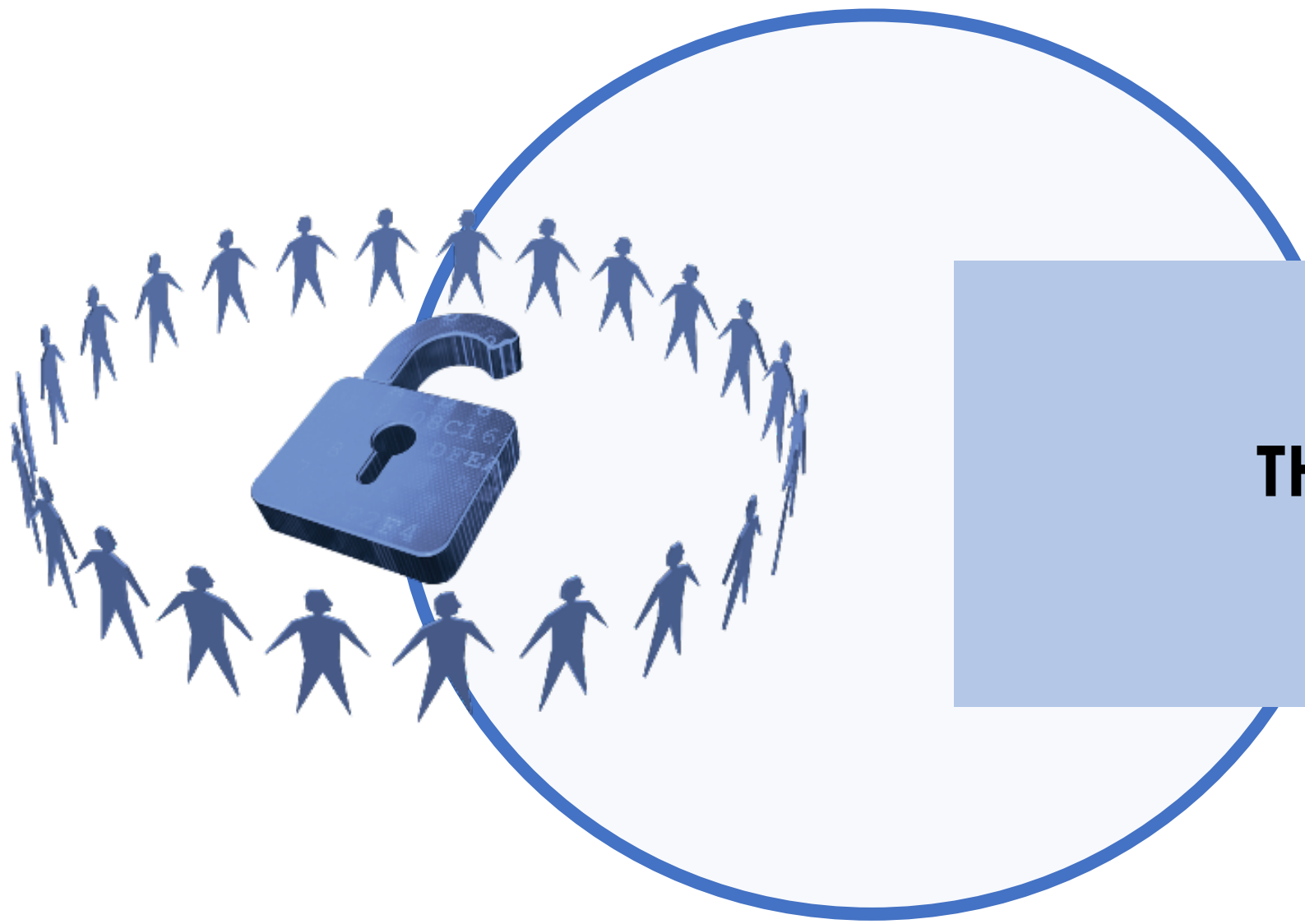


Number of times a policy issue has been addressed through a representative deliberative process



Notes: n=282; Data for OECD countries is based on 18 OECD countries that were members in 2019 plus the European Union. Processes that spanned over multiple years are noted by the year of their completion (except for permanent ongoing processes).

Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2020).



THANK YOU