Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
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Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society

Open Government Partnership
Action Plan
of the Slovak Republic
2015

Bratislava 2015

Contents

Introduction

Slovak Republic („SR") joined the international Open Government Partnership initiative in September 2011 („Partnership"), which is among the fastest-growing international initiatives with its 65 member countries.

The Government of Slovakia made its first commitments to the Partnership in Resolution No. 50 from February 22, 2012. These commitments were confirmed at the Annual conference of the Partnership in Brazil in March 2012. By joining the Partnership, Slovak Republic expressed its ability and will to work on issues like transparency, participation and open public administration.

The first period of the OGP Initiative was in 2012-2013. Its final task was to prepare an Evaluation Report on the fulfillment of commitments from the OGP Action Plan 2012-2013. The evaluation process from the perspective of the Slovak government included collecting information from government departments as well as citizens actively interested in open government. The Evaluation Report[1] was prepared by the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society and later accepted by the Partnership. An Independent Evaluation Report was commissioned by the Partnership through the Independent Reporting Mechanism[2].

The OGP National Action Plan in SR for year 2015 („National Action Plan 2015") was prepared by the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society. It was written with help from consultations with a wide spectrum of organizations that were included in dialogue and were able to comment on its contents.

The proposed National Action Plan for 2015 again aims to propose specific measures which need to be taken to ensure that SR stays among the international leaders in the openness of government, effective handling of information that was created using public resources and fight against corruption. In spite of the fact that not all commitments from the previous period were fulfilled, a number of important steps have been taken in several areas. Therefore we propose to not only make new commitments but also keep working on the existing ones. Government departments and agencies are the main actors responsible for carrying out the National Action Plan 2015.

After the National Action Plan 2015 concludes, another round of feedback will take place, which will result in an Evaluation Report on the National Action Plan 2015 from the perspective of the government, which will be again supplemented with an independent evaluation report written by independent experts.

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[1]Evaluation Report is available at http://www.otvorenavlada.gov.sk/data/files/4136_self-assessment-report-ogp-slovakia-final.pdf.

[2] Independent Evaluation Report: http://www.opengovpartnership.org/country/slovak-republic/progress-report/report.

Key Open Government accomplishments so far

Since 2012, activities of the Government of SR related to the Partnership have been focused on three areas: publishing data from public sector, supporting dialogue with citizens and improving transparency.

In Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic from May 2012 the government refers to activities related to the OGP Initiative, declaring: „The Government will enhance the transparency standards of public administration and public access to information available to public administration by, for example, extending the functionalities of publicly accessible databases, such as the Cadastral Portal, the Business Register and the Central Register of Contracts. The Government will intensively use the data.gov.sk open data portal in order to facilitate public access to information." [3].

The **Open Data Portal** www.data.gov.sk was created as a result of the OGP Initiative. The Open Data agenda has become more visible, and various government departments have started publishing information in open formats. As of late 2013, more than 200 datasets of public administration were publicly available. Additionally, standards for open data have been adopted and have become part of Decree No. 312/2010 Coll. on Standards for Public Administration Information Systems and later part of Decree No. 55/2014 Coll. under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance of SR.

The Central Registry of Contracts is operated by the Office of the Government of SR in order to publish information[4]. The Office of the Government also created the Central Registry of Projects[5] financed through repayable and non-repayable financial assistance from public funds (Government Resolution No. 689/2011). By creating pressure through transparency of financing of public institutions, public funding can be saved. Data published by the government is re-used by non-profits to create new, high-quality applications like www.otvorenesudy.sk („Open Courts") and www.znasichdani.sk („From Our Taxes"), which have won international awards.

Regarding the **involvement of stakeholders and cooperation of government with the non-profit sector**, one of the main goals according to the Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic is „supporting active dialogue with civil society and representatives of the non-profit sector, including its multi-source financing and individual donorship, as well as the development of volunteerism"[6]. The process of creation, implementation and evaluation of the previous OGP Action Plan included a number of stakeholders and can be described as inclusive and participatory.

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[3]The Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic is available at
http://www.vlada.gov.sk/data/files/2169_manifesto-entrans.pdf.
[4] Central Registry of Contracts is available at www.crz.gov.sk.
[5] Central Registry of Projects is available at www.crp.gov.sk.
[6] The Manifesto of the Government of the Slovak Republic is available at
http://www.vlada.gov.sk/data/files/2169_manifesto-entrans.pdf.

With regards to **openness to dialogue**, a proposal for participatory creation of three selected public policies has been created at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, Ministry of Environment of the SR and Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR, with an extensive involvement of experts and the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society. Based on the evaluation of the experience from these pilot policies, **Guidelines for the involvement of the public in the creation of public policies** have been created. The Government of the SR in its Manifesto also committed to develop the "Culture Development Strategy for 2013 – 2020, the contents of which will emanate from a broad dialogue leading to the creation of a programme accepted by the entire society, one that will serve as the basis for the state cultural policy and gradual systemic changes in the culture sector."[7]

Based on the government resolutions no. 50/2012 and no. 137/2013 Slovakia adopted the *Act on some measures related to reporting anti-social activities and amending certain acts (307/2014 Coll.)* in order to increase transparency, reduce corruption and to protect whistleblowers. The Open Government Partnership also had an indirect impact on the creation of the **Bratislava participatory budget**.

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[7]Ibid.

1. Open Information

1.1. Open Data Portal – data.gov.sk

The creation and launch of the Open Data Portal in the SR www.data.gov.sk is one of the most significant accomplishments of Slovakia's Open Government Partnership Action plan for years 2012-2013 ("Action Plan 2012-2013"). In keeping with the philosophy of open information where public authorities pro-actively publish all information regarding public administration that is not legally or otherwise restricted to disclose, it is important to continue this trend and extend it to contributory organizations, budget organizations, as well as local self-government bodies.

The philosophy of open government is now starting to manifest itself in the change of the attitude of public authorities towards the information they hold. A global trend is now being established to pro-actively disclose information related to the exercise of public authority without citizens having to explicitly request it. In Europe, this trend is reflected in the Directive 2003/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the re-use of public sector information as amended by the Directive no. 2013/37/EC. In Slovakia, the philosophy of open information is expressed in the Act 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information and amending certain acts (Freedom of Information Act), as amended.

It is also necessary to ensure the accessibility of published documents for people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups of people with limited access to information in terms of their ability to receive information in accordance with the decree of the Ministry of Finance no. 55/2014 Coll. on Standards for Public Administration Information Systems, as amended[8].

Based on the Action Plan 2012-2013, government institutions produced a list of public administration datasets[9] which the government undertook to publish. Due to existing ambiguity of Open Data concepts and the fragmentation of responsibilities, this list cannot be considered final and complete. Therefore the next step in this area is to produce an updated list of datasets of public administration that takes into account the newly accepted standards and then to establish a schedule for their publication. It is expected that this list will be built upon the existing list of datasets and will be extended to include budgetary and contributory organizations of ministries, which were not included in the first Action Plan 2012 - 2013, but often provide data of equal value to that of Ministries themselves.

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[8] The Decree is available at http://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2014-55.
[9] The list is available at http://www.otvorenavlada.gov.sk/datasety-statnej-spravy/.

Commitment 1
Develop an updated list of all datasets of organizations listed as responsible, including budgetary and contributory organizations under their authority, together with a plan of their gradual publication at the Open Data Portal.
Responsible: ministers, Chair of the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority, President of the Statistical Office, Chair of the Office for Public Procurement
Deadline: April 30, 2015

Commitment 2
Publish datasets on the Open Data Portal according to the planned schedule.
Responsible: ministers, Chair of the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority, President of the Statistical Office, Chair of the Office for Public Procurement
Deadline: December 31, 2015

Experience shows that not all datasets are of equal importance for citizens - some datasets can be described as crucial because data contained in them can be re-used in multiple ways and in several applications. There is no intent to label some datasets as without uses. On the contrary, the aim is to obtain information on citizens' demand for specific datasets with the best usefulness and subsequently publish the 50 most frequently requested datasets with priority as soon as possible.

Commitment 3
Carry out a survey of most frequently requested data sets and share the results with the ministers and other heads of public administration bodies.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society
Deadline: March 31, 2015

Commitment 4
Based on the evaluation of public demand for the most requested datasets, preferentially publish relevant datasets at the Open Data Portal.
Responsible: ministers, Chair of the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority, President of the Statistical Office, Chair of the Office for Public Procurement
Deadline: June 30, 2015

Tasks related to the publication and use of open data are cross-sectional and cross-departmental. Similarly, support for these processes is the responsibility of several central government bodies: creation of a central platform and tools for work with Open Data is backed by the Government Office through the ongoing project Electronic Services of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic - eDemocracy and Open Government; creation of standards for Open Data and the overall concept of informatization is the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance[10]; legislation related to the publication of data is sponsored by the

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[10] Act 275/2006 Coll. on Public Administration Information Systems and amending certain laws and Decree No. 55/2014 Coll. on Standards for Public Administration Information Systems.

Ministry of Justice[11]; and a number of specific tasks related to the publication of Open Data have been included in the Open Government Partnership Action Plan. It is therefore necessary to ensure coordination of actions of all parties concerned and to identify common goals and implementation tools. For this purpose, it is appropriate to create a unified strategy for publication and use of Open Data of public administration of the SR.

Commitment 5
Develop a strategy for publication and use of open data of public administration and submit it to the Government.
Responsible: Head of the Government Office
Deadline: May 31, 2015

1.2. Web application for the EU Structural Funds, EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Swiss Financial Mechanism and other ministry grant schemes

The creation of the web application was included in the Action Plan 2012 - 2013, commitment C.16 of the Government Resolution no. 50 from year 2012: "Launch a portal on the current allocation of Structural Funds, EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Swiss Financial Mechanism and other Ministry grant schemes." Office of the Government is developing a web application, financed by the Operational Program Informatization of Society (OPIS), called Electronic Services of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic - eDemocracy and Open Government.
The purpose of the web application is to provide information on all projects in the Slovak Republic financed by the European structural and investment funds, the EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism and Swiss Financial Mechanism, as well as grant schemes funded through the state budget.
The published information will include at least the following:
- identification of the program or grant scheme,
- identification of unsuccessful applicants for public funds,
- identification of recipients of public funds,
- contractual terms, including attachments,
- method of use of funds.

The quality of primary sources is the prerequisite for the successful operation of the web application. The information about the European Structural and Investment Funds will be provided by the ITMS information system. Information about the EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Swiss Financial Mechanism and other grant schemes will

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[11] Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information and amending certain acts (Freedom of Information Act), as amended.

be obtained in several ways. [12] Publication of datasets in open formats with complete and correct information from the state administration authorities will ensure the credibility of the application and increase its traffic.

Commitment 6
Within the scope of available information, publish data on the use of European Structural and Investment Funds, the EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Swiss Financial Mechanism and other ministry grant schemes for year 2015 and make it available through a web application and on the Open Data Portal. Government departments that do not have technology resources to input the data on subsidies will provide it after the creation of the web interface in the forthcoming application.
Responsible: ministers, Head of the Government Office
Deadline: October 31, 2015

The launch of the web application will be accompanied by a public campaign to improve the visibility of this activity and to inform about its benefits.

Commitment 7
Carry out a public campaign to promote the web application for the European Structural and Investment Funds, the EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Swiss Financial Mechanism and the ministry grant schemes.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society
Deadline: December 31, 2015

The next step after the launch of the web application is the evaluation of its operation, with a special focus on quantitative indicators (amount of information available), as well as its accessibility[13]. Attention will be also given to the evaluation of parameters of quality, such as number of suggestions to correct the information, number of visits, accessibility of the application, etc. Evaluation of the web application will make it possible to create proposals for its improvement, e.g. by enhancing the available content or extending its functionality.

Commitment 8
Conduct an evaluation of the functioning of the web application for the European Structural and Investment Funds, the EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Swiss Financial Mechanism and other ministry grant schemes.

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[12] Input of data on subsidies will be possible in several ways, depending on the readiness of individual departments to provide data. In addition to the direct link between information systems of public administration and importing data from other sources (eg. using XLS files), the information may be also entered via the web interface of the upcoming application "MDS" (Module Subsidy Schemes). After the log in to MDS, authorized users will create records using predefined forms containing basic information about the subsidy schemes. The users will easily (using menu selections) complete information about the providers of the subsidies as well as recipients (using organization IDs), or they will specify additional information manually (if the system fails to look up the entity). The data about the project itself will then be entered. Clicking the "Save" button will submit all the entered information into a central data repository.
[13] According to the Decree of the Ministry of Finance No. 55/2014 Coll. on Standards for Public Administration Information Systems.

Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society in cooperation with Head of the Government Office and Deputy Prime Minister for Investments
Deadline: December 31, 2015

2. Open Education

The issue of Open Data is also related to the issue of Open Education. While Open Data primarily addresses databases and information systems, there is other knowledge in the educational process used by teachers and students, e.g. textbooks and other materials available as documents, multimedia, etc. Because this is a separate issue from Open Data that is not covered by the Open Data legislation, it is necessary to address it individually.

In education, research and development, a great amount of content is created: educational materials, studies, publications, etc.. These are often published in such a manner that access to them is complicated even for experts within academia, not to mention the wider public. Proprietary licenses, as well as technological issues related to publishing create barriers which need to be eliminated. In coordinated approach and removal of barriers at the top using legislation and technological coordination, powerful effects can be achieved.

2.1 Open Educational Resources

Right in the first line the UNESCO Paris OER Declaration[14] points out that the right to education is a basic human right. This is also reflected in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, article 42, which guarantees free primary as well as secondary education for everyone and also free post-secondary education according to the person's and society's abilities.

Creation of educational materials used in public institutions is primarily financed through public funds and therefore these should be available for public re-use, including other purposes than originally intended, just as it is with Open Data. The Slovak Copyright Act[15] Section 28 already recognizes free and fair use of works for educational purposes, but this is only allowed "in the school". This is limited to the school buildings and not only excludes students' homes and private companies, but also excludes schools' own dormitories as well as its other properties. University textbooks and other openly licensed educational resources have a potential, however, to be re-used in continuous education programs (i.e. outside of schools), during professional development in various occupations (i.e. in the commercial sphere), as well as for other needs of interested individuals.

The way people formally and informally educate themselves keeps extending and changing: in schools, as well outside them, tablets, smartphones, and other mobile devices proliferate. Practically all educational resources (including those eventually printed on paper) are first created electronically and could also be consumed electronically, but this often doesn't happen. The reasons include unavailability in a digital format as well as copyright. Copyright

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[14]http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/Events/Paris%20OER%20Declaration_0 1.pdf.

[15] Act No. 618/2003 Coll. o autorskom práve a právach súvisiacich s autorským právom about copyright and rights related to the copyright, as amended..

reform would be the long-term solution. However, for now many of the effects can be achieved using **open public licenses**. To consider a work "open", it should have several attributes[16] according to the Open Knowledge Foundation. **These principles are similar for all types of open knowledge, including open data, as well as open educational resources.** It is recommended to use an internationally respected license which gives extensive rights to users and communicates these rights in an understandable way. **The Creative Commons Attribution** license is a good example, and it is already in use in Slovakia[17]. This particular Creative Commons license allows the distribution of the licensed work (dissemination and sharing through any media in any format), its adaptation (remixing, editing, and dissemination), including publication of the adapted work, for any purpose, commercial as well as non-commercial. This meets the demands for openness as defined by UNESCO as well as the Hewlett Foundation, one of the largest foundations in the United States, which is an active supporter of open educational resources.

Just as with open data, it is desirable to remove as many limitations as possible for **open educational resources**. UNESCO defines OER as "teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits **no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution** by others with no or limited restrictions." The Hewlett Foundation defines OER as "teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. Open educational resources include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge."[18] Educational resources are thus defined broadly: there are primarily textbooks but also many other types of materials that are used in education, including digital materials (software, digital content for educational portals, etc.).

Since Slovak legislation does not recognize the concept of open educational resources, we will define them for the purposes of this action plan according to the recommendations of UNESCO and the Hewlett Foundation, as educational resources with an open license, with rights to access, adapt and re-publish; they must be non-discriminatory (rights are available to everyone and everywhere) and unrestricted with regards to a specific use and purpose (e.g. in a commercial manner)[19]. Whenever we talk about "open" resources, they should comply with all of the above. The current OGP Action Plan mentions "Creative Commons Attribution" license in several places. This license meets all of the said requirements for openness. There are also other licenses from the Creative Commons family, e.g. "Creative Commons Attribution - No Derivatives", but these limit certain rights and therefore do not meet all the requirements for openness listed above.

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[16] See www.opendefinition.org.

[17] Public licenses are addressed by Act No. 618/2003 Coll. concerning copyright and rights related to copyright as amended, Section 49 a.

[18] See http://www.hewlett.org/programs/education/open-educational-resources.

[19] See https://wiki.creativecommons.org/What_is_OER%3F.

Broad legal rights to use an educational work enable economic efficiencies as well as innovation: a teacher (especially in higher education) could create a reader from available texts, cut down passages that are too extensive, create a "remix" of the material or simply translate texts or videos created elsewhere, all without additional barriers. The result could be freely and legally distributed to students (digitally or printed on paper).

Slovak portal eAktovka.sk makes electronic versions of textbooks available, and this is the correct first step. It needs to be ensured, however, that new school textbooks, college textbooks and other educational materials are openly licensed and their creation is supported and rewarded. The Opening up Education initiative was also promoted by the European Commission Vice President responsible for Digital Agenda, Neelie Kroes[20].

It is the desired outcome that making publicly funded educational resources open will result **not only in economic efficiencies**, which is an important enough argument, but also in **new quality of education** relevant to the 21st century.

Commitment 9
Map existing digitally available educational resources at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport and its directly managed organizations and identify those that can be released under the Creative Commons Attribution open license.
Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport
Deadline: June 30, 2015

Commitment 10
Map existing repositories at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport and its directly managed organizations. Define what characteristics should be satisfied by the central repository for storing open educational resources. Determine which of the existing repositories can be used for publishing open educational resources, including estimated necessary adjustments and anticipated financial impacts.
Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport
Deadline: June 30, 2015

It appears that the current procurement process of educational resources does give the contracting authority sufficient flexibility to release these resources under an open license. This process therefore needs to be revisited and adjusted. Also, considering that the process of purchasing learning resources also affects issues of copyright and public procurement, it is appropriate for the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport to cooperate with the Ministry of Culture (Copyright Act) and the Office for Public Procurement.

Commitment 11

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[20] See http://www.openeducationeuropa.eu/.

Analyze the procurement process of educational resources in primary and secondary education and identify possible barriers to their publication under "Creative Commons Attribution" open license.

Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport in cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Minister of Health, Minister of Culture and the Chair of the Office for Public Procurement

Deadline: June 30, 2015

Commitment 12

Propose a new procurement process for textbooks and other learning resources in primary and secondary education, which will enable the release of procured educational resources under "Creative Commons Attribution" open license.

Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport in cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Minister of Health, Minister of Culture and the Chair of the Office for Public Procurement

Deadline: August 31, 2015

Commitment 13

Run a pilot of the procurement process, releasing procured materials under "Creative Commons Attribution" open license.

Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Deadline: December 31, 2015

Commitment 14

Propose measures and their implementation to raise awareness among teachers and other educational staff about open educational resources.

Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Deadline: September 30, 2015

Commitment 15

Join multilateral activities in Europe and beyond that support the creation, improvement, sharing and re-use of open educational resources.

Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Deadline: November 30, 2015

2.2 Open Access to the results of scientific research

Quick and barrier-free access to the results of scientific research has the **potential to transform society**: speed up finding cures for serious diseases, support the creation of new innovative products and services, as well as provide government services more efficiently. Simplifying access to articles and their related data that have been financed or co-financed with public resources brings **benefit to all**: the educational system, private enterprises, as well as the wider public. Again the same principle applies: if public resources were involved, the

output should also be public. This philosophy is being championed by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program[21] and is in line with the recommendations of the European Commission from July 17, 2012 about access to and storage of scientific information[22] [23]. This should be complemented with a national policy.

Publishing the results of scientific work enables research even outside of traditional institutions and has already led to breakthrough discoveries with a potential to transform society. Jack Andraka could serve as a role model[24]: Andraka, then 16 years old, developed a test for pancreatic cancer, which is about 26 thousand times cheaper, 168 times faster and 400 times more accurate than the current test[25]. He accessed the materials for his research through PubMed Central, in an Open Access manner. The current approach to distributing scientific knowledge and its resulting problems are hard to defend. Hundreds of institutions in Europe have initiated change from the bottom up but **to achieve greater impact, a top-down approach may be more desirable**. A national strategy, widely applied and connected to the vision of the European Commission, can help reach positive results[26] [27] faster and more efficiently.

Open publication should include the results of unclassified research financed or co-financed from public sources (either directly or indirectly, eg. through employment). Publications are categorized according to the Decree of Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic No. 456/2012 Coll. on central registry for publications tracking and central registry for artistic activities, as amended, Annex 4. It is recommended to use standard formats and the latest version of a "Creative Commons Attribution" license. Texts should be deposited in a designated Open Access online repository immediately upon acceptance for publication and made publicly accessible immediately, but no later than 6 months in Science and Technology and 12 months in the Humanities and Social Science. If the publications had been published elsewhere, the designated repository will contain a copy for long-term archiving.

The term "Open Access" is used in international communication, translated to Slovak as "otvorený prístup" (to the results of scientific research).

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[21] See Regulation (EU) No. 1291/2013 of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020).
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/fp/h2020-eu-establact_sk.pdf.
[22] Scientific data: open access to research results will boost Europe's innovation capacity (July, 2012), http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-790_en.htm.
[23] Commission recommendation of July 17, 2012 on access to and preservation of scientific information, http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/recommendation-access-and-preservation-scientific-information_en.pdf.
[24] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Andraka.
[25] http://www.righttoresearch.org/blog/open-access-empowers-16-year-old-to-create-breakth.shtml.
[26] Open access to research publications reaching 'tipping point' (August 2013), http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-786_en.htm.
[27] Have your say on the future of science: public consultation on Science 2.0 (July 2014) -- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-761_en.htm.

Commitment 16
Map existing repositories at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport and its directly managed organizations. Define what characteristics should be satisfied by a central repository for storing scientific publications (text, data). Determine which of the existing repositories can be used for storing scientific publications, including estimated necessary adjustments and anticipated financial impacts.
Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport
Deadline: June 30, 2015

Creating a strategy for the introduction of Open Access is the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport but other government departments involved in higher education or scientific research should be also included in the communication. Additionally, Ministry of Culture and the Office for Public Procurement shall cooperate and consult legislative requirements (copyright law and public procurement).

Commitment 17
Together with the affected institutions, identify possible barriers of full Open Access implementation, eg. exclusive contracts with publishers, grant schemes, etc.
Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport in cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Minister of Health, Minister of Defense, Minister of Culture and the Chair of the Office for Public Procurement
Deadline: June 30, 2015

Commitment 18
Submit to the Government an analysis of the requirement that all publications recorded in the publications tracking system, at least categories A and B (first letter) or equivalents[28], shall be provided to the public in an open and free manner.
Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport in cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Minister of Health, Minister of Defense, Minister of Culture and the Chair of the Office for Public Procurement
Deadline: October 31, 2015

When using the Internet and modern technologies, it is easy to accompany a publication with the data that was needed to create it. This data may be used in further research, can be re-interpreted or used to verify the accuracy of statistical analysis. Open Science speeds up but also improves the quality of scientific research.

Commitment 19

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[28] Decree of Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport No. 456/2012 Coll. on on central registry for publications tracking and central registry for artistic activities, as amended.

Propose a mechanism for voluntary publication of data related to scientific publications as Open Data.
Responsible: Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport
Deadline: October 31, 2015

Commitment 20
Inform Slovak educational and research institutions how Open Access can benefit themselves, the commercial sector, NGOs and the general public.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society
Deadline: November 30, 2015

Commitment 21
Co-operate with other countries on the creation of their own Open Access strategies and share the knowledge gained during the implementation in Slovakia.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society
Deadline: November 30, 2015

3. Government open to dialogue

3.1. Public Policies

One of the main tasks of the Action Plan 2012 - 2013 was the development of pilot public policies in a participatory manner with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment. Subsequently, the process of their creation was evaluated and led to the creation of the Guidelines for the Involvement of Public in the Creation of Public Policies[29].

The process of participation will continue in the upcoming period in 3 stages. During the first stage, those government departments which did not participate in the pilot projects in the Action Plan 2012 - 2013 will select public policies in consultation with the relevant stakeholders and with the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society. In the second stage, these policies will be created in a participatory manner, and in the third stage they will be implemented, or at least conditions will be created for their implementation. Subsequently, in order to improve the process of public participation in the creation of public policies, it is desirable to establish a feedback mechanism.

Commitment 22
Identify at least one public policy at each government department that will be created in a participatory manner.
Responsible: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Economy, Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Minister of Defense, Minister of Justice, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Minister of Culture, Minister of Health in cooperation with the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society
Deadline: March 31, 2015

Commitment 23
Conduct workshops focused on public involvement in the development of public policies for government employees who will be responsible for the identification and subsequent creation of public policies in a participatory manner.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society in cooperation with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Economy, Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Minister of Defense, Minister of Justice, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Minister of Culture, Minister of Health
Deadline: May 31, 2015

Commitment 24

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[29] The material is available at http://www.tretisektor.gov.sk/data/files/4750_pravidla-zapajania.pdf.

Develop a selected public policy with the the civil society and prepare the conditions for its implementation.
Responsible: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Economy, Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Minister of Defense, Minister of Justice, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Minister of Culture, Minister of Health in cooperation with the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society
Deadline: December 31, 2015

Commitment 25
Develop criteria for evaluating participatory processes of formation and implementation of public policies.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society
Deadline: September 30, 2015

Commitment 26
Evaluate the creation and implementation of selected public policies carried out in a participatory manner.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society in cooperation with ministers
Deadline: February 29, 2016

The current state of public participation in the creation of public policies is not satisfactory. One reason is the current legislative environment that does not allow citizens to be active in the development of strategies, legislation and regulations that directly affect their lives. Leaving active citizens only a short time to provide feedback on the materials which are being prepared for a long time has proven to be ineffective, causing tensions between the creators of the materials and those commenting. We therefore propose to modify legislation to give greater opportunities and powers to citizens in order to participate in the preparation of strategic documents. The first step to achieving this goal is to map the current legislative environment with regards to involving the public in shaping public policies and to propose adjustments.

Commitment 27
Map the current legislative environment with regards to involving the public in shaping public policies and propose adjustments.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society in cooperation with ministers
Deadline: September 30, 2015

3.2. Collective Electronic Petition

The Government of the Slovak Republic aims to continue to actively communicate with the citizens and address issues that affect them. The application for Collective Electronic Petitions is currently under development. A public campaign will follow that will promote the new system for collective electronic petitions and will explain how a petition can be started, how signatures can be collected, what conditions the petition must fulfill as well as the process that will occur after the successful completion of a petition. Once the system is developed, it will be necessary to evaluate its effectiveness and collect quantitative data on its operation, which can only be carried out after a certain period of time the application is running.

Commitment 28
Carry out a public campaign to promote the Collective Electronic Petitions.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society
Deadline: October 31, 2015

4. Open Justice

Transparent and credible judiciary is one of the prerequisites for good business and civil environment. One of the preconditions for such transparency is open and generally accessible information on who makes decisions about the rights and duties of the citizens of the Slovak Republic and in what ways. In 2011, changes in Slovak law were introduced in order to start the assessment of judges and courts. In addition to the regular annual reporting of judges and courts, a date was set for the first evaluation of the work of a selected group of judges on December 31, 2013. There is no obligation in the law, however, to publish the report results. For these reasons, it seems appropriate to adopt changes to the current wording of the legislation, which would define the obligation to regularly inform the public about the results of the evaluations of judges. Once these have been published, it will be possible to assess their informational value, see if the evaluations are free from subjectivity, whether it is appropriate to involve an external element in the assessment, etc. Then in will be possible to consider the proposal to modify the evaluation criteria, leading to greater transparency and efficiency of the evaluation process.

Commitment 29
Prepare a legislative proposal that will enable publishing of evaluations of judges and submit it to the Government.
Responsible: Minister of Justice
Deadline: December 31, 2015

The current legislation contains an obligation to publish **judicial decisions[30]** but experience has shown that many decisions are not being published despite the legal obligation. According to an estimate by Transparency International Slovakia[31], there were at least 50,000 of such unpublished decisions in the year 2012. There is also no data on the percentage of judicial decisions being published and there is no control system for tracking how the obligation to publish is being fulfilled. Another area of concern is the inability to carry out publishing in a user-friendly way. It is positive news that the Ministry of Justice has declared its interest to modernize the system of publishing of court decisions by providing appropriate technical support within the existing legislative framework. In order to improve the situation, it would be useful to map out the current status and to take measures for the fulfillment and control of the legislative commitment on the part of the courts.

Commitment 30
Carry out an analysis of the current publication of judicial decisions and propose measures to improve the situation.
Responsible: Minister of Justice in cooperation with the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society
Deadline: June 30, 2015

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[30] § 82a of Act No. 757/2004 Coll. on courts and amending certain laws, as amended, and the Decree of the Ministry of Justice No. 482/2011 Coll. on the publication of judicial decisions.
[31] http://transparency.blog.sme.sk/c/339743/Desattisice-rozhodnuti-sudy-aj-napriek-zakonu-nezverejnuju.html.

Based on the recommendations of the analysis, ensure a uniform reporting system of judicial decisions and provide oversight of its operation.
Responsible: Minister of Justice
Deadline: December 31, 2015

Prosecutors in SR have an important and irreplaceable position, but the information on who specifically carries out the function of the prosecutor is not available to the public. By law, published decisions include the first and last name of the prosecutors who made the respective decisions - which means that some of them are already known to the public. According to several rulings of the courts, first and last names of public employees and the information in which offices they work do not constitute protected personal data. So there is a peculiar state in which it is possible to find the first and last names from published decisions but prosecutors' offices still refuse to publish the list of names of prosecutors. In order to make the hiring of prosecutors transparent and to avoid nepotism and politicizing, it is appropriate to introduce a legal obligation to disclose the first and last names of people working as prosecutors.

Commitment 32
Prepare a legislative proposal that will enable the publishing of the list of names of prosecutors and submit it to the Government.
Responsible: Minister of Justice
Deadline: December 31, 2015

5. Feedback and Next Steps

The last two items of the Action Plan are about performance evaluation. Based on the information collected from various stakeholders, the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society will carry out a final evaluation. In order to inform the public representatives and the general public about the results of the evaluation, meetings will be carried out that will aim to define new priorities for the next period. The Government Council for NGOs will be informed about the results of the evaluation as well as preparation of the new Action Plan.

Commitment 33
Carry out final evaluation of the OGP Action Plan for 2015.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society in cooperation with ministers, Deputy Prime Minister for Investments, Head of Government Office, Chair of the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority, President of the Statistical Office and Chair of the Office for Public Procurement
Deadline: March 31, 2016

After the evaluation of the 2015 Action Plan, the next step is to use the recommendations and results to develop the OGP Action Plan for the next period.

Commitment 34
Develop OGP Action Plan for the next period and submit it to the Government.
Responsible: Plenipotentiary for the Development of the Civil Society
Deadline: June 30, 2016