



Open Government Partnership (OGP) - 10th Round Table Meeting Minutes – 9th March 2023

AGENDA

1. Welcome and updates since last meeting - Co-chair Antóin Ó Lachtnáin
2. Updates on commitments under the Third Open Government National Action Plan 2021-2023:
3. Update on the consultation phase of the fourth Open Government National Action Plan 2023 – 2025 (NAP4)
4. Discussion on consultation phase - challenges and solutions
5. Actions arising /AOB/Next meeting/ close

1. Welcome and updates since last meeting

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies. The 26th January minutes were agreed and will be uploaded to the Open Government Partnership website. The members were thanked for their contributions to the Consultation Themes Paper on the fourth Open Government National Action Plan 2023 – 2025

The Chair noted that Cliona Kelliher had stepped down and has been replaced by Seamus Boland. He thanked Cliona for her contribution to the work of the Round Table. He welcomed Seamus to the Round Table Members meeting.

2. Updates on commitments under the Third Open Government National Action Plan 2021-2023:

Ciara Morgan - Department of Public Expenditure NDP and Reform (DPENDPR) and Department of Finance (DoF) provided an update as follows:

- Review of Ireland's Statutory Framework for Ethics in Public Life
Government approved the publication of the Ethics Review report and preparation of a General Scheme based on the recommendations on 13th December 2022. The review report was published on 7th February 2023 and a General Scheme is being prepared by the Department. There will be awareness raising activities of the review report and its recommendations. Responsibility for this work has been transferred to the Minister for Finance.
- Review of Ireland's Freedom of Information (FOI) Regime



A Memorandum for Information updating Government on progress on the review was brought to Government on 13th December 2022 and published. It is intended to seek Government approval to the final review report in Q2 2023. The Minister intends to bring legislative proposals, informed by the review, to Government in 2023.

- Review of the Operation of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015
The review recommendations informed the drafting of an amendment Bill to strengthen the existing legislative framework. This Bill was published in September. The Bill was considered in the Dáil at Report and Final stages on 1st March 2023. It will be considered next in the Seanad and it is intended that it will complete its passage through the Oireachtas and be enacted in the first half of 2023. Responsibility for this work has been transferred to the Minister for Finance.

Kieran Moylan - Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) provided an update as follows:

- Publication of Values and Principles
The Values and Principles for collaboration and partnership working with the community and voluntary sector were approved by Government and were launched in 2022. DRCD is responsible for disseminating the Values and Principles and will be undertaking a monitoring exercise as part of the 2023 work programme.
All Government Departments are currently reviewing their Statements of Strategy. We are using this opportunity to remind Departments of the Values and Principles and of the recent publication of a guide to engagement of the marginalised in local planning processes.
- Civic Forum
The first Civic Forum for dialogue between the state and the community and voluntary sector took place at the Aviva stadium on 21st November 2022. A report on the proceedings has now been received. The next action will be to engage with the sub-committee of the Cross Sectoral Group on the Community Strategy to agree on the next steps arising from the first event and develop proposals for the next event.
- Review of the PPNs
The Working Group established to act as the main forum to develop further recommendations and a roadmap for the Minister, arising from the Mazars Review has met 3 times. The roadmap will include actions identified in the structural review along with further recommendations put forward by stakeholders.



- DRCD is preparing to commission research on addressing barriers to participation in the Public Partnership Networks (PPNs) and to make recommendations on increasing diversity and the participation of under-represented groups. Draft terms of reference are being finalised in consultation with stakeholders and a request for tender will be issued later this month. An Oversight Group of PPN stakeholders will be established to monitor the research.

Diarmuid O Leary – (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) provided an update as follows:

- Following on from the update provided to the Round Table meeting of 26th January in relation to the Review of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), the Stakeholder Working Group established to advise on and guide the review met for the third time on 2nd February. Following detailed discussion, the Group has now finalised and agreed the terms of reference for the review itself. The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) has been commissioned to undertake the independent review and will meet the Working Group later this month to set out its programme of work for the review, which will begin shortly thereafter.
- Arrangements are currently being made for the details of the Stakeholder Working Group, its Terms of References and meeting documents to be published on the Department's website, and hyperlinks can be provided when available.

Liam Gleeson – (DPENDPR) provided an update as follows:

- Background research commenced in December 2022 with a review of academic literature and best practice guidelines which included the National Disability Authority Participation Matters, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) citizen participation guidelines and government policy.
- The IPA are currently in the process of developing high-level principles and draft guidelines based on this research and the stakeholder engagement to date.
- The next phase of the project will involve further stakeholder engagement which will be open to Round Table members to attend. Draft high-level principles and guidelines will be prepared in advance of this engagement, in order to enable key stakeholder's feedback. It is expected that the guidelines will be reviewed and submitted to DPENDPR for consideration on or before end April 2023.



3.Update on the consultation phase of fourth Open Government National Action Plan 2023 – 2025

Advance notice of public consultation was published on the Open Government in Ireland and Government Information Service websites. A media strategy was undertaken comprising promotional videos, social media and communication messages across all Departments and senior management in the Central Statistics Office and the Attorney General’s office.

Request for Quotation for facilitation services in respect of the public consultation phase was issued.

An on-line consultation portal was developed on the OGI website to receive submissions and inform on the public consultation process. These submissions will be reviewed by the Round Table member to identify potential commitments for the fourth Open Government National Action Plan 2023 – 2025. The Round Table members were thanked for their contributions in the design of the consultation portal.

4.Discussion consultation phase - challenges and solutions

Following detailed discussion regarding the public consultation process, its accessibility across society and the need to maximise circulations the Round Table agreed that members would review the consultation portal and make appropriate adjustments.

5.Actions arising /AOB/Next meeting/ close

- DRCD to distribute relevant papers, e.g. TOR on PPNs/Civic Forum report/when published.
- Update guidance note and consultation material on OGP consultation portal.
- Next meeting 20th April 2023



An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí
Sheachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe
Department of Public Expenditure
NDP Delivery and Reform

