

## **National Consultation on Norway's Commitments to the Open Government Partnership**

The Open Government Partnership-OGP is a new multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. To become a member of OGP, participating countries must embrace a high-level Open Government Declaration, deliver a country action plan developed with public consultation; and commit to independent reporting on their progress going forward through the OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism.

The Open Government Partnership formally launched on September 20, 2011, when the 8 founding governments (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States) endorsed an Open Government Declaration, and announced their country action plans. Since September, OGP has welcomed the commitment of 47 additional governments to join the Partnership

Norway is one of the 8 founding countries whose commitments will be assessed in 2013. A key effort in this regard is the OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism IRM by which all stakeholders can track progress and OGP's impact within participating countries. By tracking progress, it promotes strong accountability between member governments and citizens.

The IRM will produce an annual independent assessment report for each OGP participating government. The national progress report will assess the implementation of action plans, progress in fulfilling open government principles, and will develop technical recommendations.

The OGP Secretariat has selected Joachim Nahem (on leave from UNDP) and Christopher Wilson (the engine room, <https://theengineroom.org>) as the national researchers for Norway. The researchers are collaborating with EITI, SSB and FOKUS to host a series of national consultations in order to receive feedback and recommendations on Norway's OGP commitments. The national consultations will be the basis for independent report to be submitted by the researchers.

To review Norway's OGP Action Plan please visit <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/countries/norway>

The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs (FAD) is leading Norway's participation at OGP and will be sharing a draft self-assessment of the action plan with participants prior to the consultation.