

Application

Preliminary Question

In which language are you submitting the application (check one)?

Please note that each country has the option of either submitting an application in English, or in their native language if they are unable to pay for translation into English. For applications submitted in the native language, OGP will pay for the translation into English before passing on to the judges.

- English
 Native language (please mention)

If you are submitting in your native language and it is non-Latin based language, you will have the option of uploading a PDF file at the end of this application. Please follow the questions and word limits mentioned in the application template.

A. THE TEAM

The following information is required to capture a basic understanding of those responsible for your initiative and any partnerships that have helped you to meet your goals.

INITIATIVE NAME (required)

Provide the name of the initiative that your team is submitting for consideration of the 2015 Open Government Awards. If the initiative is operating under one or more alternate name(s), provide the name that is most commonly recognized.

Empowering citizens – Glass Village Project for open and inclusive local governments in Hungary

THE NOMINATION (required)

Begin by describing how this initiative was selected. For example, mention any nomination or consultation process held with civil society partners or others when selecting the initiative.

[100 words]

Transparency and publishing open data is a long-standing challenge for local and central government organizations in Hungary. Due that full implementation of legal requirement is still lacking, eDemocracy Workshop Association, a Hungarian NGO has decided to start a pilot project in order to prove that full publication of open data defined by law is possible. After a long research period, the local government of Pázmánd undertook not only full transparency but also to implement a pilot project. This exemplary commitment was the main reason of the selection of the initiative.

Is this initiative included in your country's OGP National Action Plan?

(Applicants can choose initiatives from within OR outside their OGP National Action Plans)

- Yes No

GOVERNMENT POINT OF CONTACT (required)

Provide the name, title, phone number(s), email address(es) and mailing address of a single point of contact for the purposes of communicating with your team. The person should be the senior most individual responsible for overseeing the application requirements.

Please also provide the name and professional title of the government official responsible for implementing the initiative, if different from above.

dr. Péter KLOTZ deputy head of department, Hungarian OGP point of contact
 National Protective Service

Department of Corruption Prevention

H-1101 Budapest, Kerepesi út 47-49.

klotzp@nvsz.police.hu; kmf@nvsz.police.hu

00 36 30 438-9776

TYPE OF APPLICATION (required)

We strongly encourage applicants to submit a joint application from a government agency and a civil society organization. Only submit a joint application if a civil society organization was involved in either designing, implementing or monitoring the initiative jointly with the government.

Is this a joint application?

- Yes No

If yes, please fill out the "civil society point of contact" field below.

CIVIL SOCIETY POINT OF CONTACT

Please provide the name and title of a single point of contact at the organization. By providing these details you acknowledge that you are jointly applying with a civil society organization for the 2015 Open Government Awards.

Csaba MADARÁSZ
 project expert

eDemocracy Workshop Association <http://www.edemokracia.hu/>

madarasz.csaba@gmail.com

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS (optional)

If you are partnering with one or more other government agencies, private sector entities, media etc., please list each partner. In 250 words or less, provide a brief narrative of the partnership and the role each partner plays in your initiative.

Local Government of Pázmánd (Pázmánd Község Önkormányzata) <http://pazmand.hu/>

dr. Mónika REICHENBACH-VIRÁNYI mayor of Pázmánd

H-2476 Pázmánd, Fő u. 80.

polghiv@pazmand.hu

B. THE INITIATIVE

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is prepared to celebrate a range of successful applicants for the Open Government Awards. This year's theme is Improving Public Services through Open Government. Please visit here for more clarification on the theme. To qualify for recognition, we need to understand the various elements of success of your initiative and its sustainability over time. Please answer the following questions:

PROBLEM DEFINITION (required)

In 200 words or less, please identify the specific problem your initiative intended to solve. Why was this problem important to solve at a particular time and what were the challenges posed by your national (or local) economic or political context?

The 3200 local governments in Hungary have a crucial role in establishing democracy and delivering public services at local level. However, it is difficult to comply legal requirements and internalize the idea of open local government. EDemocracy Workshop Association's recent research has investigated local government transparency and corruption risks through the analysis of local government websites and personal interviews.

The research showed that non of the participating 317 local governments provides 100% of the obligatory public information on their websites.

For most of the local governments (especially the smaller ones) publishing the required public data means a technological and a political challenge. Citizens all over the country are stuck in classical processes to obtain public data which causes unnecessary difficulties, bureaucracy and leads to the erosion of trust in local public institution

The existing lack of transparency in local decision making processes weakens the trust between citizens and municipalities. Putting focus on this issue from governmental, civic and local governance perspective should empower all stakeholders – citizens, public officials and elected representatives – to achieve change in the current practice of public data handling. Moreover, real progress can only be reached if the local society is involved in this process.

INITIATIVE DESIGN (required)

In 250 words or less, describe your initiative's goals and objectives. How did it aim to improve public service delivery, who was it intended to benefit (specify the target population), and why was it important to use open government approaches to achieve this goal? If your initiative was designed to improve access or services for disadvantaged or marginalized groups, provide details on this here. Describe any innovations in the design of the initiative.

The „Glass Village Project” (project details: <http://eeagrants.org/project-portal/project/HU05-0173> and <http://lovefalv.hu/>) aims at initiating a dialogue between central government, local governments and citizens on local transparency in order to rebuild public trust.

By creating an adaptable working model of a local government transparency in the village of Pázmánd, the initiative proves that 100% transparency of information that are regulated to be public by law, is possible.

When a working technical solution to fulfill the public data publishing obligations for local governments meets the involvement of local and expert civic groups, a new design of legal, community and technical aspects are becoming the ingredients to significantly improve local data transparency, as a public service delivery.

These are our entry steps to initiate a meaningful dialogue in order to look for long term corrections in the current regulation, practice and cultural habits.

Our initiative's primary target group is the local public administration of Pázmánd (15 people and 250 processes), local people with internet access (700 people), local NGOs and businesses (20-20), and high qualified transparency researchers, experts, central government public officials (50 people).

The secondary target group is the whole population of Pázmánd (2110 people), all local governments in Hungary (a total of 3200), and Hungarian internet users interested in democracy and transparency (2 million people).

INITIATIVE OUTCOMES (required)

In 450 words or less, explain how your initiative was able to demonstrate one or more of the following results:

Citizens have better access to information on the public services to which they are entitled, and/or information on the performance of public service providers

Governments are better at asking for and responding to feedback or complaints by citizens on the quality of public services

Citizens have ways to actively participate in the design and delivery of public services

Citizens have mechanisms to monitor and oversee public works and services

Initiatives should also provide evidence if the initiative was able to expand access to public services to a larger population than before or if the quality and efficiency of public services has improved.

If there are any baseline indicators to measure the outcomes of the initiative, please describe them in detail. If the initiative was included in the OGP Action Plan, please describe how this did (or did not) contribute to the initiative's success.

Whether it is about co-drafting new law or discussing local issues and policies, access to public information in a simple, and accurate way is essential for every citizen. To provide this information, there are a set of different regulations in Hungary melted into various laws, regulations. However, in practice omission publication of data is not always followed by sanctions. This negative tendency of central and local governments effects all citizens in Hungary.

Our ongoing citizen tackles these issues by building upon the existing international examples and on Pázmánd's citizen-friendly achievements (Prize for Family friendly local government in 2012 and Pro Voluntaris Prize in 2013) and by gathering the practical knowledge.

We are convinced that a small local government's commitment can make a difference and will lead to a more open approach towards citizens. A dialogue series with government experts and the publications of the research, a helping committee and a set of training courses are planned to give a boost to these achievements. Country committed citizens and the government with trainings and research findings, that not only fiscal transparency is possible at the local level, will empower local groups to initiate change in local practice of public data regulations, and government agencies, to make commitments to fine tune central regulations.

We already have some of our ideas accepted among Hungary's planned 2015-2017 OGP action plan commitments, on how to change the regulations and how to publish different types of public data.

INITIATIVE SUSTAINABILITY (required)

In 200 words or less, please describe any plans for scaling up or sustaining the initiative. Base your description of the strategy on the information provided in the previous sections, such as how you intend to leverage your current success and increase your reach or capacity. Address any threats or operational challenges to your initiative and describe how you manage those risks on a regular basis.

Sustainability is a crucial element of the initiative. Due the strong local political support and the re-election of the current mayor of Pázmánd until 2019, the short and mid-term sustainability of the initiative is assured.

The open and inclusive working method of the local government provides a greater trust and shows evidence-based advantages of openness in personal level. Increasing local government population (3,1% within 5 years), growing tax incomes (almost 60% within 5 years), and over-the-average, strong participation in elections (local: 53% in 2014, votes for the mayor: 68,8% in 2014) are promising feedback for openness and sustainability.

Additionally, Pázmánd's working method and the "Glass Village Project" became a case study used by the National University of Public Service and researched by public administration experts as well. This well-founded and data-proved project can change decision-makers' attitude and enhance local government's commitment to improve public services.

VALIDATION OF CLAIMS (required)

While it is strongly encouraged that each initiative includes an implementing partner, such as a Civil Society Organization, private sector agency, media entity, etc., it is not a requirement. However, you are required to secure and upload documents from at least two credible nongovernmental actors, who can attest to the veracity of the claims made in your application.

You are only allowed to upload one file. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

Letters of validation.pdf

C. THE PITCH

The following information allows each applicant to make their strongest (and final) case for consideration.

BEST CASE (required)

In 250 words or less, please present the most compelling facts for why your initiative should be recognized. This is an opportunity to distinguish your initiative, based on any factors that you have not had the opportunity to describe in the previous sections. What is your best argument for why your initiative has achieved a meaningful outcome? What elements of the initiative make it different and better than others that have been tried and tested? Be creative and concise.

Empowering citizens – in many aspects, Pázmánd is an innovator and forerunner among local governments in Hungary. The local government tries to do the most possible for the future generations: playing corner was established in the local government's office, children's swimming is free and financed by the local government. One of the first earthship community building, a playground from used car tires was established here and a small off-grid community (represented by the Mesefalu Association <http://offgrid.blog.hu/>, also verifier or the claim) is an integral part of the village, where the mayor, one vice-mayor and the notary are female.

Increasing local government population (3,1% within 5 years), growing tax incomes (almost 60% within 5 years), and over-the-average, strong participation in elections (local: 53% in 2014, votes for the mayor: 68,8% in 2014) are promising feedback for openness and sustainability.

For better local governments and better public services, access to information is a crucial element. It allows facts-based debates on local issues, well-founded local policies, builds trust, leads to accountability and creates the culture of openness.

Thus Glass Village Project is not only a local project – it is a model, how a community can use their possibilities and set an example for the whole society.

VIDEO SUBMISSION or ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS (optional*)

OGP does not offer a venue for applicants to meet our judges during the application process. In order to provide the opportunity for making a personal connection, you are encouraged to upload a short video to complement your application. You may also depict an individual participant in your initiative and describe his or her experience. We do not need to know actual names or personal details. Take this opportunity to tell a story, to connect with our panel of experts, so that they might better understand your attention to specific needs.

Video submissions should follow these guidelines:

Maximum length of 3-4 minutes.

Please focus on personal presentations; it's not necessary to develop a sophisticated or polished video.

Here are some logistical and technical suggestions:

Video cameras, digital cameras, and phones are easy ways to record a video.

Laptop and desktop computers can typically record video through Skype or other software.

If possible, set to a low resolution to reduce file size. This will enable an easier video uploading process. If you are having difficulty uploading the video file, try logging out of the application and logging back in using another internet browser.

Here are general suggestions for delivering a high-quality video pitch:

Introduce yourself and your initiative. Focus on describing your intended benefits and/or services and how they have been effective. What is unique about your initiative, partners, or technical approach? Keep your description and language simple.

Facts on Pázmánd.docx

Full Submission Of non-Latin Based Native Language

If your language is Latin based, DO NOT use this upload field. Please use the application above.

You are only allowed to upload one file with an extension of .PDF

Facts on Pázmánd.docx

* NOTE

If the burden of developing a video presentation is either prohibitive or might not reflect the best characterization of your initiative, then you are not required to submit one, and the judges are instructed not to discount your application because it may not include a video. You may upload additional documents instead, such as proof of implementation and results if you wish. This could take the form of evaluation or audit reports, citizen surveys, media reports etc. that would provide additional validation for judges. We hope that this option offers a new and inventive way in which you can best express the results of your work.

You are only allowed to upload one file with a maximum of 3 pages. This file must be in English or in your native language. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

Facts on Pázmánd.docx