

#1 Commitment: Accountability via Mandate Plans (Govt. Program)

Start date and end of the commitment: 1st September, 2018 - 31st August, 2020

Lead implementing agency/actor

Basque Government (Open Government Directorate) & Bizkaia Provincial Council (Observatory Directorate)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

There is no Basque standard on how to be accountable in the Basque Country. Neither in relation to the level of information to be managed, nor on the participatory methodology to be used in this accountability standard. In addition, the culture of being accountable to citizens is not fully established among the institutions; Town Councils, Provincial Councils and Government have opted for their own formats, sometimes excessively formal, or, in the worst cases, not publishing accountability information in an accessible and simple manner.

Citizens do not have the same ways of receiving explanations from various institutions about compliance degree of commitments made when taking office, because there are no shared criteria on the scope and structure of mandate or governments plans.

There is no adequate integration of the budgetary vision and the planning. We need a better integration of budget periods (annual) and mandate terms planning (4 years). This is an obstacle to be removed for a more conscious and informed citizen participation in public issues and political initiatives.

<p>What is the commitment?</p>	<p>Listening to the needs highlighted by citizens in the field of accountability, this commitment will aim to simplification, concretion, transparency and the use of a short list of indicators that must be agreed, comparable, consistent and accessible.</p> <p>Establishing the use of a document or platform such as the Government Program or the Mandate Plan, allowing to present an exhaustive list of objectives and the specific actions for developing them. This commitment involves planning and evaluation, as well as political drive and the involvement of civil servants. In addition, if it is developed in a collaborative manner between institutions and citizens, it should prioritize its presentation in a visual and accessible format, and collect any queries from the public about the progress of projects.</p> <p>Carrying out a preliminary educational campaign on the practice of public explanations and efficient communication of the results of what has been done, what has not been done, and justifications to diverse interested public audiences (officials, stakeholders, users of public services, etc.) The commitment also involves agreeing on a common structure for information to be published in these Government Plans, whether it concerns small town halls, county seats, capitals, provincial councils or the government itself. And it must allow for its implementation in successive phases, so that those with fewer resources and less experience can move forward towards the most ambitious scenario.</p> <p>It also involves the definition of a participatory methodology that facilitates this accountability, both in digital format as well as in face-to-face scenarios, thus advancing towards a more complete model of social auditing, promoting the participation of citizens beyond networks of associations and stakeholders.</p>
<p>How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?</p>	<p>Establishing the practice of accountability through mandate plans and citizen collaboration in their monitoring and evaluation, seeks to achieve a more participatory citizenship in public affairs. In addition, it is intended to advance co-responsibility via more direct knowledge of what public management entails, which can lead to a qualitative improvement in the proposals and assessments given by citizens. This pursues a paradigm shift, from "presumption of good management" to "curiosity to find out more".</p> <p>Standardising the information to be disseminated will also help to bring greater credibility, being comparable between territories and municipalities, and empowering citizens towards a more informed participation.</p> <p>It will also try to rationalize the evaluation processes, digitizing the information as much as possible. It will offer a shared but flexible methodology, and tools that will allow advancement in this matter to different administrative levels, regardless of their size, experience and resources</p>
<p>Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?</p>	<p>It aims to establish a mechanism to demand from people with political responsibility or a public function that they be accountable for their public actions, a value promoted by the OGP.</p>

OPEN GOVERNMENT ACTION PLAN 2018 -2020 EUSKADI BASQUE COUNTRY- CITIZEN VERSION COMMITMENT SHEETS

Additional information (resources, budget)	External Resources:	External and Internal:	Internal Resources:
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable	Start date:	End Date:	State: (not started/ started/ underway/ completed)
1. Conformation of the inter-institutional working group and the #1 Commitment working group	SEPTEMBER 2018	OCTOBER 2018	COMPLETED
2. Agreeing on principles of accountability. Mandate/Government Plans.	OCTOBER 2018	JANUARY 2019	STARTED
3. Agreeing on follow-up mechanisms for Mandate/Government Plans.	NOVEMBER 2018	FEBRUARY 2019	NOT STARTED
4. Preparing a protocol of methodological guidelines and a toolbox for the implementation of participatory social audit spaces and mechanisms.	DECEMBER 2018	MARCH 2019	NOT STARTED
5. Functional definition of the open platform.	FEBRUARY 2019	APRIL 2019	NOT STARTED
6. Key participation and communication. Periodic publication scheme and formats for communication.	JANUARY 2019	APRIL 2019	NOT STARTED
7. Implementation of pilot sample.	JULY 2019	DECEMBER 2019	NOT STARTED
8. Pilot Evaluation	APRIL 2020	JUNE 2020	NOT STARTED

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How we will know we are doing well with the commitment	How will we know later what has worked	Indicator	Objective value:
Definition of the accountability model via a document-guide.	Level of implementation	Number of institutions that use the document to implement a process of for accountability	9
Definition of common informational structure for the definition of mandate or strategy plans	Degree of implementation	Number of institutions that use this common informational structure for their mandate or strategy plans	9
Agenda 2030. Perspective of gender, youth and children, environmental...	Level of satisfaction (from groups with barriers to participation)	Rating on a 1 to 5 scale of the informational tools and visualisation of the plans.	3
	Level of participation	Assessment on a 1 to 5 scale of the participation-audit processes.	3
		Percentage of underrepresented people who take part in the CR processes (per collective)	60%
Beta of application or open platform	Collaboration and alliances with other governments for experimentation and testing		1
Participants and level of satisfaction	Degree of satisfaction with the process by participating institutions and people	Evaluation of the process on a 1 to 5 scale of policy makers	3
		Assessment of the process on a 1 to 5 scale of the people and entities participating in the pilot.	3
Implementation of a pilot in a municipality not a member of the group promoting the project			1

Contact Information

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Entities and people participating

Other Actors Involved, State actors involved, Other Institutions	Basque Government Bizkaia Provincial Council	City Council of Bilbao City Council of Erandio City Council of Getxo	EUDEL (Basque Municipalities Association)
People and entities from civil society or private sector	Innobasque (Basque Innovation Agency)	Basque Youth Council	Bilbao Women's Council
Working group (CSOs, private sector, multi-laterals...)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basque Government Open Government Directorate 2. Bizkaia Provincial Council (Bizkaia Observatory Directorate) 3. City Council of Bilbao 4. EUDEL 5. City Council of Erandio 6. City Council of Getxo 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Arantza Otaolea (Bilbao Women's Council) 8. José Antonio Díez Alday (Citizen) 9. Laura Vizcaino (Citizen) 10. Andoni Lastra (Citizen) 11. Maialen Olabe (Basque Youth Council) 12. Mikel Barturen (Sareen Sarea, Social third sector entity) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Antxon Gallego (Participation Consultant) 14. Teresa Hormaeche (Consultant) 15. Paul Gurmendi (Participation-related ICT developer) 16. Eneko Agirre (Participatory Web-site Founder) 17. Goizalde Atxutegi (Innobasque head of project)