



Republika e Kosovës

Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo

Kuvendi - Skupština - Assembly

Forum for Parliamentary Transparency

OPEN PARLIAMENT ACTION PLAN

2023-2026



December 2022



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ACTION PLAN
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GLAUK KONJUFCA

Speaker, Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo

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Since the adoption of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness in 2015, when the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency was founded, the Assembly of Kosovo has undertaken concrete activities and measures in order to increase parliamentary transparency. The first Open Parliament Action Plan 2016 - 2020 has been successfully completed despite the lack of political stability.

The drafting of the second Open Parliament Action Plan 2023-2026 by the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency according to the principles of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), even though Kosovo is not a member yet, proves our institutional commitment to promote the culture of transparency and increasing accountability through new technologies adapting to the context in which we are living.

This plan presents a strategic approach to the parliamentary openness, fulfilling the openness requirements derived from the Rules of Procedure, the Strategic Plan of the Assembly and other acts.

What makes this plan more special is the comprehensive process of public consultations with all stakeholders which preceded its drafting. Moreover, this document reflects the consensus of all parliamentary political parties, which through their representatives in the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency have given their contribution and support. This broad compliance not only at the political level but also beyond it is a prerequisite for the fulfillment of the strategic objectives defined in this plan.

With the full implementation of the measures foreseen in this plan, we aim to rank the institution of the Assembly as a leader at the regional level in terms of parliamentary transparency. Through this four-year plan, the Assembly of Kosovo will implement global practices for the widest possible inclusion of all groups of society in accessing parliamentary information, as a fundamental right for all citizens without discrimination, through which active participation is enabled in decision making. It will also promote a constructive dialogue and partnership with citizens, civil society and the media for inclusion in parliamentary processes and to improve their approach to the work of the Assembly.

In order to increase accountability, we will draft a new Code of Ethics for MPs, which for the first time will create a parliamentary mechanism that will guarantee the implementation of the Code for dealing with violations of the principles and norms of parliamentary ethics. This is essential for increasing the level of political accountability and public trust in the work of the Assembly.

With all the progress made so far in the advancement of information technology and the digitalization process in general, through this plan the process of digitalization of the services offered by the Assembly will be dynamized, in order to facilitate the interaction with the Assembly and the elected representatives.

The Assembly of Kosovo is committed to working with all its human, financial and infrastructural resources to continue the positive trend of increasing transparency and strengthening accountability, digitization and inclusiveness by applying the best international practices in the field of parliamentary openness. The successful implementation of this plan will be easily achievable with the effective partnership of the Assembly with citizens, civil society organizations, international organizations and the media.



ARBËRESHË KRYEZIU-HYENI

Chairwoman, Forum for Parliamentary Transparency

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Transparency is a big step towards democracy. The opening of the Assembly to the public is democracy itself. This as such has been addressed by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo itself, which in 2015 founded the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency.

This Forum consists of an MP from each political entity, a representative from the partner organizations of the Assembly

that cover the field of democracy, representatives of the administration of the Assembly and is supported by NDI in Kosovo.

As the president of the Forum, throughout this period of time, I have witnessed an extraordinary work done by each member of the Forum and beyond, to make the highest institution in the country, that is, the Assembly, as accountable, as transparent and as accessible as possible.

A multitude of activities carried out both inside and outside the Assembly, numerous conversations with students and citizens, debates in municipalities about their current events, knowledge quizzes for primary school students, our representations in international organizations, have been an excellent testimony of what needs to be done and what we want to change.

We have put all our experience and expertise into the Open Parliament Action Plan 2023-2026, in the final version of which you are holding in your hands after a long and intensive work. All the objectives and measures foreseen in this plan have been drawn up based on the principles of OGP - Open Government Partnership, while being part of this great world organization has been and continues to be our aim and goal.

In an analysis done recently, the Assembly of Kosovo, was ranked as the second most transparent institution in the region. We intend to be the first and this will definitely happen, if we continue to intensify what has been done so far. The widest involvement of society groups in the access to parliamentary information, made them to be active in decision-making. Being an active decision maker requires accountability and responsibility. Being accountable and responsible made us transparent.

Being transparent and building an institution that respects and promotes transparency is what we are seeking and promoting.

Together, while moving in the right direction, we will make it possible.

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INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the Open Parliament Action Plan (Action Plan) for the period 2023-2026, which is based on the Global Declaration for Parliamentary Openness (DPO) endorsed by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo (Assembly) in May 2015, as well as on the assessment of the first Action Plan for an Open and Transparent Assembly 2016-2020. The new Action Plan also seeks to promote democratic values and standards as defined by the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which aim to promote inclusive and transparent parliamentary processes.

The Assembly has achieved measurable progress in terms of parliamentary transparency, implementing global practices for broader inclusion and partnership of citizens and the civil society in its work. Thus, in 2019, the Assembly was ranked second most transparent in the region, according to the regional research of Open Data Kosovo.

Through the development and implementation of the Plan, the Assembly aims to undertake measures that will gradually contribute to reaching globally recognized parliamentary transparency principles and standards. The Plan will serve as a roadmap for the Assembly to promote transparency and ensure easier and timely access to information regarding its work, to enhance communication and accountability towards citizens, as well as enhancing the information technology to increase the engagement between citizens and the Assembly.

The Action Plan was developed by the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency (Forum) through several working sessions attended by members of parliament (MPs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and senior officials of the Assembly administration. Additionally, the Forum organized roundtable discussions and consultations with representatives of CSOs and the media, to garner their input on further improving parliamentary openness. During the development phase, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) supported the Forum by facilitating information sessions with OGP experts, as well as exchange opportunities with global, European and Western Balkan countries aiming to inform and familiarize the Forum members with other Parliaments' practices in developing action plans.

Prior to starting the drafting of this plan, a working group within the Forum conducted an assessment of the implementation of the first action plan of the Assembly, which served as the basis for the development of the Action Plan 2023-2026. The Action Plan defines specific objectives to be achieved, concrete measures to be taken by the Assembly, indicators, deadlines, responsible directorates and partner organizations of the Assembly.

This Action Plan, approved by the Forum on November 29th, 2022, will be part of a long-term Strategic Plan of the Assembly, out of which the annual plans will derive and budgetary implications will be determined. The Forum will ensure that all budgetary implications will be reflected in the Assembly's budget for coming years and will oversee the implementation of the Action Plan. Through the implementation of the measures, the Assembly aims to become a leader in the region in terms of parliamentary transparency. The progress made so far will serve as a catalyst for the Forum to intensify its efforts for Assembly's membership to the parliamentary transparency working group within the OGP.

PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS

In 2015, the Assembly of Kosovo endorsed the Global Declaration for Parliamentary Openness, which includes objectives and indicators that serve as guidelines on what parliaments should promote and endorse to develop and strengthen parliamentary transparency, in line with the global objectives for open government. At the same time, the Assembly established the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency (Forum) consisting of MPs, Assembly's administration staff and the civil society representatives as an advisory body to the presidency, tasked to develop action plans for parliamentary openness and transparency. The Forum, supported by NDI, developed and implemented the first Action Plan for an Open and Transparent Assembly (2016-2020). This plan provided 22 concrete measures based on the four main pillars: access to parliamentary information, participation of citizens and civil society in the work of the Assembly, accountability and enhancing information technology.

The first Action Plan 2016-2020 was approved by the Assembly in 2016, as one of the first documents outlining the main commitments of the Assembly to promote the open parliament principles. The implementation of the Action Plan, co-created with CSOs, enabled access for citizens to public information and documents, as well as to interact with MPs through visits to the Assembly's premises, marking "International Day of Democracy", "Town hall meetings", "Assembly Open Days", "Democracy Workshops - Demos-Ti", "Assembly for Children" platform, developed and piloted the civic education program with "Teachers Academy", "Face-to-face with MPs" etc.

Furthermore, it contributed to improving the cooperation with the media in practical aspects by providing members of the media physical access to the Assembly and information, as well as in terms of regulatory framework by endorsing the new Regulation for the Access of Media and the Public in the Assembly's business, as well as the Information and Communication Strategy, which included the civic education program. Moreover, with the development and advancement of information technology, the Assembly redesigned its website, offering more alternatives to inform citizens on parliamentary activities and easier engagement between MPs and citizens, such as the Legislative Tracking System, MP Profiles, etc.

In addition, the Assembly created its official Facebook page, as a new way of directly informing the public on parliamentary work and activities.

Although notable progress has been achieved in introducing and encouraging parliamentary transparency, the assessment of the previous Action Plan indicates that the increase in transparency did not necessarily lead to a significant improvement in accountability. Furthermore, measures implemented by the Assembly are not known as much by the public, which requires a more proactive approach to promote its work.

ACCESS TO PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

1.1 Publication of information and documents of the bodies of the Assembly, Presidency, and Parliamentary Committees				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate of Information Technology		<input type="checkbox"/> National Democratic Institute (NDI) <input type="checkbox"/> UNDP		
Current situation:	<p>The Assembly provides data on the composition of the Presidency and a brief description of its work. It also publishes the minutes of the meetings of the Presidency, which include decisions and conclusions. Moreover, in its website, the Assembly provides data on its daily or weekly agenda, information regarding the list of parliamentary committees, their composition and meetings; however, it doesn't publish annual committee plans, annual reports and monitoring reports of implementation of laws, under the Assembly oversight function. The Assembly has made progress in inclusiveness, offering interpretation of plenary sessions in sign language. It does not, however, provide documentation or information for blind people in Braille. The Assembly has also developed and operationalized the Legislative Tracking System, where citizens have the opportunity to be actively involved in the law-making process, and has granted access to its social media, such as Facebook, and launched electronic profiles for MPs. Also, in 2019, the Assembly approved the Strategy for Information and Communication 2019-2021, which provided the measures that the Assembly had to undertake regarding public information, communication through social platforms, including "YouTube" and television, and updating its website.</p>			
Main objective:	<p>Providing information on the work of the Assembly, with the aim of promoting parliamentary transparency and improving citizen engagement in parliamentary processes.</p>			
Alignment with OGP values:	<i>Access to information</i>	<i>Civic participation</i>	<i>Accountability</i>	<i>Technology and Innovation</i>
	✓	☐	✓	✓

Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Publication of the calendar and program of Assembly work sessions. ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Publications on the website and social networks of the Assembly, in the official languages;	January 2023	July 2023
Selection and preparation of Assembly information and documentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Publication of all acts adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo; <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of Committee's annual plans and reports; <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of committee work reports; <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of monitoring reports of implementation of laws; <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of reports from official visits.	January 2023	December 2023
Development of infographics and visualizations of parliamentary information and documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Publications on the Assembly's website and social media;	January 2023	December 2023
Creation of a section on the Assembly's website for the publication of reports of independent agencies links	<input type="checkbox"/> Publication of the links of the reports of independent agencies established by the Assembly. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of links to independent agency reports with relevant descriptions: title, date, name of independent agency, etc.	January 2023	December 2023
Preparation of Assembly documents in Braille	<input type="checkbox"/> Publication of public documents in Braille.	January 2023	December 2025

¹ Regulation of the Assembly, Article 19 p. 2.2 and p. 2.3.

1.2 Implementation of the Law on Access to Public Documents			
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency		
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations		<input type="checkbox"/> Democracy Plus (D+)	
Current situation:	<p>The Assembly has adopted Law No. 06/l-081 on Access to Public Documents, according to which public institutions are obliged to proactively publish any public document produced, received, kept or controlled, in an electronic form, through publication on the official website of public institutions, regardless of the person's request for access. On the other hand, with the approval of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness in 2015, the Assembly has pledged to ensure that Assembly's information is publicly available, and as complete as possible, for all activities, subject only to narrow and clearly defined exceptions. In this regard, the Assembly has assigned a person responsible for handling requests for access to public documents, to whom citizens send the standard access form. Currently, the Assembly drafts an annual report on access to public documents, which is then submitted to the Information and Privacy Agency.</p>		
Main objective:	Implementation of the Law on Access to Public Documents, with the aim of increasing parliamentary transparency and accountability.		
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Technology and Innovation
	✓	□	□
Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Implementation of the Law on Access to Public Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Responding to requests for access to public documents in line with the law; <input type="checkbox"/> Drafting of periodic reports by the person responsible for access to public documents; <input type="checkbox"/> Publications of the report of requests for access to public documents on periodic bases;	January 2023	May 2023

	<input type="checkbox"/> Development and publication of data through infographics;		
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1.3 Publication of documents in open formats ²				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency			
Directorate / Person in charge:	Partners:			
<input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate of Information Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Open Data Kosovo (ODK)			
Current situation:	<p>The publication of the register of votes of MPs in plenary sessions, and the publication of expenditures' reports, are among the greatest achievements in terms of transparency, but that should be further advanced through publication in open formats. A significant part of Assembly's public information/documents are only published in closed formats (PDF), making it difficult for citizens, researchers and civil society organizations to process such data, and issue reports or analyses. Therefore, the Assembly aims to publish all parliamentary information and documents on the official website in open formats (Microsoft Excel or Word). Publication of parliamentary information in open formats directly leads to an increased transparency and citizens' trust in public institutions. At the same time, downloading data directly from its source reduces the possibilities of misinformation and disinformation. In addition, parliamentary information should be compiled and released in an open structured format, such as structured XML, editable and open for users.</p>			
Main objective:	Providing the information on the website of the Assembly in open formats, for easy reuse and analysis by interested parties			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	✓	☐	✓	✓

² <http://opendatahandbook.org/guide/en/appendices/file-formats/>

Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Identifying documents that can be published in open and editable formats	<input type="checkbox"/> Listing the documents that should be published in open and editable formats;	January 2023	June 2023
Saving identified documents in open and editable formats	<input type="checkbox"/> Publication of documents in the relevant sections on the Assembly's website.	July 2023	December 2025

PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS, MEDIA, AND CSO'S IN THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY

2.1 Increased interaction between MPs and citizens				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs		<input type="checkbox"/> National Democratic Institute (NDI) <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Society Organizations		
Current situation:	<p>The Assembly of Kosovo has actively worked to include the civil society in policy-making and decision-making, and increasing the public participation in these processes. The Assembly, as the most open institution in Kosovo, is visited by around 8,000 citizens annually, either through spontaneous visits, or for the celebration of special days, as defined in the Assembly's schedule, such as: International Day of Democracy, Children's Day, International Day of Parliamentarism, Diaspora Days, etc. Most citizens only have the opportunity to meet an MP during election campaigns, and interaction is lacking, considering that Kosovo is a single electoral district, and that MPs lack offices in their municipalities. To this end, in the previous plan, in order to promote an open and inclusive Assembly, the Assembly developed the "Assembly Days" Program, holding 23 debates in different cities of Kosovo with the participation of 73 MPs and 2105 citizens. Such debates offer MPs the opportunity to explain and argue their positions in relation to public policies, legislation and other issues addressed in the Assembly and, on the other hand, citizens have the opportunity to communicate and express their concerns and demands to their elected representatives. However, the Assembly is yet to successfully create a periodic calendar and hold regular debates with citizens, which not only helps the Assembly to strengthen its legislative, oversight and representative function, but also contributes to a wider involvement of citizens in policy making and decision making. Therefore, the Assembly intends to continue its direct communication with the citizens through the "Days of the Assembly" Program.</p>			
Main objective:	Develop regular meetings with citizens in order to share information, promote transparency and increase credibility in the legislative institution.			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Conducting open debates between MPs and citizens in municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation and publication of information and posters on the Assembly's and Municipalities website and social networks, as well as on local and national media; <input type="checkbox"/> Participation of citizens in debates with MPs. 	January 2023	December 2026
Conducting meetings between MPs and students of different fields of study in public and private Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Participation of students in meetings with MPs. 	February 2023	December 2026

2.2 Facilitated access of CSOs to the work of the Assembly ³				
Responsible institution:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency 			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Society Organizations 		
Current situation:	<p>The Assembly has created a database of civil society organizations which includes information on the profile and area of expertise for each CSO to support the Assembly maintain continuous communication with them. However, this database needs systematic updating of CSO data. Some CSOs develop joint activities with Committees in monitoring implementation of laws and their reports are used by relevant committees. However, there is a small number of CSOs which cooperate with Committees in this regard.</p>			
Main objective:	<p>Advance the cooperation with CSOs, to enrich the work of the Assembly with their resources and expertise for an open and accountable Assembly.</p>			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	✓	✓	☐	✓

³ Strategic Plan of the Assembly, point 1.1

Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Operationalization and updating the database of CSOs monitoring the work of the Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of the CSO registration form; <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of the updated database on the website of the Assembly; 	January 2023	December 2026
Organizing the annual conference with CSOs for coordination on common objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of common topics for the following year; 	January 2023	December 2023
Organizing information sessions with CSO representatives in regard to the Assembly's work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Participation of representatives of new CSOs registered in the Assembly's database; 	September 2023	November 2023

2.3 Enhance the cooperation with the media in preserving the information integrity

Responsible institution:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency 		
Directorate / Person in charge:	Partners:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate of Information Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> National Democratic Institute (NDI) <input type="checkbox"/> Democracy Plus (D+) <input type="checkbox"/> Democracy for Development (D4D) <input type="checkbox"/> Other partner organizations 		
Current situation:	<p>The misuse of information to produce fake news or attack different individuals or groups for financial, material or even political gain is threatening democracy around the world, including Kosovo. Non-publication of parliamentary data in detail, or publication of partial information has, in some cases, caused the media to provide the public with inaccurate or misleading information, thus leading to lower citizens' trust in the Assembly and elected representatives. To minimize this phenomenon, the Assembly has undertaken several measures to cooperate with the media, providing space within the Assembly, offering access to data requested through requests to the focal point for access to public documents, etc.</p>		
Main objective:	<p>Improve cooperation between the Assembly and the media to ensure accurate public information on the work of the Assembly and maintain the integrity of the information coming out of the institution.</p>		

Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	✓	✓	☐	✓
Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:	
Creating new spaces for the media and enhancing the cooperation with them	☐ Creation of a corner/office for the media;	January 2023	December 2026	
Organizing information sessions, on periodic basis, on information integrity, combating fake news and disinformation, how to access parliamentary information needed for traditional and online media reporting	☐ Participation of media representatives in regular meetings and discussion sessions in the Assembly;	January 2023	December 2023	
Development and implementation of an educational and awareness-raising campaign on preserving the information integrity	☐ Conducting regular meetings with journalists to coordinate joint activities; ☐ Realization and distribution of the campaign in social networks and media;	January 2023	December 2026	

2.4 Advancement of the Civic Education Program	
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency
Directorate / Person in charge:	Partners:
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Austrian Parliament <input type="checkbox"/> National Democratic Institute (NDI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other partner organizations
Current situation:	<p>The Assembly has institutionalized the "Democracy Workshops /Demos-Ti", an international project supported for two years by the Austrian Foundation ERSTE and the Parliament of Austria, in partnership with the Assembly, which has thus far encouraged around 12 thousand students to learn more on active citizenship and democracy and develop media literacy and willingness to express free opinion. This project, now owned by the Assembly, continues to be implemented through half-day workshops, in which students of grades 5-9</p>

	<p>participate in the creation of interactive content on socially important topics, such as the importance of voting, separation of power, the role of MPs, active citizenship, the function of the media in a democracy etc. Also, as part of the workshops, students visit various areas of the Assembly, and publish magazines and produce videos with the knowledge gained about democracy. Also, with the support of NDI, the Assembly has piloted the civic education project, engaging 43 civic education teachers of middle schools in a series of presentations and training modules designed to expand knowledge about the meaning of democracy and the role of the Assembly in promoting good governance. As part of the Academy, teachers have organized 16 debates in their respective schools with MPs, offering students a unique opportunity to interact directly with elected representatives. As a follow-up activity, 35 student visits were organized in the premises of the Assembly, who also participated in democracy workshops to learn more about human rights, rule of law, free and fair elections, principles of good governance and the role of active citizenship in democracy. This pilot project resulted to be highly important and necessary for students and teachers, as it identified the need for information and education of students on the work of the Assembly, as well as the lack of adequate school books on the legislative institution. Additionally, the Assembly has created an educational corner for children on its website, which contains educational materials for students. However, this platform needs continuous enrichment. Therefore, the Assembly aims to offer various opportunities for students, including high schools and universities, to expand knowledge, as well as engagement at the Assembly's premises, at schools in different municipalities, but also digitally through the Assembly's website.</p>			
Main objective:	Informing and educating new generations about democracy and parliamentary processes, in order to promote a culture of active citizenship with youth participation.			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information ✓	Civic participation ✓	Accountability □	Technology and Innovation ✓
Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:	
Development of educational programs with schools and universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Development of annual programs; □ Securing the space at the Assembly to hold civic education activities; 	January 2023	May 2023	
Development of the "Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Young students participation in democracy workshops; 	January 2023	December 2026	

Workshops/Demos-Ti” Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Production of informative and educational materials; □ Development of the program for educating children on information integrity; 		
Organization of the Civic Education Teachers Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Participation of Civic Education teachers; 	September 2023	December 2026
Development and implementation of the “Face-to-face with MPs” program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Participation of young students in meetings with MPs; □ Young students visits at the Assembly; 	January 2023	December 2026
Development of educational activities in school premises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Young students participate in mock plenary sessions, committee meetings, public hearings, etc. 	September 2023	December 2026
Enrichment of "Assembly for Children” platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Development and publication of educational-informative materials for children; □ Development and publication of infographics and educational-informative videos for children; □ Development and publication of guides for teachers about the organization of classroom activities; 	February 2023	December 2026

2.5 Ease of access and physical participation of persons with disabilities ^{4,5}				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Technical Services <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations		<input type="checkbox"/> HANDIKOS <input type="checkbox"/> UNDP <input type="checkbox"/> Other partner organizations		
Current situation:	<p>During the implementation of the first Action Plan, the Assembly has taken concrete steps regarding the inclusion of persons with disabilities. In addition to providing interpretation of plenary sessions in sign language, it has also established the basic infrastructure for people with disabilities, for access to the plenary session. However, in the building of the Assembly, persons with disabilities have difficulties accessing other facilities, such as: toilets, meeting rooms of the Assembly's bodies, the library etc.</p>			
Main objective:	<p>Improve physical access for persons with disabilities in the premises of the Assembly, to ensure inclusiveness in the parliamentary processes.</p>			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities	Indicators		Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Assessment of the current state of the infrastructure in all sections of the Assembly building	<input type="checkbox"/> Drafting of the assessment report on the current state;		January 2023	December 2023
Improve the necessary infrastructure for persons with disabilities in the premises of the Assembly	<input type="checkbox"/> Setting up the necessary infrastructure within the Assembly building;		January 2023	December 2025

⁴United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006, page 5.

https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/crpd_albanian.pdf

⁵ Law No. 03/L-019 of the Republic of Kosovo on law on vocational ability, rehabilitation and employment of people with disabilities, 2009, page 1. <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=2620>

2.6 Library and archives accessible for scholars and researchers of parliamentary documentation				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Research, Library and Archive <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate of Information Technology		<input type="checkbox"/> National Democratic Institute (NDI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other partner organizations		
Current situation:	<p>The Assembly's library and archives are open, upon the request of interested parties. Interested parties may search and obtain information available to the archives and library Archives of news and information on MPs is functional, with the exception of minutes, which are not easily accessible. Currently, the library has an inappropriate location for the readers, insufficient space and is difficult to access, and must be enriched with books and e-books. The Assembly has initiated the archive digitization project and around 8,000 files with more than 50,000 pages have been digitized to date. Digitization is being carried out for all archival materials dating back to 2001. Audio/Video recordings are stored in the archive of the Assembly and simultaneously broadcast live on the Assembly's official website and YouTube channel. All recordings from 2018 can be viewed on YouTube with easy access by users.</p>			
Main objective:	Complete digitization of the archive and library, and enabling online access for citizens to the content.			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	✓	✓	☐	✓
Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:	
Establishment of a working group for assessment of the current situation	<input type="checkbox"/> Drafting of the assessment report on the current state of the library;	January 2023	February 2023	
Updating the library with necessary materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Increasing the number of materials available to library users;	January 2024	December 2026	
Finalization of the digitization process of the Assembly's archive	<input type="checkbox"/> Publishing the digital archive link on the Assembly's website;	January 2024	December 2026	

2.7 Expanding and enhancing the visitor center in the Assembly				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Technical Services <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations		<input type="checkbox"/> National Democratic Institute (NDI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other partner organizations		
Current situation:	<p>In September 2012, the Visitors' Center was opened for the first time. Since then, the Assembly of Kosovo was visited by thousands of visitors of various ages and ethnicities, from inside and outside of Kosovo. Given the increasing trend of the number of interested people to visit the Assembly, there is a need to expand and further enhance the visitor's center. The expansion of the center will allow for the development of new activities and enable mock plenary sessions with primary and secondary schools young students, which will also provide a unique experience, through a practical application of the work of assembly functions. The Assembly, as the most open institution in Kosovo, is visited by around 12 thousand citizens annually, either through spontaneous visits, or for the celebration of special days, as defined in the Assembly schedule, such as: International Day of Democracy, Children's Day, International Day of Parliamentarism, Diaspora Days, etc.</p>			
Main objective:	Further development of the Visitor Center and enriching it with new content for visitors.			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	✓	✓	☐	☐
Activities	Indicators		Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Conceptual design for the expansion of the Visitor Center.	<input type="checkbox"/> Space available for citizens, media, MPs, etc.;		January 2024	December 2026
Preparation of educational-informational programs on the Assembly's work;	<input type="checkbox"/> Information about the history of the Assembly, activities, bodies, law-making process, ways to participate in meetings, public hearings, contacts of MPs and Assembly staff, brochures and leaflets		January 2024	December 2026

	designed for different groups of society;		
Reviewing and completing the program and calendar for organized groups of visitors.	<input type="checkbox"/> The calendar and program of activities published on the Assembly's website and social networks;	January 2023	January 2023

ENHANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

3.1 Developing the Code of Ethics				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Legislation, Mandates, Immunities, Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and Oversight of the Anti-Corruption Agency			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Research, Library and Archive <input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs		<input type="checkbox"/> National Democratic Institute (NDI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other partner organizations		
Current situation:	<p>In the previous plan, the drafting of the new Code of Ethics was not completed as it was expected after the approval of the new Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, as the Code of Conduct is an integral part of this regulation. This Code had clearly defined the rules of conduct for MPs, despite lacking a mechanism and a clearly defined process to handle cases dealing with violations of principles and norms of parliamentary ethics. The approval of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure has now opened the way for the drafting of the Code of Ethics, as the Assembly seeks to examine modalities for the creation of a mechanism to ensure adequate implementation of the code, in line with highest international standards.</p>			
Main objective:	Increased institutional integrity through the development and implementation of the Code of Ethics for the Assembly.			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:	
Research on regional and global best practices	<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of the report with the best practices of the Code of Ethics in the countries of the region and the world;	January 2023	February 2023	
Establishment of the working group for the drafting of the Code of Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> Holding regular working group meetings for the drafting of the Code of Ethics;	January 2023	June 2023	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Review of best regional and global practices and their adoption in the context of Kosovo, in line with the Assembly's Rules of Procedures; □ Drafting the framework of the Code of Ethics in line with the new Assembly's Rules of Procedure; 		
Meetings with interest groups for the drafting of the Code of Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Organization of round-tables and meetings to discuss the contents of the Code of Ethics; □ Review and inclusion of CSO comments and suggestions in the Code of Ethics; 	March 2023	June 2023
Approval and publication of the Code of Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Publications of the Code of Ethics on the Assembly's website and social media; □ Creation of the relevant space for the publication of monitoring reports of the Code of Ethics and the list of violations/offenders and the penalties issued; 	September 2023	December 2023
Monitoring of the implementation of the Code of Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Publication of the monitoring report on a periodic (biannual) basis; □ Publication of the list of violations and offenders of the Code of Ethics on the Assembly's website, including punitive measures issued against the offenders; 	January 2024	December 2026

3.2 Legal regulation of lobbying				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Legislation, Mandates, Immunities, Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, and Oversight of the Anti-Corruption Agency			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Research, Library and Archive		<input type="checkbox"/> Kosovo Democratic Institute (KDI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other partner organizations		
Current situation:	<p>Lobbying is a legal activity and an important part of the democratic process. In a democratic society, there is always a public interest in ensuring a transparent lobbying process with full integrity. Kosovo has yet to adopt such a law, while the forms of exercising influence on decision-making are unknown and take place in the absence of transparency and accountability, which also cast doubt in democratic processes and thus lead to a loss of citizens' trust in decision-making institutions.</p>			
Main objective:	Initiate legal regulation of lobbying in order to promote transparency of lobbying activities in the context of parliamentary processes.			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	✓	☐	✓	☐
Activities	Indicators		Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Assessment of the need for legislative regulation of lobbying.	<input type="checkbox"/> Parliamentary research on needs assessment for a law on lobbying in lawmaking; <input type="checkbox"/> Drafting of the evaluation report for the presidency of the Assembly.		March 2023	June 2023

3.3 Publication of periodic and annual detailed reports of the Assembly's expenses and of the budgetary and financial analysis			
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency		
Directorate / Person in charge:	Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Budget and Finance <input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate of Information Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Partner organizations		
Current situation:	<p>In accordance with the Declaration on Open Parliament, the Assembly publishes periodically, in an Excel format, general data of the Assembly's expenses, as well as the expenses of MPs' travels abroad. Although progress has been made with the implementation of measures envisaged in the first Action Plan, such as the placement of asset declarations of the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) on the MPs' profiles, and publication of the budget and periodic reports of expenses has begun, the Assembly aims to publish the reports in open formats, as well as offer detailed reports including official visit reports. It is also necessary that these financial reports are published with more detailed information for each MP, contributing to an increased transparency and accountability of the work of the Assembly and MPs.</p>		
Main objective:	Publication of detailed MPs and State budget expenses, including gender perspective, with the purpose of increasing parliamentary accountability.		
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Technology and Innovation
	✓	☐	✓
Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
To define the categories of expenditures for publication	<input type="checkbox"/> To develop the database based on expenditure categories;	January 2023	May 2023
Create a profile of MPs' expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Publication of expenditure reports on the website of the Assembly in open formats and their distribution on social networks;	May 2023	December 2026

Analyzing the State Budget and public expenses report on gender perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Preparation and publication of budget analysis for the annual State budget on gender perspective;□ Preparation and publication of budget analysis on the annual State budget expenses on gender perspective□ Preparation and publication of various infographics on public expenditure performance with a focus on gender impact;	October 2023	December 2026
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3.4 Updating the Manual for the organization of public hearings				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency <input type="checkbox"/> Parliamentary Committees			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for the Support of Parliamentary Committees <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations		<input type="checkbox"/> National Democratic Institute (NDI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other partner organizations		
Current situation:	In 2012, the Assembly, supported by NDI, drafted the manual for the organization of public hearings, which is still being implemented. However, with the approval of the new Rules of Procedure, there is a higher need to further amend this manual.			
Main objective:	Advanced practices of organizing public hearings to improve the legislative and oversight processes.			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information <input type="checkbox"/>	Civic participation ✓	Accountability ✓	Technology and Innovation <input type="checkbox"/>
Activities	Indicators		Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Draft the manual for public hearings	<input type="checkbox"/> Establish the working group; <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct working group meetings; <input type="checkbox"/> Update the manual;		March 2023	July 2023
Implement the manual in practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Organize information sessions with relevant staff and committee members;		March 2023	December 2026

DIGITIZATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

4.1 Digitization of business processes				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate of Information Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations		<input type="checkbox"/> Partner organizations		
Current situation:	<p>The Assembly has marked progress in the use of information technology in the period 2016-2020, fulfilling a significant number of the objectives set in the first Action Plan. During this period, the Assembly redesigned the website, making it more accessible and user-friendly, created a more organized information structure of the Assembly, and created an electronic system for tracking legislation. Thus, the Assembly has created a strong digital base to continue with the process of digitizing the Assembly's services and ease access to public information for users of the Assembly's website. However, there is still room to facilitate the use of the website and access to information by the public.</p>			
Main objective:	Digitize services offered by the Assembly, for an easier interaction of citizens with the elected representatives.			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	✓	□	□	✓
Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:	
Drafting of an administrative instruction on the use of the "E-parliament" platform and website	<input type="checkbox"/> Use of the platform by the administration of the Assembly;	June 2023	December 2026	
Optimizing the Assembly's website	<input type="checkbox"/> Integration of specific components of the "E-parliament" platform and the MP profiles' platform on the Assembly's website;	January 2023	December 2026	

4.2 Operationalization of the Profiles of MPs on the Assembly's website				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate of Information Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations		<input type="checkbox"/> National Democratic Institute (NDI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other partner organizations		
Current situation:	<p>The platform of MP Profiles was developed during the implementation of the first Action Plan but is not being used by MPs. Therefore, the Assembly will seek to hold information sessions with the MPs to inform them about the platform in question and provide the necessary know-how for the MPs to manage their own profiles. These profiles will serve as a real reflection of the MPs engagement during their mandate, serving as a Digital CV accessible to all citizens of Kosovo.</p>			
Main objective:	<p>Updating the profiles of MPs with information on their work and engagement as MPs, increasing their transparency and accountability to citizens.</p>			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓
Activities	Indicators		Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Updating and integrating the MP profile platform	<input type="checkbox"/> Updating profiles of MPs on the platform based on the current legislature;		January 2023	December 2023
Information sessions on the use of the platform	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizing information sessions with members of the current legislature on the use of the platform and managing and updating their profiles on the platform; <input type="checkbox"/> Drafting of the manual for the use and management of the platform for MPs;		January 2023	December 2023

4.3 Operationalization and promotion of the E-Participation platform				
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency			
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate of Information Technology		<input type="checkbox"/> Open Data Kosovo <input type="checkbox"/> Other partner organizations		
Current situation:	<p>The electronic platform for the involvement of citizens in policymaking and decision-making began its development during the implementation of the first Action Plan, but it is yet to be launched for public use. Given the high need for such a platform, the Assembly should increase its efforts to make the E-Participation Platform operational during the first year of the new action plan and promote it to the public through traditional and online media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube etc.) After the platform becomes operational, the Assembly prepares reports on the requests and concerns received from citizens on issues raised for discussion in the platform, which are then distributed to MPs to address in plenary sessions or parliamentary committees.</p>			
Main objective:	Operationalization of the electronic platform for citizen participation, providing citizens with an easier communication with their elected representatives.			
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information	Civic participation	Accountability	Technology and Innovation
	✓	✓	□	✓
Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:	
Finalization and launch of the “E-Participation” platform	<input type="checkbox"/> Use of the “E-Participation” Platform by the public; <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of the platform through online and traditional news media; <input type="checkbox"/> Training and informing MPs on the use of their profiles on the platform; <input type="checkbox"/> Drafting of annual reports on citizens’ demands and concerns;	January 2023	December 2026	

	<input type="checkbox"/> The number of requests/concerns addressed by MPs to assembly committees at the end of each year;		
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4.4 Enabling remote working of the Assembly during state emergency or extraordinary situations			
Responsible institution:	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary General <input type="checkbox"/> Forum for Parliamentary Transparency		
Directorate / Person in charge:		Partners:	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Directory for Legal and Procedural Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate of Information Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Directorate for Media and Public Relations		<input type="checkbox"/> Partner organizations	
Current situation:	<p>Remote working is not regulated in the Assembly, an issue identified during the COVID-19 pandemic. This issue has been addressed in the new Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, in Article 69, according to which plenary sessions and meetings of the Assembly's bodies can be held remotely in extraordinary or state emergency situations. To this end, the Assembly must start with the preparations of hardware and software requirements, allowing a smooth functioning of sessions and meetings of Assembly's bodies, and allowing a secure and identifiable voting of the MPs</p>		
Main objective:	<p>Provision of technological capabilities for assembly processes in order for plenary sessions and meetings of the Assembly's bodies to be held remotely.</p>		
Alignment with OGP values:	Access to information <input type="checkbox"/>	Civic participation <input type="checkbox"/>	Accountability <input type="checkbox"/>
			Technology and Innovation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Activities	Indicators	Start date:	Implemen. deadline:
Assessment of the current situation and conditions for remote working	<input type="checkbox"/> Drafting of the evaluation report and the needs for remote working for the Assembly of Kosovo;	January 2024	December 2024
Creation of software capabilities for holding plenary	<input type="checkbox"/> Determining the virtual platforms for video calls to be used by MPs to	January 2025	March 2026

sessions and meetings of the Assembly's bodies	<p>participate in plenary sessions and meetings of the Assembly's bodies, based on the evaluation report;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Purchase adequate subscriptions of designated platforms based on the evaluation report; □ Development of the platform for secure voting for MPs based on the needs emerging from the evaluation report; 		
Information sessions for MPs and the administration of the Assembly on the use of platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Drafting of guidelines for the use of platforms; □ Preparing and holding information sessions for MPs and Assembly staff at the beginning of each legislative term. 	April 2026	December 2026



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