**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**The Governments of Italy and Estonia to Co-host the Open Government Partnership Europe Regional Meeting in Rome**

On October 11-12, the Governments of Italy and Estonia will co-host the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Europe Regional Meeting in Rome. Coming at a critical time when democracy is under unprecedented threat from attacks both external, like Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and internal, such as plummeting citizens trust in government, the Europe Regional Meeting will bring together reformers who are renewing democracy in and out of governments to make them more transparent, inclusive, participatory and accountable.

During the opening plenary of the Europe Regional Meeting, the Government of Italy and Aidan Eyakuze (Twaweza) will hand over the leadership of the OGP Steering Committee to the Government of Estonia and Anabel Cruz (Institute for Communication and Development Uruguay) as the new Co-Chairs.

Among the 250 guests who have registered are ministers, hundreds of civil society leaders and influential reformers from the region. There will be keynote speeches, panels and workshops addressing the role of open government in crucial international issues like anti-corruption, digital innovation, and democratic participation.

The opening plenary will be live-streamed through OGP social media channels in English, Italian and Ukrainian on October 11. A provisional agenda is available [here](https://ogpeurope2022.sched.com/) and will be updated as the agenda is finalized.

**WHO**

* Paola Pisano, Adviser for Digital Economy and Technological Innovation, Government of Italy: [@PaolaPisano77](https://twitter.com/PaolaPisano77), [@GovernoItalia](https://twitter.com/GovernoItalia)
* Taimar Peterkop, Secretary of State, Government Office of Estonia, Government of Estonia: [@EstonianGovt](https://twitter.com/EstonianGovt)
* Paola Caporossi, Co-founder and ad honorem President, Fondazione Etica: [@paolacaporossi](https://twitter.com/paolacaporossi)
* Sanjay Pradhan, CEO, Open Government Partnership: [@SPradhanOGP](https://twitter.com/SPradhanOGP), [@opengovpart](https://twitter.com/opengovpart)
* Aidan Eyakuze, Executive Director, Twaweza, East Africa: [@aeyakuze](https://twitter.com/aeyakuze), [@Twaweza\_NiSisi](https://twitter.com/Twaweza_NiSisi)
* Anabel Cruz, Founder and Director of the Institute for Communication and Development in Uruguay: [@CruzAnabel](https://twitter.com/CruzAnabel) [@ICD\_Uruguay](https://twitter.com/ICD_Uruguay)

**WHEN**

October 11-12, 2022.

**WHERE**

Rome, Italy.

**ABOUT THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP**

In 2011, government leaders and civil society advocates came together to create a unique partnership—one that combines these powerful forces to promote accountable, responsive and inclusive governance.

Seventy-seven countries and a growing number of local governments—representing more than two billion people—along with thousands of civil society organizations are members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

**MAIN SESSIONS**

**October 11, 9:30 - 9:45 AM | Opening Remarks**

* Paola Pisano, Adviser for Digital Economy and Technological Innovation, Government of Italy: [@PaolaPisano77](https://twitter.com/PaolaPisano77), [@GovernoItalia](https://twitter.com/GovernoItalia)
* Taimar Peterkop, Secretary of State, Government Office of Estonia, Government of Estonia: [@EstonianGovt](https://twitter.com/EstonianGovt)
* Paola Caporossi, Co-founder and ad honorem President, Fondazione Etica: [@paolacaporossi](https://twitter.com/paolacaporossi)

**October 11, 9:45 - 10:00 AM | Keynote**

OGP’s CEO will deliver a keynote speech to frame the OGP Europe Regional Meeting discussions, focusing on regional context, and expectations and outputs of the meeting.

* Sanjay Pradhan, CEO, Open Government Partnership: [@SPradhanOGP](https://twitter.com/SPradhanOGP), [@opengovpart](https://twitter.com/opengovpart)

**October 11, 10:00 - 11:15 AM | Dialogue 1: Upholding Democratic Values Through Open Government**

Europe is home to more than two-thirds of the world’s liberal democracies, according to the V-Dem Institute's Democracy Report 2022. However, the same report found that democracy has weakened in all but a select few of these countries over the past ten years. While the causes are multi-faceted and often country-specific, the report also identified common threads including increasing polarization driven by online misinformation and disinformation, corporate secrecy shaped by the few and inaccessible to the many, and a widespread failure to meaningfully involve the public in decision-making.

During the same 10 years where democracy has been in decline globally, and in Europe, OGP has grown to include 77 national, 106 local members, and thousands of civil society organizations , collaborating to deliver almost 5000 open government reforms to date. Other mechanisms include the 2017 adoption of the OECD Recommendation on Open Government, which paved the way to a harmonized design and implementation of open government policies. This dialogue will explore whether and how open government mechanisms and reforms can rise to meet the major challenges to democratic values in Europe and beyond.

* Moderator: Jon Alexander, Director, New Citizenship Project: [@jonjalex](https://twitter.com/jonjalex), [@NewCitProj](https://twitter.com/NewCitProj)
* Zuzana Wienk, Director, OGP’s Steering Committee, Bystriny: [@ZuzanaWienk](https://twitter.com/ZuzanaWienk)

**October 11, 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM Dialogue 2: Upholding Democratic Values Through Open Government (Hand Over of the OGP Co-Chairs)**

Paola Pisano and Aidan Eyakuze will reflect on the discussions arising from the first dialogue on Upholding Democratic Values through Open Government, in the context of their Co-chair term of the OGP Steering Committee. Taimar Peterkop and Anabel Cruz will then chart a way forward for their upcoming Co-chair term, with a focus on the development of the new strategy for OGP, and the role of the Partnership in upholding democratic values.

* Moderator: Jon Alexander, Director, New Citizenship Project: [@jonjalex](https://twitter.com/jonjalex), [@NewCitProj](https://twitter.com/NewCitProj)
* Aidan Eyakuze, Executive Director, Twaweza, East Africa: [@aeyakuze](https://twitter.com/aeyakuze), [@Twaweza\_NiSisi](https://twitter.com/Twaweza_NiSisi)
* Taimar Peterkop, Secretary of State, Government Office of Estonia, Government of Estonia: [@EstonianGovt](https://twitter.com/EstonianGovt)
* Paola Pisano, Adviser for Digital Economy and Technological Innovation, Government of Italy: [@PaolaPisano77](https://twitter.com/PaolaPisano77), [@GovernoItalia](https://twitter.com/GovernoItalia)
* Anabel Cruz, Founder and Director of the Institute for Communication and Development in Uruguay: [@CruzAnabel](https://twitter.com/CruzAnabel) [@ICD\_Uruguay](https://twitter.com/ICD_Uruguay)

**October 11, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Open Government For Reconstruction And Recovery in Ukraine**

Despite the Russian war against Ukraine still raging on, the international community and Ukrainians themselves are actively planning reconstruction efforts. Trust among all stakeholders is crucial for a successful and efficient recovery. To achieve this level of trust, the reconstruction process should be developed in an open, transparent, and accountable manner, free from corruption, and in constant coordination among all the stakeholders. This dialogue will focus on how stakeholders are already using open governance practices in planning and recovery efforts, practical tools that are being developed to ensure accountability, and emerging coalitions supporting an open reconstruction and recovery.

* Moderator: Anastasiya Kozlovtseva, Program Officer, Eastern Partnership, Open Government Partnership: [@nastia\_kozlov](https://twitter.com/nastia_kozlov), [@opengovpart](https://twitter.com/opengovpart) #EU4Integrity
* Julda Kielyte, Team Leader, Socio-Economic & Fiscal Reforms, Support Group for Ukraine, European Commission: [@EU\_NEAR](https://twitter.com/eu_near), [@EU\_Commission](https://twitter.com/EU_Commission)
* Andrii Borovyk, Executive Director, Transparency International Ukraine (RISE UA coalition): [@Borovyk\_UA](https://twitter.com/Borovyk_UA), [@transparencyUA](https://twitter.com/transparencyUA), [@TI\_Ukraine\_eng](https://twitter.com/TI_Ukraine_eng), [@RISE\_Ukraine\_](https://twitter.com/RISE_Ukraine_)
* Viktor Nestulia, Head of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Open Contracting Partnership: [@nestulia](https://twitter.com/nestulia), [@OpenContracting](https://twitter.com/OpenContracting),
* Oleksandra Azarkhina, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure: [@minfrastructure](https://twitter.com/minfrastucture)
* Oleksandr Slobozhan, Executive Director, Association of Ukrainian Cities

**October 11, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM | How Can Open Government Help Tackle Disinformation?**

Events like the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine have demonstrated that the spread of disinformation threatens the free and fact-based exchange of information that underpins democracy and trust in public institutions.

Many open government reforms can help to promote a healthy information ecosystem, including promoting high standards of public discourse; strengthening the independence and transparency of news media, ensuring the transparency and accountability of social media platforms; and supporting fact-checking, civic education, citizen dialogue and other counters to disinformation. This session will explore these reforms and the opportunities and challenges of tackling disinformation.

* Alessandra De Marco, Director of Communication and Public Information, Government of Italy [@Palazzo\_Chigi](https://twitter.com/Palazzo_Chigi)
* Liana Doydoyan, FOI Expert, Freedom of Information Center of Armenia
* Asha Allen, Center for Democracy and Technology [@AshaOAllen](https://twitter.com/AshaOAllen) [@CDTEU](https://twitter.com/CDTEU)
* Holger Roonema, Eesti Ekspress [@holger\_r](https://twitter.com/holger_r)

**October 11, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM | Tackling Kleptocracy and Dark Money Through Open Government Tools**

Russia’s brutal full-scale invasion of Ukraine has led to the strong global reckoning of kleptocracy, with the European Union and the UK imposing targeted sanctions on Kremlin-linked corrupt oligarchs. However, denying safe haven to ill-gotten wealth requires more active transparency measures and coordinated multilateral efforts to trace, freeze and seize assets stored in European countries.

Beneficial ownership transparency has emerged as an important tool in the fight against illicit financial flows, corruption, and tax evasion, with more than 30 countries in OGP committing to reforms in this area. The panel will focus on using beneficial ownership registers in ending anonymous companies as vehicles for hiding dark money, and will identify current loopholes/challenges for effective seizure and return of ill-gotten assets.

* Ilya Lozovsky, Editor, OCCRP [@ichbinelya](http://@ichbinilya) [@OCCRP](https://twitter.com/OCCRP)
* Italo Borrello, Director, Financial Intelligence Unit Bank of Italy [@bancaditalia](https://twitter.com/bancaditalia)
* Andrej Leontiev, Managing Partner, Taylor Wessing [@TaylorWessing](https://twitter.com/TaylorWessing)
* Maira Martini, Knowledge Coordinator, Transparency International [@anticorruption](https://twitter.com/anticorruption)
* Nataliia Chernogub, GR Manager, YouControl Ukraine [@ItsYouControl](https://twitter.com/ItsYouControl)

*For more information about the agenda of the OGP Europe Regional Meeting, visit this* [*website*](https://ogpeurope2022.sched.com/event/19XtZ/how-can-open-government-tackle-disinformation)*.*

**OGP Co-Chairs**

* The Government of Italy (current)
* Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza (current)

Aidan Eyakuze is the Executive Director of Twaweza East Africa. Twaweza works to enable children to learn, citizens to exercise agency and governments to be more open and responsive in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

In May 2016, Aidan joined the OGP Steering Committee as a civil society member. Aidan is currently serving as the incoming civil society co-chair (2020-2021) and will be the lead civil society co-chair 2021-2022.

In June 2017, he was appointed to the Board of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD).

Before joining Twaweza, Aidan was Associate Regional Director of the Society for International Development (SID) and Head of the SID Tanzania office. He has 15 years of experience as a scenario practitioner, through participation in national scenario-building projects in Kenya (2000 & 2010), Tanzania (2003), South Africa (2004), Nigeria (2007) and East Africa (2005-2008). He co-lead the publication of the State of East Africa Reports and facilitated futures thinking for private sector, civil society and public organizations.

Aidan is an Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow and a Board Member of the African Leadership Institute (South Africa). He is also a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network (AGLN) and served on the Governing Board of the Millennium Challenge Account (Tanzania) until August 2014. He maintains a keen intellectual and professional interest in economic policy, financial markets and trends in information and communications technologies and their impact on society.

Aidan is the current Lead Co-Chair of the OGP Steering Committee, and member of the OGP Board of Directors.

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* Government of Estonia (incoming)
* Anabel Cruz, ICD Uruguay (incoming)

Anabel Cruz is originally from Uruguay and has three decades of experience in civil society promotion, research and training in various countries in Latin America, and in the regional and global context. She has been working for the respect of Human Rights and strengthening of democracy for a long time: she is the Founder Director of the Institute for Communication and Development (ICD) in Uruguay and has been a consultant and evaluator for international organizations, a trainer and facilitator and a visiting lecturer at universities in several countries. She has published several books on the topics of citizen participation, transparency and accountability, and her articles have appeared in journals and magazines in Latin America, the United States and Europe.

Anabel has a long working experience with local, national, regional and global CSO networks and platforms. For more than 20 years, she has worked extensively in mapping civil society initiatives and promoting transparency and accountability of civil society and other stakeholders, leading international research and coordinating the efforts of organizations to implement common standards, models for accountability mechanisms, compliance programs as well as spaces for reflection, exchange of information and training. Anabel is a referent in Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR); she has been the Board Chair of CIVICUS, the World Alliance for Citizen Participation in two different periods (2007-2010 and 2016-2019). She led the creation in 2009, and is since then the co-coordinator of Rendir Cuentas, a Regional Civil Society Accountability Initiative, currently gathering active CSO members and partners in 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Anabel is a Civil Society member and incoming Lead Co-Chair of the OGP Steering Committee.

**OGP Co-Chairs Priorities**

The Government of Italy and Aidan Eyakuze (Twaweza) are currently serving as Co-Chairs of the OGP Steering Committee. Their mandate will end in October, when they hand over their seats to incoming Co-Chairs Anabel Cruz (ICD Uruguay) and the government of Estonia at the opening plenary of the Regional Meeting.

The Government of Italy and Aidan Eyakuze's 2021-2022 agenda focuses on:

* **Incentivizing country-level action**. Mobilize political support to improve the enabling environment for civil society, strengthen inclusive participation, and undertake ambitious citizen-centric reforms at the country level
* **Leveraging global and regional fora.** Galvanize collective action, including across key global fora, to promote and advance open government reforms that directly benefit citizens' lives.
* **Leading OGP into its next decade.** Set up the Partnership for success through a strategy that responds to the most pressing global challenges.

More information on the [Co-Chairs’ Priorities](https://www.opengovpartnership.org/2021-2022-ogp-co-chair-agenda-government-of-italy-and-aidan-eyakuze/).

For information on the meeting program, you can consult the website www.open.gov.it

**PRESS ACCREDITATION**

The plenary session will be streamed live through the OGP's social channels and website in English, Italian and Ukrainian bit.ly/europe-22 and Open Government Partnership - YouTube

Journalists and photo-cine operators interested to follow the Plenary Session in presence have to send their request by mail to accreditamentostampa@esteri.it (tel. 06/3691-3432 or 8573) by 4.00 pm on October 10, enclosing the following documentation:

- ID document;

- Letter of assignment from the newspaper or, in the absence, a professional card;

- Nota Verbale of the Embassy in Rome of the country of the media represented (for representatives of foreign media).

**Media Representatives that have received confirmations of accreditation**  **will be able to access the Loyola Auditorium from the entrance located in Piazza della Pilotta 4 on October 13, from 8.40 am to 9.20 am.**