



València, March 14, 2022

Government Letter of Support: Call for new members to OGP Local 2022

Dear members of the Committee,

As president of the Generalitat and highest representative of our region, it is a pleasure to present the Comunitat Valenciana's candidacy to the Open Government Partnership local programme. Since the very beginning, the fundamental axes of our government action have been transparency, civic participation, the promotion of democratic quality and the prevention of fraud and corruption.

Therefore, this is for us a great opportunity both to reaffirm our commitment to the principles that guide our governmental activity and to express our desire to continue collaborating and sharing experiences with other territories.

The Comunitat Valenciana is an autonomous region located in the east of Spain, with over 5 million people. We hold historic national recognition and high levels of self-government, being characterised by plurality and diversity, and the cultural richness of having two official languages: Valencian, the language of the Valencian Community, and Spanish.

This candidacy for the OGP membership is not only a commitment of our government, but of the entire Valencian Community. Hence, we have a long history of collaboration with other institutions, such as the three provincial councils and the Valencian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces. Civil society is also part of this project, in addition to the direct involvement of the Valencian Youth Council, we keep permanent collaboration with public universities and various public and private entities.

The commitment of the Valencian Community to the principles and values of open government embodied in the Declaration of Open Government is solid. It is our conviction that open government is the best tool to guarantee the democratic quality and citizens' trust in institutions. This commitment has been reflected in a process of institutionalization and consolidation of the instruments of open government that already permeates valencian institutions, based on teams, alliances, and transversal collaboration at all levels. This stable and consolidated trajectory is reflected in the different facets of open government.



Transparency and open data: data and information, at the service of citizens

Transparency has been one of the hallmarks of this territory in recent years, and the recognition and guarantee of the right to know has been reflected both in laws and plans and in various projects.

Following the approval of the Transparency Law in 2015, we were the first autonomous region to approve regulations that have deployed transparency to the maximum. The backbone of the Generalitat Transparency Policies is the GVAOberta web portal, a tool that is increasingly useful and consulted by citizens. In the running of the website, we must highlight the creation of a new management system and response to requests for access to information that has allowed to speed up the processing and reduce the response time. And also, the initiative TEP – Transparency for Private Entities, a platform designed to facilitate that associations and small companies can publish their information and comply with their transparency obligations if they do not have the means to do so.

Our commitment towards public data availability is also maximum and has been reflected in the membership agreement to the International Charter of Open Data and the promotion of the Generalitat open data strategy. With this project, which has as its centre the open data web portal of the Generalitat, we want to develop a re-users' ecosystem based on dialogue with social agents and the promotion of innovation through initiatives such as Datathon, in collaboration with public universities; Data·Lab, an open data innovation laboratory; and a programme, Polis, to promote open data in education.

Integrity and accountability framework

Another aspect that we wanted to reinforce is the value of public ethics and the improvement of integrity standards. In addition to defining a good governance code, we have created a conflict-of-interest control office. In collaboration with Transparency International we also promoted a project to implement integrity agreements in public procurement and citizen auditing.

In the field of prevention and fight against corruption, the Generalitat has created a new body, the Valencian Anti-Fraud Agency, an independent entity attached to the regional parliament, which has become a reference in Spain. In addition, the General Inspectorate of Services has been reinforced as the main internal control body of the autonomous administration. Equipped with an innovative system of rapid alerts for the prevention and immediate detection of possible bad practices and risks of fraud or corruption, it has been recognized as a good practice by the European Commission.

Likewise, we have been heading the promotion of a regulation on the activity of lobbyists and groups of interest, very demanding in terms of accountability. In addition to monitoring the regulatory footprint of the activity of influencing public policies, the registry will account for the stakeholders' contacts with public officials, on equal terms and in a transparent manner since all the information will be accessible to the public.



Co-deciding public policies with citizens

Restoring citizens' voice has been a major objective of our government. Stimulating collaborative dynamics in the decisions and actions of public and private institutions and strengthening the associative network as a fundamental tool for citizens' active participation in the public sphere contributes to build a more democratic society.

The first participatory budget of the Generalitat, in 2021, was also a very positive experience. Its participation process has been developed with direct contribution from Valencian civil society entities, among which the Youth Valencian Council has been our main collaborator.

GVAParticipa portal is the tool we implemented to foster participatory governance. It allows to channel citizen initiatives, promote training in participation, and carry out participatory processes in the institutional field. Moreover, we are currently working on a new citizen participation law. The participation awards created last year are intended to recognize and highlight entities and civil society good practices both in social sphere and in education.

Alliances

Alliances with other actors and administrations are fundamental throughout this project. A good example is what we have called the Valencian Alliance for Open Government, a permanent framework of collaboration that includes provincial councils, the Valencian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces and the Generalitat, to share and coordinate public open government policies at the local level. Along with that, there's also the Municipal Participatory Governance Network to promote local governments participation good practices, and the commitment to Sustainable Development Goals through the Alliance of Cities for Sustainable Development, with the special collaboration of the Valencian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces in our strategy for the 2030 Agenda fulfilment.

We also have a consolidated collaboration network with the five Valencian public universities, working together for training, awareness raising and research in the field of transparency, integrity, participation, and open data.

Finally, we want to add that from the Valencian Community we have actively collaborated in the design of the IV Spanish Open Government Plan, acquiring commitments in the field of open data, participatory budgets, and institutional integrity. We also actively participate every year in initiatives such as the Open Government Week promoted by the OGP, and we are part of international alliances such as Open Data Charter.



If given the opportunity to become a member of OGP Local in the 2022 call, the Regional Ministry of Participation, Transparency, International Cooperation and Democratic Quality will be responsible for leading locally the OGP Local process and liaising with the OGP Support Unit. In addition, we commit to make available the necessary human, financial and technical resources to co-create, implement, and learn from ambitious commitments within the action plan.

Therefore, we see our participation in the Open Government Partnership's local programme as a great opportunity. It would be a great stimulus for launching new projects and to continue the construction of the plural, coherent, communicative, open and collaborative government model that our citizens desire.

I would like to sign off by expressing the hope that you consider the Comunitat Valenciana's candidacy for the Open Government Partnership local programme positively. Yours sincerely,

Ximo Puig