



**Câmara Municipal de Lisboa**  
Gabinete da Vereadora Joana Almeida

OGP Support Unit  
Mr. Rudi Borrmann,  
Deputy Director, OGP Local

Lisbon, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

**GOVERNMENT LETTER OF SUPPORT: CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS TO OGP LOCAL 2023**

Dear Sir,

As Lisbon City Councillor, I am delighted to support our application to join the Open Government Partnership's Local Programme as part of our continued commitment to enhancing transparency, efficiency, access to information, public participation, and public accountability in Lisbon Municipality.

Lisbon is Portugal's capital and largest city, with over 545,000 inhabitants, being a key hub in Lisbon Metropolitan Area. It is a resourceful city with a great history and heritage, alongside a special capacity for social and economic innovation. Just recently, Lisbon won the European Capital of Innovation award for 2023, an EU distinction that recognises cities with inclusive innovation ecosystems.

Setting a Municipal Transparency and Corruption Prevention Strategy is one of the key initiatives included in Lisbon Government Plan 2022-2026. Its primary objective is to enhance the transparency of Lisbon Municipality by addressing crucial aspects such as organizational culture, internal systems, and control and accountability mechanisms. The overarching aim of this strategy is to elevate the quality of public service, raise awareness, and foster the internalization of ethical principles in municipal activities. By doing so, we aspire to restore citizens' confidence in the reliability and quality of the services provided by the Lisbon City Council.

The design of this Strategy arises from a broad participatory process, which involved municipal workers, managers, councillors, and elected officials, as well as external experts and other stakeholders. The creation on July 5, 2023, of two new municipal departments - the Department of Transparency and Corruption Prevention and the Audit Department – are important milestones



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in the ongoing development of the Transparency and Corruption Prevention Strategy. The Strategy's Action Plan is presently available for public consultation and discussion.

Portugal joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) on December 13, 2017, and the Administrative Modernization Agency (AMA) is the focal point for the Portuguese participation in the OGP. Internationally, Portugal's commitment to Open Government is acknowledged, as reflected in the maximum scores achieved in the eligibility criteria for participation in the OGP, as well as in the implementation of a range of initiatives, including the promotion of open-source software and standards, the establishment of digital channels and digitally assisted methods as essential means of interaction between the State and its citizens, fostering diversity in public consultations, and engaging in participatory budgeting processes.

For Lisbon Municipality, joining OGP Local presents a significant opportunity to fortify and advance our Transparency and Corruption Prevention Strategy. Through this partnership, our goal is to harness internal learning, foster innovation, and actively involve civil society. Embracing the principles of OGP Local, we anticipate a heightened commitment to transparency and collaborative governance, reinforcing our dedication to the citizens of Lisbon. As the first Portuguese municipality to join OGP Local, Lisbon aspires to be a trailblazer in transparency and corruption prevention initiatives within the partnership.

Our distinctive approach is grounded in innovative strategies and a demonstrated commitment to open governance. Lisbon Municipality brings extensive experience in civic engagement, successful transparency initiatives, and a forward-looking vision for collaborative governance to the OGP Local community. By sharing our experiences and learning from others, we aim to contribute to the growth and effectiveness of the OGP Local network.

Lisbon City Council declares its intention to join OGP Local, acknowledging the significance of this international multilateral initiative in supporting government and civil society actions to promote transparency, strengthen democratic mechanisms and citizenship, and leverage information and communication technologies to enhance the relationship between the local authority and citizens.

Lisbon City Council possesses a robust capacity for co-creating and implementing a local OGP action plan. Our government is unwavering in its commitment to promoting transparency and citizen participation, backed by a dedicated team with expertise in public engagement, policy development, and project management. In terms of budgeting, we allocate funds for the Department of Transparency and Corruption Prevention regular operation and specifically for





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initiatives that foster corruption prevention, openness, and collaboration, reflecting our prioritization of enhanced governance practices.

Furthermore, we have forged partnerships with non-governmental stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academic institutions, and community groups. These partnerships bring diverse perspectives and additional resources to the co-creation process. Our successful experience in hosting initiatives such as the “Participatory Budget” or the “Citizens' Council” showcases our ability to effectively engage citizens.

Lisbon City Council is well-positioned to collaborate with stakeholders, leveraging the skills and enthusiasm of our staff and partners. The availability of budgetary resources and a qualified workforce ensures our preparedness to co-create and implement the commitments outlined in the local OGP action plan. Crucially, one of the key non-governmental actors supporting Lisbon City Council's application to OGP Local is Transparency International Portugal (TI). TI, a non-profit, independent organization, is dedicated to combating corruption and promoting transparency, good governance, and the defence of human rights and democratic values. Their involvement further strengthens our commitment to the principles of the Open Government Partnership.

In addition to local initiatives, Lisbon City Council actively engages at national level through its participation in the Portuguese National Association of Municipalities. This affiliation serves as a valuable platform to advocate for the principles of open administration and OGP Local on a broader scale. By collaborating with municipalities across the country, we contribute to best practices exchange, cultivating a culture of transparency and citizen engagement in municipal governance nationwide. This collaborative approach reflects a commitment to fostering open and accountable governance practices beyond the city's boundaries.

Lisbon City Council is open to participating in peer learning and sharing experiences with other local OGP members in their respective countries and thematic circles. This commitment to collaboration and knowledge exchange enhances the collective efforts of OGP members and contributes to the broader goals of promoting transparency, citizen participation, and open governance. By actively engaging with peers, Lisbon City Council can play a crucial role in advancing best practices, fostering innovation, and building a stronger global community dedicated to the principles of open government.

Our municipality acknowledges the significance of this international multilateral initiative in bolstering the efforts of governments and civil society to advance transparency, strengthen democratic mechanisms and citizenship, and leverage information and communication technologies to enhance the relationship between the government and citizens. This recognition



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underscores the municipality's commitment to the principles of open government and its understanding of the potential benefits that can arise from international collaboration in fostering accountable and participatory governance.

Lisbon City Council would welcome the opportunity to work with OGP to take forward Open Government commitments and ambitions for our city. I look forward to your response, but if I can provide any further information meantime, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely,

Joana Almeida

***Councilor for Urbanism, for Information Systems and Smart City and for Transparency and Corruption Prevention***