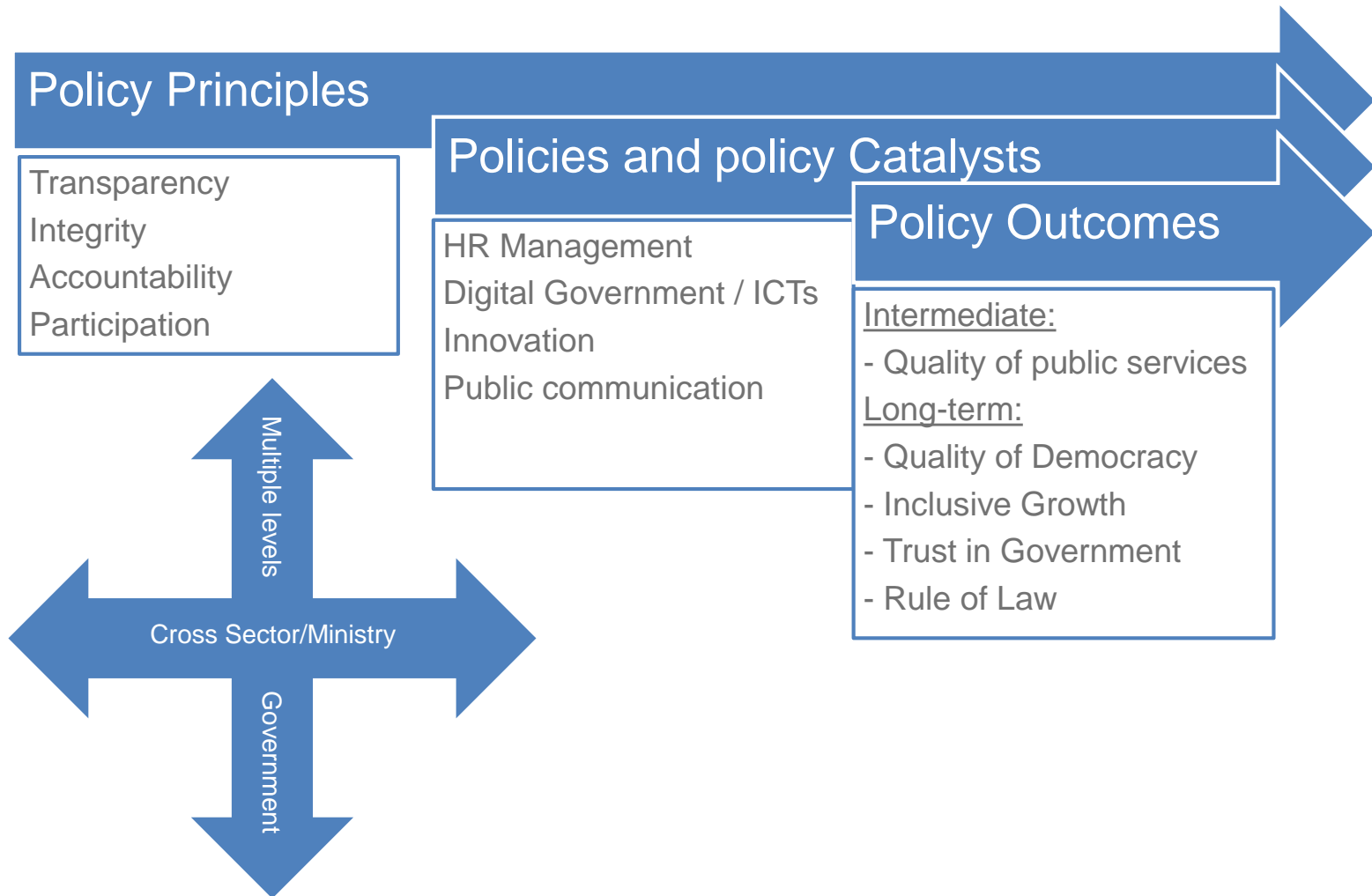# THE OECD'S OPEN GOVERNMENT WORK
KEY OBSERVATIONS FOR THE MENA REGION

Beirut, 25 September 2018

Karine Badr
Policy Analyst/ Project Co-ordinator
Public Governance Directorate

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

OECD Open Government Theory of Change

Policy Principles

Transparency
Integrity
Accountability
Participation

Policies and policy Catalysts

HR Management
Digital Government / ICTs
Innovation
Public communication

Policy Outcomes

Intermediate:
- Quality of public services
Long-term:
- Quality of Democracy
- Inclusive Growth
- Trust in Government
- Rule of Law

Multiple levels

Cross Sector/Ministry
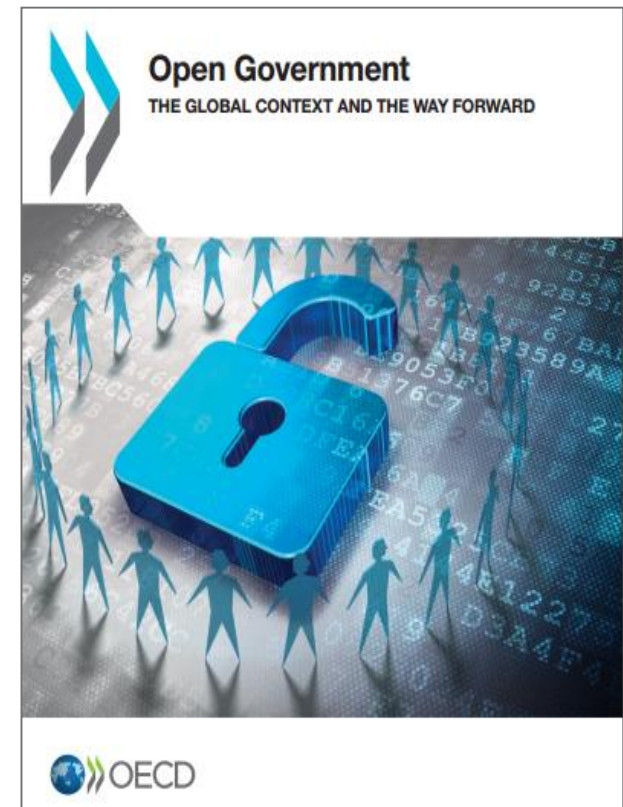
Government

The scope of the OECD Open Government Project

Global Report: The global context and the way forward

- Findings based on the 2015 OECD Survey on Open Government Co-ordination and Citizen Participation in the Policy Cycle

- Analysis based on evidence submitted by 53 countries including OECD countries and non-members from Latin America and the Caribbean, MENA, Central Europe and South East Asia.

- **3 MENA countries** featured (Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia)

Towards an OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government Timeline

2014

1st OECD Global Forum on Open Government 2014

Launching of the OECD Survey on Open Government Co-ordination and Citizen Participation in the Policy Cycle

2015

November 2016:
54th PGC: Presentation of the Global Report and Establishment of the Expert Group on Open Government

March 2017:
1st Meeting of the Expert Group

April 2017:
55th PGC: Discussion with the PGC on the draft Recommendation and the technical paper Towards Open Government Indicators

2016

Development of two technical papers by the OECD Secretariat:

1) "Towards the development of an OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government"

2) "Towards Open Government Indicators"

April 2017:
2nd Meeting of the Expert Group (back-to-back with PGC 55)

2017

July 2017:
3rd Meeting of the Expert Group

December 2016 OECD Global Forum on Public Governance – Open Government: the Global Context and the Way Forward:

• Launch of the OECD Report on Open Government: The Global Context and the Way Forward

• Ministerial Roundtable: 30 Ministers and 50 Heads of Delegations, organized in collaboration with the Government of France and the Open Government Partnership

July 2017:
Launch of the online public consultation on the draft Recommendation

September 2017:
Closing of the online public consultation

October 2017:
Updated text shared with the Expert Group and 4th Meeting of the group

December 2017:
Adoption of the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government

Morocco is the first MENA and non-OECD country to adhere to the Recommendation.

2018

March 2018:
a Meeting of the Expert Group

July 2018:
6th Meeting of the Expert Group (at the sidelines of the OGP Summit) & updates on the OECD Toolkit and Indicators

Definition and Pillars of the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government

Definition :

"A culture of governance that promotes the principles of transparency, integrity, accountability and stakeholder participation in support of democracy and inclusive growth."

Enabling Environment

- Provisions 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 focusing on the policy and legal framework

Implementation Framework

- Provisions 4, 5, 6, 9 focusing on coordination; monitoring, evaluation, communication, innovation and digital government

Way Ahead

- Provision 10: Open State

From Recommendation to **Action**

OPSI
Observatory of Public Sector Innovation

Innovation   Blog   About OPSI   OpenGov Innovator

Innovation

Access international case studies, research and innovation tools.

Blog

Read the latest perspectives from the field, analysis, interviews and event news.

Community

Connect with your fellow innovators and experts to share insights and lessons.

OPSI

Measuring Open Government

ELEMENTS OF DIRECT SUPPORT TO OG STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES
- Policy / Strategy/ OG definitions
- Clear mandate & responsibilities
- Allocated budgets
- Dedicated HR

INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION
- Coordination inside central government
- Coordination between branches of government
- Coordination between levels of government (subnational)
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Promotion of Open Government literacy in civil service

COLLABORATION WITH NON-GOV STAKEHOLDERS
- Participation & co-creation mechanisms
- Involvement of diverse stakeholders
- Promotion of OG literacy in society
- Communication & accountability of OG initiatives

CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT PRACTICE
- Increased collaboration between levels and branches of government in designing and implementing OG agenda
- Increased transparency of government processes, including digitally enabled
- Increased and more diverse stakeholder participation,
- Increased open, useful and reusable government-held data

IMPACT
- Increased relevance of OG agenda in national and subnational strategies
- Greater effectiveness of policies due to stakeholder input to policy making and public service processes
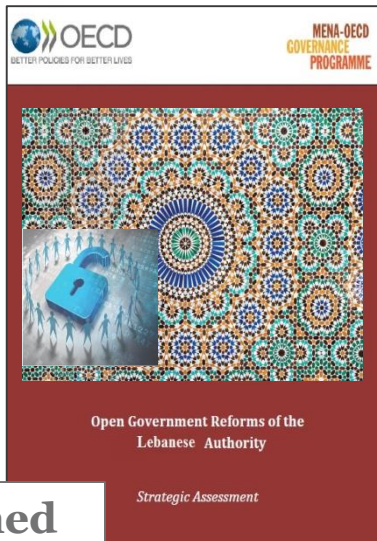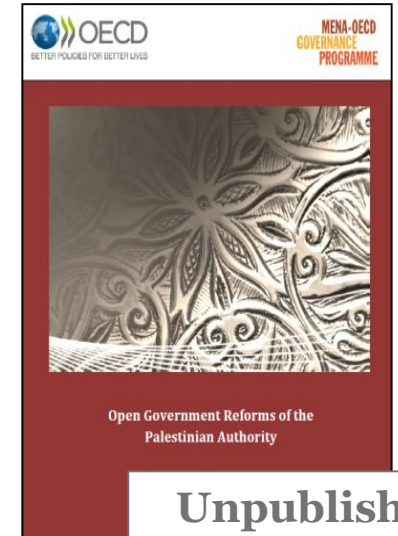
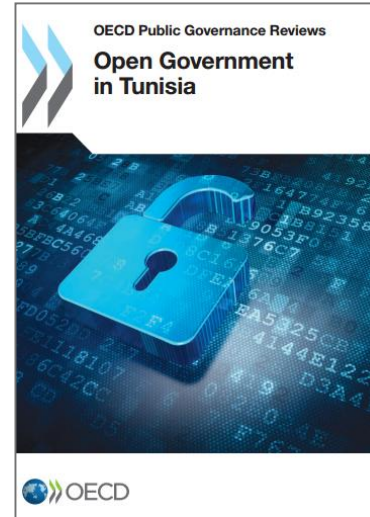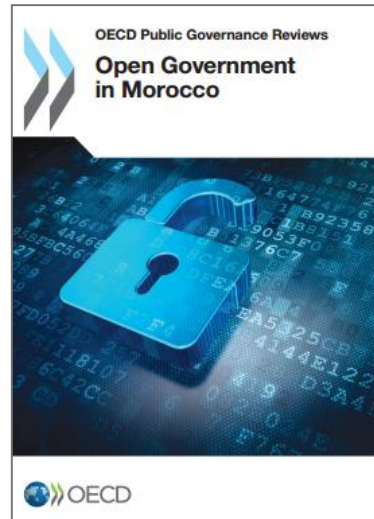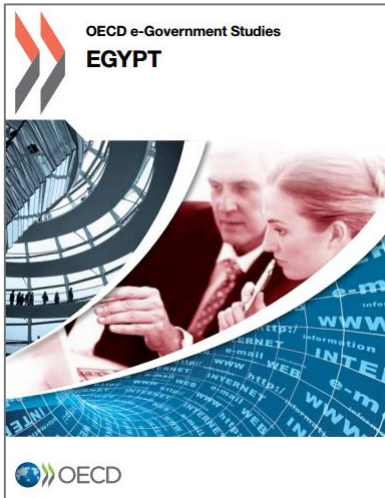INPUT PROCESS OUTCOME IMPACT

Our work in MENA

The **MENA-OECD Governance Programme**: A strategic partnership between MENA and OECD countries to share knowledge and expertise & disseminate standards and principles of good governance

- Supported adherence of Morocco, Tunisia, and Jordan to the **Open Government Partnership (OGP)**

- Implementation support for National Action Plans & OG initiatives

A selection of MENA OG publications

OECD e-Government Studies
EGYPT

OECD

OECD Public Governance Reviews
Open Government in Morocco

OECD

OECD Public Governance Reviews
Open Government in Tunisia

OECD

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

MENA-OECD
GOVERNANCE
PROGRAMME

Open Government Reforms of the Palestinian Authority

Unpublished

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

MENA-OECD
GOVERNANCE
PROGRAMME

Open Government Reforms of the Lebanese Authority

Strategic Assessment

Unpublished

Examens de l'OCDE sur la gouvernance publique

Voix Citoyenne au Maroc:
le rôle de la communication et des médias pour un gouvernement plus ouvert

OCDE

Examens de l'OCDE sur la gouvernance publique

Voix Citoyenne en Tunisie:
LE RÔLE DE LA COMMUNICATION ET DES MÉDIAS POUR UN GOUVERNEMENT PLUS OUVERT

Soon to be launched

MENA – OECD Working Group II on Open and Innovative Government

- A platform promoting regional exchange and dialogue between MENA and OECD high-level public officials **since 2005**.

- Chaired by the UAE and co-chaired by Korea & Italy

- **13th Annual Meeting** (*Dubai, Feb 2018*).

- **Joint Meeting with ECSWA** (2017)

- **Driving the OG agenda** :

  ➢ Providing evidence based analysis on what works and what doesn't

  ➢ Sharing best practices and identifying solutions

  ➢ Bringing new topics on board such as open government at the local level, public communication etc.

11th Annual Meeting

12th Annual Meeting
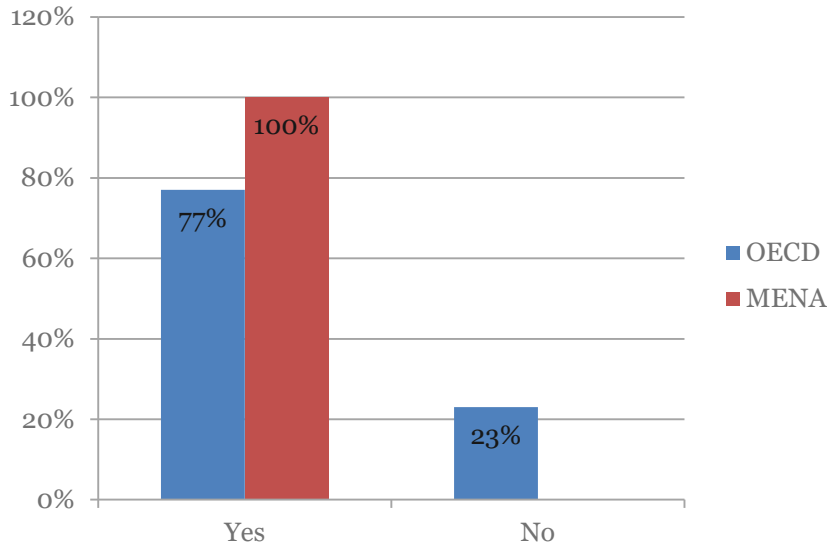
13th Annual Meeting

Key challenges for OG in MENA

- Political crises and insecurity means **competing priorities** for governance reforms

- Weak/slow **implementation** of existing legal frameworks (due to weak institutional setting, low priority in political agenda etc) coupled with mounting citizen **frustration**
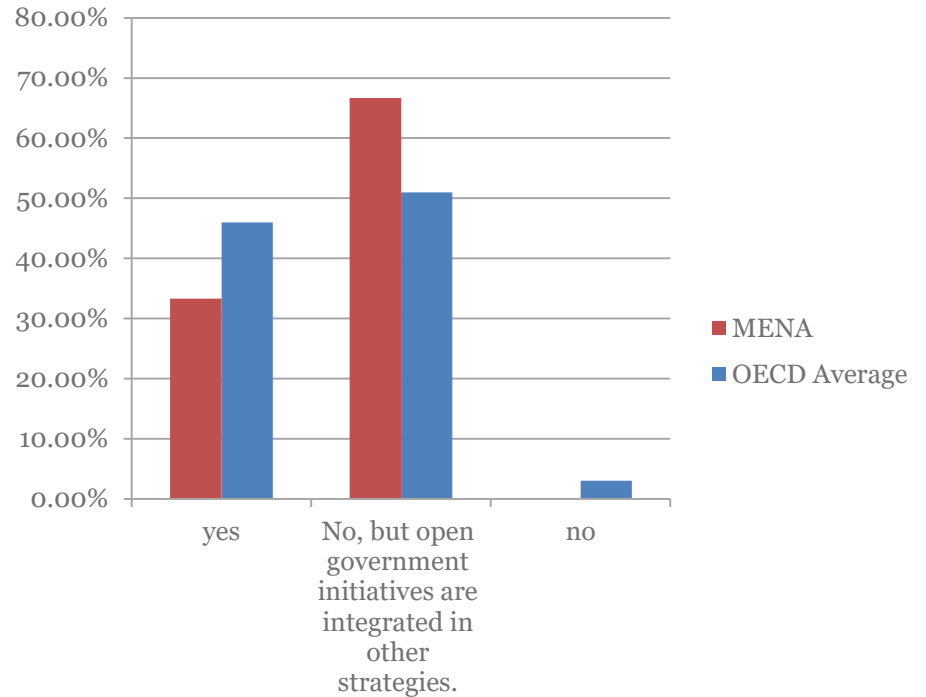
Findings from the Global report

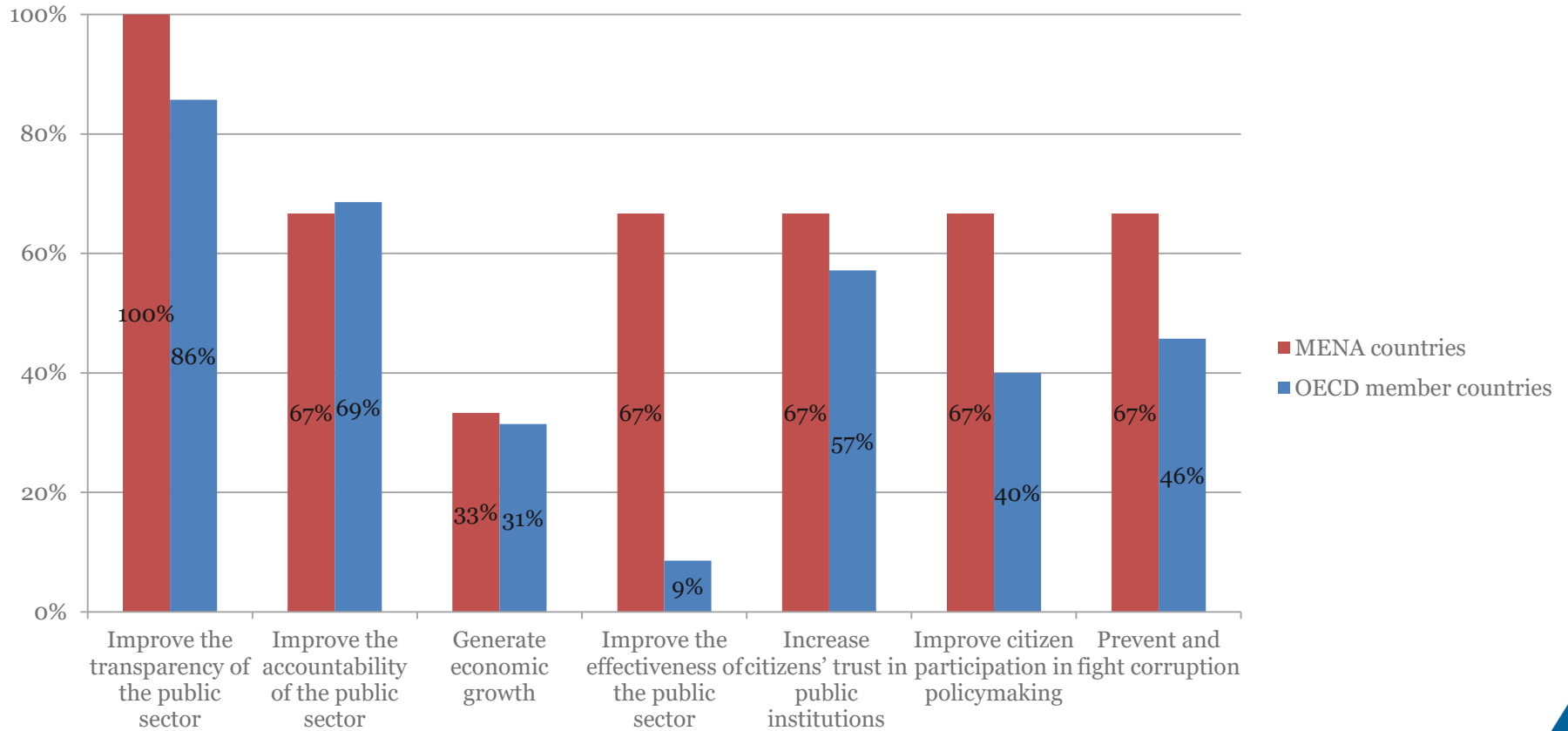**Is there an office responsible for horizontal coordination of open government initiatives?**

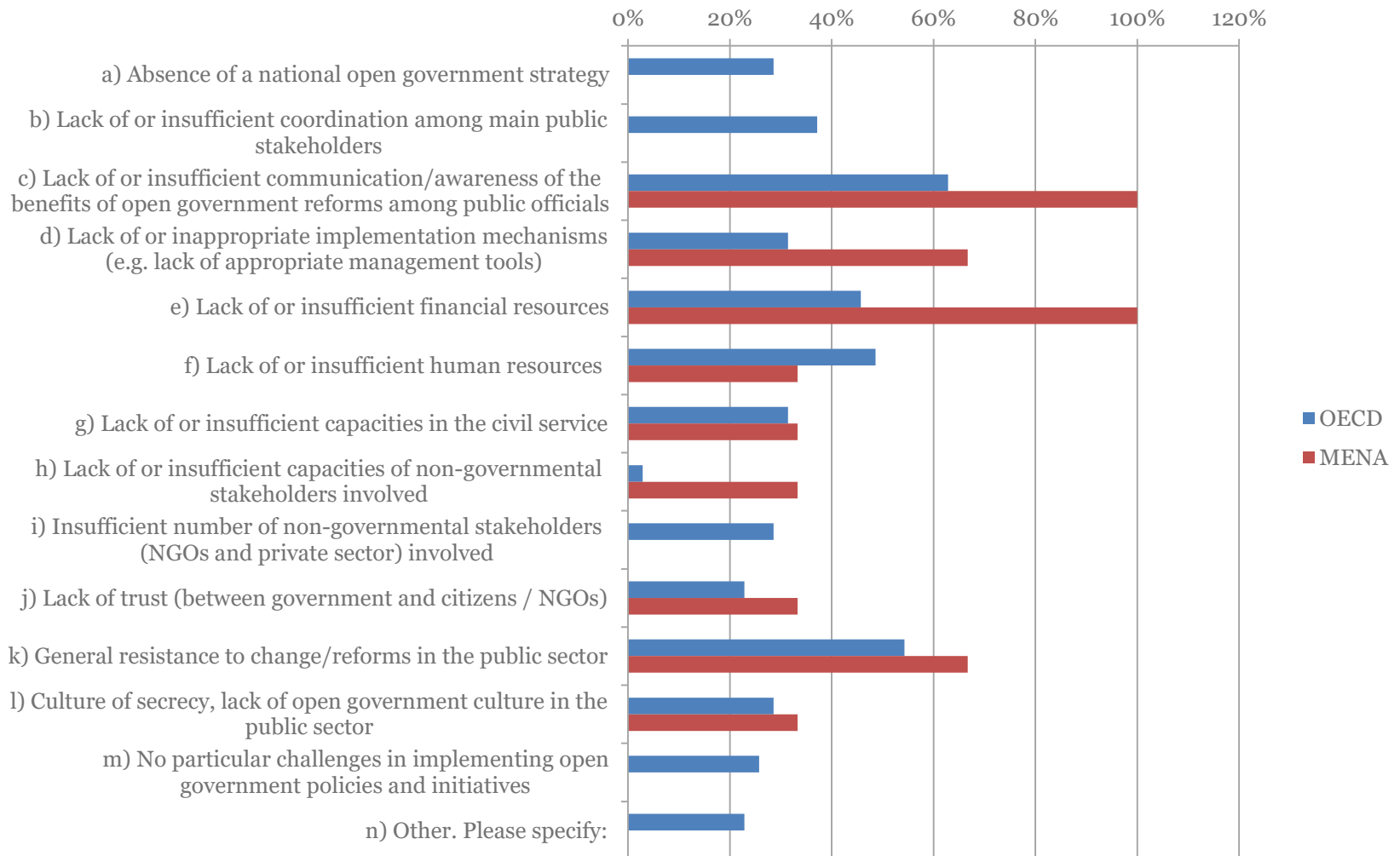**Does your country have a single national Open Government Strategy?**

What are the national policy objectives that your Government intends to achieve by implementing open government initiatives?

Bar chart comparing MENA countries and OECD member countries across policy objectives:

Policy objective	MENA countries	OECD member countries
Improve the transparency of the public sector	100%	86%
Improve the accountability of the public sector	67%	69%
Generate economic growth	33%	31%
Improve the effectiveness of the public sector	67%	9%
Increase citizens' trust in public institutions	67%	57%
Improve citizen participation in policymaking	67%	40%
Prevent and fight corruption	67%	46%

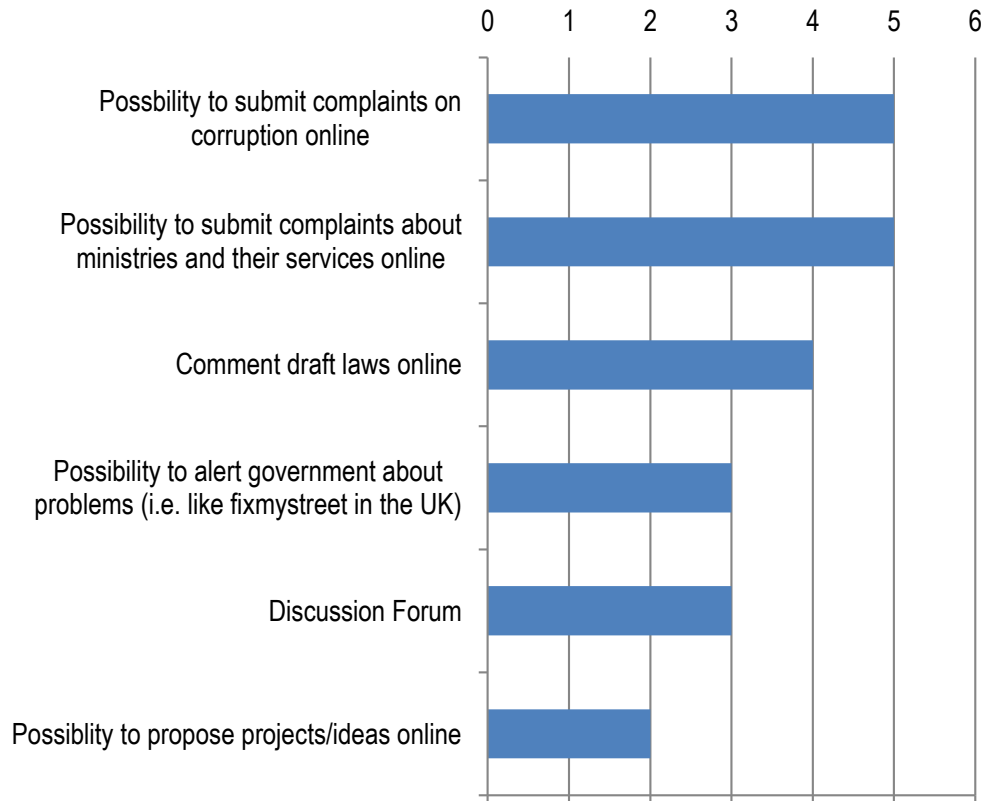# What are the main challenges in implementing Open Government initiatives?

Use of digital tools for engagement in MENA countries

Number of countries among those benchmarked

OECD Digital Government Studies
Benchmarking Digital Government Strategies in MENA Countries

OECD

Possbility to submit complaints on corruption online

Possibility to submit complaints about ministries and their services online

Comment draft laws online

Possibility to alert government about problems (i.e. like fixmystreet in the UK)

Discussion Forum

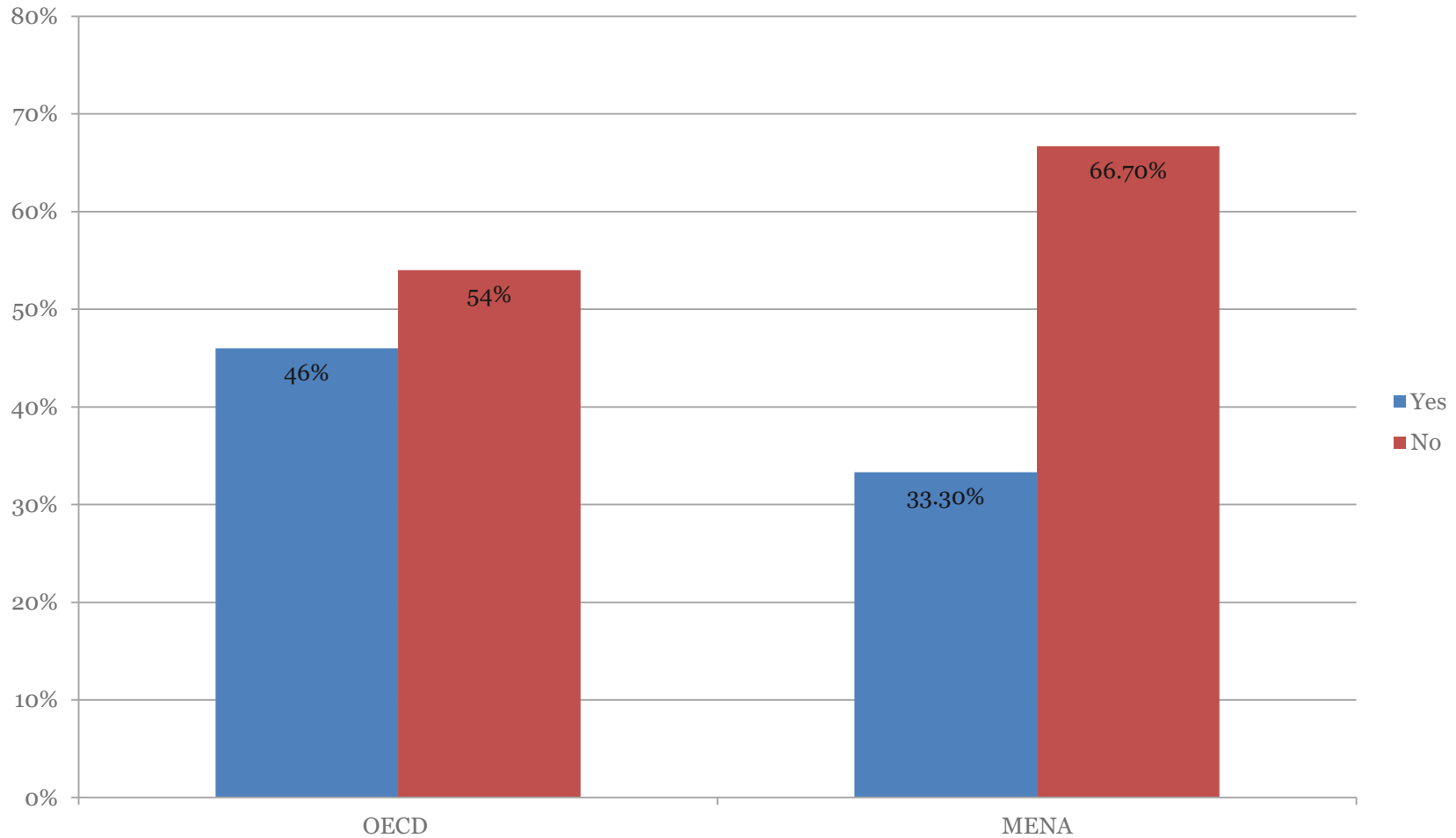Possiblity to propose projects/ideas online

OECD - Benchmarking Digital Government Strategies in MENA Countries (2017)

Responses from: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates
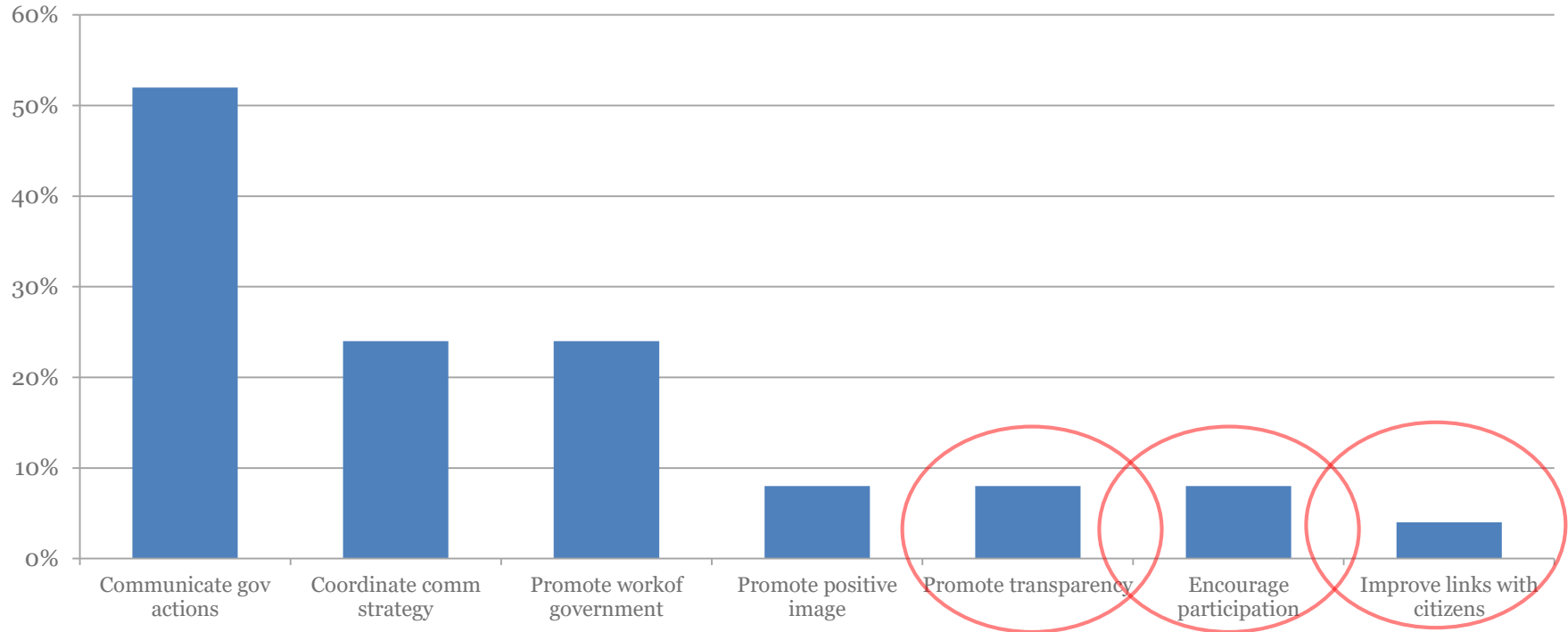
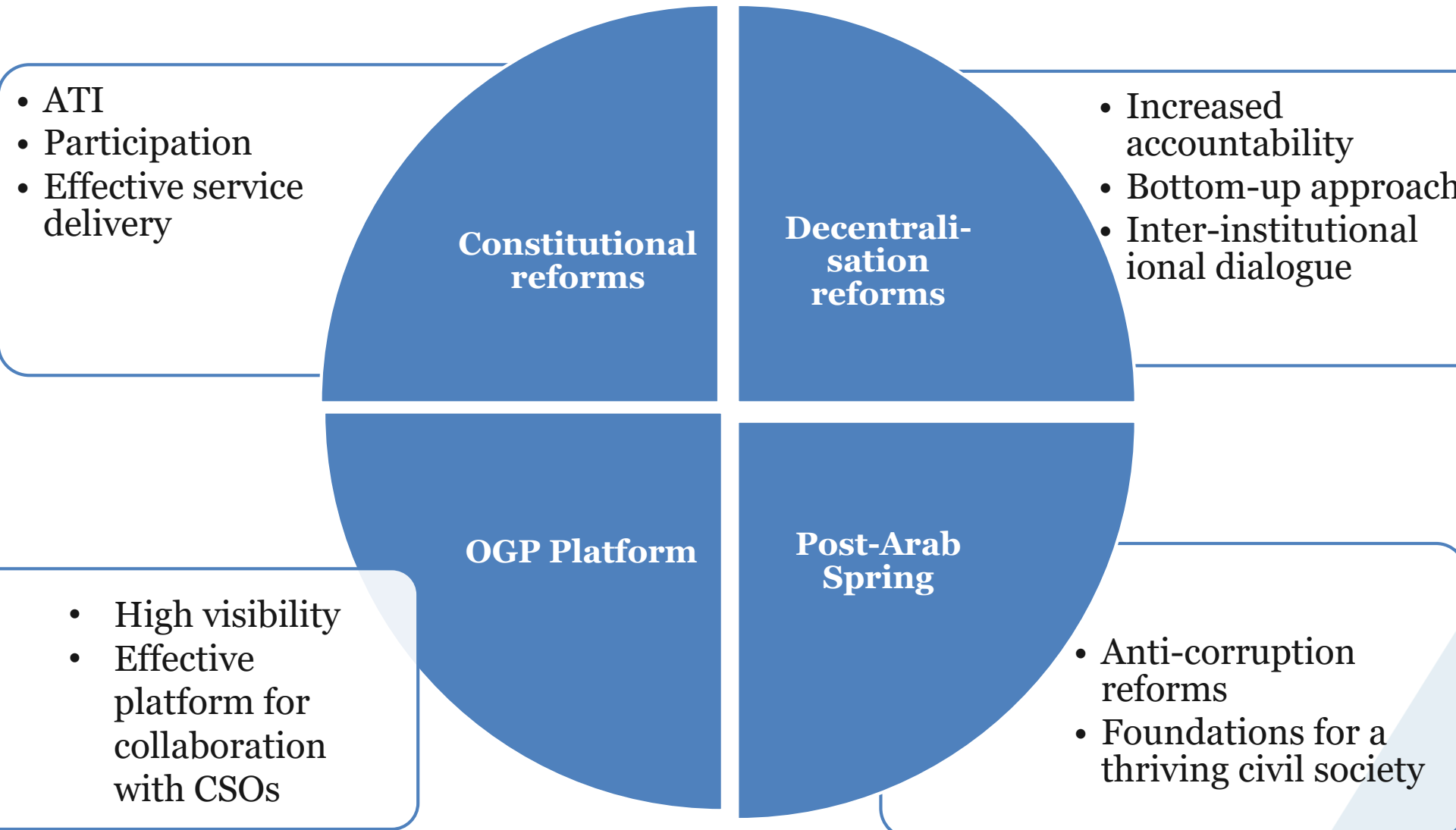# Does your Government have an overarching document for participation?

What are the 3 main objectives of your communication strategy? Results for OECD countries

Participation as a priority of communication strategies? In less than 20% of OECD countries, 16% in Morocco, 8% in Tunisia

Key opportunities for OG in MENA

- ATI
- Participation
- Effective service delivery

Constitutional reforms

Decentrali-sation reforms

- Increased accountability
- Bottom-up approach
- Inter-institutional dialogue

OGP Platform

Post-Arab Spring

- High visibility
- Effective platform for collaboration with CSOs

- Anti-corruption reforms
- Foundations for a thriving civil society

Thank you!

For more information:

http://www.oecd.org/gov/open-government.htm

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#OECDOG