

# Open Government – Experience Democracy Anew

## Results and analyses of a representative survey

February 2012

A study by the  
Arbeitskreis Open Government Partnership Deutschland





# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Profile of the Study .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Summary of results .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Open Government: Almost all would welcome a more open structuring of politics and the administration .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Open Government: All sectors gain in importance.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Open Government: Urgent need for action in all sectors.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Fight Against Corruption: Greatest need for action is in the criminal prosecution of misuse of authority.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Participation: Greatest need for action is in the consideration of nationals' proposals .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Transparency: Greatest need for action is in the publication of food and hygiene controls .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Accountability: Greatest need for action is in the formulation of reviewable political objectives .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## 1 Profile of the Study

<b>Survey period</b>	31/01 to 01/02/2012
<b>Methodology</b>	Telephonic survey (CATI multi-topic survey)
<b>Survey region</b>	Federal Republic of Germany
<b>Target group</b>	German-speaking population (from 14 years; in private households)
<b>Sample</b>	1,007 respondents
<b>Responsible for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Data collection and evaluation</li><li>▪ Analysis of results</li></ul>	<p>TNS Emnid Medien- und Sozialforschung GmbH</p> <p>Arbeitskreis Open Government Partnership Deutschland</p>

## **2 Summary of results**

The results of the representative survey conducted by TNS Emnid on 31/01 and 01/02/2012 and analysed by the Arbeitskreis Open Government Partnership are summarised as follows:

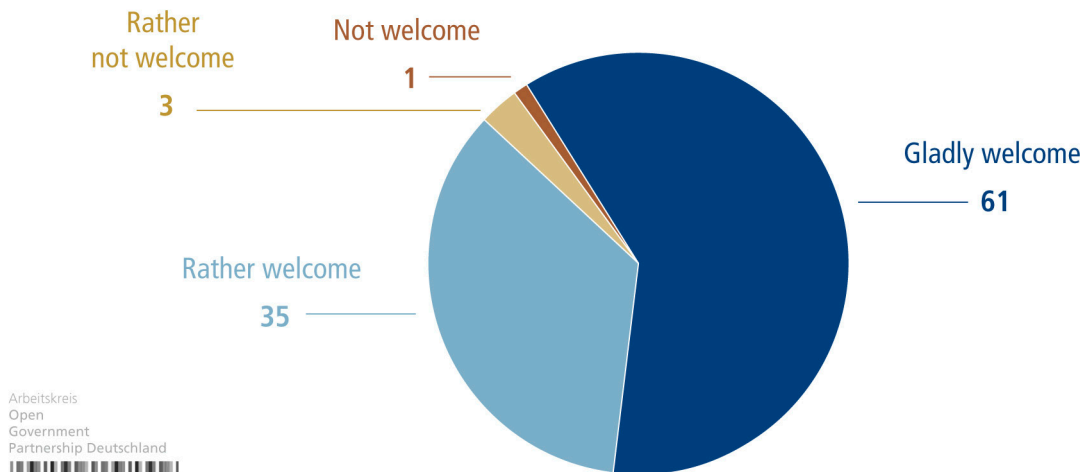
- Almost all nationals would welcome a more open structuring of politics and the administration as well as closer consultation, thus including the significant elements of Open Government.
- All the sectors of Open Government will gain in significance in the future. Nationals see the fight against corruption as the issue gaining the most in importance, followed by participation, transparency and accountability.
- Urgent need for action in all sectors of Open Government is indicated by nationals through the differences in the valuation of importance and satisfaction.

In the fight against corruption the greatest need for action is in the criminal prosecution of misuse of authority, in participation greater consideration of nationals' proposals, in transparency the publication of the results of official food and hygiene controls and in accountability the formulation of reviewable political objectives.

### 3 Open Government: Almost all would welcome a more open structuring of politics and the administration

Would you welcome it if politics and the administration would structure their work more openly and consult more closely with nationals?

Survey period: 31/01/2012 – 01/02/2012 | Sample: 1,007 persons | Figures are stated in percentages



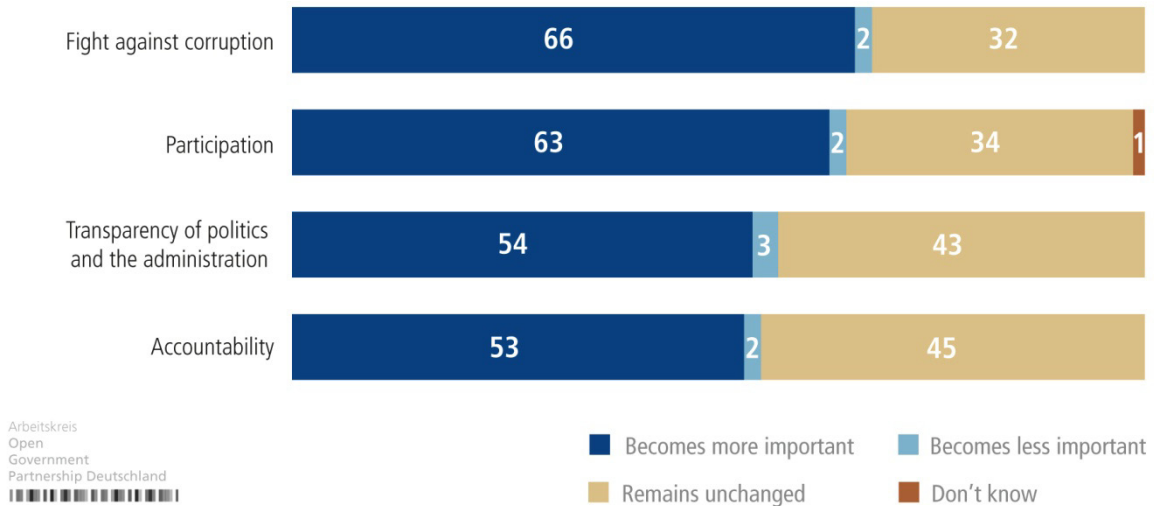
Source: Arbeitskreis Open Government Partnership Deutschland / TNS Emnid.

61% of respondents would gladly welcome it if politics and the administration were to structure their work more openly and consult more closely with nationals. A further 35% would rather welcome more open governance. On the whole, “Open Government” is agreed on by 96% or almost all.

## 4 Open Government: All sectors gain in importance

Do you believe that the following will become more important, less important or remain unchanged in the future?

Survey period: 31/01/2012 – 01/02/2012 | Sample: 1,007 persons | Figures are stated in percentages



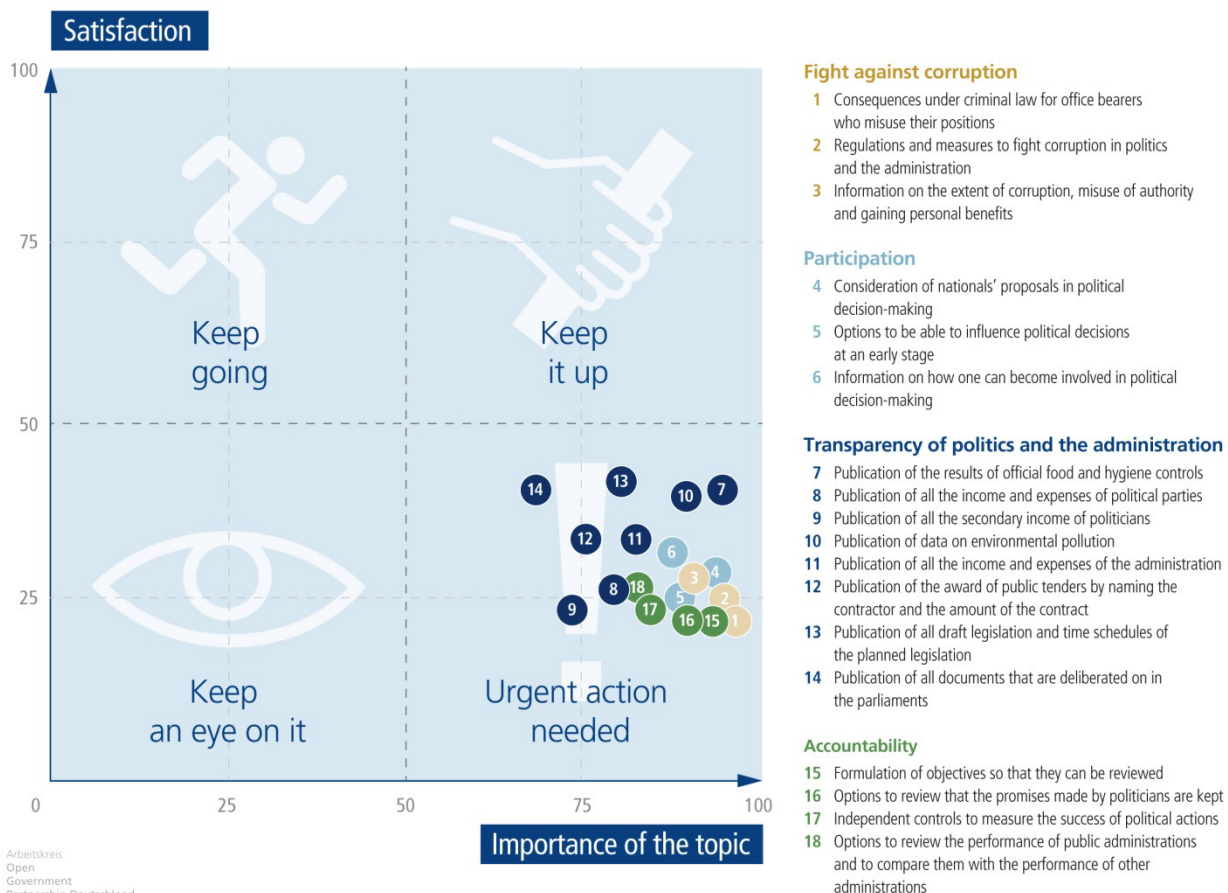
Source: Arbeitskreis Open Government Partnership Deutschland / TNS Emnid.

In the view of nationals, all the sectors of Open Government will gain in significance in the future. In the fight against corruptions 66% agree, in participation (participation by nationals) 63% agree, in transparency 54% agree and in accountability (reporting on the performance of politics and the administration) 53% agree.

## 5 Open Government: Urgent need for action in all sectors

How important are the following to you? And how satisfied are you with them?

Survey period: 31/01/2012 – 01/02/2012 | Sample: 1,007 persons | Figures are stated in percentages | important = very important + more important | satisfied = very satisfied + more satisfied



Source: Arbeitskreis Open Government Partnership Deutschland / TNS Emnid.

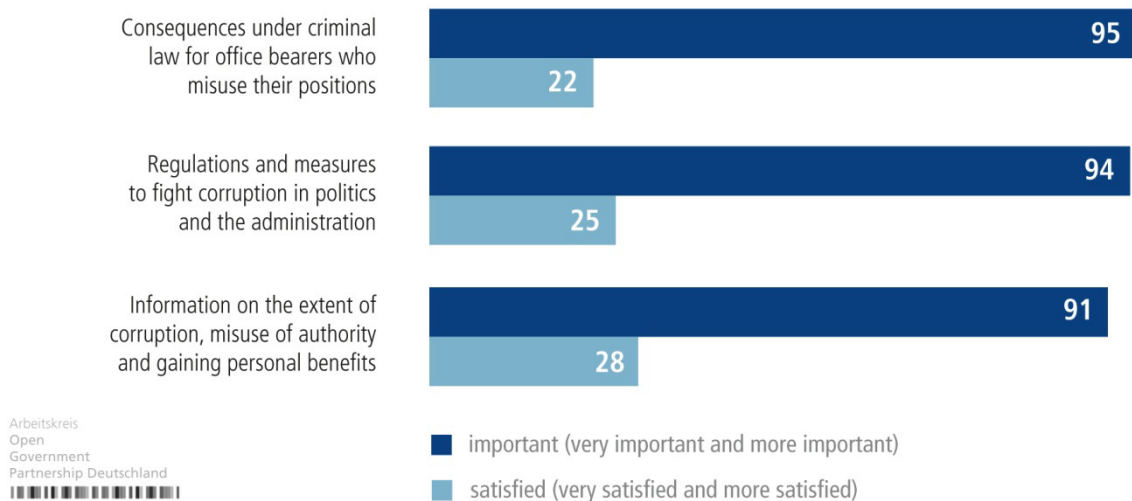
An urgent need for action exists in all sectors of Open Government. This is confirmed by more than half of the nationals who said that the individual aspects surveyed were very important or important; at the same time, less than 50% said that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the surveyed aspects. Therefore, in order to achieve a “balance” between importance and satisfaction, the performance of politics and the administration must be urgently improved in all sectors of Open Government.



## 6 Fight Against Corruption: Greatest need for action is in the criminal prosecution of misuse of authority

How important are the following to you?  
And how satisfied are you with them?

Survey period: 31/01/2012 – 01/02/2012 | Sample: 1,007 persons | Figures are stated in percentages



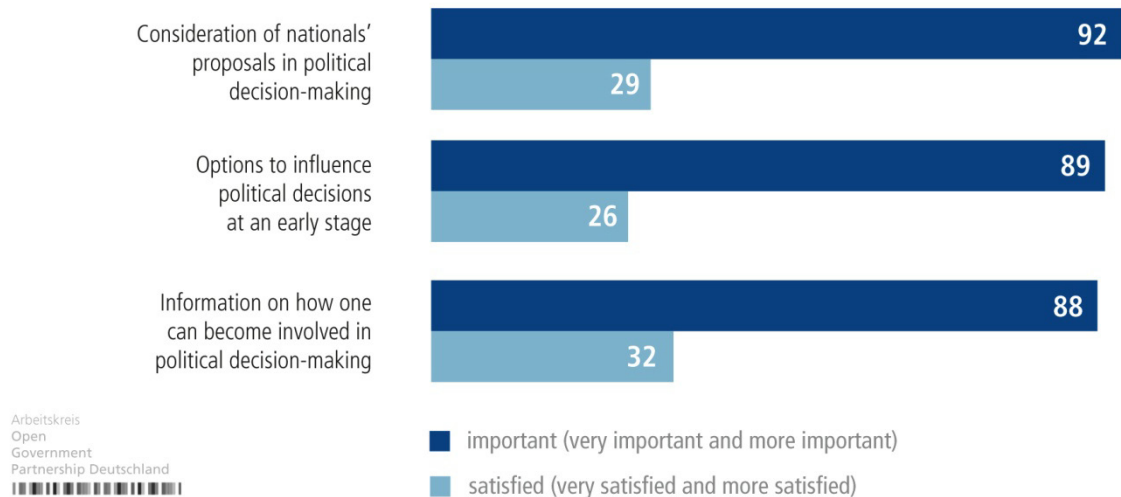
Source: Arbeitskreis Open Government Partnership Deutschland / TNS Emnid.

95% of surveyed nationals regard it as important that office bearers who misuse their positions must expect consequences under criminal law. In contrast, only 22% are satisfied with the penalties under criminal law for the misuse of authority. This results in a difference of 73% between importance and satisfaction. The differences or needs for action were lower for the regulations and measures to fight corruption in politics and the administration (69%) as well as for information on the extent of corruption, misuse of authority and gaining personal benefits (63%).

## 7 Participation: Greatest need for action is in the consideration of nationals' proposals

How important are the following to you?  
And how satisfied are you with them?

Survey period: 31/01/2012 – 01/02/2012 | Sample: 1,007 persons | Figures are stated in percentages



Source: Arbeitskreis Open Government Partnership Deutschland / TNS Emnid.

In participation, the greatest need for action for the state and the public administration is for greater consideration of nationals' proposals. 92% of respondents stated that this aspect of participation was very important to them or more important; however only 29% were very satisfied or more satisfied with the consideration of nationals' proposals. This results in a difference of 63% between importance and satisfaction. The difference, and thereby the need for action, is the same for the options to influence political decisions at an early stage.

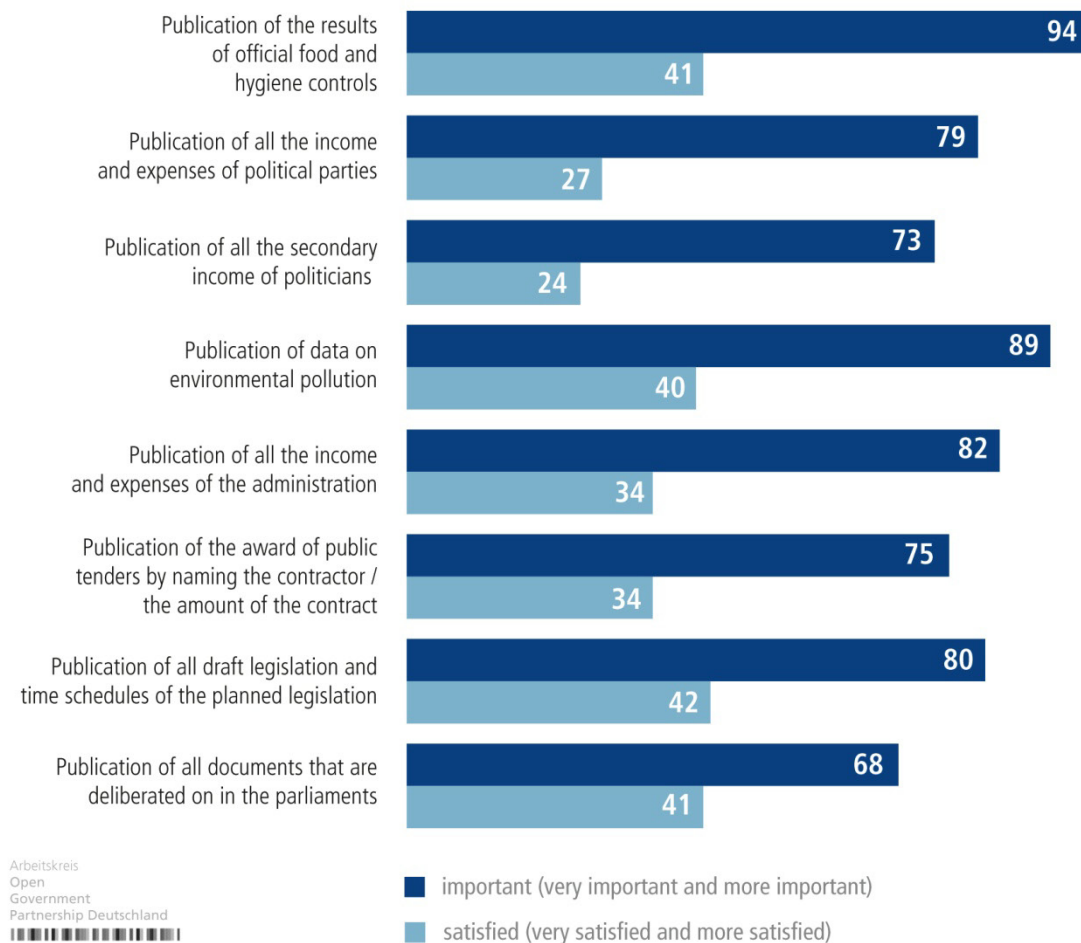
It is noteworthy that the consideration of proposals for political decisions takes on ever greater importance. This can be seen from a comparison of the results of the representative survey that TNS Emnid conducted on 16/06/2010 on behalf of the German foundation, the Bertelsmann Stiftung.<sup>1</sup> To the question of what would have to change so that the respondents would engage themselves to a greater extent politically, only 74% (compared to the above 92%) stated that their opinion would have to be considered and taken seriously.

<sup>1</sup> TNS Emnid, Political engagement, Results of a representative survey of a sample of the German population, 2010.

## 8 Transparency: Greatest need for action is in the publication of food and hygiene controls

How important are the following to you?  
And how satisfied are you with them?

Survey period: 31/01/2012 – 01/02/2012 | Sample: 1,007 persons | Figures are stated in percentages



Source: Arbeitskreis Open Government Partnership Deutschland / TNS Emnid.

In the area of transparency, nationals see the greatest need for action in the publication of the results of official food and hygiene controls. 94% of respondents said that publication was very important to them or more important. In contrast, only 41% were very satisfied or more satisfied with the publication of control data. The difference between importance and satisfaction is thus 53%. In the publication of all the income and expenses of political parties this difference was 52%, i.e. almost as high. In the publication of all the secondary income of politicians as well as in the publication of data on environmental pollution, the difference of 49% between importance and satisfaction is only slightly lower.

A comparison of the results of the representative survey conducted by the opinion research institute, Forsa, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 shows that interest in the results of official

food and hygiene controls in recent times has clearly increased.<sup>2</sup> In this survey, 59% of German nationals surveyed stated that they were “very interested” in the relevant control data. In the present survey the percentage of those for whom the publication of control data was “very important” was clearly higher at 65%.

---

<sup>2</sup> SAS Deutschland, Open Data – Open Government Monitor 2010, Wünschen Bürger mehr Transparenz? [Do nationals desire more transparency?], A Forsa study on behalf of SAS Deutschland, 2010.







The Arbeitskreis [Working Group] is an open collaboration of civil society organisations and interested individuals. It unites experts from the most important dimensions of Open Government. The members of the Working Group are united in the common conviction that participation by the Federal Republic of Germany in the Open Government Partnership will result in a long term culture change for more transparency, participation of nationals and thereby a reduction in the disenchantment with politics.

The following members are currently involved in the Arbeitskreis:

- Government 2.0 Netzwerk Deutschland e. V.
- Open Data Network e. V.
- Bertelsmann Stiftung
- Stiftung Mitarbeit
- Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement
- Initiative E-Demokratie.org
- Internet und Gesellschaft Collaboratory

Further information on the Arbeitskreis can be found here: [www.opengovpartnership.de](http://www.opengovpartnership.de).