



# “Germany finally has an Open Data Law”

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**Open Knowledge Foundation**



1. Open Knowledge Foundation
2. Legislative Process in Germany
3. Open Data Law
4. Open Government Partnership



# 1. Open Knowledge Foundation



- non-profit organization
- advocates open knowledge, open data, transparency and civil participation
- has 31 employees and a large community <https://codefor.de/>
- organizes hackathons for children / teenagers
- lobbies the government
- runs the German freedom of information portal (FOIA) <https://fragdenstaat.de/>
- key organizer behind Germany's Open Data Law



## 2. Legislative Process

# Legislative Process in Germany



- coalition based governments
- coalition negotiations crucial
- federal elections coming up (24.09.2017)
- coalition agreement as point of reference
- try to include your topic in coalition agreement → point of reference





How a law comes into action:

- legislative proposals often made by the government
- cabinet decides on action → ministries prepare proposals
- reviewed in parliament in different hearings
- after first hearing - consultations in committees
- second and (if necessary) third hearing in parliament
- law is voted upon in Bundestag (federal parliament) and Bundesrat (regional representation)





## Lobby access points:

- lobby the government officials beforehand
  - especially ministry officials dedicated to specific topic
- speak to any politicians with a topical interest
- expert in parliament committee hearings
- use your network (research institutes, political foundations, local or regional interests)





# What we did:

- massive lobbying efforts during coalition negotiations 2013
- statement on:
  - “joining the OGP”
  - introducing “Open Data Law”
- issue not on public agenda
- concerted lobby efforts
  - conference on Open Data late 2015
  - leak of Open Data position paper (Netzpolitik.org)
  - joint civil society review and statement
  - spoke to every politician

# 3. Open Data Law

# Open Data Law:

- judicial foundation for obtaining data from all public authorities subject to the federal government (free of charge)
  - raw data will be provided on publicly accessible networks
  - if it was stored in electronic form before
  - if it regards circumstances outside of the administration
- central support agency for Open Data

## Criticism:

- not part of freedom of information act (no transparency law)
- exceptions for open data (security issues, personal data)
- not regional / local authorities



# Low Hanging Fruits



# 4. Open Government Partnership



# OGP Participants & NAPs



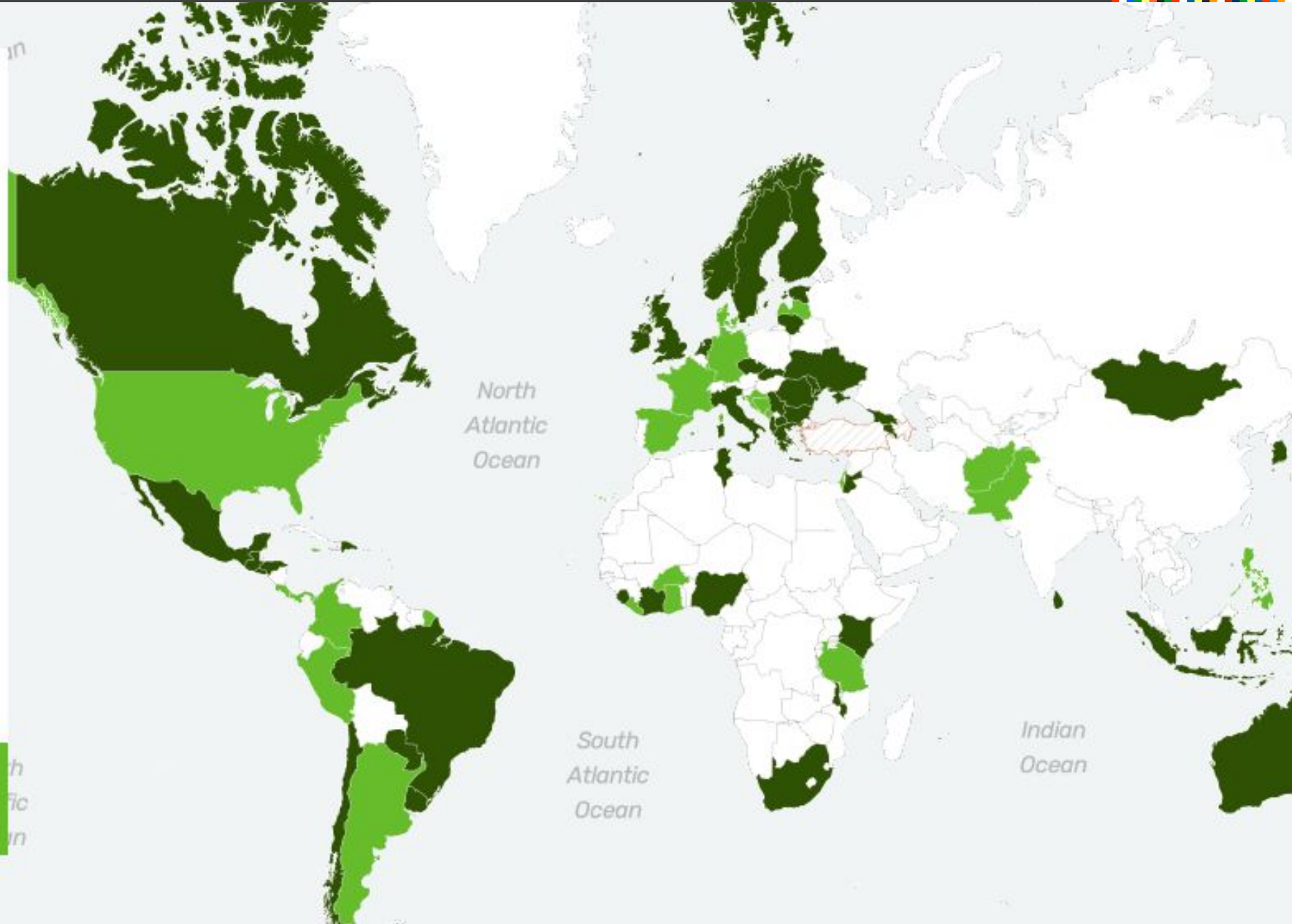
## From commitment to action

OGP was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens.

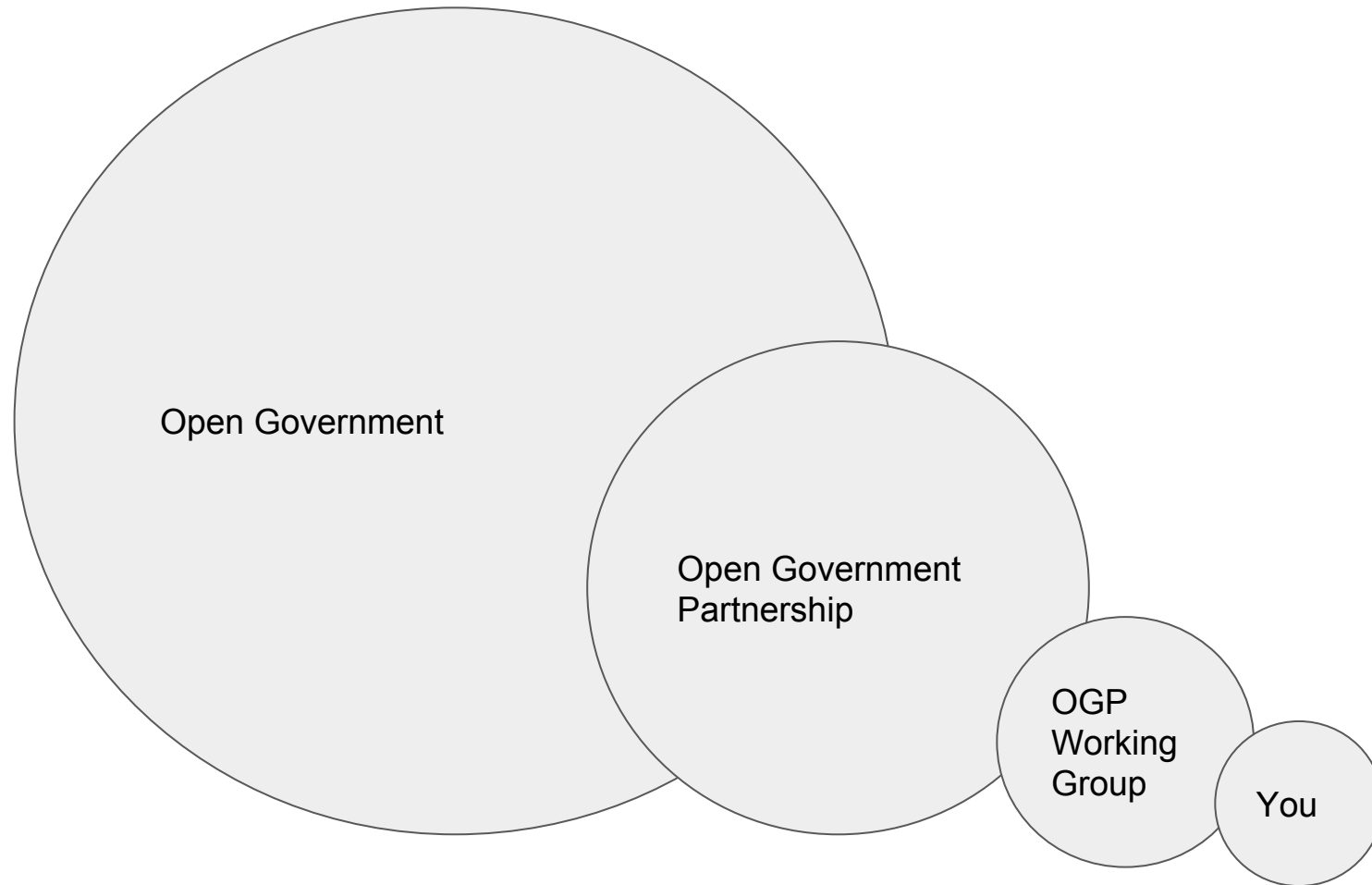
- Developing Action Plan
- Implementing Action Plan
- ⊘ Inactive ▶

PARTICIPANTS

THEMES



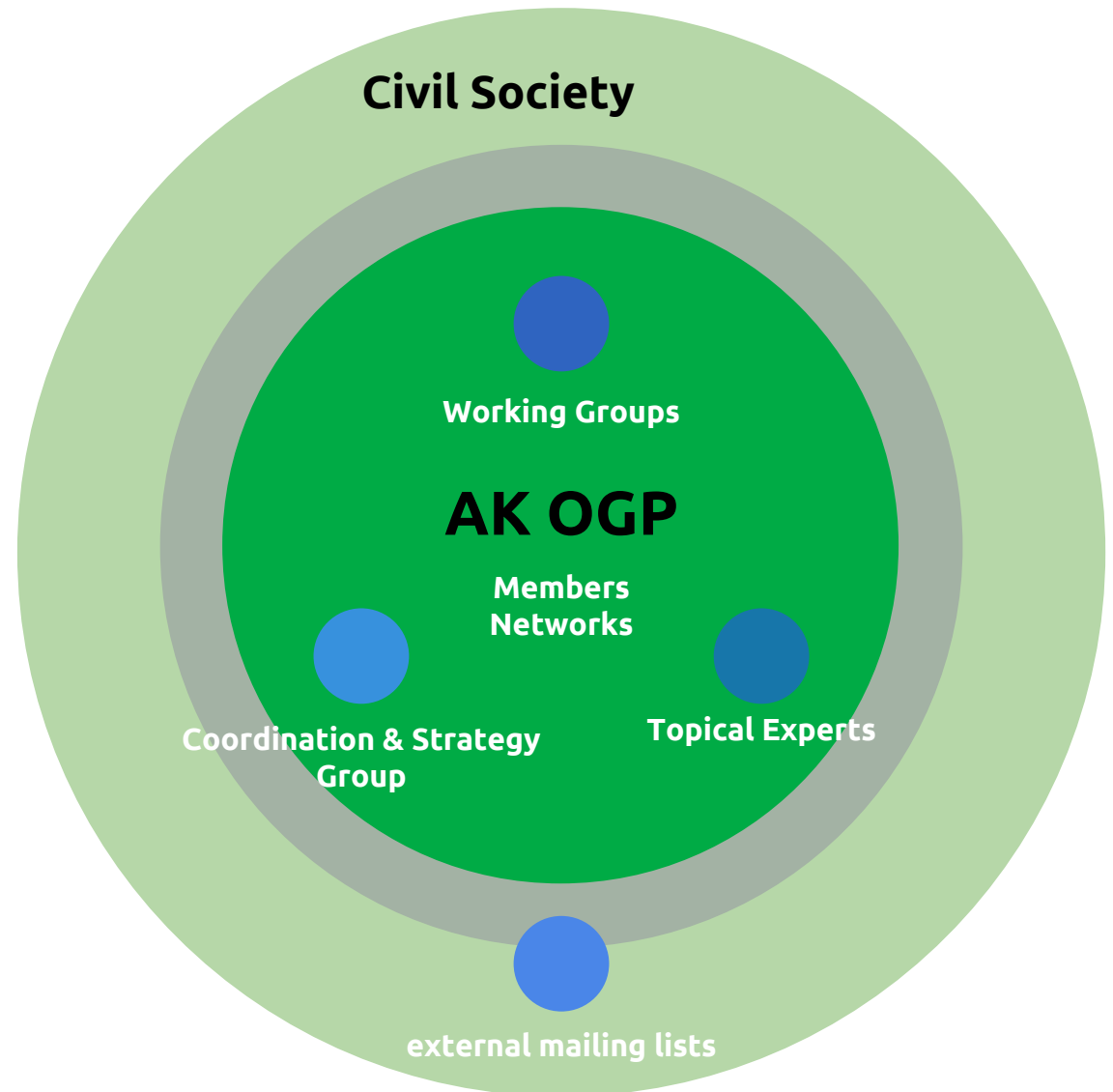
# The Connection



# Civil Society Working Group



- 25 member organisations and 22 (12/2016 - 08/2017)
- Coordination of working group through OKF DE
- Topical Experts
- further involvement of civil society through external mailing list
- Public Relations and informational material







**Vielen Dank für  
Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!**

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