## Comments from PWYP Norway

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Although civil society representatives on the MSG have repeatedly challenged the notion that the scope of implementation could not be expanded to address additional issues such as beneficial ownership, project-by-project disclosures and mining, they accept that the current structure has not made it possible to increase the scope of implementation beyond the reconciliation of revenues. The general discussion and prioritization in organisations has, since before 2013, been more concerned with multinational companies potential tax avoidance and the consequences for societies, rather than verifying the reconciliation of payments. As a consequence of this, civil society as not seen the EITI as a catalyst for raising such issues and representatives has been struggling to find volunteers to represent the constituency in the MSG and has been worrying about the process if they themselves discontinue. PWYP Norway has used the EITI in its capacity building programmes and supported it in countries where the EITI is seen as a useful process and used the advances and gains in other countries as useful for the global examples to move the discussion further.

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The report of the first Validation shows that PWYP Norway conducted an initial open meeting to inform civil society about the EITI process and invite organisations to participate in the process. PWYP Norway has organised and participated in many events to discuss the EITI and its role in Norway. Many events in Norway are filmed in order to spread information to a wider audience. In addition, PWYP Norway has written articles on both Norwegian and international questions in the EITI in order to engage a wider public informed and the deeper purpose of the EITI<sup>1</sup>. PWYP Norway has also held two extensive consultation rounds with civil society on their wish list for EITI implementation in Norway (process leading up to position paper in 2014<sup>2</sup>) and prioritization for the Norwegian implementation (process leading up to position paper in 2015<sup>3</sup>). PWYP Norway has also included EITI in its capacity building programmes and tried to engage sami political leaders and also inviting them into discussions with civil society in capacity building programme.

There are examples of civil society organisations lobbying the government through national media to encourage implementation of the EITI in Norway, and to extend the scope of implementation. But most issues, since before 2013, have been addressed

outside the MSG.