Governance for Open Government Data

Institutional Governance

The Government ICT Authority, under the Prime Minister’s Office, is in charge of the Israeli Government ICT and open data policy.

A special projects team within the ICT authority provides professional support and guidance to the ministries in implementing OGD guidelines. In addition, a technical team at the E-gov supports the technical aspects of data publication on the OGD portal.

Policy Framework

The Government ICT Authority, 2019-2021 Strategic Plan lists several commitments touching on open data, including ensuring government data in the service of the public (open data), data management and IT governance.

Legal and Regulatory Instruments

The Israeli Government adopted the open by default principle by Article 12 of Government resolution Nr. 1993 of 2016, mandating all public entities to make all their datasets accessible by 2022 (except data that cannot be published due to legitimate justifications such as privacy protection).

The FOI Protocol on the publication of FOI requests specifically requires all data released under FOI requests to be published as open data.

Enabling coherent policy implementation

- The Government CIO published a data publication standard and guideline for public sector organisations to implement open data policy and release data in a consistent manner.
- A dataset mapping all the government databases is available on the OGD portal.
- The ICT authority holds 1-2 conferences annually on resolution 1933 and its implementation, including the benefits of open data.

Open Government Data Portal

- Data.gov.il is the central open government data portal of Israel.
- The source code of the portal is available for download on GitHub.

Using data as a platform: ecosystem engagement and collaboration

- In 2019, the ICT authority established a multi-stakeholder forum on Open Government Data, including representatives from CSOs, private sector and academia.
- In 2018, the ICT authority organised the ARTECH innovative and unique art competition, encouraging the use of open government data to create works of art with the aim of making new connections between information, art and technology.
OECD OURdata Index: 2019

Good practice

Digital Innovation Fund for Public Sector Challenges
As part of the 2018 innovation fund, which is a product of the National Technology Innovation Authority and the National Israel Digital Headquarters in the Ministry of Social Equality, a benefit track was designed to encourage and assist entrepreneurs and corporations that address public sector challenges and needs through innovative technological solutions. The benefit track supports research and development programs, including those that include an experiment, demonstration, or feasibility study component of products or services that achieved one or more of the following objectives: improving public-service civil service; streamlining and improving public sector processes and public services; access to public information; and public sector information systems protection.

Performance per Index Pillar

Since 2017, the Israeli government has strengthened the policy framework and level of engagement with stakeholders to support demand-driven release of open data. However, the actual implementation level in terms of providing high-value datasets on the central OGD portal, remains relatively low and should be considered as a next important step to improve further.

The policy for data accessibility and implementation in terms of releasing accessible data is strong. Due to the lack of features that enable a more user-driven open data portal, such as the provision of user forums for discussions and the ability for users to add their own data, Israel does not perform above the OECD average.

Since 2017, the government has shifted its focus to provide more training and incentives for public servants to improve their data literacy and support policy implementation. At the same time, the outreach to external stakeholders has decreased somewhat, which is likely to be improved with the establishment of the new multi-stakeholder forum on OGD. As in 2017, the Israeli government has not yet initiated efforts to monitor the impact of open data on social and economic factors.

* 2019 OURdata Index data was collected through the 2018 OECD OGD Survey. Some written information was collected in 2019/2020. Data unavailable for Hungary, Turkey, Iceland and United States.

* The index ranges from 0 to 1 and is composed of three indicators with an equal weight of 0.33. Each indicator ranges from 0 to 0.33.