OECD OURdata Index: 2019

Latvia

Legend:
- Data Availability
- Data Accessibility
- Government support for data reuse

21st Place

Governance for Open Government Data

| Institutional Governance	Policy Framework	Legal and Regulatory instruments
The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (VARAM) is responsible for the Latvian open data policy, with support from the State regional development agency, the State chancellery and the Department of Public Administration Policy.	VARAM has presented an Open Data Strategy for 2019-2022 as part of an information document on the situation of open data in Latvia. The Development of Data Driven Nation (DDN) initiative was launched in 2016 with the goal of accelerating economic growth in Latvia. 'Data democracy and free access to public data' was confirmed as one of three pillars of the initiative.	The Latvian Freedom of Information Law mandates public institutions to make information available in open data format together with metadata. Order No. 468 of the Cabinet of Ministers on Information Society Development Guidelines for 2014-2020 highlights open data as central for a digital government and economic growth.

Enabling coherent policy implementation
→ A guideline for data publishers is available to support public institutions in their release of open data.
→ In 2018, VARAM organised a seminar to present the open data policy to public servants across government ministries.

Open Government Data Portal
→ The Latvian Open Data Portal data.gov.lv was created in 2017 as part of a European Regional Development Fund co-financed project.
→ One of the most popular datasets on the portal is the Latvian Business Register.

Using data as a platform: ecosystem engagement and collaboration
→ VARAM has cooperated with the Latvian Information and Communication Technology Association and the Latvian Open Technology Association as part of the DDN initiative.
→ The Open Data Hackathon 2018, organised and supported by central ministries and agencies, generated a solution to help reduce waiting times for kindergarten places using an open data-based mobile application.
→ In October 2019 the Latvian government and partners organised an open data hackathon for municipalities.

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BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES
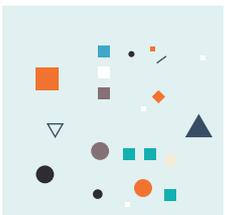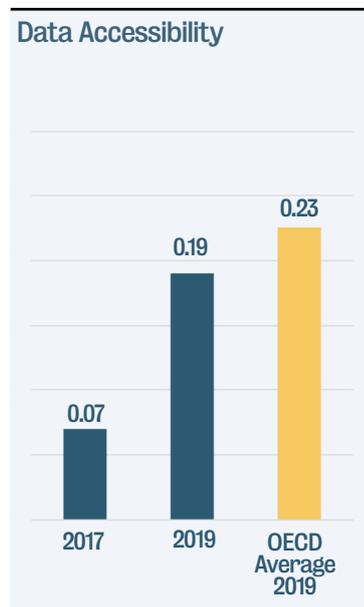
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Good practice

Information report on priority datasets held by public institutions

The 2018 information report by VARAM describes the current situation relating to the availability of the open data of state institutions in Latvia. It indicates the priority data sets that need to be published on data.gov.lv. The datasets to be opened have been determined in cooperation with ICT non-governmental organisations - the Latvian Open Technology Association and the Latvian Information and Communication Technology Association. They were chosen based on their relevance in enabling the information and communication technology sector to create new services and products.

Performance per Index Pillar

Data Availability

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.07	0.18	0.20
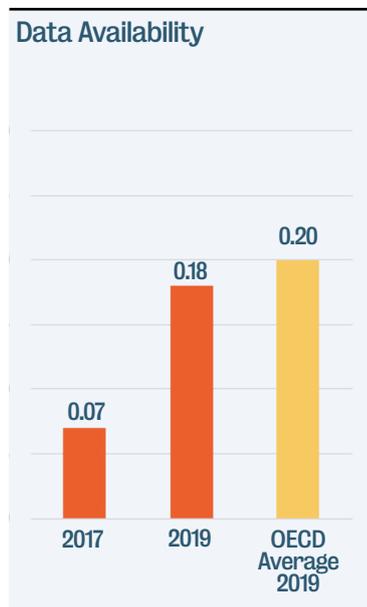
With the Data Driven Nation Initiative and the creation of a central OGD portal, Latvia has successfully improved its performance in Data Availability. The country still performs below the OECD average, which could be addressed by focusing on releasing more high-value data (as defined by the G8 Open Data Charter) on the central open data portal.

Data Accessibility

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.07	0.19	0.23

Latvia has made a remarkable improvement on data accessibility, which now has a central OGD portal providing citizens and businesses with easier access to open data from central public sector organisations. To further improve, the government could make the portal more collaborative and user-driven, facilitating feedback and discussions between users and the government, and allowing users to add data as a crowd-sourcing mechanism for innovation and greater impact.

Government support for data reuse

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.05	0.18	0.17
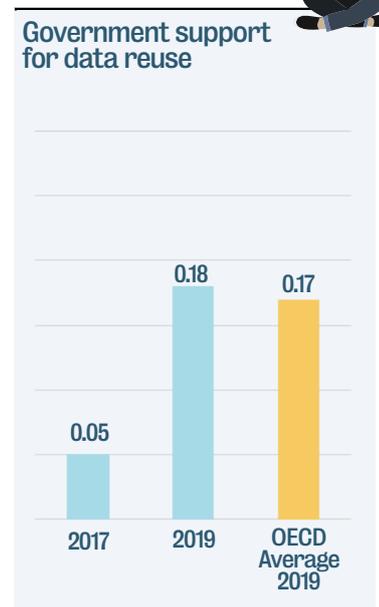
The Data Driven Nation Initiative has contributed to greater efforts by the government to actively reach out and support the re-use of open data within and outside the public sector. The biggest improvement can be seen in the engagement of civil society and businesses. Latvia could still focus more on monitoring the impact of open data and targeting public servants with training to accelerate their awareness and re-use of open data.

• 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.