The OECD Council adopted on 15 July 2014 the Recommendation on Digital Government Strategies. The Recommendation provides a set of 12 principles structured around 3 pillars. The OECD Secretariat is developing a Digital Government Policy Toolkit to support OECD member countries and non-member adhering countries with the implementation of the Recommendation. This practice was submitted by the government of Latvia to be considered as a good practice in the implementation of one or more of the principles contained in the Recommendation.

**Description of the practice:**

**Organisation:** Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

**Name of the practice:** Open Referendum Initiation System

**Principles implemented:** Principle 2 – Encourage engagement and participation of public, private and civil society stakeholders in policy making and public service design and delivery.

**Description:** Open interface – legal framework of legislative initiative platform that provide use open interface for third-part systems

In parallel to social initiative platform My Voice, state has introduced possibility to electronically initiate official referendums on the dissolution of Parliament or initiate a bill. There is a state developed and provided basic platform for doing this. But regulation states that in parallel, third parties’ (private and NGO) systems can be certified to collect signatures of consent to be submitted to the Central election commission.

- Legal framework - 1 January 2015
- If identification of signatories and protection of natural persons’ data are ensured, signatures can be collected online via the National citizens Portal (www.latvija.lv) or other online system chosen by the initiative group for the respective purpose. Other third-part online systems (private sector) will be able to use open interface and send data about Collection of Signatures to The Central Election Commission.
Digital government toolkit

Results

No referendum initiation initiatives have been submitted and initiated so far.

Development

2015/January

Design: Cabinets of Ministers regulation adopted 2014/August

Stakeholders involved: The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, State Regional Development Agency + Central Election Commission

Testing: Two months before runs production environment. N/A.

Implementation: From 2015, January

Tools: N/A

Resources: Public budget - 1 project manager, contracted developer

Diffusion and scaling: It’s planned that starting from 2016 public e-services will have to (if applicable) provide open interfaces to be used public and private/NGO.

Methods use to inform key stakeholders: Public relations and media relations

Partnerships: Public Sector Organisations

Partners: The Central Election Commission of Latvia

Nature of the partnership: The Central Election Commission of Latvia –defined organizational requirements (product owner)

Lessons learned

Public and private/NGO cooperation plays important role in citizens' involvement in decision making and enhancement of public administration processes.

The cooperation is working well and is sustainable if it is backed up by regulation.

Conditions required:

1) Overall democratic values
2) Supportive legal regulation
3) Supportive architecture (defined API interface)
4) Cooperation and partnership between public and private sectors and leadership
5) Ownership