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 Mexico 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:** Digital Government Unit, Ministry of Public Administration

**Name of the practice:** Open Data Policy

**Principles implemented:** Principle 3 – Create a data-driven culture in the public sector

**Description:**

The National Digital Strategy (EDN, by its initials in Spanish), is the action plan that the government is implementing to encourage the adoption and development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and insert Mexico into the Information and Knowledge Society. The EDN is the result of a collaborative effort, of talks with experts, industry and academics, legislators, civil organizations and citizens.

The Strategy sets out the challenges Mexico faces in the digital context and the way it will cope with them through five major objectives: i) Government Transformation; ii) Digital Economy; iii) Transformation of Education; iv) Universal, Effective Health; and v) Civic Innovation and Citizen Participation.

To achieve these objectives, the National Digital Strategy proposes the following five key enablers: i) Open Data; ii) Legal Framework; iii) Interoperability and Digital Identity; iv) Inclusion and Digital Skills; and v) Connectivity.

In this regard, we promote the publication of open data to create an ecosystem of co-creation of public services, detonate innovation and entrepreneurship, by transforming the information held by the government in an active social value.

The Coordination of National Digital Strategy prepared a business case in support of the Open Data Policy becoming an Executive Order.
The draft document was open to the public, receiving more than 1,300 comments.

It was revised by the legal department of the Coordination of National Digital Strategy

It was revised by the legal department of the Ministry of Public Administration

The final draft was revised by the Open Data Council, which is comprised of representatives from academia, private sector and civil society

The Draft was vetted by the Sub-Commission of Open Data (official coordination body comprised of General Directors of Technology from government Ministries) of the Interministerial Commission for the Development of Electronic Government (CIDGE, by its initials in Spanish).

The final Draft was then revised by Mexico’s Legal Council (Ministry level institution in charge of analysing and proposing legislation)

The Executive Order was published in the official gazette on February 20, 2105.

The Open Data Policy is implemented jointly by the Ministry of Public Administration and the Coordination of National Digital Strategy of the Office of the President.

- There is a Sub-Commission of Open Data within the CIDGE in charge of assessing and following the implementation of the Policy
- There is an Open Data Council (comprised of members of academia, private sector and SCOs) that follow, evaluate and give recommendations regarding the implementation of the Policy.

Inside each of the more than 270 government institutions, there are two public servants in charge of implementing the policy (chiefs of staff of Ministers or equivalents and General Directors of Technology), and an Open Data Institutional Council (comprised of the open data responsibles, plus areas in charge of transparency and access to information, government auditors, and data generating areas.

For more information: www.Datos.gob.mx


### Results

Among the main results we could mention the following:

- The institutionalization of the Open Data National Policy by means of an Executive Decree.
- The launch of the website datos.gob.mx.
- To date 40 institutions publish more than 5,000 open data bases on datos.gob.mx
- The launch of the Open Mexico Network (Red México Abierto) to guide states and municipalities
Digital government toolkit

- Published open data has been used to develop tools around transparency in natural disasters, maternal health, education, security and social inclusion.
- Prevention of maternal mortality - administrative data from health records were crossed to generate a diagnosis at the municipal level to reduce maternal mortality which created actionable and targeted interventions to combat this problem.

Corruption - we are implementing the Standard for Open Procurements to follow government spending on infrastructure and goods and services, through the stages of planning, tendering, acquisition, implementation and evaluation.

The evaluation process is due through international statistics and indicators that allow us to measure how are we doing in comparison with other countries.

The OECD evaluated the Mexican Open Data Policy in the latest OURData Index. Mexico is in position number 10, with a higher average than that of OECD countries.

The ODI made an initial evaluation of the Data Squads project that can be found here: https://theodi.org/case-studies/mexico-case-study-using-data-squads-to-jump-start-government-open-data-publishing

**Development**

**Design:** 2013-09 to 2014-03

Started with the implementation of an Open Data Readiness Assessment with the World Bank, and followed with the development of the draft policy, governance framework, and business case and implementation strategy.

The policy was opened to public comments and public discussion sessions.

Stakeholders involved: World Bank, Government Ministries, National Statistics and Geography Institute, National Institute of Access to Information and Personal Data Protection, Experts from academia, private sector and civil society

**Testing:** 2014-04 to 2015-02

Started in April 2014 with the ‘Data Squads’ Project, a team of information architecture, development and public policy experts that during 6 weeks, implemented the draft policy in 10 government agencies. The result was the publication of 100 high quality datasets in datos.gob.mx and the building of open data related capacities in these institutions.

The Open Data Policy was tested through the Data Squad pilot project, through which we analyzed qualitatively the institutional (governance) framework and the technological platforms used for the delivery of the Open Data Initiative.
This pilot project was then analyzed by ODI: [https://theodi.org/case-studies/mexico-case-study-using-data-squads-to-jump-start-government-open-data-publishing](https://theodi.org/case-studies/mexico-case-study-using-data-squads-to-jump-start-government-open-data-publishing)

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**Implementation:**


- Each of them have already appointed two open data responsibles and established an Open Data Council in their institutions.
- All Institutions have now made their initial Data Inventories and are currently prioritizing these inventories and developing their Open Data Plans.
- The open data plans, along with dataset publications from all agencies are due on oct 26, 2015.
- From then onwards, institutions will have to increase data quality and promote concrete use cases throughout 2016.

**Tools:**


CKAN as platform of the open data catalogue: [http://busca.datos.gob.mx/#/conjuntos](http://busca.datos.gob.mx/#/conjuntos)

Application for government entities to publish their data: [http://adela.datos.gob.mx/](http://adela.datos.gob.mx/)

**Resources:** Several public servants have been working in the development of the Open Data Policy; they are part of the structure of the different government agencies involved in the development of the project.

**Diffusion and scaling:** The Implementation Guide of the Open Data policy will have yearly revisions to incorporate best practices and lessons learnt in each iteration.
The open data site, datos.gob.mx, has a ‘Stories’ and ‘Tools’ sections specifically focused in transferring knowledge, progress and impact of open data in Mexico.

datos.gob.mx has also a specific section for public servants datos.gob.mx/guia, in which they can find all the necessary resources and step by step videos for implementation.

Furthermore, the Mexican Government established a Change Management Plan in order to guide agencies in the development of projects within the framework of the National Digital Strategy.

In this regard, the plan identified key players and stakeholders, developed and carried out specific communication strategies for each one of them, such as communication releases, high level meetings, training campaigns, and a continuous improvement program of government services that requires intergovernmental collaboration and high leadership commitment.

All developments are documented, public and are spread through the site: http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/edn/indicadores/

The Open Data Executive Order mandates the pursue of collaboration agreements of the publication of Open Data with states, municipalities, the legislative and judiciary powers, and with autonomous institutions.

The Coordination of National Digital Strategy also launched the Open Mexico Network (Red México Abierto), a platform that allows different levels of government share their experiences and knowledge around open data. Within the project, and with support from the Program of Mexico’s Economic Policy (PROPEM, by its initials in Spanish) of USAID, it was also developed a kit for municipalities and state governments to find the tools and support needed to develop or deepen its policy of Open Data. Through the kit and the experience of being part of the network, local officials responsible for implementing the policy of Open Data are working to open more data sets for the benefit of citizens.

Beginning with a pilot program in which 4 municipal and 3 state governments participated as part of the said kit of the Open Mexico Network, the Implementation Guide for State and Local Open Data was created with the idea that officials of municipal and state governments have a clear roadmap that enables them to open their data. This guide is based on the path already by the Federal Government for the creation of the datos.gob.mx platform.

Thus, from the point of view of the government, municipalities and states in Mexico now have a strong common technology platform to upload their datasets, a comprehensive guide to do so, a forum for sharing best practices and a growing body of approved standards and license to implement its Open Data policies.

Further information: http://www.mxabierto.org/
Partnerships: Civil Society and Multilaterals

Partners: World Bank, Open Data Institute, Open Knowledge Foundation

Nature of the partnership: World Bank helped with the initial readiness assessment for an open data policy

ODI and OKFN helped with the implementation of the Data Squad

Lessons learned

Public participation at the various stages of the drafting and implementation of the Policy is essential.

Conditions required:

1) Political leadership and empowerment given to the National Digital Strategy, since it is located at the Office of the President. This has implied a change in the way public policies on digital government and ICT have been implemented, since the fact to have the National Digital Strategy Coordination at the Office of the President and the transversal powers granted to it, has help accomplished in a very short time many outcomes.

2) In depth understanding of the capacities and challenges faced in government for implementation

3) Understanding what key objectives of high level public officials can be benefited through the use of open data.

4) Building support from society and government champions

Additional information: