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 Poland 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 Public Administration and Digitisation

**Name of the practice:** DanePubliczne.gov.pl – National Open Data Portal

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

**Description:** The initiative involved launching a data portal, organising trainings for civil servants on how to publish data in re-useable formats and disseminating knowledge about the benefits of open data. The portal itself offers various technical functionalities that allow users to browse, download and visualise data using web browser and via API.

Ministry of Administration and Digitisation is in charge of managing the technical side of the portal, granting publication rights to publishers and handling bug submissions. The Ministry is also responsible for amending the ordinance which specifies: datasets to be published by particular public bodies, publishing deadlines, frequency of updating and formats.

Publishers (public institutions) make their data available in the portal in re-usable formats.

**Results**

Numerous public institutions have published their datasets in the national data portal in re-usable formats. Several open data trainings and workshops were organised. The evaluation process involves indicators on the amount of datasets available in the portal measured yearly. The progress has been in tune with the planned indicators.
Development

**Design:** January 2015 (the 2nd version of the portal)

ePaństwo Foundation was contracted to implement the new iteration of the portal. Coding was conducted in a publicly accessible repository on github.com. Open Government Coalition (numerous Polish NGOs) was informed about the progress of implementing the portal (code and design-wise). The visual side and offered functionalities were agreed on in a series of feature planning meetings between the contractor’s employees and representatives of the ministry. This phase also involved technical testing.

**Testing:**

See the design section.

**Implementation:** May 2015

The latest version of DanePubliczne.gov.pl portal is based on CKAN software and customised to suit the needs and requirements specified in the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers on the Central Repository of Public Information and the Act on Access to Public Information.

Extension to CKAN (ckanext-danepubliczne) is available on github.com in a publicly available repository. Customisations include i.a. WCAG 2.0 AA compliance, responsive layout, custom metadata scheme and the workflow of granting publication rights to publishers.

**Resources:** 2 persons at the Ministry of Administration and Digitisation. The latest version of the portal cost approx. EUR 20 000.

**Diffusion and scaling:** Ongoing task

Conferences and trainings for civil servants on the national and regional level devoted to opening up data and re-use. Direct contacts with possible publishers and NGOs.

**Partnerships:** Civil Society

The Foundation was contracted to implement the new version of the portal and migrate data and metadata from the previous version of the portal based on custom software to a CKAN based solution.
Lessons learned

- It is good to have a legal instrument to indicate government data is to be published but make sure you have open doors for other publishers (not indicated there) willing to open their data;
- Data portal helps to build awareness about the benefits of open data and stimulates (open data) discourse;
- Opening up data is a process that takes time. Publishing data in the data portal is the final step (on the supply side) and work should start earlier;
- Open data is a relatively new concept in many organisations so organise training, disseminate knowledge, try to reach open data believers working in public institutions.