

Norway's web portal for public accounts: digital tools to increase citizen engagement

Title of the governance practice: The web-portal for state public accounts "statsregnskapet.no"

Summary of the governance practice

The Norwegian Government Agency for Financial Management launched the web-portal "statsregnskapet.no" (state public accounts) in October 2017, followed by an expansion of the coverage of the portal in June 2018. The portal provides up to date financial data for all ministries and central government agencies, searchable by budget chapter and standard chart of accounts. This resource provides a basis for cross-agency comparison and the analysis of resource consumption trends over time in an open data format

Short description of the governance practice

In October 2017, the Norwegian Government Agency for Financial Management (DFØ) launched the web-portal "statsregnskapet.no" for state public accounts. The Norwegian Government Agency for Financial Management extended the coverage of the portal in June. The portal is a means for the Government to publish disaggregated financial data according to public agencies available in a machine-readable and searchable format with monthly updates.

The portal now provides financial data for all ministries and central government agencies and is updated monthly. The portal allows individuals and entities to search published data by budget chapter and standard char of accounts. As such, the portal now provides a basis for analysis and comparison of resource consumption across agencies, over time, in open data format.

Achievement/Outcome of the governance practice

Prior to the launch of the web-portal financial data was accessible but no in a user-friendly way. The new portal is understood to have improved disclosure and allowed for the comparison of resource consumption across government agencies and over time. This represents a major achievement in the public's access to financial information in Norway. The availability of the web-portal is also considered to be a vital and significant undertaking by investigative journalists and others interested in "big data".

Source: Example of country practice provided by the Government of Norway as part of the Policy Framework's consultation process