

# OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA // 1<sup>st</sup> OECD Expert Group Meeting // 22 April 2015

## Summary

Government representatives from 25 OECD and partner countries plus the European Commission, the World Wide Web Foundation and Five by Five attended the **1<sup>st</sup> OECD Expert Group meeting on Open Government Data (OGD)**. The discussions were organised around four sessions on the OECD Open Government Data Review of Poland; eco-systems for OGD; the OECD OUR Data Index (Open Useful and Re-usable Government Data); and OGD and crowd-sourcing for improved policy making.



**OECD OGD review of Poland:** The first OECD country study on OGD focused on how Poland can use OGD as a strategic asset. Poland appreciated the recommendations by the OECD Secretariat and national peer reviewers Arie Scheer (Netherlands) and Aura Cifuentes (France). In order to create value from OGD, the primary focus should be on fostering “communities” for demand and re-use OGD – not necessarily by building new ones, but also by nurturing and leveraging existing networks as part of an OGD ecosystem. The current national open data portal has the potential to move from being a data repository towards becoming a platform for collaboration among different OGD communities both in- and outside of government. Countries shared their experiences in promoting opening up of data across their administrations and their broad re-use to promote value creation. Many countries for instance

use mandatory measures to get things started; most turn rapidly towards persuasion by illustrating the benefits of opening up data for the economy, society, and the administrations in question. ***The OECD Secretariat and Poland welcome further examples and practices from countries on how they combine mandatory and voluntary measures to open up government data; and how they leverage communities of data producers and data re-users to deliver expected impacts.***

**Establishing and managing the eco-system for OGD:** Kat Borlongan, co-founder of Five by Five and the Open Data Institute Paris, shared insights on how to best reach out to different business communities to create value from OGD. With her insight “No, you don’t need a hackathon”, Kat stressed that hackathons *per se* do not create value, unless they are embedded into a larger project designed to use OGD to address specific policy challenges. Jamie Berryhill, Senior Analyst in charge of OGD at the United States White House OMB, presented the US government’s efforts to establish the governance framework and build communities at the federal level, e.g. the numerous incentives and tools for the state and local authorities to include their data on the data.gov platform. As a result around 65k of the 150k available datasets are provided by public authorities other than the federal government. Building on the two presentations, participants discussed a wide range of practices, policies and challenges to the development of an open government data “culture” in their national contexts. Finland presented a recently completed study which concludes that indicators of OGD impact are still very scarce. ***Participants asked the OECD Secretariat to collect and disseminate practices and cases that illustrate the power and value of OGD, possibly with the view of building a community of OGD practitioners from OECD countries.*** One suggestion is for national OGD experts to meet regularly (e.g. on an annual basis), as well as to create possibilities for ongoing exchanges of views and opinions on “what works” and “what should not be done” (e.g. through an online platform or community).

**OECD OUR Data Index:** The OECD Secretariat presented the pilot edition of the OECD’s Open, Useful and Re-Usable Government Data Index 2014. The index will be first published in the OECD statistical publication *Government at a Glance 2015*. The data is extracted from a survey of member countries, and focuses on government efforts to ensure public sector data availability and accessibility and to spur a greater re-use. The Index is based on OECD methodology and the guidelines of the G7 OGD Charter. Participants found the OUR Data Index to be a critical contribution to improving the measurement of OGD efforts and made suggestions as to how future iterations of the Index could further enable identification of trends and support policy guidance. Suggestions included looking into governments’ efforts to assure data quality (e.g. metadata, data catalogues, frequency of updates, compliance with legal requirements); to monitor data users’ behaviours (e.g. volumes and purposes of specific data downloaded, re-use patterns); to create “commons of data” and to actively encourage re-use; to promote offline data accessibility, to measure maturity within administrations to manage, share and re-use data internally; to assess OGD implementation and value creation at local levels of government; to foster OGD value creation in specific sectors (e.g. health sector, food and hygiene, education, transport). This feedback, in conjunction with further work on indicators and data availability, demonstrate the OECD’s added value vis-à-vis other international metrics and will help shape the next edition of OUR Data Index. ***The OECD Secretariat looks forward to receiving further comments on the methodology and focus as we collaboratively proceed with member countries on measuring open government data.***

**OGD and crowd-sourcing for better policy making:** Tanja Aitamurto, Deputy Director at Stanford’s Brown Institute for Media Innovation, presented opportunities and pitfalls of using crowd-sourcing and technology for better policy-making. She placed emphasis on the fact that crowd-sourcing approaches are not a replacement for decision-making or opinion polls – they rather complement existing channels and means for participation in the identification, development and formulation of policy proposals. Jamie Berryhill, Senior Analyst at the US White House OMB, presented how the United States federal government uses OGD and technology to increase crowd-sourcing opportunities. For example by allowing the public to provide feedback on policy proposals; or to petition government via “We the people”. The session discussion highlighted how technology provides entirely new ways to create policies *with* citizens, instead of only *for* citizens – although no generic solutions exist yet, which means different crowd-sourcing approaches are needed for different needs. ***The OECD Secretariat welcomes contributions on the OECD toolkit for improving policy-making.***



Two important occasions to advance the work undertaken during this meeting are the OECD E-Leaders meeting in Tokyo, 29-30 September 2015, and the OECD Public Governance Ministerial in October 2015.