OECD OURdata Index: 2019

Estonia

Governance for Open Government Data

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<th>Institutional Governance</th>
<th>Policy Framework</th>
<th>Legal and Regulatory Instruments</th>
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<td>The Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Communications: is in charge of coordinating the state information systems policy. A committee of the government CIO, CDO, Director of Data Policy, Director of the State Information Systems Department, the State Information System Authority and Open Knowledge Estonia oversees the central open data policy.</td>
<td>The Green Paper on Open Data from 2014 serves as Estonia's open data policy, with guiding principles, interoperability architecture, central policy choices and an activity plan. The green paper covers both central and local levels of government.</td>
<td>The publication and reuse of open government data is regulated by the Estonian Public Sector Information Act. It states that, if possible and appropriate, public sector data shall be released in a machine-readable and open format.</td>
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Enabling coherent policy implementation

- The Open Data Green Paper has guidelines for those wishing to open up data.
- A public sector OGD working group meets several times a year to discuss developments of open data initiatives. Members are updated regularly on new developments via social media and email.

Open Government Data Portal

- Opendata.riik.ee is the official open data portal in Estonia.
- Users can add their own organisations and metadata to the open data portal.

Using data as a platform: ecosystem engagement and collaboration

- In 2018, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications signed a 3-year contract with the non-governmental organisation Open Knowledge Estonia for a strategic partnership to advance the provision and reuse of OGD in Estonia.
- The central government has collaborated on several occasions with the startup boot-camp and hackathon style event series Garage48.
- User consultations are held regularly on the GitHub account of opendata.riik.ee.
Good practice

**Hack the Crisis**
On 13th-15th March 2020, the private-public partnership programme AccelerateEstonia, together with Garage48, organised an online 48-hr hackathon for the data and tech community to assist in finding new solutions and tools to address the Covid-19 outbreak. The hackathon was hosted with support from the Estonian Minister of Foreign Trade and Information Technology. The five best ideas received prize money to support them in developing their ideas during the emergency situation.

**Performance per Index Pillar**

- **Data Availability**
  - 2017: 0.14
  - 2019: 0.14
  - OECD Average 2019: 0.20

- **Data Accessibility**
  - 2017: 0.26
  - 2019: 0.27
  - OECD Average 2019: 0.23

- **Government support for data reuse**
  - 2017: 0.05
  - 2019: 0.10
  - OECD Average 2019: 0.17

Since 2017, the Estonian government has increased the level of engagement with stakeholders to inform the open data policy, mainly over the central OGD platform’s GitHub account. However, the availability of high-value datasets on the portal is low compared to other OECD countries and the policy framework remains unchanged. As such, the aggregated level of data availability has not increased.

Estonia has a high level of data accessibility, supported by a relatively user-driven and open OGD platform, and requirements set in the Public Information Act and the OGD Green Paper. However, there is still room to strengthen the content of the unrestricted access to data policy, for example by issuing requirements for data to be released in a disaggregated form whenever possible.

The main challenge for the Estonian government is to increase its support to the re-use of open data. While efforts are increasing, the country remains one of the lowest performing OECD countries in organising data promotion events and partnerships, increasing open data literacy within government and in monitoring the impact of open data.

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* 2019 OURdata Index data was collected through the 2018 OECD OGD Survey. Some written information was collected in 2019/2020. Data unavailable for Hungary, Turkey, Iceland and United States.
  * The index ranges from 0 to 1 and is composed of three indicators with an equal weight of 0.33. Each indicator ranges from 0 to 0.33.