Governance for Open Government Data

Institutional Governance

The Finnish Ministry of Finance is in charge of the Public Sector ICT Policy, covering open data.

The newly established Digital and Population Data Services Agency (2020) is responsible for developing and maintaining the national open data portal avoindata.fi.

Policy Framework

The current Government Programme (issued in December 2019) sets openness of public information, including open data, APIs and open source software, as key goals of the administration.

The Finnish 2019-2023 OGP National Action Plan has several open data commitments, such as ensuring a good user experience, high data quality and ethical guidelines on AI.

Legal and Regulatory Instruments

The Act on the Openness of Government Activities from 1999 ensures the availability of public sector information in digital and data formats.

The 2019 Act on Public Administration Information Management mandates public sector information to be made available in machine-readable formats via APIs within public sector authorities and other authorised actors.

Enabling coherent policy implementation

- The Information Management Board promotes the implementation of the information management procedures, as specified in the Act on Public Administration Information Management.
- The Ministry of Finance has several ongoing projects and programmes implementing the objectives regarding openness in the Government Programme.
- The Ministry of Finance shares recent developments on public sector ICT and open government policy through a regular newsletter.

Open Government Data Portal

- Avoindata.fi is Finland’s national portal for open data.
- The Finnish company register is one of the most popular datasets available on the platform.
- Any user can add their own organisations and datasets to the portal, thus promoting the crowdsourcing of data and ideas and following OECD best practices.

Using data as a platform: ecosystem engagement and collaboration

- In 2019, the avoindata.fi team attended the 10 years of open data in Finland celebration event hosted by Open Knowledge Finland and Helsinki Region Infoshare, where they organised a specific seminar on the new Directive (EU) 2019/1024 on Open Data and Re-use of Public Sector Information.
OECD OURdata Index: 2019

Good practice

**Data User’s guide**
The Data User’s guide on avoindata.fi is a good example of communicating the benefits of open data re-use, both in general and on the portal, in plain language to citizens. It also provides users with detailed information on how to effectively search for data on the portal, and for those interested, how to set up a user account to add or manage data. The user’s guide was created in 2019 by the content creation team at avoindata.fi.

**Performance per Index Pillar**

**Data Availability**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Finland</th>
<th>OECD Average 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.20</td>
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Finland’s level of data availability has dropped due to a lack of stakeholder engagement to inform the central open data policy (since 2017). The availability of high-value datasets (as listed in the G8 open data charter) is also relatively low. This might be due to the completion of the former Open Data Programme in 2015.

**Data Accessibility**

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Finland performs above the OECD average in data accessibility. However, there is still room for improvement in strengthening formal requirements to ensure coherent implementation of data accessibility across the public sector. With the new 2019 Act on Public Administration Information Management, this might be achieved.

**Government support for data reuse**

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<td>0.08</td>
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<tr>
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The Finnish government’s level of engagement with both public servants and external stakeholders to promote their re-use of open data has decreased noticeably since 2017. Over the period 2017-2019, Finland has been one of the least performing OECD countries in this respect.

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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.