



Governing and legislating in the digital age

Barbara-Chiara Ubaldi

Head of the Digital Government and Data Unit

Deputy Head of the Open and Innovative Government Division

Public Governance Directorate

OECD



The world is digital and requires mature **digital governments**



- > The digital age is driving a **continuous transformation** of needs and behaviors in economies and societies – the COVID-19 has made this trend more evident
- > **Governments have a critical role to play to shape** this transformation and the digital ecosystem towards contributing to broader societal outcomes and public interest.
- > **Revitalised digital government imperative**
 - > **Mature digital governments** able to balance opportunities and risks to shape a public governance that is:
 - people-centred, fair and sustainable
 - competent to address global challenges



Robust governance to support digital transformation:

The OECD Framework on the Governance of Digital Government



Facet 1: Contextual Factors

Dimension 1.1
Overall Political and
Administrative Culture and
Structure

Dimension 1.2
Socio-Economic Factors

Dimension 1.3 Technological
and
Policy Context

Dimension 1.4 Environmental
and Geographical
Considerations

Facet 2: Institutional Models

Dimension 2.1
Macro-Structure

Dimension 2.2
Leadership:
Position/Role

Dimension 2.3
Co-ordination and
Co-operation

Dimension 2.4
Civic Participation and
Collaboration

Facet 3: Policy Levers

Dimension 3.1
Strategy and Plan

Dimension 3.2
Project Management Tools

Dimension 3.3
Financial Management
Mechanisms

Dimension 3.4
Regulations and Standards



Imperative issues: Ethics and Transparency



- Governments need to strive for promoting **trustworthy and human-centered** digital technologies that respect **human rights and democratic values**.
 - The public sector faces a higher bar on transparency and accountability.
 - Some governments are adopting **algorithmic accountability tools** to allow the public to see, understand and monitor the use and functioning of algorithms and data.
- The OECD is supporting governments through:
 - **OECD AI Principles**
 - **OECD Good Practice Principles for Data Ethics in the Public Sector**



Imperative issues: Data and Open Data



- The **access to and use of data** can be a powerful tool to enhance democracy and trustworthy rulemaking in different ways.
- Open election and parliament data, and data on the legislative, lawmaking and regulatory process are key to the digital transformation of parliaments and their work:
 - (open) Election data: eg. polling stations, who is running for office, electoral constituencies, eligible candidates can help citizens to exert their rights (services)
 - Parliament: data on members of parliament, data from political parties (semi-private), **lobbying data**
 - The legislative process: Data (machine-readable) draft legislation and statutes
- The regulatory process, including Impact Assessments (RIAs) can also benefit from data access and sharing by tapping on data from different sources to assess potential impacts.



Imperative issues: Artificial Intelligence for Accountability



- Digital innovations can increase **transparency**, close the **political credibility** gap, and reduce scepticism of the **integrity of policymakers**.
- AI and emerging technologies can be particularly useful for "**integrity actors**" (e.g. audit offices, tax authorities, procurement agencies, or civil society watchdogs)
 - Identifying potential fraud and corruption
 - Analysing and preventing strategic risks
 - Empowering civil society (e.g. CivicTech)



Imperative issues: Collaboration and CivicTech



- Digital tools and data enable governments to **leverage capacities from civil society** to address public challenges through active collaborations with CivicTech communities.
- Key enabling conditions:
 - Adopting a **Government as a Platform** approach (shared tools and standards) can help the public sector **encourage collaboration with the CivicTech ecosystem** while securing integration and standardization
 - Securing **Data Governance** enables **effective and trustworthy access to, sharing and use of data**
 - **Releasing and fostering reuse of public data (OGD)** can establish concrete collaboration paths with the public sector to solve relevant societal problems.
- Example: *Vitemadose* app to book COVID-19 vaccine appointments in France, using OGD and developed with CivicTech



- **Protecting the same **human rights and democratic principles** online and offline**
 - Reaffirming existing rights and considering new rights
- **Digital inclusion**
 - Ensuring **access** and **capabilities** to use digital technologies
 - Providing analogue alternatives, ensuring access to the internet, and levelling digital literacy among all citizens
- **Transforming institutions and regulations**
 - New specialized institutions: tech ambassadors, data ethicist officers, agencies to oversee the ethical and responsible use of AI, among others.
 - Transforming, merging or creating new regulators for digital issues
 - International and national cross-sectoral co-operation structures among regulators



Open Parliaments for Open and Digitally-Enabled States



Open Parliaments adopt concrete practices with the *use of digital tools and data* to improve representation, participation and transparency in legislative processes, which fosters trust with the public and reinforces democracy.

... **by providing information** on the legislative procedure, MPs' agendas, open meetings, parliament's budget, lobby register, MPs' assets and possible conflicts of interests.

... **by fostering participation** through agenda setting mechanisms, deliberative practices, co-drafting legislation, open consultations.





Thank You!

Barbara-Chiara Ubaldi

barbara.ubaldi@oecd.org

<http://www.oecd.org/gov/digital-government>



@BarbaraUbaldi

@OECDgov

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