

4th OECD Expert Group Meeting on Open Government Data

The fourth OECD Expert Group Meeting on Open Government Data was held on the 7th and 8th June 2018 with the participation of **23 OECD countries and delegates from Argentina and Colombia**. The meeting also benefited from the contribution of the **Executive Direction of the International Open Data Charter Secretariat**.

The meeting stressed the need to support the long-term sustainability and continuity of open government data policies and the relevant conditions needed to be able to do so. Governments were encouraged to share experiences on creating an open data ecosystem, supporting sound governance models and changing the approach public administrations should adopt regarding government data at large and its role both within and outside the public sector. This fourth Expert Group Meeting was also an opportunity to present the methodological paper and final results on the OURdata Index 2017 as well as key recommendations from the OECD Secretariat on OGD stemming from its Open Government Data Report. In this fourth edition, the OECD also presented its analytical work regarding a possible GOV-STI joint recommendation on enhanced access to data and data sharing.

7th June, 2018

Session 1: The ecosystem as a driver of policy continuity

This session focused on the importance and the need for governments to move towards a more user-driven approach regarding their release of open government data. Delegates discussed on how could the user demand be identified and where to locate it but also on how to convince various public sector organisations within their respective administrations to open up their data in order to meet user needs.

Much of the discussion centred on the governments' capabilities and effectiveness in properly engaging the ecosystem by being able to identify the data within their administrations, provide incentives and help both central and local public sector organisations to release that data as open data.

The session recognised as essential the need to build a solid case for public value creation derived from open government data before providing legitimate grounds for its reuse.

The session benefitted from the presentations of delegates from **Korea, Finland and Italy**.

Session 2: Sound governance models as a critical success factor for policy sustainability

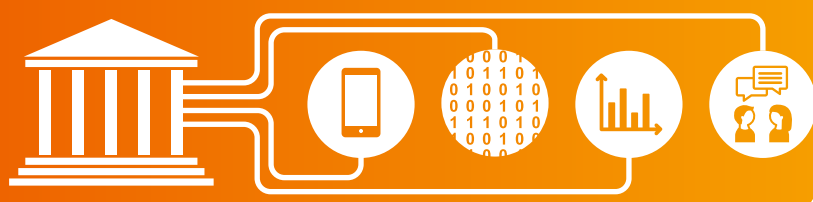
Discussions in this second session centred on establishing the right governance model to support the sustainability of open government data policies. Presentations were offered by France and Ireland, who both gave an

overview of their current respective governance model for open government data. Information on the main body in charge of OGD, its location within the government, as well as different other legal and regulatory instruments supporting its mandate were offered.

Discussions during this session stressed the importance of establishing governance frameworks that respond to a need. Governments should above all consider the purpose of the governance framework for open government data before adopting a specific type of model. Thus, through this session, one major point was on adopting context specific governance models if OGD was to be successfully exploited.

Furthermore, and importantly, there was also general agreement on the fact that open government data policies should cease to be thought of as isolated elements, but should rather be connected to other broader strategies, in particular data-driven policies, digital economy policies and possibly artificial intelligence related policies.





Session 3: Problem-solving initiatives as a way to increase policy maturity

Delegates shared on the different initiatives they adopted to publish open government data with a problem-solving mindset. Mexico and Colombia were the main countries presenting the initiatives that had taken place in their respective countries to release specific targeted open government data, based on an identified need or issue. Other countries, such as Belgium, shared on the rationale they were considering to use in order to justify and encourage the release of open government data.

In general, the session stressed upon the need to build the case for OGD as an asset to public policy development and problem solving rather than as an end in itself. There was in fact a general consensus across countries that only such an approach was considered viable to promote the long-term sustainability and continuity of OGD as well as encourage public sector organisation to publish data.

Session 4: Keeping up to the promise: Measuring and monitoring policy implementation and results

This session focused on discussing the different initiatives that have been developed to measure open government data maturity and its impact. Discussions revealed that in general terms measurements of the impacts of OGD were still rare.

Furthermore, countries agreed with the OECD that two essential questions first had to be answered before solid measurements of OGD impact could occur. These being:

- For what reason are we measuring?
- For who are we measuring?

In addition, it was also said that it was not sufficient to answer these two questions to obtain good open government data measurements. One also had to be willing to invest significantly in good measurement in order to obtain them.

8th June, 2018

Session 5 & Session 6: Supporting policy development, implementation and impact (Pt. 1 and Pt. 2)

The OECD Secretariat presented the key recommendations drawn out from the OECD Open Government Data Report (available here: www.oecd.org/gov/digital-government/open-government-data-report-9789264305847-en.htm).

Governments were in particular recommended by the Secretariat to consider the whole lifecycle of data when taking decisions and invest accordingly.

The OECD also presented the theoretical framework on the digital government indicators, which aims to measure governments progress in moving from E-government to digital government, based on six main dimensions (such as data-driven, or again open by default).

Finally, the Secretariat presented the final results of the OURdata Index 2017, its associated methodological paper, and the future upcoming steps regarding the OURdata Index 2019.

This session was also characterised by much discussion on the need to change our current narrative regarding open government data and think more in generic terms with a more holistic view on data as a whole, rather than a narrow isolated focus on open government data.

Session 7: Supporting policy development, implementation and impact (Pt. 3)

The International Open Data Charter delivered a presentation highlighting perceived missing elements in the Charter which represented the focus of ongoing conversations on the Charter's need to be updated. For example, the importance of adding the principle of publishing with a purpose.

Final presentations were offered by the OECD Secretariat on its on-going work on a potential joint recommendation for enhanced access to and sharing of data. In fact, the OECD presented a gap analysis to draw out the current recommendations that are present in terms of data, and those still missing, for which filling the gap is necessary.

This led again to final discussions on the need to reconsider government data sharing and perceive open government data as one methodology of data sharing.

Altogether, these final discussions came to confirm how the discourse on open government data needs to be understood as part as of a whole linking it in particular to broader discussions on government data policies.

Closing remarks

There was an overall agreement from the delegates on the need to find ways to maintain the collaboration and discussions ongoing during the year and beyond the physical meetings.

For more information visit: www.oecd.org/gov/digital-government/open-government-data.htm