

Progress Report for ODGB Meeting, 26 September, 2017

Governance Activities

The Public Bodies Working Group met on 12 July. Wendy Carrerra (EU Commission/Capgemini) gave a presentation to the Group on Open Data Impacts and evaluation of Open Data while Derilinx gave a presentation on future plans for the national portal. A representative from the Department of Social Protection has joined the group.

It is intended to hold the next meeting of the Public Bodies Working Group in late October in conjunction with a briefing session for newly nominated Open Data Liaison Officers (an action of the Open Data Strategy).

Suggested dates for the next meeting of the Board are either 21st, 22nd or 28th November (afternoon) and Board members are asked to confirm their availability on these dates as soon as possible. No further meeting before the end of 2017 will be scheduled.

Open Data Strategy 2017-2022

The Open Data Strategy was published on 14 July. The publication of the Strategy was communicated by the Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform to all Secretaries General, Heads of Offices and Chief Executives of Local Authorities together with details of the open data training and technical support frameworks put in place. This was forwarded on to the CEOs of all State Agencies. The same correspondence also requested public bodies to nominate an Open Data Liaison Officer within their respective organisations and a register of these is currently being put in place. This will be put on the portal in due course.

A number of hard copies of the Strategy were published for use at conferences etc. and a number were distributed to government departments and agencies. An Irish version was also published on the portal to fulfil the department's obligations under the Official Languages Act.

Open Data Support - Training

Urban Tide have now arranged the first tranche of training courses as follows. Further courses are planned for October and November depending on waiting lists and expressions of interest received. The Open Data Unit actively promoted and communicated details of the courses across the system in August and continues to do so via various channels including social media. The team are also undertaking the courses.

Date	Course Details	Attendance
19th September	General Overview on Open Data (Broad Training)	30
20th September	Application of the Open Data Technical Framework (User Group Training)	15
27th September	Anonymisation Techniques & Linked Data (User Group Training)	15
28th September	Data Analytics & Visualisation (User Group Training)	15

Open Data Support – Technical Support

The contracts with the 9 successful tenderers for the open data technical support framework were signed in July. Full details of the framework as well as details of the successful companies can be seen on the Open Data portal [here](#).

The existing contract for technical support for the Open Data Portal and Initiative expired on 3rd August and following discussion with the Office of Government Procurement, the contract with Derilinx was extended, as permitted, for a further year to 3rd August 2018.

Data Suggestions

Suggestions made through the ‘Suggest dataset’ feature <https://data.gov.ie/dataset/suggest> continue to be followed up on by the Open Data Team. Some 64 suggestions have been received to date.

The number of datasets available on the portal continues to grow with 89 added in July and 171 in August. The portal now links to approximately 5,420 datasets from 100 publishers. There was an influx of datasets from the Central Statistics Office and the Health Service Executive during August.

The HSE launched their ehealth portal in July and this is fully synched with the national portal so all of the HSE datasets are now accessible via data.gov.ie.

The ‘latest news’ section is updated regularly. Blog posts included on the portal in the past 2 months include details of open data events, open data training, the launch of the Strategy and the ehealth portal and a number of blogs were included from the successful applicants of the 2016 Engagement Fund including on the Objective Quality of Life Index, Agricultural Correlations using open data and Linked Data and the Generation of RDF from non-RDF resources.

Regular tweets are also being sent from @GovDataIE

New Datasets and Highlights

Increase in number of datasets: <https://data.gov.ie/stats>

- 89 in July, 171 in August

These include:

- CSO Census datasets
- OSi boundary datasets
- ehealth and HSE datasets

There were 7593 visitors to the portal in July, and 7272 in August.

New Features

- In the past month, changes made to the portal included the inclusion of European Data Portal eLearning modules, a banner on the homepage that links to the open data training and technical support details. Details of the Open Data Strategy are also permanently featured on the home page. Some work was also done on the Data Audit Tool and on updating guides in anticipation of these being used more widely as more public bodies come on board.

National and International Engagement

National

Fiona Morley Clarke gave a presentation on the new Open Data Strategy at seminar for Public Service IT Managers hosted by the CSO on 15th September.

The Open Data Unit had an exhibition stand featuring the open data portal at the Public Service Reform Conference held in Dublin Castle on Monday 18th September.

The Open Data Unit as well as members of the Board will participate in an Open Data Impacts event-creating Business opportunities with open data hosted by Derilinx in collaboration with IDA Ireland and the Open Data Unit on the 26th September.

The Open Data Unit will host an exhibition stand featuring the Open Data Portal at the Predict Conference taking place on 3rd October.

The Open Data Unit will give a talk on the Open Data Initiative and Portal at the European Language Research Co-Ordination Workshop in Dublin on 13th October.

Fiona Morley Clarke will give a talk on the Open Data Initiative and Portal at the Government Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland AGM on 19th October.

International

A workshop between the Open Data Unit and Wendy Carrerra (EU Commission/Capgemini), Open Data Norway, Derilinx and IGEES took place on 12th July. The focus of the workshop was on Open Data Impacts and evaluation of Open Data.

A member of the Open Data Unit is expected to attend the next meeting of the European Open Data portal and PSI subgroup which takes place in Luxembourg on 15th November.

Members of the Open Data Unit will also attend an Open Data Conference in Northern Ireland over the weekend of 21/22 October and intend to use the opportunity to meet with Northern Ireland counterparts to discuss synergies in relation to Open Data.

Engagement with Public Bodies

The Open Data Unit are continuing to engage with public bodies on Open Data. A meeting was held with the Open Data liaison Officer from the Department of Social Protection in July and he has subsequently joined the Public Bodies Working Group. A number of meetings will be scheduled with other public bodies over the coming months. A total of 37 public bodies have nominated Open Data Liaison persons to date and the Open Data Unit will follow up with organisations who have not yet reverted over the coming weeks.

Open Data Unit
26 September, 2017

Ends/