

## Progress Report for ODGB Meeting, 28 November, 2017

### Governance Activities

A joint meeting of the Public Bodies Working Group and newly appointed Open Data Liaison Officers took place on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Some 70 public service officials from across a broad spectrum of organisations attended. The Open Data Unit gave an overview of the Open Data Initiative since its inception in 2014 as well as highlighting the key actions in the recently published Open Data Strategy 2017-2022. Deirdre Lee, Derilinx gave a presentation on 'Publishing Open Data' and a number of Public Bodies gave presentations on Open Data activities within their respective organisations and the approaches that they have taken to date including Roscommon County Council, the broader Local Authorities area, the Oireachtas Service and the Marine Institute. Several communications have since issued to the Liaison Officers group to keep them up to date on open data activities, news and training.

### Open Data Support - Training

Urban Tide continue to roll out training courses with courses now having taken place in September, and October (Dublin), November (Cork) with further course planned for 5/6 and 13/14 December in Dublin.

### Open Data Support – Technical Support

There has been no drawdown to date from the Open Data technical support framework though there have been enquiries in relation to it.

### Open Data Engagement Fund

24 applications were received for the 2017/2018 Open Data Engagement Fund. 10 applications were received under category A – outreach, advocacy or engagement activities to promote the release and/or use of open data, 10 under category B – promoting the innovative use of data published on the Open Data portal such as the building of apps, creation of use cases, development of interactive visualisations and 4 under category C – special category project using data on the portal to arrive with positive outcomes to assist in government decision making or creating public service efficiencies. .

A Selection Committee comprising, Dennis Jennings, Daithí Mac Síthigh and Ashling Cunningham (members of the Open Data Governance Board) and Fiona Morley Clarke (Open Data Unit) assessed each application individually and made a recommendation based on the merits of each application. Details of the 13 applications that were approved for funding/part funding are available on the [portal](#). We have asked successful applicants to report back to the Board on the progress of their projects by end of March 2018. All projects are to conclude by summer 2018.

### Portal

#### 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 72 suggestions have been received to date.

#### Datasets

The number of datasets available on the portal continues to grow with 149 added in September and 171 in October. The portal now links to just over 5,440 datasets from 100 publishers. The Oireachtas Service APIs are now available on the portal which allows their datasets to be retrieved

and reused as widely as possible. The national planning database was also recently added to the portal.

The '[Latest News](#)' section is updated regularly. Blog posts included on the portal in the past 2 months include details of open data events and open data training; details of public consultations (air quality and on the review of the PSI Directive by the European Commission) and details of the successful Open Data Engagement recipients.

There were 8217 visitors to the portal in September and 11,821 in October (the highest monthly figure to date.). Other stats are available on the Stats page: <https://data.gov.ie/stats>

Regular tweets are also being sent from @GovDataIE

### **New Features**

- In the past month, changes made to the portal included the inclusion of stats on the number of views per publisher and per dataset. An online survey has also been included to capture details as to who is downloading data and what it is being used for (the survey request is activated when a user downloads a dataset).

## [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 15<sup>th</sup> September.

The Open Data Unit as well as members of the Board participated 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 26<sup>th</sup> September.

The Open Data Unit had an exhibition stand featuring the open data portal at joint OSi, CSO Geographics and Statistics Conference held in Dublin Castle over two days 2/3 November as well as having a presence at the Predict Conference held in the RDS on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

The Open Data Unit gave a talk on the Open Data Initiative and portal at the European Language Research Co-Ordination Workshop in Dublin on 13<sup>th</sup> October as well as to the Government Libraries Group of the Library Association of Ireland AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Presentations were also given to the GIS Workshop (DCCAE) and the INSPIRE Directive Steering Group on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

### [International](#)

A member of the Open Data Unit attended a meeting of the European Open Data portal and PSI subgroup in Luxembourg on 15<sup>th</sup> November. A public consultation is currently taking place on the review by the European Commission of the PSI Directive which is to be completed by July 2018. The closing date for receipt of submissions is 12 December and a link to the consultation can be accessed on the [portal](#). The review is evaluating how the PSI Directive is operating as well as looking at options to broaden the scope of the Directive into areas such as data held by research bodies, data held by utility companies (transport, water, energy, postal etc.), modifying the charging provisions and the promotion of the use of APIs.

Deloitte have been commissioned by the European Commission to carry out a data collection exercise and study to support the PSI review and Ireland is one of the countries targeted for an in-

depth analysis. This will include up to 20 interviews with interested stakeholders, three on on-line surveys and 3 workshops. The Open Data Unit has been requested to participate in an interview.

Capgemini who run the European Open Data portal on behalf of the Commission announced the results of the 2017 Open Data Maturity Landscaping exercise. Ireland achieved first place (up from 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2016) – the report can be viewed [here](#).

Members of the Open Data Unit attended an Open Data unConference in Northern Ireland over the weekend of 21/22 October and used 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. Recent meetings include with the Central Bank who were very positive towards linking their data to the portal and the Department of Community and Rural Development. A number of further meetings will be scheduled with other public bodies over the coming months. A total of 75 public bodies have nominated Open Data Liaison persons to date.

Open Data Unit  
28 November, 2017

Ends/