

Progress Report for Open Data Governance Board, 14 March, 2018

Governance Activities

The Open Data Governance Board met on 5 occasions in 2017 and it is intended that the Board will meet quarterly in 2018. Membership of the Board will be reconstituted in October 2018 when 50% of the Board will be replaced and the remaining 50% will serve for a further year. This is to ensure continuity and will streamline the changeover of Board members.

The Public Bodies Working Group on Open Data met on 8 March. Presentations were given by the CSO on 5 Star Linked Open Data project currently underway and by Derilinx on the new functionality of version 3 of the portal.

Open Data Support

To date, there has been no drawdown from the framework for Open Data Technical Support. As a lot of organisations are at review and audit stage we understand they have not been in a position to draw down from the framework, we expect to see some activity in the coming year.

Urban Tide commenced running open data training courses in September and to date 241 public servants from 42 organisations has availed of training as follows:

- 90 public servants from 34 organisations has availed of General Overview on Open Data
- 47 public servants from 25 organisations has availed of Technical Framework training
- 39 public servants from 22 organisations has availed of Anonymisation and Linked Data training
- 65 public servants from 26 organisations has availed of Data Analytics and Visualisation training

Apart from 2 training courses that took place in Cork, the training was based in Dublin. The next round of courses will take place in April 2018.

The contract signed with Urban Tide in July was for one year with an option to renew annually for a maximum of a further 3 years. The Office of Government Procurement is currently reviewing the operation of the contract in year 1 in conjunction with the Open Data Unit.

The existing contract for technical support for the Open Data Portal and Initiative is due to expire on 3rd August. An RFT is currently being drafted in this regard.

Implementation of the Open Data Strategy

Implementation of the Open Data Strategy is continuing since the meeting with Liaison Officers which took place in October. The Open Data Unit has been meeting with individual public service organisations to discuss their open data activities. Some of these include the Central Bank, Teagasc, D/Rural and Community Affairs, D/Agriculture & Food, Residential Tenancies Board, Tusla, LGMA, Grangegorman Development Agency and ComReg.

The Open Data Unit had an exhibition stand showcasing the portal at a 'LoveData' event in Maynooth University on 14th February which had a lot of interest from both students and members of the public. Slides and information brochures advertising the portal and the Open Data Engagement Fund were also provided to UCD for a similar event in February.

Some 90 Open Data Liaison Officers are now in place across public service organisations and local authorities. These are being used by the Open Data Unit to advertise training, seminars etc. as well as being the point of contact for any data requests or queries in respect of their organisation.

Liaison Officers have also been asked to provide quarterly progress reports that feed into the Open Data Governance Board and will also feed into the publication of an Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the Open Data Strategy. This is an action in the Open Data Strategy. The Open Data Unit will be in contact with public service organisations for an update on their open data activities in this regard.

Open Data portal

The third iteration of the portal is being launched the week commencing Monday 12th March with increased functionality.

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 84 suggestions have been received to date, 50 are still open and 34 are closed.

The number of datasets available on the portal continues to grow and now totals some 6,100. (There were 171 additions to the portal in Oct 2017, 18 in November, 4 in December, 34 in January and 29 in February. The number of visitors to the portal is approximately 11,000 per month.

There are now 12 '[showcases](#)' on the portal. Blog posts and news items are regularly added to the portal and regular tweets are also being sent.

New Features

- The number of views for each dataset is now shown on the portal
- Popular datasets can now be 'tagged' so that they permanently appear on the first page of datasets so can easily be found.
- Recently added datasets are logged as 'new' for ease of reference for portal users
- A survey was recently added to the portal which asks users to complete a short survey when downloading data. The aim is to capture information on data usage, users etc. and any feedback from those using the portal. To date some 55 people have completed the survey, 33% from research and academia, 18% from business, 13% public service and 13% general public. With regard to the use they were making of the data downloaded, 33% was to gain knowledge, 16% to incorporate into research, 16% for use in a student project, 7% to build an application and 7% to enhance data models. 40% gave further details of the specific use being made of the data with 52% combining the dataset with other open data, 19% combining the data with internal data already held. The information from the survey will hopefully help inform the EU and International surveys that require to be completed annually by the Open Data Unit.

Open Data Engagement Fund

Some €30,000 in funding was paid out via the Open Data Engagement Fund in November. The full list of successful applicants is available [here](#). Progress reports have been requested to be returned by end March 2018 and the projects must be completed by end June 2018. A number of blog posts from Barry Doyle, Roscommon Co. Co. outlining the outcomes/learnings from the Open Data Leaders Network he attended are on the portal [here](#).

Reuse of Public Service (PSI) Directive

A member of the Open Data Team attended a joint meeting of the European Commission PSI Group and European Open Data portal sub group in November. The EU Commission are currently reviewing the operation of the Re Use of PSI Directive – the review is to be completed by July 2018. Some of the areas that the review will look at include: re-use of cultural heritage materials; functioning of the

current charging provisions; interplay of personal data protection and re-use; re-use of data held by semi-public undertakings; re-use of research data; better use of dynamic data; clarification of the interplay with INSPIRE. A public consultation took place between September and December 2017 and the results of the consultation are expected to be published shortly.

The public consultation looked at the evaluation of the functioning of the current Directive; remaining barriers to PSI re-use and possible solutions and possibilities of enhancing access to data of public interest. Possible proposals for amendments to the Directive are expected in May 2018.

National and International Engagement

The second of a number of Open Data Impact Series 'Driving Open Transport Data' will take place on 22nd March at 25 Fitzwilliam Place. Full details are on the portal. The Seminar is being organised by Deirdre Lee, Derilinx and supported by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Smart Dublin, TII and the National Transport Agency. The focus is on transport data. Further details of the different panels and details on how to register for tickets are at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/driving-open-transport-data-tickets-43349968924>

Dominic Byrne, Fingal Co. Co. gave a presentation on Open Data and Smart Dublin Initiative to the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform Senior Management Policy Forum on 23rd February which was well received.

Ireland achieved first place in the European Data Portal landscaping exercise, conducted by Capgemini (the consultants engaged by the EU Commission to build the European Data Portal). <http://www.europeandataportal.eu/> in November.

The next meeting of the OECD Expert Group on Open Government Data will be held in Paris on 7-8 June, 2018. The OECD will be publishing the results of the Open Government Data Report later on during the year. This report draws on the data and information on practices collected by the OECD through several Open Government Data surveys.

Open Data Unit
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