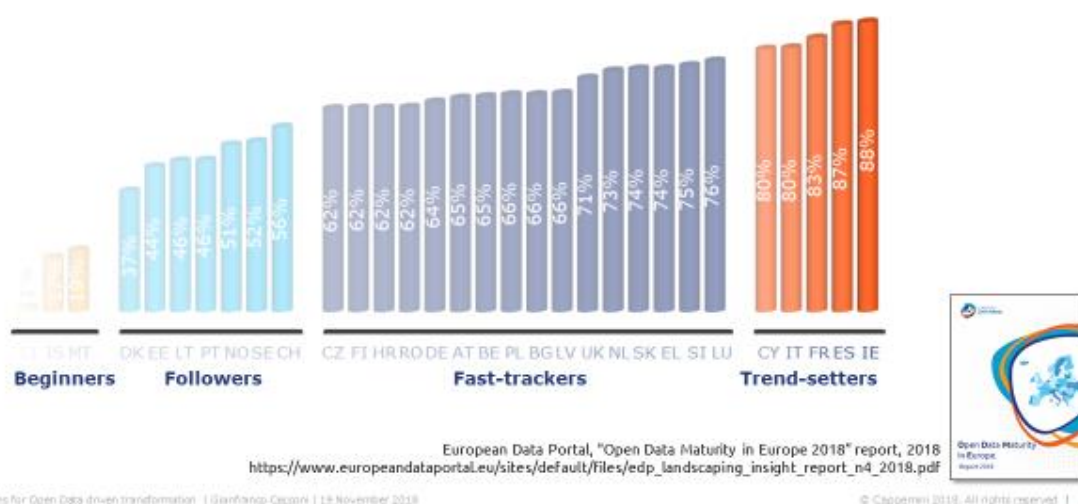# Progress Report for Open Data Governance Board – January 2019

EU Open Data Maturity 2018

Ireland was placed first in Europe for Open Data Maturity for the second year running. This is a significant achievement and we were followed closely by Spain and France in second and third places respectively. The results of the survey were published in November 2018 and we were delighted when Ireland retained its ranking as 1st in the EU with regard to open data maturity and readiness. The full report and Ireland's fact sheet are available on the portal.

Governance Activities

A call for expressions of interest for membership of the Open Data Governance Board was advertised via the stateboards.ie website in Q3 2018. Following a selection process, 4 new appointments were made to the Board as follows:

- Mr. Seamus Murphy, Chief Digital Officer, AIB;
- Mr. Martin Quigley, Head of the Affordable Childcare Scheme, Pobal;
- Dr. Bahareh Heravi, Assistant Professor in Information & Communication Studies, UCD;
- Mr. Cianán Clancy, Head of Innovation and Strategy, Independent News and Media, Plc.

The next meeting of the Public Bodies Working Group has not yet been scheduled. A review of the Terms of Reference of the Group is planned.

Open Data Support

From September 2017 to June 2018, 292 public servants from 64 organisations availed of the open data training.   The next round of courses start in February.

Implementation of the Open Data Strategy

The Open Data Unit continues to meet with individual public service organisations to discuss their open data activities. For example, meetings were recently held with Bord Iascaigh Mhara and the Local Government Management Agency.

Open Data portal

The number of datasets available on the portal continues to grow and now totals approximately **8,800**. There were 393 new datasets added to the portal in October and 363 in November. The number of visitors to the portal has increased to approximately 16,000 per month (October and November) up from approximately 10,000 per month earlier in the year. (10,729 in July and 10416 in August)

There are now 15 'showcases' on the portal. Blog posts and news items are regularly added to the portal and regular tweets are also being sent.

A number of new features are planned for the portal in 2019. These include a newsletter and a new 'developers corner' to encourage data reuse. Work has already commenced in this regard.

Open Data Engagement Fund

Following an evaluation of the 2017/2018 Open Data Engagement Fund, it was agreed to run the engagement fund again in 2018/2019 and the fund was launched by Minister O'Donovan via Press Release on 21st September. The closing date was Friday 26th October. A total of 16 applications were received and following an evaluation process 6 projects received funding.

Reuse of Public Service (PSI) Directive

The Open Data Team continue to attend European Council Working Group meetings on the recast of the PSI Directive with meetings attended in October. The Open Data Unit have been consulting with public service organisations on the new proposals. The current position is that the first trilogue with the European Parliament on the text for the PSI directive was held on December 12th. The next trilogue will take place on 22 January, before which four technical trilogies will take place. It is expected that the text of the directive will be agreed in February.

National and International Engagement

The Open Data Unit held an Open Data Conference '*Harnessing Open Data*' on 19th November in the Wood Quay Venue, Dublin City Council which was attended by approximately 130 public servants. Feedback from the conference was very positive and the presentation were well received. Further details of the conference as well as the presentations are on the portal. It is hoped that this will be an annual event.

The Open Data Unit participated in a number of Conferences in September / October to showcase and promote the portal. This included:

- the Data Summit in Croke Park on 19th September,
- the annual Public Service Innovation Conference in Dublin Castle on 26th September
- and the Predict Conference in the RDS on 2nd October.

The Unit also attended and presented at the global CoderDojo seminar which took place in Kilkenny from 19-21 October. This was a good opportunity to promote open data to a younger audience. A Presentation on the PSI Directive was also given at the Education Data Forum on 24th October.

Open Data Unit also met with a visiting delegation from Slovenian on 29th November who were interested in learning from our Open Data experiences and in the operation of the national portal.

The Open Data Unit presented at two EU workshops facilitated by Capgemini who are contracted by the European Commission to operate the European Open Data portal. These were on:

- Measuring Open Data Impact which took place on 13/14 September in Paris and
- best practice open data portals which took place in Lisbon on 27/28 September.   The Open Data Unit presented the Irish portal as a best case example.

Ireland was represented by Eoin McCuirc from the CSO and Dr. Wassim Derguech from Derilinx at a linked open data seminar held in Prague on 6/7 December. They gave an overview and introduction to Linked Open Data in general and its application strategy in Ireland. Details of the Seminar are on the portal here.

A Linked Open Statistical Data Webinar took place in October to present a Linked Data Publishing Pipeline developed by Derilinx in collaboration with Insight Centre for Data Analytics (National University of Ireland, Galway) and ADAPT Centre (Trinity College Dublin). The pipeline was developed and tested with four European National Statistics Offices: France, Italy and Bulgaria as well as the CSO in Ireland. The webinar was targeted towards a wide range of users with little knowledge of Linked Data and aimed to showcase/demo some of the tools that have been developed within this project. The event was streamed live on Facebook and access to the video is possible through this link.   The same team is planning a second Webinar for early 2019 ad they move towards the second step of creating linked open statistical data: consuming and using this data for building application for a wider audience.

A member of the Open Data Team also attended the joint meeting of the PSI Working Group and European Open Data portal that took place in Luxembourg on 12/13 December. A workshop on GDPR and its implications for open data was also held during the course of the 2 day meeting.

The open data portal, data.gov.ie was nominated as best national digital solution for Ireland for the international World Summit Awards (WSA). This is a global initiative selecting digital innovation making positive impact on society. With this nomination data.gov.ie qualified for evaluation among over 400 international projects by the WSA Jury in November 2018. While the portal was subsequently selected as the best in their respective category and made it on the shortlist 2018, it was not selected as an overall winner.

 The Open Data Unit is currently imputing into the OECD Open Government Data Survey 4.0 which aims to benchmark open data policies across OECD member and partner countries and measures government's efforts to enhance the availability, accessibility and re-use of open government data. The results will be published in late 2019.

Open Data Unit
January, 2019
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